

FIRST EDITION - NOVEMBER 2020

We worship, welcome, witness, teach and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
21 SOUTH BEDFORD STREET, CARLISLE, PA 17013

2020 Annual Congregation Meeting

The annual meeting of our congregation will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2020, in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. Social distancing guidelines will be observed. The agenda will include reports from staff, officers and committees; election of members to Congregation Council (five to be elected to serve three-year terms); election of members to the 2021 Nominating Committee (three to be elected to serve one-year terms); and adoption of the mission spending plan and capital budget for 2021.

The 2020 Annual Report, including the 2021 proposed budgets, and bios of council nominees are available on our website (<https://firstlutherancarlisle.org/members/>), in the High Street narthex, or by U.S. mail from the church office.

While we cannot gather for our traditional pot luck this year, we still have important business to conduct. We hope that those comfortable attending the meeting will do in order to provide the constitutionally-required quorum. Members have the privilege of voice and vote at meetings if they are confirmed and have communed and made a contribution of record to the congregation during the current or preceding calendar year.

In order to provide an opportunity for people not yet attending public gatherings to ask questions about our annual report and budget, we will be hosting a **Zoom Annual Meeting Information Session on Wednesday, November 11, at 7 p.m.** You may participate in the information session on your computer or other device using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86859878397>. Or you may participate by phone by calling 1-301-715-8592, 1-312-626-6799 or 1-646-558-8656 and entering meeting ID: 868 5987 8397.

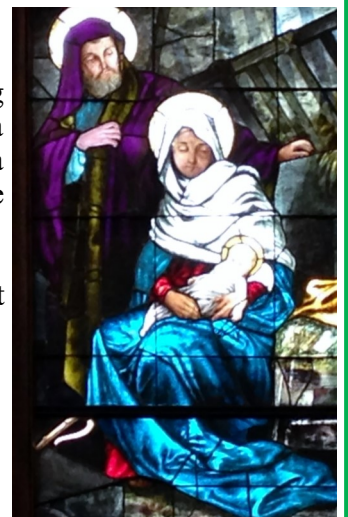
Be on the lookout for our Christmas Eve worship survey!

As we begin discussing plans for in person Christmas Eve worship, we will be looking for some feedback from you. We are currently discussing the possibility of adding a fourth service on December 24th and other ways to facilitate social distancing on a day when so many people - FELC members and community guests - historically have worshipped with us.

There is no question that Christmas Eve will be different in this time of pandemic - but we will still celebrate the birth of the Christ child with joy and wonder!

A link to the survey will be sent via e-mail by mid-November.

Thanks for helping us plan!



Building to Serve All God's Children Capital Campaign Update (as of October 27)



Total campaign commitments:	\$604,415
Total commitments paid to date:	\$540,875
Unpledged/"as able" gifts given to date:	\$72,736
<u>Total given to date:</u>	<u>\$613,611</u>

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!

Upcoming ZOOM book discussion hosted by Pastor Leber

Wednesday, November 18, at 1 p.m. - **On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old** by Parker Palmer (non-fiction/spirituality) (All are welcome, but this book may be of particular interest to our more "seasoned" members)



ZOOM info will be included in Pastor's weekly e-mails closer to the date.

If you do not have e-mail, call the church office for information.

Interested in joining First Lutheran?

Pastor Leber will be offering a Zoom new members class on Sunday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m. New members will be received, in person and in absentia, at worship on November 29.

If you haven't already received an e-mail from Pastor Leber and wish to join the class and congregation, please let her know! (717) 215-6055 or pastor@firstlutherancarlisle.org.

THE SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Once again we will participate in this opportunity to share Christmas joy with children in our community by continuing the spirit of giving.

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree tags will be available beginning **Thursday, November 5**. You are invited to either pick up an angel tag(s) from the church office (during business hours) to purchase an item of clothing and a toy for the child identified or contact the church office to have a tag(s) mailed to you. Gifts are to be placed in a large black plastic bag (one for each child) with the angel tag placed around the tied bag and **brought to the church office no later than Monday, November 30**. Thank you!





The following e-mail was received by Patty Gillingham, our Sister Parish liaison, from Pastor Belinda Fernandez of our Sister Parish, Divine Redeemer, in El Salvador.

On 8/31/2020 Pastor Fernandez wrote:

Dear Patty,

Many greetings and best wishes that the situation due to the pandemic improves.

I missed communicating with you, but now we are again back in communication.

Here in the family, in the community and in the Church's parish, we are doing well, always thanking our God for his love and mercy towards us, a people historically very hit, we were vulnerable and now it is more; but also, trust and faith in God has grown more and makes us stronger.

As a Church, we do work to take care yourself, awareness to avoid contagion, the importance of using a mask, and hygiene protocols. It has given good results, because before it had neglected the people and it was a risk for the families.

As a Pastora, personally, we do not stop serving and working for the communities of faith and life, accompanying them in this difficult time for everyone, but the business and others have remained closed, the reopening at the national level has just begun, with some exceptions.

Thanks to everyone who works hard so that we, as El Divino Redentor Lutheran Church, serve the neediest people, in formation, as well as the sale of bread at a minimum price, so that families can get more bread for little money, so necessary in this time of pandemic that has come to exacerbate hunger and poverty.

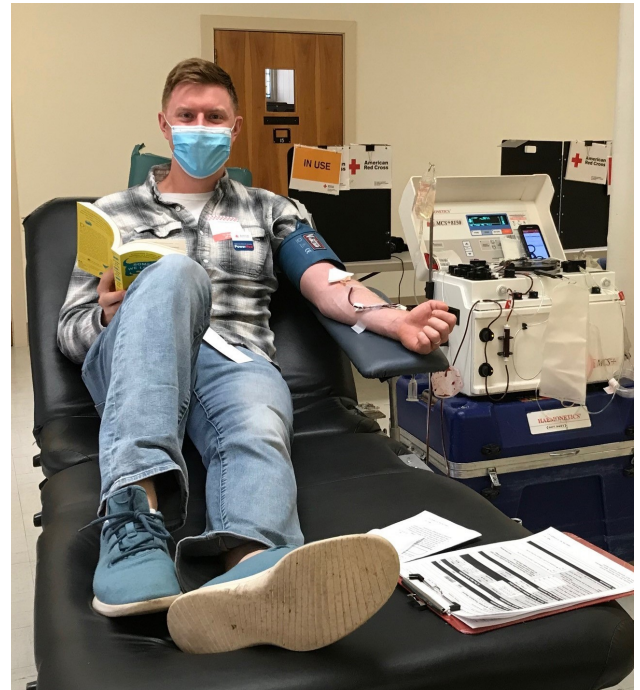
Fraternal hugs with much love for each one and especially you.

Belinda Fernandez
Pastora, El Divino Redentor Churchel,
El Salvador



SCENES FROM OUR BLOOD DRIVE

Thanks to the many donors and volunteers who made our drive on October 31 a success!!





The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

KEEP THE MINISTRY STRONG

Outdoor ministries are an important ministry of the Lutheran church. Along with nurturing the faith of people of all ages, Lutheran camping experiences (as campers and staff) are credited by a high percentage of pastors as a key part of their decision to pursue ministry.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania (LCC) had to cancel its summer camping season and most of the retreats and events scheduled for Nawakwa and Kirchenwald since March. The LCC is seeking to fully fund its 2020 budget through a special annual appeal, "Keep the Ministry Strong," with a goal of \$271,000. The Congregation Council has made a gift of \$5,000 to the appeal, out of campership, youth and faith formation funds that are not being used this year because of the pandemic.

You are invited to make individual gifts as well. Checks may be made out to First Lutheran with "LCC-Keep the Ministry Strong" in the memo line. Or, you may go to <https://www.lutherancamping.org/keep-ministry-strong/> for more information and/or to make a commitment. (Pastor Leber chairs the board of LCC and would be happy to talk to you about outdoor ministries!)

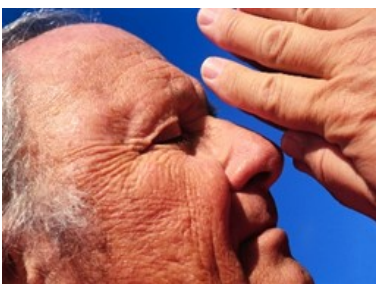
VIRTUAL THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

The Carlisle Area Religious Council will host a Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Facebook and YouTube. The service will premiere on Wednesday, November 25, at 7 p.m. but will be available for later viewing. The theme is "Giving Thanks in a Time of Crisis".

Join with area faith communities for hymns of praise, readings, and prayers as we thank God for His many blessings even in these difficult times. A downloadable program will be available.

Information as to how you can make a donation to benefit Project SHARE will be provided during the service.

To connect to our Facebook page for more information, go to www.facebook.com/Carlisle-Area-Religious-Council-207133950193743 .



Thank you for caring and sharing!

Below are excerpts from thank you letters First Lutheran has received from some of the organizations we have been able to support in 2020.... Thanks to YOU!

The Salvation Army — “Thank you for your generous donation of \$3,000.00 to support our relief efforts during the COVID-19 health crisis...Thank you for standing with us; together we are *Doing the Most Good.*”

The Samaritan Fellowship — “Samaritan Fellowship sincerely thanks you and acknowledges your donation of \$1,290.00.... As a result of your generosity we are able to act on your behalf as the Good Samaritan to those in need in the Carlisle Community.... May God continue to bless your congregation and again, we thank you for your support of the mission of Samaritan Fellowship with the Carlisle community.”

Lutheran World Relief — “Thank you for taking action to love your neighbor through your recent gift of \$390.58... Love can truly change the world... your love looks like a trusted friend, a skilled doctor when you’re sick and a clean bill of health. Thank you! We are proud to carry your love—and God’s love—to the places it’s needed most... until your love reaches every neighbor. ”

Project SHARE — “Thank you for your generous contribution of \$822.00 of which \$20.00 is for beef stew... With your support, Project SHARE continues to address the ever-present issue of food insecurity in the greater Carlisle Area... Thank you for the impact your contributions have on helping those who are struggling during these difficult times.”

Global Health Ministries — “Thank you for your generous support and partnership! Your gifts make it possible to ship vital medical supplies and equipment, offer timely grants, and educate leaders to help the hands that heal in 13 under-resourced countries. Thanks you for the gift you share!” (for \$4,000.00 we collected for the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center/Selian Hospital NICU Isolette)

United Lutheran Seminary — “Sometimes it seems like the word ‘weary’ is the perfect adjective to describe 2020... But the light of Christ *is still with us* in this weary world... Your partnership energizes us! Your support is God’s gift to our students! Your gifts are the foundation for the future of church leaders! [We] will never grow weary of saying THANKS for your support!”

Safe Harbour — “Thank you First Evangelical Lutheran Church for your generous donation of \$190.00 to Safe Harbour [and over 800 items collected]... Safe Harbour is grateful for [your] generosity. You are truly making a difference in the lives of homeless and nearly homeless children and adults. ”

Habitat for Humanity — “Your recent donation supporting the mission of Cumberland Valley Habitat for Humanity in the amount of \$291.00 will help us to continue our programs that build and repair homes for families that can’t normally afford it. Despite the virus, we’re very busy. Thank you for keeping us that way!”

Meals on Wheels — “I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our clients, to thank you for your donation of \$442.50 to Meals on Wheels. Your thoughtfulness and generosity to this important program is greatly appreciated. All donations are used to help people directly in this community.”

NOVEMBER Birthdays



- 1-NovJeri Fitzsimons
- 3-NovPat Fry
- Rebecca Mulholland
- Les Reeder
- 6-NovBob Hollen
- 8-NovOliver Napoli
- 9-NovNina Henderson
- 10-NovArlyn Pettingell
- 12-NovGene Failor
- 14-NovRich Bigelow
- Alayna Rodriguez
- 17-NovJohn Bartko
- 19-NovJune Egolf
- Elaine Haag
- Brenda Helwig
- 21-Nov.... Donald Grell
- 22-Nov.... Cindy Markle
- 23-Nov.... Brittany Weibley-D'Cruz
- 24-Nov.... Ian Galbraith
- Merritt Reitzel
- Shirley Smith
- Joshua Staley
- Jamie White
- 25-Nov.... Dawn Bennett
- Holly Markle
- 26-Nov.... Alyssa Shaw
- 29-Nov.... Elaine Alvarez
- 30-Nov.... Ashley Zink

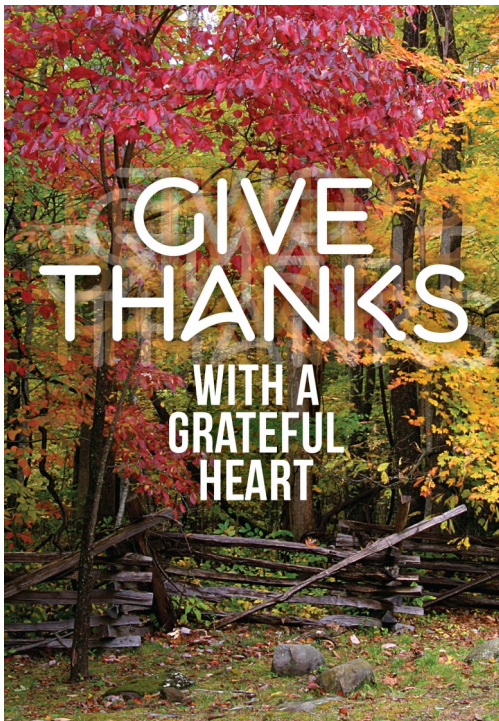
- 3-Nov Jan Bigelow
- 4-Nov MaryGrace Harty
- 5-Nov Debra Egolf
- 7-Nov Tali Martin
- 8-Nov Elizabeth Van Orden
- 11-Nov Joan Inners
- 17-Nov Sophia Over
- 18-Nov Beverly Mancke
- 21-Nov Boni Leszczuk
- 22-Nov Chuck Martin
- 23-Nov Heidi Rugoletti
- 24-Nov Caroline Zink
- 27-Nov Lauren Engle

Please note that the church office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

CELEBRATING A



- Floyd & Roma Morrison (69 years) 11/2
- Robert & Rickie Cook (54 years) 11/6



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WEDDING

**Brittany Haggerty
and
Kyle Kennedy**

October 3, 2020

Congratulations!

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21 South Bedford Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-249-3310

www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday
8:30 a.m. — 12:15 p.m. & 12:45 — 4:30 p.m.

Friday
8:30 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.

Pastor Leber is available by cell throughout the week at (717)215-6055.

label

Sunday Worship:

8 & 10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Resources for weekly at home worship (including recordings of the sermon and organ hymn accompaniments, a bulletin, children's bulletin and *Taking Faith Home*) can be found at:

<https://firstlutherancarlisle.org/resources-for-worship-and-faith-formation-at-home/>

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 20!**