



FIRST EDITION - OCTOBER 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

Our fall looks a little different this year, in this time of pandemic. While some ministries and activities continue to be suspended or to be done virtually because of the challenges of social distancing, our Bell Choir is back in action! Our new associate cantor, Michelle DiBona Trefren, directs the ringers. We look forward to their musical offerings during upcoming worship!



Not even a global pandemic can stop our quilters! On Ingathering Sunday, October 4, we will bless these 67 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to our Women of the ELCA who have continued the work of cutting, sewing, hemming and binding, making these beautiful quilts that will comfort and warm people around the world!

BLOOD DRIVE AT FIRST LUTHERAN

First Lutheran and the American Red Cross are holding a blood drive on Saturday, October 31, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Guidelines for social distancing will be followed, and donors must sign up for appointments (walk-ins will not be permitted). We will also be looking for a few volunteers to help for 1-2 hour shifts.

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today!

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=firstlutherancarlisle>



American Red Cross

PROPERTY UPDATE

After almost 13 years and close to \$400,000, the restoration of our beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary, bell towers and other locations is almost complete. Cumberland Stained Glass will be repairing and protecting the leaded windows in the choir room, and then our work will be done!



Last fall, our stained glass windows were appraised (for insurance coverage purposes) at a little over \$1.6 million - but we also know that their beauty and history makes them pretty much priceless!

Did you know....? We are posting a weekly bible study/devotional/faith formation resource called *Taking Faith Home* on our website. It includes suggested prayers and blessings for the week, daily scripture readings, questions for personal reflection or family discussions, etc. Whether you are worshipping at home or in person, it's a nice resource to help connect what we hear, say, and pray on Sunday with life during the rest of the week. Check out the current *Taking Faith Home* here: <https://firstlutherancarlisle.org/resources-for-worship-and-faith-formation-at-home/>. (Below is a sample for October 4.)

OCTOBER 4, 2020
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

**taking†
faith
home**

We want to know Christ Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants
Monday	Isaiah 5:1-7	A song about a vineyard
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	To know Christ
Wednesday	Exodus 20:1-20	The Ten Commandments
Thursday	Psalms 19	The wonders of God
Friday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Saturday	Psalms 80:7-15	Prayer for Israel's deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK


I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death.
Philippians 3:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. (Philippians 3:10)

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OCTOBER 4, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK
Come and Fill Our Hearts

WEEKLY MILESTONES
Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.


CARING CONVERSATIONS
Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe or think about what you feel are the characteristics of a good friend.
- Are you a good friend? How would others describe you?
- How does your faith in Jesus free you to care for—even feel the pain of—others?

DEVOTIONS
Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.
We don't get it. According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are "good people." We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ's death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the sinful self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi and points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbeatable; he would be "blameless" (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as "loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why "bad things happen to good people." Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This "theology of the cross" sees life in death, sees joy in suffering and sees hope in despair. Paul presses "on to make it my own" (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation. How is freedom from judging our own goodness important to our salvation?
Pray: Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE
Grapevines and vineyards are written about more than any other plant in the Bible. They were important in Biblical times and part of the culture. They were often used as symbols of producing fruit. In this context, fruit means one's actions that come from the heart. Place grapes in a bowl and as you eat them, think about what it means for you to produce good fruits (take positive actions). What positive actions can you take to care for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS
In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us. *Pray:* Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Amen.

 In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

 **Looking for something new to read and discuss? Plan on participating in one or both of our upcoming ZOOM book discussions hosted by Pastor Leber!**

Sunday, November 8, 7 p.m. - **Jayber Crow** by Wendell Berry (fiction)

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 meeting links will be included in Pastor's weekly e-mails closer to the dates. If you do not have e-mail, call the church office for information.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

During the month of August, the Social Ministry & Global Outreach Committee offered four opportunities for us to serve Christ by reaching out to love and support our brothers and sisters in need here in our community and around the world. Our projects benefitted Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania where our missionaries, Dr. Steve and Jodi Swanson, serve, Safe Harbour (Carlisle), Lutheran World Relief, and Project SHARE (Carlisle).

Your response and generosity has been overwhelming as you can see below! Thank you for sharing your gifts of time, talents and treasures with those who are struggling especially during this very difficult time.

- ◆ NICU Isolette – \$4,000
- ◆ Christmas in August for Safe Harbour – \$190 plus over 800 donated items
- ◆ LWR Face Masks – 232 face masks (still accepting)
- ◆ Project SHARE – \$150 plus those who have volunteered at the warehouse and gleaning



Above: Face masks for LWR



Above: Donations for Safe Harbour



Left: Presentation of donations to Scott Shewell, CEO of Safe Harbour

2020 Annual Congregation Meeting

Congregation Council has scheduled our Annual Meeting for Sunday, November 15, in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. While we can't gather for our traditional pot-luck and time of fellowship this year, we still have important business to conduct, including action on slates of nominees for council and next year's Nominating Committee and action on the proposed 2021 Mission Spending Plan and Capital Projects Budget.

In order to provide an opportunity for folks who are not attending in person worship to ask questions about our annual report, budgets, etc., **we will be hosting a ZOOM Annual Meeting Informational Session on Wednesday, November 11, at 7 p.m.**

On a device with a camera, microphone and speaker, click on: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86859878397>
(Meeting ID: 868 5987 8397)

Or participate by phone only by calling (NOT TOLL-FREE):

+1 301 715 8592 US OR +1 312 626 6799 US OR +1 646 558 8656 US

Meeting ID: 868 5987 8397

As in recent years, the 2020 Annual Report will be available on our website. You may request a hard copy be mailed to you by contacting the church office. The final Report will be published by Monday, October 26.

CHANCEL FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

Our long-time florist, George's Flowers, has closed, which has given us an opportunity to review our process for sponsoring chancel flowers.

Toward the end of each calendar year, you will be able to sign up to sponsor flowers on one or more Sundays during the next year. Open Sundays will be advertised periodically throughout the year. Flowers are no longer subsidized by trust and memorial funds, so on Sundays when there is no sponsor, we will not have flowers.

The Worship & Music Committee is currently evaluating florists and expects that the cost of sponsoring flowers (either two tall vases or one oblong arrangement for the top of the back altar) will be \$70-75.

At this time, these 2020 dates are still open: October 11 and 18 and December 6, 13, 27.



OCTOBER Birthdays



4-Oct..... Terri Myers	17-Oct..... Cindy Bloser
5-Oct..... Dustin Hoch	Nancy Swartz
7-Oct..... Anne Franklin	20-Oct..... Courtney Ramond
8-Oct..... Ann Roeder	21-Oct..... Nathan Pepper
Elizabeth Van Orden	24-Oct..... Jessica King
9-Oct..... James Baish	26-Oct..... Madelynne Staley
Garry Carvalho	28-Oct..... John Kauffman
10-Oct..... Les Keck	Jill Tichnell
Joy Massa	29-Oct..... Carol Brandt
12-Oct..... Joan Inners	Hunter Mulholland
14-Oct..... Alanna Appel	30-Oct..... Tom Green
15-Oct..... Joan Lewis	31-Oct..... Louise Baker
16-Oct..... Karen Hollen	Dorene Berry

2-Oct..... Bob Baker Jr.
Gary Newton
Lyla Stone

4-Oct..... Monica Carvalho
James Kreiser

5-Oct..... Sue Shank

6-Oct..... Cindy Allgyer

7-Oct..... Annette Nickey

11-Oct..... Colton Gillingham
Lois Quigley

13-Oct..... Nina Henderson

14-Oct..... Dana Bowers
Ainslee Martin
Lisa Newton
Robert Nickey
Crystal Taylor

19-Oct..... James Callahan
Jane Ewing

22-Oct..... Steven Jumper

29-Oct..... Bryan Eshenour

29-Oct..... Matthew Sheaffer

31-Oct..... Colton Ewing

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

DEATH

Carol Ann Baker

birth — January 28, 1950
death — September 12, 2020

✝ *Rest eternal grant her, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon her.*

Bob and I would like to thank all of you for your kindness to us during Carol's illness and death, for all the prayers, cards, food and other caring acts, and for Pastor Leber's pastoral care.

May God bless each one of you!

With thanksgiving and love,
Bob & Betty Baker



CELEBRATING A



John & Judith Kauffman (57 years)..... 10/5
John & Juliet Ward (61 years)..... 10/31

Sterlen and Evelyn Sheaffer would like to thank everyone for their cards and thoughts on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Building to Serve All God's Children
Capital Campaign Update (as of September 30)



Total campaign commitments:	\$604,415
Total commitments paid to date:	\$535,765
Unpledged/"as able" gifts given to date:	\$72,614
<u>Total given to date:</u>	<u>\$608,379</u>

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!

Kids and families - Check this out!

In a season of finding new ways to connect, Michelle Trefren and Janelle Hoch have been sharing the FAITH5 on the FELC Kids Music YouTube channel. The FAITH5 is a great way to share highs and lows, read scripture, talk about the scripture, and pray for each other. Ending with a blessing, the FAITH5 opens up the faith conversation daily. Use the *Taking the Faith Home* weekly devotional resource (see page 3) to incorporate the FAITH5 at home!

To my church family,

I wish to thank everyone who sent me cards and letters following my recent surgery and especially for all the phone calls from our Pastor and Robin.

Sincerely,
Monica Frederick



I would like to thank the WELCA group, Pastor Leber, and other individuals who have called, sent text messages and/or sent get well cards. I am improving and appreciate the prayer of all. June and my children and granddaughters who visit help me physically and mentally to get well. Please pray for them as well.

~ Ken Egolf ~

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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
NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 20!**