

FIRST EDITION

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

First Evangelical Lutheran Church October 2026 Update

Thanksgiving upon the Retirement of Our Debt

First Lutheran recently received a gift of \$275,000 from the John J. and Mary Katherine Bartko Charitable Fund designated for the principal of our outstanding mortgage with Orrstown Bank, which financed the 2018-2020 renovation and construction project known as *Building to Serve All God's Children*. BTSAGC included the two-floor Atrium addition, elevator, and other improvements to building accessibility as well as a number of maintenance projects, such as replacement of HVAC systems and the Christian Education wing and Martin Luther Room roofs.

This generous gift, in memory of Mary Kay who died earlier this year, in addition to the congregation's faithful support of *Building to Serve All God's Children* in the years since 2018, enables us to retire our debt more than a decade earlier than projected. This will save thousands of dollars of interest and position us well for new ministries and future capital projects, several of which are on the horizon.



Building to Serve All God's Children envelopes are available at the nave entrances and the church office. We encourage you to make a gift during this final fundraising push and to join us on **Sunday, November 15**, for worship and a special reception at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate the faithful generosity of the Bartkos and our whole congregation and the retirement of our debt!

Upcoming Music Events

A Festival of American Hymns Sunday, October 18, 4 p.m

All are invited to a hymn sing dedicated to the history and diversity of American hymnody. "A Festival of American Hymns", in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, will be hosted here at First Lutheran on Sunday, October 18, at 4 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the Church Music Institute and coordinated by our cantor, Dr. Stan Wicks, and other Carlisle area church musicians and will be led by Michael Burkhardt, an internationally known choral clinician, organ recitalist, and hymn festival leader.

Fine Arts at First Sunday, October 25, 3 p.m

The internationally acclaimed early music ensemble, The Baltimore Consort, will perform "Crossing to the New World—Early and Traditional Music in the British Isles, France and North America," featuring the rich trove of music settlers brought to the shores of the New World. All Fine Arts at First concerts are free and open to the public and are followed by a reception in the Martin Luther Room.



Thank You!

Thank you, First Lutherans, for all the support you have given to me and Rich during the months that I was going through my CAR-T cell therapy in Philadelphia and recovery! It was very healing to be the recipient of so many prayers, cards, flower deliveries, the choir's donation to Meals on Wheels (in our honor) and even food delivered to our house! I have been blessed to have made a wonderful recovery and look forward to coming back to all my former First Lutheran activities.

*In humble thanks to God,
Marsha Lorenz*

DISPLAY OF THE SAINTS

Sunday, November 1

On All Saints Sunday, tables will be set up by the baptismal font for a display of pictures of beloved saints, the people who have meant so much to us and who now rest from their labors. You are invited to bring to worship a picture of the loved one(s) you wish to especially remember and honor. You may also bring pictures to the office during the week of October 26. For display purposes, it is helpful if pictures are in standing frames.

*ALSO: Remember to wear **RED**
on Reformation Sunday, October 25!*

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
21 S. Bedford Street
Carlisle PA 17013

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SPOOKY SATURDAY 2026

Downtown Carlisle's Spooky Saturday will be **Saturday, October 24, from 12 noon-3 p.m.** Over a hundred kids and their families usually stop by First Lutheran during this annual event, so we need 1) Halloween candy to share and 2) volunteers to help share it! Sign up for a one-hour shift by calling the church office (717-249-3310). Donations of candy are due in the office on or before Friday, October 23. Thank you!

LEFT: Ella and Lyla Stone - Spooky Saturday 2025