



# FIRST EDITION - SUMMER 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

## *Worship Update*

**It has been wonderful to welcome people back into our building on Sunday mornings!** Socially distanced worship certainly is different (!), but we're doing a great job of helping to keep each other and our community healthy.

By consensus of Congregation Council, we will resume **communion** (with wafers only for now) on **Sunday, July 12**. For the time being, we will also continue to have three Sunday services: 8 a.m. (no singing), 9:15 and 10:30.

**Resources for at home worship** will continue to be posted online through at least August.

Whether you are worshipping in our sanctuary or in your living room, we give thanks for you, our First Lutheran family!



*Ready for worship our first Sunday back, June 7!*

## **Welcome, Michelle!**

Several members of First Lutheran have started new jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Having new responsibilities, building relationships with a new supervisor and co-workers, and learning the culture of a new employer is challenging enough in the best of times, let alone if you are doing it while working from home!

Michelle DiBona Trefren officially began employment as our associate cantor on June 1 (though, if you have made use of our online resources during the past few months, you have enjoyed some of her "unofficial" special music!). She, David Erickson and Pastor Leber have begun planning worship together, and Michelle will be playing for some upcoming worship services (and recording organ accompaniments for at home worship).



Though it may not be starting out exactly as we expected back in February, we look forward to Michelle's ministry with and among us!

## **Difficult Decisions in a Difficult Time**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges of keeping public gatherings safe, plans for the fall remain very fluid. However, two decisions have been made:

**The Fine Arts at First Committee has decided not to plan a 2020-21 concert series.** This was a hard decision to make after 27 years of welcoming the community into our sanctuary to enjoy God's gift of music! We will continue to evaluate whether we might offer a standalone concert or two in the spring of 2021.

**WELCA will not be holding a rummage sale this fall.** WELCA asks that you please donate your rummage sale items to other local charities (we do not have room to store donations at the church until May 2021, the next scheduled sale). Over the years, WELCA has raised thousands of dollars for community organizations through these twice-a-year events. Thank you to the volunteers who have worked so hard to organize, set up, staff and clean up after these sales!

Pastor and Congregation Members:

Thank you so much for your prayers, phone calls and cards during my recent basal cell surgery. Having done this during this “crisis” was very “anxious” to me. Dr. Ngo got all the cancer. You are a very caring congregation. I really appreciated your concern.

Sincerely,  
Charley Gitt



Week of	Offering
March 30 — April 5	\$5,260.00
April 6 — 12	\$4,170.00
April 13 — 19	\$4,857.00
April 20 — 26	\$7,725.00
April 27 — May 3	\$4,169.00
May 4 — 10	\$5,365.00
May 11 — 17	\$7,962.00
May 18 — 24	\$2,850.00
May 25 — 31	\$2,625.00

## Thank you!

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of our congregation! We are so grateful for the many members and friends of First who have been generous in giving during this time.

### **Building to Serve All God's Children** **Capital Campaign Update (as of June 17)**



<b>Total campaign commitments:</b>	<b>\$604,415</b>
<b>Total commitments paid to date:</b>	<b>\$512,385</b>
<b>Unpledged/“as able” gifts given to date:</b>	<b>\$72,224</b>
<b><u>Total given to date:</u></b>	<b><u>\$584,609</u></b>

*Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!*

**Please note that the church office will be closed on Friday, July 3,  
in observance of Independence Day.**



*An excerpt from an email received on May 22, 2020, from our missionaries, Steve and Jodi Swanson:*

Dear First Lutheran Church,

### Stepping into the Rain

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, our organization, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), recalled all its global personnel back to USA.

My response to ELCA Global Missions explained why we were requesting to stay in Tanzania. It was not an easy letter to write:

*“As a physician, I have taken a vow to care for the sick and hurting, in all situations and every season. Over the past 20 years, I have directly cared for patients with every manner of life-threatening viral, bacterial, parasitic and fungal diseases, including meningococemia, measles, rabies, tuberculosis, etc. It is a physician’s calling to be there for their patients, in health and disease.*

*As I spoke with my Tanzanian doctors about the potential of my being recalled back to USA, I could see the anxiety on their faces. We have developed a deep relationship of trust over the years, and I have been there alongside them at 3 am to care for unstable patients. Now, when uncertainty and forthcoming challenges exist, they see me leaving?*

*As such, I do believe that this moment in time is a once-in-a-generation event, that none of us will ever forget. As healthcare providers, Jodi and I feel it is our place to be here, where we are called to serve. For myself, it’s in the hospital, with my Tanzanian doctors. Caring for the smallest, and most vulnerable of all— children.”*

Since late March, coronavirus has entered Arusha. Over the past 6 weeks, we have been busy making face masks for Arusha-area hospitals, partnering with local tailors and workshops to produce over thousands of cloth face masks at \$1.50/each. N95s and protective gowns are largely non-existent in every hospital. Glove costs are rapidly outpacing the hospital’s ability to purchase. We are making washable PPE gowns, foot covers, plastic face shields to provide at no-cost to faith-based hospitals. Soon we will be providing them to Lutheran Hospitals across Tanzania. We have located a local brewery that was making 80% ethanol-based sanitizer and have obtained it for all hospital staff. We’ve reduced our hospital visitors, screened patients outside, and adopted a face mask requirement for all healthcare workers (HCWs). Our pediatric and NICU team led the way, being the first to adopt a face mask requirement— all the masks were provided by NICU Fund ([www.tanzanianchildren.com](http://www.tanzanianchildren.com)). All spare moments, when not seeing patients, are engaged in raising funds and getting PPE to hospitals.

The extent of COVID-19s impact in Tanzania is unknown. PPE needs are great. Testing and reporting follows different guidelines than we are accustomed to in the United States. All laboratory testing is exclusively conducted through the National Reference Laboratory in Dar es Salaam. ....

....In the midst of all of this, I deeply admire the fortitude and bravery of our Tanzanian doctors and nurses. They still go to work every day and care for patients. The NICU babies continue to arrive, unaware of the pandemic that the world is staring down. It is for these doctors, nurses and children and babies that we stay—they are our family. And I have stepped into the rain without an umbrella, so that I can be with them... perhaps more afraid than I have ever been, and more in love than I could imagine....

....These are difficult and uncharted times, but we are not alone. We are so grateful for God’s ever present help in times of trouble (Ps. 46:1) and for your love and support. Thank you reaching out to us, for standing with us in these times.

Steve and Jodi



*Tailors hard at work making cloth face masks for health care workers.*



## Thank you for your generosity!

During the past few months we have requested monetary donations for Weis grocery store gift cards for Head Start families and for My Brother's Table Soup Kitchen in lieu of our serving a congregate meal on May 17. Your response has been very generous as you can see below. Thank you for your continued support for those in our community who are in need during this trying time. It has been greatly appreciated!

Head Start gift cards – 1st appeal - \$1,050

Head Start gift cards – 2nd appeal - \$1,475

My Brother's Table – May appeal - \$915

## SPECIAL JULY APPEAL FOR MY BROTHER'S TABLE SOUP KITCHEN

First Lutheran is scheduled to provide and serve a meal at My Brother's Table Soup Kitchen (Salvation Army) on July 12. In lieu of providing a congregate meal on July 12, First Lutheran has been asked to provide financial support for "to go" meals that can be distributed in the Salvation Army's parking lot. We welcome your contributions. Checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church with My Brother's Table noted in the memo line. Thanks!

**MONETARY DONATIONS FOR  
THIS APPEAL CAN BE MAILED  
TO FIRST LUTHERAN.**

*Thank you!*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$915.00 to support My Brother's Table. Since the outbreak of the virus in March we've provided over 15,000 meals and snacks through our feeding programs. All meals are served "to-go style", but our staff have gone the extra mile to ensure our clients still know they are loved and cared for, despite the limited physical interaction. Our Corps Officers have assisted with many meals, providing emotional care and prayer to anyone who asks. Thank you for your support of My Brother's Table and those it serves!

God Bless,  
Lauren Sheeler, Salvation Army



## The recycling center is open!



We are once again accepting soda cans to help raise funds to benefit a local organization. Our Sunday school youth have designated the **Cumberland-Goodwill EMS** as this year's beneficiary. At this time, please contact Robin in the church office at 717-249-3310 to make arrangements to drop off your donations during office hours. Thank you for your support!

**Current issues of the *Living Lutheran* and the *Upper Room* are available from the church office. Contact Robin at 717-249-3310 or [secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org](mailto:secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org) or 717-249-3310 if you wish to receive a copy of either publication.**

# Congratulations to our graduates!

# Class of 2020



## **Josh Erickson**

*Son of David and Leann Erickson and brother of Elise and Luke graduated from Penn State with a degree in psychology.*

## **Michael Fisher**

*Son of Michelle Fisher and brother of Erika*

graduated from St. Francis University with a bachelor of science degree in finance. Michael had planned to play professional volleyball in Europe but is now returning to SFU to earn his MBA and play one more season of volleyball.



## **Madison Martin**

*Daughter of Chuck and Tali Martin and sister of Ainslee*

Graduated from Millersville University with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics. Madison will be taking a position as an actuarial analyst at Conrad Siegel in Harrisburg.



# JUNE Birthdays



1-Jun..... Seth Seely  
 2-Jun..... Sophie Rugoletti  
 4-Jun..... Kurt Brantner  
           Ginny Brennan  
 7-Jun..... Matt Houtz  
 8-Jun..... Elaine Hock  
 9-Jun..... Madison Martin  
 10-Jun... Connie Alexander  
           Susan Mentzer  
 12-Jun... Joan Eshenour  
           Jim Fargus  
 13-Jun... Orr Brenneman  
 14-Jun... Jean Kuebler  
           Bill Schirmer  
 15-Jun... Mary Kay Gentry-Bartko  
 16-Jun... Karen Longenecker  
 17-Jun... Debbie Reitzel

19-Jun... Jim Brantner  
 20-Jun... William Croft  
           William Croft Jr.  
           Mariella Guadalupe  
           Patsy Sharp  
 21-Jun... Evan Brantner  
 22-Jun... Jodee Eshenour  
           Evelyn Sheaffer  
 23-Jun... Sue Simmons  
 24-Jun... William Enck  
           Sarah Niebler  
           Darlene Ramond  
 25-Jun... Don Drasher  
           Jill Shank  
 26-Jun... Jerry Gillingham  
 27-Jun... Mark Engle  
 28-Jun... Trena Martin

2-Jun..... Nancy Ingram  
 3-Jun..... Phyllis Orenyo  
 6-Jun..... Jacqueline Cook  
           Blanche Drumheiser  
 7-Jun..... Kace Cozort  
 12-Jun... Dave Jones  
 14-Jun... Matt Drumheiser  
           Roger Williams  
 15-Jun... Callie Culbertson  
           Robin Orner  
           Bill Schirmer  
 16-Jun... Adam Shaffer  
 18-Jun... Shelby Pearce  
           Harrison Stuart  
 21-Jun... Ginny Rahal  
 24-Jun... Beverly Eshenour  
 25-Jun... Roxanna Houtz  
           Jonathan Mentzer  
           Julie Ward  
 26-Jun... Nicholas Shank  
 28-Jun... Colby Kreiser  
           Kaylynn Kreiser  
           Ryan Kreiser  
 29-Jun... John Kauffman  
           Ruth Osborne  
 30-Jun... Gibson Koikoi

**Yes, we know June is almost over, but it's not too late to wish people a belated birthday, baptismal anniversary or wedding anniversary!**



Gary & Patricia Shank (53)..... 6/3  
 Jered & Elaine Hock (50 years) ..... 6/20  
 Robert & Kathleen Hall (55 years) ..... 6/26  
 Ron & Lois Quigley (64 years)..... 6/30  
 Don & Ann Roeder (58 years) ..... 6/30  
 Sterlen & Evelyn Sheaffer (70 years)..... 6/30  
  
 Ken & June Egolf (61 years)..... 7/19  
  
 Sam & Sue Simmons (50) ..... 8/1  
 Keith & Roxanna Houtz (54 years) ..... 8/6  
 Jay & Donna Chestnut (56 years)..... 8/15  
 Ronald & Patsy Sharp (55 years) ..... 8/22  
 Jim & Linda Fargus (51 years)..... 8/23  
 John & Beverly Mancke (53 years)..... 8/26

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### WEDDING

**Carrie Ewing  
 and  
 Michael Fearer**

June 27, 2020

Congratulations!



## Birthdays



1-Jul..... Jane Ewing  
Susan Hunt  
2-Jul..... Jan Bigelow  
Lisa Newton  
Lois Quigley  
Virginia Shenk  
Kyle Slusser  
3-Jul..... Linda Fargus  
5-Jul..... Luke Erickson  
Tanner Eshenour  
6-Jul..... John Kohler  
7-Jul..... James Fitzsimons  
Bob Nickey  
8-Jul..... Beth Shenk  
10-Jul.... Michael Fisher  
11-Jul.... Dana Culbertson  
13-Jul.... William Gillingham  
Mark McClelland  
17-Jul.... Tali Martin  
18-Jul.... Jered Hock

21-Jul .... Hope Miller  
22-Jul .... Christian Cook  
Don Fry  
Robert Nickey  
23-Jul .... Connie McDermond  
Jon Shank  
David Stum  
25-Jul .... James Fulton  
Frank Ramond  
Jim Schade  
27-Jul .... Tom Bloser  
Kaylee Cozort  
28-Jul .... Colton Ewing  
Monica Frederick  
29-Jul .... Kathryn Manspeaker  
Glenn Miller Jr.  
Luke Ranta  
30-Jul .... Judie Brantner  
Janelle Hoch

2-Jul..... Donna Chestnut  
Benjamin Galbraith  
7-Jul..... David Egolf  
8-Jul..... Karen Galbraith  
9-Jul..... Carrie Ewing  
10-Jul.... Jerry Gillingham  
Pria King  
15-Jul.... Lisa Leber  
16-Jul.... Christian Cook  
Helen Scott  
18-Jul.... Susan Mentzer  
28-Jul.... Maximus Shank  
Charlotte Ulrich  
30-Jul.... Bill Chestnut  
Joanne Croft  
31-Jul.... Janelle Hoch



## Birthdays



1-Aug ..... Michelle Fisher  
2-Aug ..... Gary Henderson  
5-Aug ..... Debbie Boehm  
6-Aug ..... Patty Gillingham  
8-Aug ..... Sean Nedimyer  
Eden Peffer  
9-Aug ..... Tyler Berry  
11-Aug ... Ginny Ehr  
Bronson Hoch  
12-Aug ... Tammy Champlin  
Jeff Miller  
Louise Minter  
14-Aug ... Martha Stigelman  
15-Aug ... Chelsea Hunt  
17-Aug ... Richard Baish  
Dana Bowers  
Lindsay Seibert

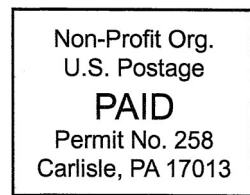
18-Aug ... Rhoda Bear  
Ann Jordan  
21-Aug ... Marion Stouffer  
22-Aug ... Ainslee Martin  
23-Aug ... Steven Jumper  
Eloise Slusser  
Phineas Slusser  
24-Aug ... Mary Honsel  
Donald Roeder  
25-Aug ... Colton Gillingham  
Steve Miller  
27-Aug ... Cindy Allgyer  
28-Aug ... Kathy Brunie  
Monica Carvalho  
Sarah Miller  
30-Aug ... Logan Haggerty  
31-Aug ... Beverly Mancke

1-Aug ..... Sarah Raphael  
3-Aug ..... Shirley Smith  
4-Aug ..... Chelsea Franklin  
5-Aug ..... Hope Miller  
7-Aug ..... Sophie Rugoletti  
8-Aug ..... Todd Shank  
10-Aug ... Mark McClelland  
Michael Raphael  
11-Aug ... Bronson Hoch  
14-Aug ... Brittany Haggerty  
15-Aug ... Rob Berry  
17-Aug ... Debbie Reitzel  
21-Aug ... Kurt Brantner  
23-Aug ... Douglas Eshenour  
24-Aug ... Debbie Boehm  
Sam Orner  
Marge Shenk  
25-Aug ... Evan Brantner  
Jim Schade

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Carlisle, PA 17013  
717-249-3310

www.firstlutherancarlisle.org



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, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m. – Service of the Word



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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

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

**The sermon will be recorded at one of the early services and posted online by 10:15 a.m.**

If you are not receiving e-mail updates from Pastor Leber (sent approximately once/week) and wish to, please call the church office with your current e-mail. Please also regularly check your spam/junk folder (sometimes e-mails from @firstlutherancarlisle.org addresses get filtered).