



# FIRST EDITION - SUMMER 2022

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

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

## Update on First Lutheran's mortgage (and, gosh, is it good news!)

On September 9, 2018, our congregation voted to move forward with *Building to Serve All God's Children*, which included the construction of our two-story Atrium, renovations to make our existing space, including restrooms, accessible, and deferred maintenance projects, including the replacement of our boiler and nave air conditioning system. At that meeting, the congregation also approved a financing plan for the \$1.85 million project.



Back in September 2018, we made certain assumptions about contributions to *Building to Serve All God's Children*, based both on the results of our feasibility study and capital campaign and on our congregation's history of faithfulness in giving.

At the time, we assumed that, by the end of 2022 (year 4 of our loan with Orrstown Bank), we would have a principal balance of approximately \$950,000.

**We are so grateful to report that - *because of your generous support!* - our principal balance is already paid down to just under \$625,000!**

This means that we are well on our way to paying off our mortgage sooner than planned. It also means that our monthly debt service (our payment toward principal and interest) is significantly lower in this budget year (and going forward) than was expected when we were crunching the numbers back in 2018.

It will be important for us to maintain the level of financial support for the project that we've experienced over the past four years - so thank you for continuing to give regular, special, and/or one-time gifts to *Building to Serve All God's Children!* (And, if you did not make a capital campaign pledge or haven't given toward the project yet, please know it is never too late!)

## ***Bible Camp is almost here!***

**Monday-Wednesday, June 27-29, 6-7:30 p.m.**

Children ages 4 through those just finishing 5th grade are invited to join us as we spend time with the story of Noah's Ark!

**The evenings will be filled with bible stories, crafts, games, and music!** (Activities will be primarily outside.)

You can register by contacting the church office (717-249-3310 or [secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org](mailto:secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org)).



# Committee Meetings & Events

## June 2022

- Mon., June 13** — Office/Building closed
- Tues., June 14** — 9:30-11 a.m. - LWR Quilting  
6:30 p.m. - Evangelism Committee
- Mon.-Wed., June 27-29** — 6-7:30 p.m. - Bible Camp
- Tues., June 28** — 9:30-11 a.m. - LWR Quilting
- Thurs., June 30** — 6:30 p.m. - Congregation Council

## July 2022

- Mon., July 4** — Office/Building closed
- Sun., July 10** — 7 p.m. - Book Discussion
- Tues., July 12** — 9:30-11 a.m. - LWR Quilting
- Tues., July 19** — 6:30 p.m. - Worship & Music Comm.
- Wed., July 20** — 7 p.m. - Social Ministry & Global Outreach Committee
- Tues., July 26** — 9:30-11 a.m. - LWR Quilting  
5 p.m. - Finance Committee  
6:30 p.m. - Congregation Council

### Weekly meetings

*Community Room (room 17 on the lower level of the Christian Education wing)*

Tuesdays at 4 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.: Alcoholics Anonymous

### Summer Church Office Hours

The office will be closing at 12:15 p.m. on Fridays over the summer. Pastor Leber may or may not be in the building on any particular Friday afternoon but will always be available by cell at (717) 215-6055.

### Calling the church...

First Lutheran's voice mail system is kaput! We can answer incoming calls (and make outgoing calls), but callers to the church are not able to leave messages or hear our recording about worship times, building hours, etc.

We were aware that the replacement of our system was on the horizon and have money budgeted in the 2022 capital budget. You are always welcome to e-mail staff.



### Summer Book Discussion

Pastor Leber will host a book discussion on **Sunday, July 10**, starting at 7 p.m., at her home, 1010 Dale Place, Carlisle. We will discuss *The Hiding Place*, by Corrie Ten Boom. Our tradition has been to have some refreshments, converse a bit about the selected book, take a break for fellowship (and more refreshments!), and regroup to wrap up. Join us!

## Support quilting for Lutheran World Relief

While First Lutheran no longer has an active Women of the ELCA (WELCA) group, the legacy of WELCA lives on in our LWR quilters. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, these folks gather in room 18 to offer their time and talents to make quilts that are sent, via LWR, around the world to people in need.

Because WELCA is no longer active, LWR quilting will now be supported by the Social Ministry and Global Outreach Committee, which already supports other LWR initiatives. Monetary donations to LWR quilting (which are always appreciated!) will be earmarked and made available to the quilters to purchase fabric, batting, etc.



*Pictured above: quilts blessed during worship on October 10, 2021*

A belated  
Happy Birthday  
to Betty Nickey, who  
turned 100 years  
young in April!



We would like to include pictures of First Lutheran graduates and their plans for the future in the August issue of the *First Edition*. If anyone in your household graduated from high school, college or graduate school with the class of 2022, please contact Robin in the church office at [secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org](mailto:secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org) or (717) 249-3310 by Friday, July 15.



## *Lemonade on the Plaza*

Lemonade on the Plaza has resumed! Individuals, families and other groups interested in hosting Lemonade on the Plaza can sign up for one or more Sunday(s) on the list displayed in the High Street narthex. Hosts are responsible for providing light refreshments (food and drink) after the 10:30 a.m. service and for cleaning up. If you have any questions, please talk to Sarah Niebler, Evangelism chair, Robin Orner, office manager, or Pastor Leber!



## More news about *Building to Serve All God's Children*

The vision driving our 2018-19 construction and renovation project was to make our church building more welcoming and accessible to both our congregation and the community. Of course, just as the project was wrapping up and final punch list items were being addressed in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic began!

While our ability to open up our building to serve more people has been impacted by the pandemic, we do have some things to celebrate!

+We have begun hosting **American Red Cross blood drives** twice a year, beginning in October 2020, and have quickly become one of the strongest drives in the area, averaging 52 units collected per drive.

+**Alcoholics Anonymous** began holding weekly meetings here last summer, offering the only Thursday AA meeting in Carlisle.

+**Overeaters Anonymous** also began holding weekly meetings here last summer, on Tuesday afternoons.

+This year, we began serving as the **polling place for the Carlisle 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct**, for spring primaries and fall general elections.

+The students and staff of **Head Start** returned to in person programming this year and enjoy their improved (i.e., new!) heating and cooling system and especially enjoy being consolidated in one area of the church (the four classrooms under the nave). Before BTSAGC, a number of Head Start staff members, including the site director, worked in classrooms in the upper level of the Christian Ed wing. Those classrooms were very uncomfortable during warm weather and were literally as far away from the learning areas under the nave as you could be! When we relocated our Sunday nursery to renovated space on the upper level, we opened up additional space under the nave for Head Start.

+Of course, we continue to host **Dickinson College** music ensembles, the annual **Holocaust Remembrance Service**, the **Carlisle Musical Arts Club**, the **Central Pennsylvania Symphony** and other groups and events and look forward to sharing our building even more with our community in the future!



*Before!*



*After!*



*Left: Many thanks to our First Lutheran volunteers who assembled personal care kits. From left to right: Taylor Miller, Julie Ward, Sam Orner, Janelle Hoch, Marsha Lorenz, Linda Fargus, Mike Luther, Cindy Mar-kele, Kathy Hall, Ron Jumper*

*Right: A sampling of the 258 personal care kits assembled for Lutheran World Relief!  
We surpassed our goal of 250!*



Thanks to all who supported our Lenten initiative through donations of monetary gifts and personal care items. Because of your generosity, we were able to assemble 258 kits for Lutheran World Relief! In addition, we sent LWR a total of \$4,150 for its work in Ukraine.

From Emma Wagner, the LWR representative who visited and preached at First Lutheran last fall...



*Dear Pastor Leber and First Lutheran,  
Thank you for the incredible generosity you've shown our neighbors in Ukraine. Through LWR, your love is being put to work right away helping families in crisis. I'm so grateful for your partnership in this important work.*

*In Christ,  
Emma*

# WELCOME OUR



*Frank and Linda  
Leber*

*George and Cheryl  
Love*



*Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world!*

# NEW MEMBERS!



*Robert and Fay  
McDaniel*



*Amy, Andrew and Lucas  
Wagner*



*Timothy McClure and  
Daniel Wonders*

# Social Ministry and Global Outreach News

## SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY—CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

During the month of July, the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting school supplies for the United Way's Fill-the-Bus event to benefit Project SHARE's Carlisle4Kids backpack distribution on August 10. Donated items may be placed in the designated collection box in the Atrium or dropped off in the church office. Collection deadline is Thursday, July 21.

### Needed Items:

glue sticks	large erasers
pocket folders with prongs	mechanical pencils
spiral notebooks	pens
packs of #2 pencils	1" three-ring binders



Monetary donations will also be accepted. Place your donation in an envelope clearly marked with your name and "Carlisle4Kids". Checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church with "Carlisle4Kids" in the memo line.

The Christmas spirit doesn't have to be limited to one season. Let's show our community that we celebrate the Good News of Christ's birth all year long! Thank you!

The Social Ministry and Global Outreach Committee

## *Will you help us feed our neighbors?*

First Lutheran is providing the evening meal at My Brother's Table (a ministry of the Salvation Army) on **Sunday, July 24**. We will need both meal and dessert items and volunteers to help serve them!

### We currently need:

#10 cans of baked beans (4)	applesauce 6-packs (9)
dinner rolls (5 dozen)	cookies (10 dozen)

If you can help provide food and/or help serve, please call the church office to sign up. Items may be brought in any time on or before **Friday, July 22**. Thank you!



*Thanks to the volunteers who helped prepare and serve the meal at My Brother's Table on April 24.*

*From left: Sam Orner, Ron Jumper, Mike Luther, Bob Hall, Kathy Hall, Robin Orner*



**Attention Thrivent Members!** If you have Action Dollars available, please consider offering them to the Social Ministry & Global Outreach Committee to help fund its various outreach projects such as purchasing chicken for My Brother's Table. For more information, contact Robin Orner, committee chair, at 717-249-3310.

## DRIVERS NEEDED!



Carlisle Meals on Wheels is in great need of food delivery drivers at this time. Schedules are flexible. Some folks like to drive and others prefer to take the meal to the recipient's door. Please contact Stephanie Ollestad, coordinator, at 717-245-0707 for more information or to volunteer. Thanks!

### *What is a sabbatical and why would a pastor take one?*

As previously announced to the congregation, Pastor Leber will be taking a three-month sabbatical from Monday, August 15, to Sunday, November 13, returning to work on Monday, November 14. She will begin her time away with a week of vacation (August 8 to August 14).



The word sabbatical has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath ("to rest" or "to cease"). A sabbatical provides a pastor with extended time for study, spiritual growth, rest, skill development, and/or research and the opportunity to be renewed and refreshed for continuing ministry to her congregation.

As recommended and encouraged by our denomination and local synod, First Lutheran adopted a "Sabbatical Leave" policy last year. Pastors of First Lutheran are now eligible for a three-month sabbatical every six years of full-time ministry at our congregation. (Pastor Leber will be celebrating her 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary at First Lutheran on August 5.)

### *What will happen while Pastor Leber is on sabbatical?*

- + Pastor Richard Lorenz will serve as our "Sabbatical Pastor" from August 8 to November 13, and will preach and preside at Sunday worship and any funerals. He will also attend Council and committee meetings, provide support to our office staff, make hospital and homebound visits, etc.
- + David Binkley, our current contracted organist, has agreed to extend his contract through January 2023 to provide continuity through this time.
- + Volunteers will be needed to cover tasks that Pastor Leber ordinarily takes care of, particularly related to opening and closing the building on Sundays and during the week for meetings and other events.
- + Our ministry of "worshiping, welcoming, witnessing, teaching and serving in the name of Jesus Christ" will continue!

*P.S. Pastor Leber invites you to ask her what she will be studying on her sabbatical!*



*From David Erickson ...*

Dear First Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful event after worship on Sunday [February 27]. It was a difficult decision to step down from the music ministry that I love. The many expressions of appreciation and affection were overwhelming and remain with me still. Thank you to the committee that organized such a delightful reception; thank you to Lee Leidigh for emceeding and for the moving words he spoke; thank you to Pastor Leber and Robin Orner for their beautiful words of collegiality; thank you for the generous gifts in my honor to the important work of the church and of educating new musicians; thank you for the cards and lovely bowtie! Leann and I are so blessed to be surrounded by such a loving family at First. We look forward to remaining active and involved, all working together to the Glory of God.

Most Sincerely,

*David Erickson*



The Faith Formation Committee would like to extend its thanks to everyone who participated in our Souper Bowl of Caring event in February. Together, we were able to collect 112 food items and raise \$750 to benefit Project SHARE!

Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

Thank you so very much for your many expressions of care and concern following my accident, surgery and subsequent hospitalization and rehabilitation. Pastor Leber's and others' visits, prayers, cards, phone calls, flower delivery and delivery of delicious meals are appreciated very much. I am recovering at home and receiving rehab therapy here. I look forward to a time when I will be able to return to church and worship with all of you. Janet and I are blessed to be members of such a kind and caring congregation. Thank you again. We appreciate you all so much.

With love in Christ,  
*Bill Jacobs*

Dear Friends of First Lutheran,

I would like to thank Pastor Leber and Pastor Lorenz for visiting the love of my life and best friend Orr N. Brenneman when he was a resident in the Alzheimer unit at Chapel Pointe. It was very comforting and much appreciated.

I can't thank the church family enough at First Lutheran for the expressions of sympathy, prayers, flowers and emotional support to help me navigate through my grief after Orr's passing. I miss him terribly, but he is in a far better place for which I am grateful.

Sincere thanks,  
*Linda Martin*

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## NEW MEMBERS — May 15, 2022

### BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Timothy McClure & Daniel Wonders

### BY TRANSFER

Frank & Linda Leber  
George & Cheryl Love  
Robert & Fay McDaniel  
Andrew & Amy Wagner

### BY BAPTISM

Lucas Michael Wagner

### BIRTH

Amelia James Ranta

Born to Emily Marshall and Luke Ranta on May 22, 2022

## FIRST COMMUNION

Lyla Jane Sophia Stone

April 17, 2022

CELEBRATING A



- Gary & Patricia Shank (55 years) ..... 6/3
- Al & Iris Alinio (51 years) ..... 6/16
- Jered & Elaine Hock (52 years) ..... 6/20
- Robert & Kathleen Hall (57 years) ..... 6/26
- Donald & Ann Roeder (60 years) ..... 6/30
- Ron & Lois Quigley (66 years) ..... 6/30

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Madison Engle  
Luke Erickson  
Ainslee Martin  
June 5, 2022



*Madison, Luke, Sarah Niebler (co-teacher), Ainslee and Pastor Lorenz*



Dear Pastors Leber and Lorenz and congregation at First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your prayers, offers of help, visits, calls and cards during my recent stay at the hospital.

I am filled with gratitude to God for all of you and the medical care I was able to have.

Love & Peace,  
*Marge Knox*

## Where are the birthdays!?!?

We are in the process of producing a “birthday directory” (similar to our membership directory). This way, information about birthdays will be available to the congregation when the *First Edition* is not published monthly.



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

www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Summer 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.

**Sunday Worship:**

8 & 10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Pastor Leber's sermons are posted on our website — so if you miss a Sunday or would like to share a sermon with a friend, visit [www.firstlutherancarlisle.org](http://www.firstlutherancarlisle.org) and click on the "Worship" tab and then "Sermons."

***Newsletter articles are due by the 15th of each month.***