



FIRST EDITION SUMMER 2026

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

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



5th Annual Fellowship Sunday

Sunday, June 14

ONE service of holy communion at 9:15 a.m.
followed by breakfast in the Martin Luther Room

Join us as our two worshipping communities - the “early” folks and the “late” folks -
gather together around Christ’s table...and then the breakfast table!

Sign up in the Atrium (upper level) to bring breakfast items!

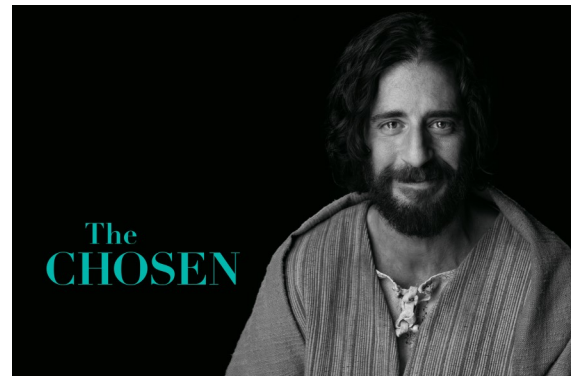
THE CHOSEN (season 2) - Wednesdays in June and July

(June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

6:30 p.m. in Room 16

JOIN US TO WATCH AND DISCUSS SEASON 2 OF ***THE CHOSEN***, the dramatic series based on the life of Jesus. On **Wednesday evenings in June and July**, we will gather at 6:30 p.m. in our “theater” in room 16 to view one episode (run time from 30-50 minutes) and then spend some time in conversation facilitated by Pastor Leber, wrapping up with a brief evening prayer service.

While the series is telling a story, each episode also stands on its own, so feel free to come when you can.



*You can catch up on Season 1 on several platforms and streaming services,
including <https://watch.thechosen.tv/> (free) and Amazon Prime.*

Share Hope. Save Lives.

Our long-time missionaries, Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, have just opened Tanzania's first pediatric clinic, the Arusha Pediatric & Maternal Care Centre. Jodi will be stateside for a week this June to update First Lutheran and other supporting congregations about the amazing work being done to care for children as well as pregnant mothers.

Through our *Share Hope. Save Lives.* campaign, we are raising money to help purchase needed equipment for the APMCC such as beds/cribs, oxygen concentrators, otoscopes/ophthalmoscopes, monitors, and IV pumps. **Thanks to your generosity, as of May 25, we are well over halfway to our fundraising goal of \$7,500 for this wonderful cause!** Please help us meet (or exceed!) this goal by making a donation identified for "Arusha Pediatric" on or before June 10.

Pastor Leber will be hosting a gathering at her home from 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 12, for informal conversation with Jodi (i.e., guests can drop in as able). At a designated time (TBA), Jodi will make a more formal presentation to those gathered. Light refreshments will be served.



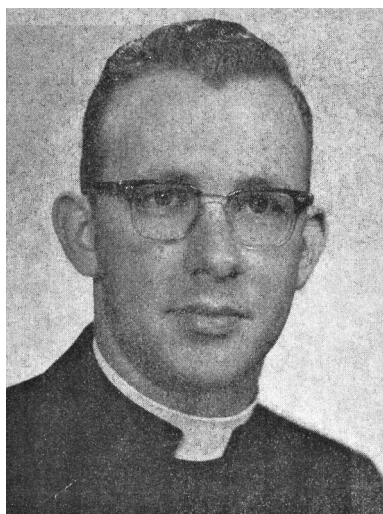
Above: Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson

Below: Ribbon cutting at the Centre opening in April



A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE TO CHRIST'S CHURCH!

We will be celebrating the ordination anniversaries of two of our members at a special “Afters in the Atrium” following 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, June 7. Celebrating his 65th is the Rev. William Jacobs, ordained on June 14, 1961. Celebrating his 45th is the Rev. Richard Lorenz, ordained on May 16, 1981. Please join us to honor these pastors’ many years of service as ministers of Word and Sacrament!



Pastor Jacobs,
c. 1961

Pastor Lorenz,
c. 1981



*“Go therefore and make
disciples of all nations”*

(Mt: 28:19a, NRSVue)

Summer Music Update

Beginning Sunday, June 7, our Chancel Choir will be on summer hiatus. We are grateful for the time and effort choir members dedicate to weekly rehearsal and worship leadership at the 10:30 a.m. service from early September through Holy Trinity Sunday each year.

During the summer there will be several opportunities for choir members and non-members alike to sing in a **“pick-up” choir**. The first will be on **Fellowship Sunday, June 14** (one service at 9:15 a.m.). We will meet in the nave at 8:30 a.m. to learn a simple anthem. Singers will not be robed or seated in the chancel for worship. It’s a great chance to try out the choir experience!

The **pick-up choir** will sing on July 19 and August 23 as well, with rehearsals in the nave at 9:45 a.m. In addition, vocalists, instrumentalists and ensembles are invited to offer music on one or more Sundays this summer. Contact Dr. Stan Wicks musician@firstlutherancarlisle.org for more information and open dates.

**As long as we live, there is
never enough singing.**

Martin Luther



Fifth Annual Chili Cook-off

Our fifth annual Chili Cook-Off on February 7 was a huge success, raising \$1,400 for Project SHARE (the highest amount so far!) and providing a great opportunity for fellowship!



More than 60 attendees enjoyed sampling 12 chili recipes and a variety of cornbread recipes and cookies.



Congratulations to MaryGrace Harty, this year's cook-off winner! *(pictured left)*

Thanks to our chili cookers, cornbread and cookie bakers, and tasters! And a special thanks goes out to Janelle Hoch for organizing the event on behalf of the Social Ministry and World Outreach Committee!

Carlisle Ice Art Festival

The weekend of our Chili Cook-Off was also the weekend of the Carlisle Ice Art Festival, in which First Lutheran participated for the first time, under the auspices of the Evangelism Committee. From 6-8 p.m. on Friday evening, congregation volunteers offered free hot chocolate and popcorn to the approximately 50 folks who paused on the High Street Plaza to enjoy our ice sculpture. (Many of them were enticed down High Street in our direction by the fun meteor lights hanging from our dogwood trees!) We also welcomed visitors to tour our beautiful nave.

Unfortunately, due to the extreme low temperatures and wind chill on Saturday, we had to call off hospitality hours for that evening, but we look forward to next year!



Pastor Leber and Cooper, an enthusiastic greeter of friend and stranger alike!

SCENES FROM WINTER 2026...(IT WAS A COLD ONE!)

Due to Winter Storm Fern, the Women's Retreat scheduled for January 24-25 was cancelled (along with in-person worship at First Lutheran!). Many members and friends of First Lutheran convened on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. that Sunday morning for a brief Service of the Word. As it turned out, Schreiber Haus at Camp Kirchenwald and many of the registrants were available for a hastily rescheduled retreat the following weekend. We had fun...but it was still cold! Brrr!



On a snowy Sunday morning in February, the hardy souls who braved the weather to head to the 8 a.m. service at First Lutheran accepted Pastor Leber's invitation to worship up in the chancel. Thanks to Mark Engle, assisting minister that morning, for taking the "us-ie" of this cozy group!

The weather was a bit better by early March, when our children, youth and families followed February's "Souper Bowl of Caring" with "Super Bowling" at Midway.



EASTER BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT

APRIL 5

Approximately 80 people enjoyed good food and fellowship at our breakfast between services on Easter Sunday. Attendees also signed Easter cards for our homebound members.

Thanks to all who help make this an enjoyable event each year!



In keeping with the overall trend in 2026, the weather did not cooperate on Easter Sunday for outdoor egg hunts. But Henry and Hugo Stuby had fun finding eggs inside!



FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Facilitated by our Social Ministry and World Outreach Committee, First Lutheran provides meals four times a year at My Brother's Table

This year we served meals on **Sundays, January 25 and April 26** and will serve again on **Sundays, July 26 and October 25**. Our standard menu consists of fried chicken, baked beans, applesauce, dinner rolls, butter and cookies (although we quickly pivoted to to-go meals of sandwiches and other less-perishable items during Winter Storm Fern in January!).

Prior to each serving date, the Social Ministry & World Outreach Committee advertises in our bulletins for donations of needed food items and volunteers to serve and clean up at My Brother's Table, 20 E. Pomfret Street.



The April 2026 volunteer team

Thank you for your continuing support of our efforts to feed and provide fellowship to our neighbors in need!

COTTON AND COTTON-BLEND FABRIC NEEDED!

Our Lutheran World Relief quilting group continues its work and welcomes your fabric donations. Twin-size flat sheets work well!

Fabric donations may be placed in the designated container in the hallway outside the church office. Thank you!



Some of the many quilts already made for LWR this year - thank you, quilters!

Tower Bells Update

First Lutheran's approved capital budget for 2025 included funds to replace our 20+ year-old bell controller. We believed doing so would restore full function to the four main tower bells, enabling them to be programmed to ring at 12 noon and 6 p.m. each day and before Sunday worship services as well as to be rung for funerals and other occasions via a remote.

Last fall, our electrician completed the necessary rewiring in the tower for the new controller and installed the equipment. However, two of the four bells still are not ringing, which we believe is due to a problem with the clappers and/or clapper springs (not the new controller).

Unfortunately, in this day and age there are not many contractors specializing in church bells, so we are patiently waiting for a technician from The Verdin Company to travel to Pennsylvania (hopefully in June) to identify and address the issue. Preventive maintenance on the bells will also be performed at that time.



The decommissioned bell in the southwest bell tower (don't ask how Pastor got up there!)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST EDITION SUMMER 2026

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
(Closed for lunch from 12-12:30 p.m.)
Friday, 9 a.m.–12 noon

The Rev. Lisa M. Leber, Pastor	(717) 215-6055 (c)	pastor@firstlutherancarlisle.org
The Rev. Richard G. Lorenz, Pastoral Assistant	(717) 249-3310	
Dr. Stanley Wicks, Cantor	(717) 249-3310	musician@firstlutherancarlisle.org
Hope Miller, Financial Secretary	(717) 249-3310	busadmin@firstlutherancarlisle.org
Robin Orner, Office Manager	(717) 249-3310	secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.firstlutherancarlisle.org