

FIRST EDITION - WINTER 2023

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

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

The Season of Lent

The origin of the season of Lent is a bit murky. One theory is that it was the extension of a short period of fasting before Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday into a forty-day fast in remembrance of Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness. In the early church, Lent was also a time to prepare candidates for baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter.

Whatever its history, Lent offers us 21st century Christians a season of baptismal renewal and of repentance and an opportunity to engage in the Lenten disciplines of giving alms, praying and fasting. Join us on our Lenten pilgrimage!

Ash Wednesday, February 22

12:15 p.m. – spoken Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes

7:00 p.m. – sung Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes

Cantor/Minister of Music Search Update

We have resumed our search for a new part-time cantor/minister of music. Unfortunately, we are among many, many congregations across the country recruiting from a smaller and smaller pool of musicians skilled at leading liturgical and hymn singing from the organ and directing choral ensembles.

We are blessed that David Binkley continues to be willing to serve as our organist for Sunday and other worship services. He is a talented musician and a wonderful (if temporary) addition to our staff. Thank you, David B!

You may also have noticed that, while he *allegedly* retired as our cantor last February (!), David Erickson has continued to generously share his musical gifts with us. David has been formally hired as our part-time Chancel Choir director for the 2023 winter/spring semester, preparing the choir to sing approximately two times a month. Thank you, David E!

Thanks to all who helped make Advent and Christmas special!

...the crew who set up Mary and decorated our outside pole lights and railings: Dick Baish, Jane Ewing, Lee Leidigh, and Sam Orner

...the crew who set up and dismantled our nave and atrium trees: Janelle Hoch, Ron Jumper, Mike Luther, Sarah Niebler, and Sam Orner

...all of the volunteers who stayed after worship on Sunday, December 4, to hang wreaths and decorate the trees

...the Chancel Choir and our readers for a beautiful Lessons & Carols service on December 18

...Leann Erickson and Janelle Hoch, who wrapped 60 pots of poinsettias with foil for Christmas Eve worship

...everyone else who greeted, ushered, rehearsed, prayed, worshiped, proofread, moved stuff around, baked, cleaned up, and in any other way shared their time, talents and treasures to help us celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Building to Serve All God's Children

Capital Campaign Update (as of January 15)



Total campaign commitments:	\$601,915
Total given through 12/31/21:	\$808,005
Total given since 12/31/21:	\$61,499
<u>Grand Total given to date:</u>	<u>\$869,504</u>

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February 2023

Wed., Feb. 1	4 p.m. - Fine Arts at First Committee
Tues., Feb. 14	9:30-11 a.m. - LWR Quilting
Wed., Feb. 15	6:30 p.m. - Property Committee
Mon., Feb. 20	Building & Office <u>closed</u>
Tues., Feb. 21	6:30 p.m. - Congregation Council
Wed., Feb. 22	12:15 p.m. & 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Services
Sat., Feb. 25	9 a.m.-6 p.m. - Day-by-Day 12 Step Workshop (AA) - <i>Festal Hall</i>
Tues., Feb. 28	9:30-11 a.m. - LWR Quilting 6:30 p.m. - Evangelism Committee

March 2023

Tues., Mar. 14	9:30-11 a.m. - LWR Quilting 7 p.m. - Social Ministry & Global Outreach Committee 7:30 p.m. - Carlisle Musical Arts Club
Tues., Mar. 21	6:30 p.m. - Congregation Council
Sat., Mar. 25	9 a.m.-2 p.m. - American Red Cross Blood Drive - <i>Festal Hall</i>
Sun., Mar. 26	4 p.m. - The Creswell Club (Dixieland Quartet) - <i>Fine Arts at First</i>
Tues., Mar. 28	9:30-11 a.m. - LWR Quilting

♪ Singers! ♪

You are always welcome to join the Chancel Choir, currently singing approximately two times a month at 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship. We rehearse most Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. Rehearsals are in the choir room on the lower level. Contact David Erickson with questions at (717) 602-7736.

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



Congregation Council transition — 2023 Officers

Many thanks to Michelle Fisher, Karen Hollen, Steven King, Michael Luther and Sam Orner, whose service as council members ended at the end of December. We are grateful for their leadership and commitment to the congregation over the past three years!

During worship on Sunday, January 15, 2023, we installed the council members elected by the congregation at its annual meeting in November to serve three-year terms, Caryn Carr, Kirby Gutshall, Paul Kraus, Linda Martin and Richard Wood, as well as the officers elected by the council for 2023, David Fitzsimons, president, Ron Jumper, vice president, Lisa Kratzer, treasurer, and Janelle Hoch, secretary.

Please take the opportunity to thank these faithful servants for their labors!

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED!

Our next blood drive will be held on Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in Festal Hall.

You can pre-register for our drive (or another local drive) by going to the ARC website (<https://www.redcross.org>), clicking on "Give Blood", and then "Find a Blood Drive." Pre-registration is strongly encouraged but not required.

Please call the church office if you can cover a volunteer shift at the registration table or the canteen!

Remember - you can donate once every eight weeks - eight weeks from March 25 is January 28, 2023!

"Give blood and keep the world beating."



American Red Cross

2023 CHANCEL FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

There are still a number of Sundays open in 2023! Contact Robin in the office for dates and costs at secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org or 717-249-3310.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements about the cancellation of meetings, rehearsals, concerts and/or worship services or the closure of the church office/building due to inclement weather will be posted on our website, www.firstlutherancarlisle.org, distributed via e-mail, and recorded on our outgoing message at the main church number: (717) 249-3310. You can also text or call Pastor Leber for info at (717) 215-6055.

P.S. If you are not receiving e-mail blasts from Pastor Leber and wish to, please provide us with your address!

2022 STATEMENTS

Statements of Financial Contribution for 2022 were mailed the week of January 16. Please review promptly and inform Robin Orner, office manager, if there are any discrepancies between First Lutheran's records and yours!

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving!

Social Ministry and Global Outreach News

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. For more information, contact Robin Orner, committee chair, at 717-249-3310.

Thanks to all who donated cookies in December!

Your generosity allowed us to enjoy delicious refreshments after Lessons & Carols on December 18, deliver 28 bags of cookies to the Truck Stop Ministry for distribution to travelers who pass through our area during the holidays, and provide lots of cookies for Cumberland County prisoners!

And thanks to all who participated in our Advent Fill-a-Box initiative!

As you can see, we had an overwhelming response to our Advent drive for the Carlisle Area Family Life Center and the Domestic Violence Services Emergency Shelter, both of which were very appreciative and grateful for the many items we collected. Your generosity is amazing!



“Souper Bowl of Caring” food drive

Before and after both worship services on **Sunday, February 12**, we will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations in the High Street narthex and the atrium to benefit Project SHARE. Last year we raised over \$650, which helped 430 children have healthy meals over their summer break. Let's tackle

hunger together and continue to generously support Project SHARE's valuable work in our community! Checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church, with “Souper Bowl of Caring” on the memo line.

Share God's Love this Lent!

From Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, the Social Ministry and Global Outreach Committee will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits, with a stretch goal of assembling 258 personal care kits in celebration of First Lutheran's 258th birthday this year!

Items may be dropped off on Sunday mornings or in the church office during regular office hours. Each kit consists of:

- ♥ dark-colored, light-weight bath towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27")
- ♥ 2-3 bath-size bars of unscented or lightly-scented soap equaling 8-9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ♥ adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- ♥ sturdy comb
- ♥ metal nail clippers (attached file optional)



Monetary donations will also be accepted; checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church with "Personal Care Kits" in the memo line. Funds remaining after the purchasing of items will be donated to the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund. We hope you will join us in providing tangible hope to our neighbors in need!



For their 2nd Sunday service project in January, our Sunday School youth stuffed 79 pairs of sock with snacks for the Community CARES homeless shelter.

Additional projects this academic year have included making Thanksgiving placemats for Meals on Wheels recipients and Christmas cards for our homebound members.

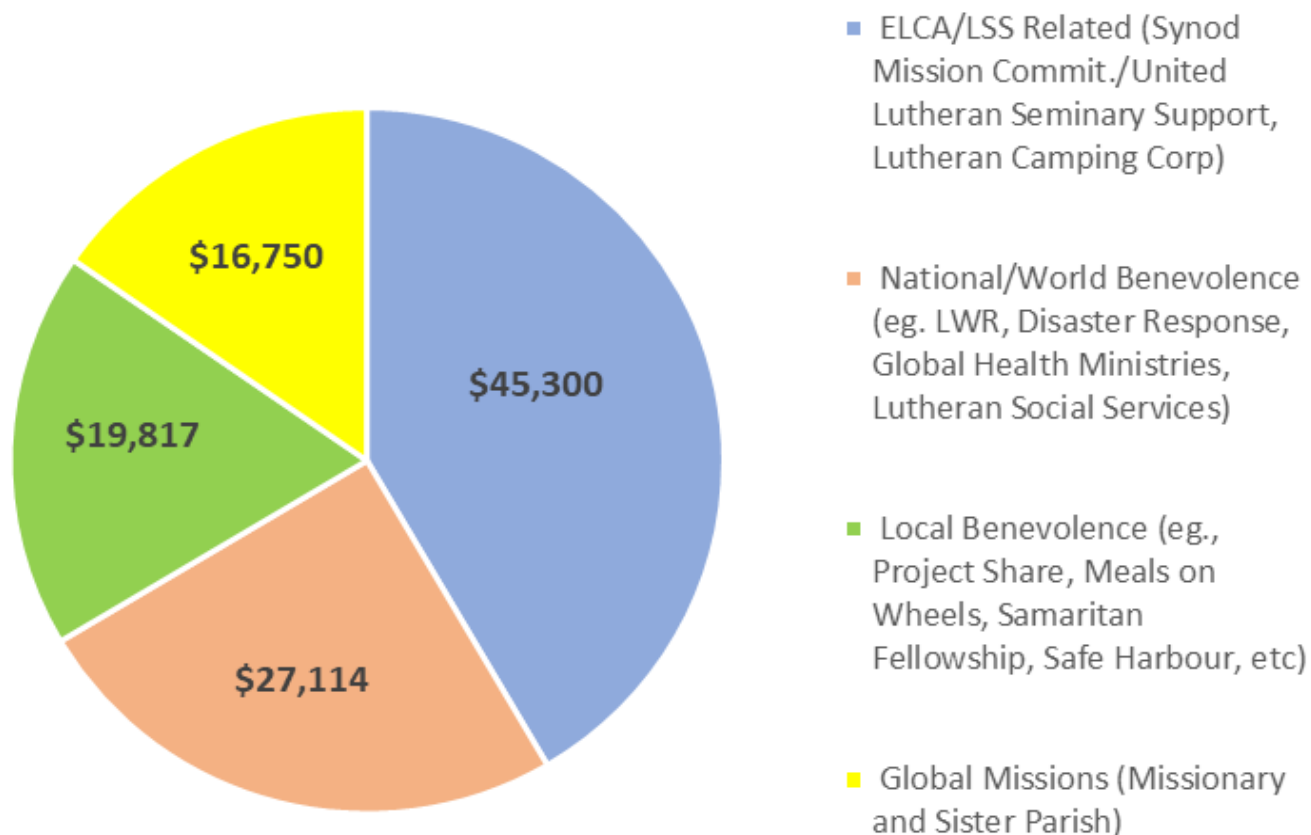
Faith Formation News



END OF YEAR FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Committee wishes to thank the congregation for another tremendous year of financial support in 2022. Your regular offerings to our operating needs, debt service, benevolence and capital projects not only helped to support our ministries and keep our building operating, but you provided an additional \$22,000+ in benevolence support, locally and across the globe. This is on top of the \$86,820 that went out from our budget for a total of over almost \$109,000 (detailed in the pie chart below). That is fantastic!

2022 Benevolence Support Total \$108,981



SAVE THE DATES!

Our 2023 Bible Camp will be held Monday-Wednesday, June 26-28, from 6-7:30 p.m. We are still working on a theme, but it is sure to be a fun time!

Mark your calendars!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

CELEBRATING A



DEATHS

Kaye Louise Spiese

birth — May 22, 1945
death — December 13, 2022

Kenneth Lee Egolf

birth — January 12, 1938
death — December 30, 2022

† Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

- Harry & Susan Kline (55 years) 1/6
- Tom & Carol Green (59 years) 1/9
- Frank & Linda Leber (58 years) 1/15
- Dennis & Sue Shank (57 years) 1/15
- Joe & Connie McDermond (55 years)... 1/27

- John & Ruth Oakes (54 years)..... 2/15
- Harold & Virginia Shenk (55 years)..... 3/16

+++++

Dear 1st Lutheran,

Thank you for the care package! I had just begun to run out of snacks when I got the message I had something in the mail. It's very kind of you all to continue thinking of me.

Thank again!
Ian Galbraith

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful care package! It was such a nice surprise to receive and came just in time for midterms!

I especially loved the baby Yoda goldfish and the pretty butterfly mug! I will have a fun game night with my friends and all the yummy snacks you sent! I really appreciate you thinking of me while I am away at college, and I look forward to seeing you all when I am home on break!

Thank you again!
Celia Christenson

Dear First Lutheran Family,

Thank you so much for the very thoughtful gift basket. All of the items and snacks will be well used and help me through the rest of the first semester! Thank you for the scripture and song as well. I really enjoyed them. I look forward to seeing you again during the holidays.

From,
Sean Christenson

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the care package. The snacks and treats will really help when I am up late after the cafeteria closes. I do a lot of late night studying so I will go through it fast.

Thank you.
Ian Stum

A huge thank you to Dick Baish, Jane Ewing and Sam Orner who helped with our outside seasonal decorations—lampposts and the Madonna doorway. Your help was greatly appreciated by our congregation and the Carlisle community!

Thank you,
Lee Leidigh



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21 South Bedford Street
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717-249-3310

www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office Hours:

Monday — Friday
8:30 a.m.—12:15 p.m. & 12:45—4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship:

8 & 10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Sunday sermons are posted on our website — so if you couldn't worship with us or would like to share a sermon with a friend, visit www.firstlutherancarlisle.org and click on the "Worship" tab and then "Sermons."