

First News First

Volume 61, Issue 7

July/August 2026


What is Happening with the Church Building?

It is a question many people are asking. When I explained the current situation to one person, they responded, “Ohhh—it’s like a duck. Above the water it looks calm and still, but underneath the surface there is a lot of movement taking place.”

That comparison fits well. While there may not yet be many visible changes to the building itself, a great deal of work is happening behind the scenes. We are continuing to learn more about our facility, evaluate options, and move the process forward. Like the duck steadily paddling beneath the water, progress is being made even when it cannot yet be outwardly seen. In the past couple of months, here is what has been transpiring.

1. Much work is being done to have Cumberland Valley School of Music (CVSM) renting three rooms to hold music lessons beginning as early as July 6. They will be going full force in September. They rented space in May for recitals and are also renting space for orchestra practices in the fall. We continue to work to build this relationship.
2. Chambersburg Anglican Fellowship Group has been renting chapel space on Sunday mornings. They started their bi-weekly prayer group here on April 19.
3. No further conversation or developments related to using the basement for a day shelter for the homeless.

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4. We have hired McKissick Architecture to
 - a. Research the original building drawings along with newspapers, photographs, and local historical archives to determine any significance for preservation considerations.
 - b. Assess our current building conditions, details, and a gather a visual review of building systems.
 - c. Provide measured drawings documenting existing conditions.
 - d. Look at current zoning and building code considerations to identify general compliance issues relevant to future use scenarios.
 - e. Give us a final report that will be used to support grant submissions to public and private sources and to financial lenders as the basis for 3rd party development request.

This report should be available to us in July.

5. We are working with Mark Orndorf from Black and Davidson to be our legal counsel related to sale of the building through Orphan's Count and working through the additional details of 'Rose Rent' with the Orphan's court as well. We have been assured that the building can be sold. Simplest if sold to a non-profit organization.
6. As of June 15, Council is considering whether to enter into a contract with **Joe Elhadj, Commercial Appraiser with Apex Valuation Services in Shippensburg**, to establish the fair market value of the facility. This valuation would be an important step in evaluating any potential future sale of the property. Mr. Elhadj has already toured the building and is currently awaiting Council's decision on whether to proceed with the appraisal engagement. He is a well-regarded commercial appraiser, and his assessment would provide Council with an independent, professional opinion of the facility's current market value.

During his walkthrough, Mr. Elhadj also noted that, within the next two years, several school buildings are expected to become available in Chambersburg. Those properties may appeal to the same pool of prospective buyers as the church facility. As a result, obtaining a timely appraisal may be especially valuable, as it would help Council better understand the property's market position before additional competing properties enter the market.

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7. On a separate note, Cumberland Stained Glass has been cleaning and repairing our stained glass windows and surrounding wood frames of the building. They began their work on May 19. They are hoping to have the project completed in early July. If you would like to give financially to this project, please contact Carol McCoy (financial secretary), Sally Herritt (treasurer) or speak with Pastor Nicholson.

While many of the most important developments are happening behind the scenes, we continue to move forward with purpose and prayer. The work of evaluating the building, seeking guidance, exploring opportunities, and preparing for future decisions takes time. Although the pace can sometimes feel slow, each step helps ensure that we are being faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

As we wait for reports, assessments, and additional opportunities to unfold, we are reminded that God's work often progresses in ways we cannot immediately see. Just as the duck glides calmly across the water while steadily moving beneath the surface, progress is being made even when visible changes are few.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” — Galatians 6:9

Thank you to the many volunteers who continue to invest their time, expertise, and energy into this process. From coordinating with vendors and contractors to working with community organizations and professional advisors, your dedication is helping to care for our building and prepare it for future ministry opportunities. We are grateful for your faithful service and for the many ways you support the work being done both now and for the future.

Pastor Jane Nicholson



What is Happening with the Church Building?

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Above the water it looks calm and still, but underneath the surface there is a lot of movement taking place.

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**WE TRUST.
WE SERVE.
WE MOVE FORWARD
IN FAITH.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS. *Together, we are preparing for what God has next.*

JULY WORSHIP

July 5	9:30	Communion
July 12	9:30	Worship
July 19	9:30	Communion;
July 26	9:30	Orchestra Sunday



Worship Schedule for the Summer

AUGUST WORSHIP

August 2	9:30	Communion
August 9	9:30	Worship
August 16	9:30	Communion and Blessing of Backpacks, students, and teachers
August 23	9:30	Orchestra Sunday
August 30	9:30	Worship – Supply Pastor will be The Rev. Angela Zimmann

School will be starting in August and we will have a
Blessing of the Students, Teachers, and Backpacks
on Sunday, August 16 at worship.

We look forward to God's blessing on our new school year.
Invite your friends or young families that have moved
into your neighborhood during the summer.



NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



COME JOIN US!

Saturday, August 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

as we distribute socks and underwear to elementary age young people in our community. Please contact Mary Beth Warne McGraw to let her know of your interest. Phone: 717-372-8282 and E-mail: james_warne@aol.com



LAUNDRY DAY

will be Saturday, July 18.
Come and join us in sharing
the joy of helping others.

Contact: Joyce Ray
717-658-6077

Neighborhood Task Team

will be having a
meeting in the
Parlor on Monday,
July 6 at 1:00 p.m.
Always interested in
new people and
new ideas.

Join us!

CHAMPIONS

VBS

FOR CHRIST!

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING WEEK OF
FAITH, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

ST. LUKE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



JULY
26-30



AGES
5-11



FREE
& FUN!



2695 Luther Drive,
Chambersburg, PA 17202



717-261-1213

Women of the ELCA

Join Us!



LADIES BREAKFAST

July 15

8:30 a.m.

Green Village

August 19

8:30 a.m.

Family Table



God's Work
Our Hands



- Our WELCA members put together Personal Care Kits to send to LWR each year.
- With the help of an Action Team Grant from Thrivent our goal this year is to put 100 health kits together. A health kit consists of a bath towel, sturdy comb, nail clipper, two bars of soap and an adult toothbrush. We are asking members of First to contribute 4 oz. bars of soap and toothbrushes. On a Sunday in September our youth and church members will assemble these health kits in Fellowship Hall at 9:30. We are hoping everyone can help with this project.




A graphic for a Mini Golf Scramble event. It features a light blue background with green grass-like patterns at the top and bottom. In the center, there are two golf clubs (drivers) on the left and right, and a white golf ball in the middle. Below the ball are two golf tees, one red and one orange. A QR code is positioned in the lower center of the graphic.

MINI GOLF SCRAMBLE

Join Christians in central PA to support Hogar Miguel Orphanage in Guatemala. (Associated with Tree-4-Hope). The scramble will be fun for all ages and abilities including children. It is being held on Saturday, August 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Challenge Family Fun Center located at 366 Middletown Rd. Hummelstown, PA. This family-friendly event is a fun twist on the traditional golf scramble and is designed for everyone. Participants will enjoy a day of mini golf, fellowship, lunch, and a chance to win some great prizes. Scan the QR code to register.



STREET CLOSURE

A graphic of a road closure sign. It features two orange lights on top of a white sign with a black border that says "ROAD CLOSED". The sign is supported by two black posts and is flanked by red and white diagonal striped barriers.

Washington Street will be closed between First Lutheran Parking Lot entrance and Southgate traffic light for an extended period. Construction will begin in July.

HELPING HANDS

TRANSPORTATION

Need a Ride?

Our church provides transportation to church on Sundays!

Please call if you need a ride. Church office: 717-264-2015



**Deadline for
the September
Newsletter
will be
August 15**





Trevor Plasterer	7/2		
Liam Coy	7/6		
Nancy E. Wildeson	7/6	Joyce Ray	7/24
Madison Wenger	7/14	James Sloan II	7/24
Emersyn Plasterer	7/18	Shirley Leister	7/24
Mark Nicholson	7/21	Donald Mayer	7/28
Gage Boock	7/24	Brynn Sekel	7/31

2026 Council
 President: Mike Ross
 Vice President: Gary Kennedy
 Secretary: Marianne Kennedy
 Treasurer: Sally Herritt
 Pastor: Jane Nicholson
 Deacon: Freda Dorand
 Jeff Dorand
 Lori Palmer
 Mary Beth McGraw-Warne
 Gerry Wilson
 Financial Secretary: Carol McCoy




PRAYER CHAIN
 May we include you in our prayers? Do you have a prayer need that we can help you with? If so, please call our prayer chain group leader:
 Marcia Hunt @
 717-263-0781
 Names are kept on the prayer chain for 1 month. After that month, please contact the office again if you would like to have a name on for another month.

Collin Hammond	8/5	Susan Rote	8/22
Christian Burkholder	8/7	Dalton Paul	8/25
Cassie Craven	8/7	Robert Wareham	8/25
Jeffrey Goodman	8/7	Kira Coy	8/26
Gary Fleegal	8/11	Colin Hefner	8/26
Kenley Craven	8/15	Tracey Savary	8/29
Marianne Kennedy	8/16	Carol Leach	8/31
Mike Dent	8/19		
Judith Etter	8/20		



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

43 W. Washington Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
E-mail: felccoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.felcc.org

 @FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch

 @felccyouth



Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE	717-264-2015
Parish Administrator	ext. 1
Director of Music	ext. 3
Pastor	ext. 4

