

First News First

Volume 61, Issue 6

June 2026

As we step into the month of June, we are greeted with longer days, warmer weather, and many opportunities to gather together in faith and fellowship. Summer often brings a different rhythm to our lives, but it also reminds us of God's constant presence in every season.

One of the highlights this month will be our Worship and Picnic in the Park on June 28. This special gathering gives us the opportunity to worship together in God's beautiful creation and enjoy time together as a church family. I encourage everyone to come, invite friends and neighbors, and share in this joyful day of worship, food, laughter, and fellowship. Food reservations due by June 21.

We are also excited to begin a new Weekly Bible Study group during the month of June. The group will meet on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. and will offer an opportunity for learning, discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Whether you have participated in Bible studies before or are looking for a new way to grow in faith, all are welcome to join us as we gather around God's Word together.

The end of May was a season of celebration for our graduates. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the three high school graduates from our congregation. These include: Christian Burkholder, Kate Nienstedt, and Zach Peters. At worship on May 31 we will have brief recognition of them. As they prepare for new adventures and opportunities ahead, we pray that God will guide them, strengthen them, and bless them in all they do.

In early June, I will be attending the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly. This annual gathering brings together pastors and lay leaders from congregations across our synod for worship, learning, conversation, and important decisions that shape our shared ministry. I ask for your prayers for all who will participate, that the Holy Spirit will guide our discussions and help us continue to faithfully serve Christ in our communities.

As summer begins, may we continue to grow in faith, care for one another, and share the love of Christ wherever we go. Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and participation in the life of our congregation.

God's peace and blessings,
Pastor Jane Nicholson

A background image of a beach scene. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach with several seashells and a starfish. In the background, a dark-colored Bible is visible, with the words "HOLY BIBLE" printed vertically on its spine. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a summer beach setting.

HOLY
BIBLE



The **newsletter deadline** for the **combined July/August** edition of 'First News First' will be June 15.

June 7	9:30	Communion and Deacon David Hope Tringali from Tree 4 Hope Girl's School in Guatemala preaching
June 14	9:30	Worship
June 21	9:30	Rose Rent, Communion
June 28	10:45	Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Green Township Park
July 5	9:30	Communion
July 12	9:30	Worship
July 19	9:30	Communion
July 26	9:30	Orchestra Sunday
August 2	9:30	Communion
August 9	9:30	Worship
August 16	9:30	Communion and Blessing of Students and Teachers
August 23	9:30	Orchestra Sunday
August 30	9:30	Worship with Angela Zimmann as supply pastor

OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC We hope you will join us at Greene Township Park Pavilion for Worship on Sunday, June 28 at 10:45. You may wish to bring a lawn chair. Shorts and T-shirts are appropriate dress. If you would like to help with the more casual worship that day, please be in touch with Pastor Nicholson. To help with music contact Freda Dorand.

The congregation picnic will follow. Price per person is \$15. Children 12 and under are free. Menu will be posted in Memorial Hall. Please make your reservation for food by Sunday, June 21. Sign up in Memorial Hall after worship on June 14 & 21 or by calling Mary Beth at 717-372-8282.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA We are gathering at Memorial Park Pavilion (by the playground) for lunch on Thursday, June 11 at 12:30. Bring your own lunch and beverage. Dessert will be provided.

JUNE BIBLE STUDY Join a new Bible Study Group for the month of June on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew and will be in Meeting Room One. Pastor Nicholson will lead the sessions.

Stained Glass Windows



Cumberland Stained Glass began their work on our church windows on Monday, May 18. We are thrilled to have them begin. We have paid $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost as a deposit. The remaining cost of window repair is approximately \$59,000. People have been contributing to cover the cost and we currently have about \$18,000 available in the church treasury to cover the remainder of the cost. This means we are still looking for contributions of approximately \$41,000. Our work of fundraising now takes on extra momentum. With this in mind it is good to be aware of the items below. However you choose to give, please make sure the church is aware of how you would like your donation used (Stained Glass or General Funds)

Give Now!

1. **From the IRS:** Beginning with tax year 2026, if you do not itemize, you may deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if filing jointly) of your cash contributions to certain qualified organizations. First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chambersburg is one of those organizations. This \$1,000/ \$2,000 gift could be designated for Stained Glass Windows if you would like to do so. Please indicate Stained Glass Windows on your check or envelope.

2. **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of an IRA to [organizations that are eligible](#) to receive tax-deductible contributions including First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Making a QCD can benefit the taxpayer by reducing their taxable income while they support qualifying charitable organizations of their choice. The taxpayer does not have to worry about meeting the [standard deduction](#) or [itemizing deductions](#) with a QCD. The contribution must be made directly from your IRA to the church to receive the tax benefit. Talk more with your financial advisor about this.



3. **Appreciated Stock Contributions** Appreciated stock may be given directly to the church. Do not sell it yourself. Whatever amount the stock you donate has appreciated, you will not need to pay income taxes on it. You can realize the full value of the stock that is given as a charitable contribution on your taxes.

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4. **Non-Thrivent Members:** For \$20 you can apply to be an Associate Member with Thrivent at www.Thrivent.com and click on the button across the top of the screen that says ‘generosity’ or you may call 1-800- 847-4836 (M-F 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.) for assistance. Associate Membership will give you the following benefits in 2026:

- a. You will receive \$25 of Choice Dollars which you can direct toward First Lutheran (or another charitable organization.) The Finance Committee has determined that all Choice Dollars which First Lutheran receives during the summer months of June, July, and August will be directed toward the Stained Glass Windows.
- b. As an Associate Member, you can also apply for Action Team Dollars of up to \$250. Action Teams are groups of people that are working in a charitable way to help our communities and world. The \$250 Action Team Money is like a grant and may be used for seed money to start your project.

(Yes, your money of \$20 has more than 13 times the value if you become an associate member and apply for an Action Team grant and take advantage of the Choice Dollars.)

5. **Thrivent Members**
Choice Dollars are changing!



- a. No matter your investments or insurance plan with Thrivent you will be eligible for “Choice Dollars.”
There are no longer exclusions.
- b. **Right now** you have access to the **entirety** of your Annual 2026 Choice Dollars. They are currently in an account which you are able to immediately access at any time during the remainder of 2026. These “Choice Dollars” must be spent by **December 31, 2026** or they will be lost. The Finance Committee has determined that all Choice Dollars which First Lutheran receives during the summer months of June, July, and August will be directed toward the Stained Glass Windows.

No matter how you choose to donate, your contributions toward this project are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

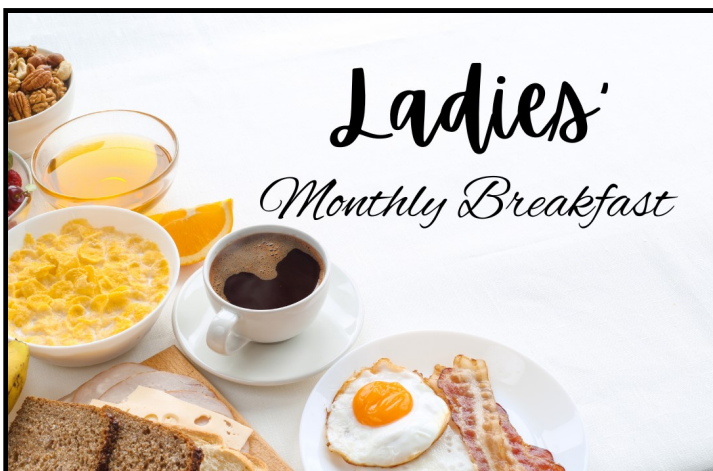
Sharing God's love in our community



BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE
BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT WILL BE ON
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Ladies'

Monthly Breakfast

Wednesday, June 17 at 8:30 a.m. at
Trojan Diner in Chambersburg

Women's Picnic



The Women of the ELCA Picnic
Thursday, June 11 at 12:30 p.m. at
Memorial Park Pavilion

Thank you

Ladies Breakfast Group, Quilting Ladies
and Congregation,

We appreciate you honoring our mom with
your time and kind words. We are sure God
has welcomed her to heaven.

Thank you all,
Pat Dent's Family

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your gift to Lutheran
World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. We
share often about the impact of quilts and kits
around the world, but these gifts have no use if
we cannot get them into the hands that need them
most. I am so grateful that you are helping this
ministry come to life with your generous
support.

In Christ,
Daniel V. Speckhard, President and CEO

HELPING HANDS

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.

June Diehl	6/01
Martha Umbrell	6/03
Robert Willits	6/04
Beverly Rebok	6/05
Amber McCoy	6/13
Gregory Plasterer	6/14
Nancy Hamilton	6/15
John Sekel	6/15
Kristen Potts	6/16
Jean Reed	6/18
Diana Umbrell	6/18
Preston Friend	6/19
Monica Willits	6/21
Chad Lensbower	6/23
Shirley Martin	6/23
Sharon Hammond	6/24
Dennis Love	6/24
Ashley Peters	6/26
Karen Naus	6/27

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 July/August
 Newsletter
 will be
June 15**





THE LOVE OF A FATHER

*for his children
is more than provision
and protection,
leadership and guidance—*

*it's a part of who we are,
what we become,
and the way we serve the Lord
with our lives.*

*It is a strong and binding cord
that runs through the fabric of
our character...*

*a rock we can stand on
for courage and support...
and a foundation that lies
securely beneath us.*

LOCAL EVENTS



16th Annual Race Against Poverty

Downtown Chambersburg

Saturday, June 6 from 3-7:30 p.m.

Register at raceagainstopoverty.org

All ages | Cash Prizes | Trophies | Door Prizes

RUN OR WALK TO FIGHT
FOR POVERTY!



Restaurant Week

Downtown Chambersburg

July 11-18

Chambersburg.org/ChambersFestRW

Special Cuisine, Meal Deals & Daily Prizes

Join us for a week dedicated to
the incredible local
restaurants!



ChambersFest

Downtown Chambersburg

July 11-18

Chambersburg.org/Chambersfest

Family - Friendly Events!

Old Market Day, Cook Race,
Live Music, and More!



North Square Farmers Market

Downtown Chambersburg

July 11 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Major Project Update: Southgate Infrastructure Project Starting Soon

Neighborhood disruptions on some streets for up to two years.

Detours for pedestrians, shoppers, truck deliveries and cars throughout the neighborhood.

Stores will remain open during construction from 2026 to 2028.

Chambersburg Borough created this guide and map to help you navigate through the construction zone.

- Water St. and Rail Trail, between W. Washington St. and W. Catherine St., to be closed for construction and then turned into a linear park with a new trail and landscaping – no cars allowed.
- Underground utilities on W. Washington St. and Cedar St. to be replaced, including large excavation areas, and streets closed to vehicles and traffic during construction – afterwards new utilities, a new public plaza, and storm sewer system repairs to help entire town during heavy rains.
- Cedar St., between W. Washington St. and W. Catherine St., will be re-established as a public street.
- A stormwater bio-retention area will be located on the southwest corner of W. Washington St. and Cedar St.
- This project is funded by several state and federal grants with significant funding provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and PennDOT. The project would have been needed to fix infrastructure even if the Chambersburg Area Municipal Authority and Borough hadn't purchased the shopping center for redevelopment. Following the project, the neighborhood will be reconstructed and the shopping center resold, in part or in whole, for the benefit of the community.



MAP KEY

**WATER ST. AND LIBERTY ST.
CLOSED**

No vehicle access on Water St. and W. Liberty St., as depicted in **orange**.

W. WASHINGTON ST.
Frequent vehicle access disruptions on W. Washington St., as depicted in **yellow**.

SOUTHGATE SHOPPING CENTER
Frequent vehicle access disruptions to the Southgate Shopping Center, as depicted in **blue**. Parking lots will remain open, as depicted in **red**.

BLACK AVE.
Vehicle operators are directed to use Black Ave. to travel north and south, as depicted in **black**.


PEDESTRIANS
Pedestrians are directed to use the sidewalk network, as depicted in **green**.



Questions and concerns should be directed to Guy Shaul, Community and Economic Development Specialist, at 717-251-2446 or gshaul@chambersburgpa.gov.

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

Outdoor WORSHIP *and* PICNIC

Greene Township Park

Sunday, June 28 at 10:45 a.m.

 *you may wish to bring a lawn chair.
Shorts and t-shirts are appropriate dress.*