

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

First News First

Volume 60, Issue 9

September 2025



Dear Friends in Christ,

This September, our congregation has a wonderful opportunity to live out the truth that *God's work is often done through our hands*. Whether we are sewing quilts, teaching Sunday School, serving on Church Council, welcoming new members, or packing care kits for neighbors around the world, we are part of God's mission in tangible ways.

On Sunday, September 14 at 9:30 a.m., before worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for "God's Work. Our Hands." Together, we will assemble 100 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. These simple gifts will travel far beyond our walls, offering comfort and dignity to people in crisis. This is holy work—done in Christ's name and fueled by Christ's love.

As we move into the fall, I invite you to pray about your own role in ministry. God calls each of us to use the time, skills, and resources entrusted to us—not just to keep the church running, but to be the church in the world. These opportunities can include Long Range Planning for the church, participating in a class to deepen our faith, bringing food during Harvest Home Sunday, to give to Meals on Wheels, filling the "Give and Take" box, helping with worship technology, sharing your talents through one of our musical groups, or serving on Church Council. Always, it means letting the love of Christ shine through what we do.

And when we join hands—whether in a sewing room, a classroom, a music room, or a Fellowship Hall filled with soap and towels—God's work truly comes alive among us. Remember September 7 is the start of Sunday School, the presentation of Bibles to our 3rd grader, and we return to 10:45 worship.

See you in worship, in scripture study, and in service,

Pastor Jane Nicholson



WORSHIP

Worship Planning

September 7	10:45 Worship with Communion, Presentation of Bibles, Sunday School 9:30
September 14	10:45 Worship on Holy Cross Sunday / Procession with Cross “God’s Work. Our Hands.” at 9:30
September 21	10:45 Worship with Communion. Guest organist: Charlene Good Stewardship Message: Joyce Ray
September 28	10:45 Worship / Receive New Members/ In-Gathering of quilts and kits Stewardship Message: Tim Gotwald
October 5	10:45 Harvest Home Worship and Liturgy / World Communion Sunday and First Communion
October 12	10:45 Worship / Stewardship Message: Mike Ross
October 19	10:45 Worship with Holy Communion / Receipt of Anticipated Giving Cards
October 26	10:45 Reformation Day Worship with Holy Communion / Wear Red

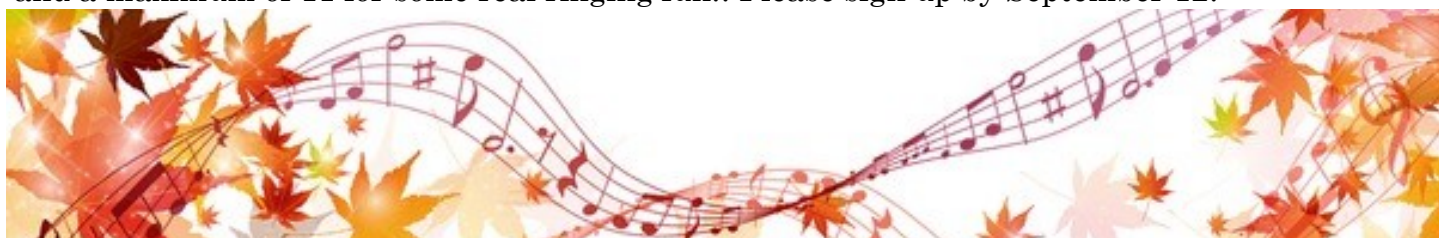


Kick off to the fall season for music!

MUSIC NOTES Bells and Choir Rehearsals start dates for the fall season. A music kick-off picnic will be on August 28 at the Shoop's. ALL music groups (youth to advanced ages) are invited from past, present, and future participants. Meal begins around 5 p.m. There is a sign up sheet in the music room with specific details if you can join us. Or, contact Nancy Shoop or Freda with a count and a dish to share.

Bells and choir will begin rehearsals on September 4. Bells will start at 6:15 p.m. and choir will follow at 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in either ensemble, see Freda for more information.

BELLS 101 Surely you have seen and enjoyed the Rose Ringers for a while. This is your chance (with no strings attached) to have some time and fun with the bells in an 8 week class. You will get the basics of what is involved in ringing bells. We will meet on Mondays starting September 22—November 10. Class time will be 6:00—6:45 p.m. each Monday. See Freda (or email—felccmusic@gmail.com) if you are interested. Must have 5 people for the class to start and a maximum of 11 for some real ringing fun!! Please sign up by September 12.



Dear First Lutheran Congregation and Pastor Nicholson,

Thank you so much for the ordination anniversary cards—what a show of love and support to me! I am very grateful!

Susie and I do miss you Yankees. We are “Floridians” now and have adapted to our new home at Lutheran Haven, with all the other “old farts.” We have joined a lovely and active small membership congregation near us, Epiphany Lutheran (ELCA). Susie is active at church and volunteering at Lutheran Haven. We do group and individual exercises to keep up with the 80 and 90 something residents. I am “on hold” as to any supply preaching and/or interim ministries until the holy spirit calls me for another “mission impossible.” Meanwhile, I am writing my memoirs. I will be assisting when needed at Epiphany.

Much love,
Susie & Warren Heintzelman

1551 Chipmunk Ln
Oviedo, FL 32765

PRAYERS REQUESTS



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Liz Gouak

Connie Wilkins

Joanne Caskey

Linus Christman

Pat Dent

June Diehl

Karin Woods

Faye Ulrich

Garry Shatzer

Joe Pine

Charles Kampmeyer

Mark Hammer

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold

Join Us at an Upcoming Event!

- Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
September 7
- Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa
September 9-11
- Party with a Purpose Fundraiser at
Kirchenwald September 27 at 5 p.m.

Check out all event details at
LutheranCamping.org

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

September 7 at 9:30 a.m.

It is an exciting year for Sunday School. We invite our students in grade 5 and younger to attend our children's Sunday school held in room #208 on the second floor. Thank you to Mary Gotwald and Nicki Johnson for teaching this class. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 7.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult class meets in the Parlor and is taught by Timothy Gotwald.

What does it mean to live a Christian life? The adult Sunday School class will be looking at examples of specific individuals through history that exemplify what it is to be a Christian. Begins September 7.

SCRIPTURE AND AGING

Wisdom, Legacy, and Renewal



SCRIPTURE AND AGING: Wisdom, Legacy, and Renewal. This Bible study explores the profound journey of aging through the lives of Abraham and Sarah, Naomi and Ruth, Elijah and Elisha, and the faithful witnesses Simeon and Anna. We will uncover how Scripture honors the later seasons of life-not as a decline, but as a time of deep purpose, spiritual vitality, and generational impact. Join us as we reflect on God's enduring presence, the power of legacy, and the beauty of faith that matures with time. We will meet in the Parlor on Mondays at 3:00 p.m. from September 8 to October 6. Sign up by office door.



Harvest ME

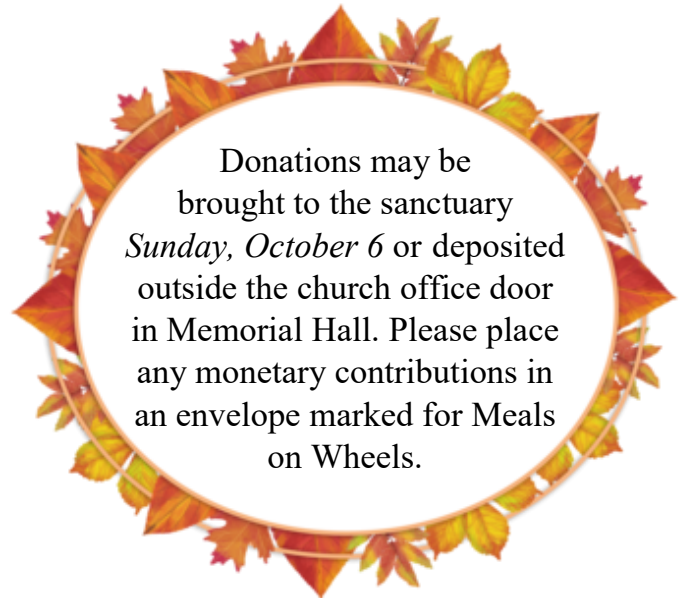


Sunday, October 5, 2025

Please plan to share the bounty of your table with others through the Meals on Wheels program.

The following food items are needed:

- *Medium Noodles* · *Macaroni*
- *Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce*
- *Small jars of Alfredo Sauce*
- *Sugar Free Canned Fruit*
- *White Cake Mixes* · *Ketchup*
- *Low Salt Chicken Broth* · *Sugar Free Cookies*
- *Grapenut Cereal* · *Canned Vegetables*
- *Dark Colored Dish Cloths* · *Monetary donations*



Donations may be brought to the sanctuary *Sunday, October 6* or deposited outside the church office door in Memorial Hall. Please place any monetary contributions in an envelope marked for Meals on Wheels.



UPCOMING

IN-GATHERING

*Sunday, September 28
10:45 a.m.*



The In-Gathering for Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts will take place during worship. The layettes, school kits, health kits and quilts will be transported in early October to those in need around the world.

NEW MEMBERS

New members will be received on Sunday, September 28 at our 10:45 worship service. If you would like to be a member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church please contact Pastor Nicholson at 717-264-2015 ext 4 or flcpastor@outlook.com.

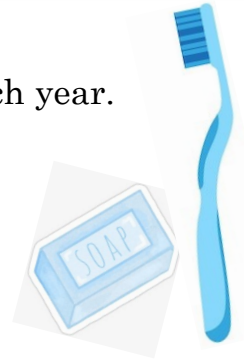
NEW ON STAFF

Welcome to Dan Worcester who is serving as our Technical Coordinator for worship. If you would like to learn the audio or video system and help in the balcony with the tech end of worship, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Dan will be up there to train you and help you with any troubles that may arise. Take a moment to greet Dan following worship some Sunday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

God's Work- Our Hands

Our church 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 thank you for your contributions of soap and toothbrushes. We are now ready to assemble them with the help of your HANDS. On Sunday, September 14 our youth and church members will assemble these health kits in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. We are hoping everyone can help with this project.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Thank you very much for your contribution towards the kits. We have enough items to fill the kits. Please join us September 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the quilting rooms to assemble book bags. Everyone is welcome!



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

August 2025

Property Committee: A/C Installation in the Sanctuary has been completed.

Faith Formation: Sunday School teachers for next year will be Mary Gotwald, Nikki Love, and Mia Long. Tim Gotwald will be the Adult Sunday School teacher. Pastor Nicholson will be leading a 5 week Bible Study on Scripture and Aging on Monday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. from September 8 through October 6.

Worship: We have hired Daniel Worcester to care for our A/V worship needs. Worship returns to 10:45 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. on September 7. We will be receiving a new member on September 28.

Administration: Ashley has completed the church website. Please take a look! www.FELCC.org

Social Missions: God's Work. Our Hands. We will be putting together personal care kits at 9:30 a.m. on September 14 in the Fellowship Hall. Janet Friend is coordinating.

Stewardship: Fall stewardship presentations will be from September 21 through October 19 in Worship with the return of anticipated giving cards on October 19.

Area Church Update: Trinity Lutheran has called Pastor Tommy Wimsae from Michigan to be their pastor. He begins September 2. Pastor Dennis Beaver, senior pastor of Evangelical Lutheran in Waynesboro, retires on August 18.

Bishop Steven Her begins his work in the synod office on August 18.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



750 Norland Ave. Chambersburg
717-267-3085

Thursday, September 4

8 a.m.—6 p.m.

Friday, September 5

8 a.m.—4 p.m.

Saturday, September 6

8 a.m.—12noon

All yard sale proceeds benefit missions through
St. Paul United Women in Faith.

For more information, contact Linda Strickler at 717-816-9771.



Pregnancy Ministries' 41st Celebration Dinner—Light of Life Celebration

is coming up on **October 9th at 6:00 p.m.** The event will be held at Antrim Brethren In Christ Church located at 24 Kauffman Rd. Chambersburg, PA. We have a special speaker with an amazing testimony coming to us all the way from Arkansas. There is no charge to attend but reservations are required.

Reservations available for tables of 8. Event will be catered by Long's Family Catering. Donations will be accepted that evening.

Call 717-532-4446 ext. 150 to make your reservation.



CROP WALK is a fundraising effort to end hunger in our community and our world. If you would like to join other religious organizations in Chambersburg we will walk the 2 ½ mile trail beginning at First United Methodist Church on the corner of Washington and 2nd Streets. The walk will take place on Sunday, October 19 with registration at 1:30 and the walk beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Talk with Pastor Nicholson if you would like to walk.

WELCA



Ladies' Breakfast

The Women's Fellowship Breakfast

will be held at 8:30 a.m. on
Wednesday, September 17 at Texas Lunch

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!

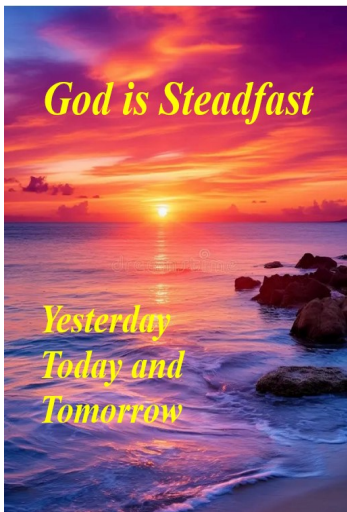
WELCA meeting will be Thursday, September 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the meeting room. More information will be announced in the church bulletins.

COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINEES

Do you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit to serve on Church Council at First Lutheran?

In November we will be electing council members for a three year term to serve from January 2026 through December 2028. If you have an interest in being nominated or finding out more about this opportunity, please talk with Joyce Ray or Pastor Nicholson.

STEWARDSHIP



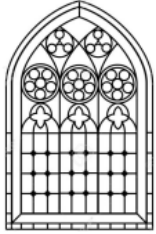
God is Steadfast: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. As we enter this season of stewardship, we anchor ourselves in the unwavering promise of God's faithful presence with us yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The words of Lamentations 3:22–23 remind us that *"the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* In every chapter of our lives and every season of our church, God's mercy renews and sustains us. This year, we invite you to reflect on how God's enduring love calls us to respond—with gratitude, generosity, and a shared vision for the future. Our stewardship messages will begin on Sunday, September 21 as Joyce Ray reminds us of God being faithfully with us in the past. Then on September 28, Tim Gotwald will share God's faithful presence with us now. And on October 12, Mike Ross will help us to look

to the future. You will be receiving anticipated giving cards in the mail on the week of October 12. Please return them in the offering on Sunday, October 19 or to the church office. Together, let us grow in joyful giving.

STEWARDSHIP

Stained Glass Window & AC Unit Update

(Information as of July 31, 2025)



Windows

Total Cost: \$79,806

Donations Received: \$32,750

Still Need: \$47,056



AC Unit

Total Cost: \$47,035

Donations Received: \$8,060

Still Need: \$38,975

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Birthday Bags for Little Daisy's Closet! This is an on going project . I try to make up 4 - 6 bags a month. Presently all items are needed: Large Birthday bags, balloons, plates, napkins, candles, small gifts, snack items, cakes, icings, cake pans. I still have plenty of Birthday cards. I do not need them.
Thank you for your on going support.



Joyce Ray

THANK YOU

Thanks for all the heart felt cards, phone calls, words of comfort, and hugs from my church family. Thanks to those who had a tree to be planted in loving memory of Tudy, and the memorial donations for Tudy. A special thanks to Pastor Nicholson for her wonderful words of comfort, and a wonderful service. Thanks to members of the choir and Freda for her arrangement of songs. Thanks to the WELCA who did a great job serving the luncheon. Tudy would have been proud how everything came together. Thanks from the bottom of my heart.

Yours in Christ,

Rick Gates and Family

THANK YOU

Hi Pastor Jane,

I was just wanting to reach out to you and your wonderful volunteer staff and say thank you for loving on our residents so much! I loved seeing and hearing the hymns sung yesterday! You had a great crowd and I would suspect it will continue to grow the more your group comes and gets to know the residents. Please extend my thanks and my appreciation to all of your volunteers!

God bless each of you for your kindness,

Janell, Activity Director at Laurel Lakes

Dear Social Missions Committee,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Wheels for Women! What a blessing! We have a waiting list of 15 women currently. Our celebration event went well in May and we will be at the ship fair raffling off a mustang as well. Watch the website www.wheelsforwomen.org for updates. Also, if you know anyone interested in donating a used car send them my way.

Thanks again,

Dick Baumgardner, Founder of Wheels for Women

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, which were received by the ELCA church wide organization last month. Your gift is a reminder that our work of faith and labor of love are not done alone. We give thanks for our shared work and our shared hope, which inspire ELCA church wide ministries, in partnership with congregations and synods, to make God's love real in exciting and ever-changing ways. Your generosity is starting new faith communities and sustaining existing ones, empowering leaders, responding to disaster with long-term commitment, and addressing hunger and poverty. Through your gifts, you join with the whole church in loving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! May the God of all good gifts continue to work among you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director of Congregational Generosity

I would like to thank Pastor Nicholson for her visits, ELCA church women for the beautiful red rose floral arrangement, telephone calls, visits and prayers during my recent hospitalization with double pneumonia. We are blessed to have a caring, loving congregation. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated with the true spirit of God's love. May God's love be showered upon each one of you.

Your Brother In Christ Jesus,

Dalton E. Paul



HELPING HANDS

2025 Council

President: Joyce Ray
 Vice President: Mike Ross
 Secretary: Gerry Wilson
 Treasurer: Sally Herritt
 Pastor: Jane Nicholson
 Deacon: Freda Dorand
 Martha Carbaugh
 Jeff Dorand
 Gary Kennedy
 Marianne Kennedy
 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.

Ann Kmiecik	9/1	Charles Kampmeyer	9/18
Tim Gotwald	9/3	Renee Holoviak	9/19
Benjamin Yaukey	9/9	Bill DeHass	9/21
Kenneth Shearer	9/11	Justin Holoviak	9/22
Angela Cody	9/12	Collyns Plasterer	9/24
Kathy Shoop	9/12	Gerry Wilson	9/25
Strauss Vinson	9/12	Aria Lensbower	9/26
Jane Love	9/14	Bonnie Huber	9/28
Leonard Carbaugh	9/16	Shirley Shaner	9/28
Patti Plasterer	9/17	Carol McCoy	9/30

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 October
 Newsletter
 will be
 September 15**



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
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Parish Administrator	ext. 1
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Director of Music	ext. 3
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Pastor	ext. 4
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*God's Work.
Our Hands.*

**Sunday, September 14 at 9:30 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall**

Join us for the Assembly of 100 Personal Care Kits
(toothbrush, towel, soap, comb, and nail clippers)
for Lutheran World Relief.

These will be sent to help
our neighbors around the world.