

THE MESSENGER

May 2022 Edition



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Welcoming, Growing, Sharing in God's Grace

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Synod Assembly	3
Preschool Spring Fling	5
Frederick Road Clean Up	6
Property Committee Update	8-9
Organ Concert	12
Opportunities to Serve	13
Congregation Council Update	14-16
Thank You	17

April 21, 2022



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

REVEREND MIKE LOUIA

Senior Pastor

prmike@firstlutheranec.org

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:36-49, NRSV)

It's late on the day of Jesus' resurrection. Two disciples, one of whom we are told is named Cleopas, have just had an encounter with the risen Jesus as they made their way back to Emmaus. This encounter has opened their eyes to the power of the resurrection and they have now rushed back to join the apostles who are gathered together, likely still wondering what all of this could mean. They aren't the only ones who are struggling to understand all that has happened that day.

When Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the other women had first told Jesus' first apostles about the empty tomb, their reaction was dismissive, thinking the women's story an idle tale. Peter had confirmed the emptiness of the tomb and had returned home simply amazed by his experience at the tomb.

And now, as these two disciples, whose hearts had been burning within their chests as Jesus had opened the scriptures to them while on the road and had revealed himself in the breaking of the bread have shared their experience with resurrection as well, Jesus himself shows up!

In his final resurrection day encounter with his closest apostles and disciples, he wishes them peace, offers his hands and feet as testimony to his identity and has a bite to eat. Reminding them of his past teachings, he opens their minds to understand the scriptures (remember that would have included only the Hebrew scriptures), consecrates them as witnesses, and then asks them to stay in Jerusalem until that time when they have been "clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49b, NRSV) (That moment will happen 50 days later at the Festival of Pentecost.)

As we, too, are in those days between resurrection and Pentecost, Jesus comes among us as well. In word and song, in bread and wine, in hope and promise our hearts and minds are opened to the reality of all that Jesus has taught us, and we are gathered in community to live into our charge to be witnesses of God's grace, love and mercy in the world around us. So as we gather for worship, bible study or fellowship and as we use our hands and feet in loving service to neighbor, we too live into our commissioning as resurrection witnesses. And in a world carrying heavy burdens of division, oppression, and aggression we can lean on the hope that resurrection gives us, as mind-boggling as that story might be.

May God bless us as, together, we live into those words of promise, during this season of Easter and every day: "Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!"

See you at worship,

Pastor Mike



Your Prayers Requested!

From May 12-14, 2022 Michelle Miles, Greg Seen, Cathy Rice, Brook Schumm, Elizabeth Schumm, Pastor Tamika and Pastor Mike will be attending our annual synod assembly. This year's theme is Bold Faith! Bold Witness!

Synod assemblies are times not only to conduct the business of our synod, but also to join together in worship, to learn about God's ever-changing work across our synod and to bear witness to the transforming power of the resurrection with our fellow disciples.

This year, an important agenda item is the election of our synodical bishop. Synod bishops serve a six-year term, and can be elected again to serve in that call. Our synod uses an ecclesiastical ballot to begin the process. That means that on the first ballot, all voting members write down the name of person on the Roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament within the ELCA. A candidate who receives 75% of the votes cast on that ballot will be elected. If no one receives 75% of the votes that ballot becomes the nominating ballot and the process continues, up to 5 total ballots (with the required percentage to be elected diminishing along the way) until a bishop is elected. The term for the newly-elected bishop begins September 1st.

Constitutionally, voting must happen in-person (lay voting members and rostered ministers are granted voting privileges at synod assembly). However, plans are to livestream synod assembly sessions across our synod. Look for details on how you can join in as an on-line visitor.

Your prayers, for travel mercies, for discernment in the election process, and for a holy time as God's gathered community, are appreciated.

DR. WAYNE WOLD
Director of Music Ministry
wayne@firstlutheranec.org

*Christ is living! Gone with sorrow! Tears and terror, be no more.
Death and grave, you now are nothing, Christ is free of every power.
Why then seek the living Savior in the haunts of death and fear?
Christ is risen! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.
Nicolas Martinez, tr. Martin A. Seltz, ACS 934*

I write these words even before Holy Week and Easter have taken place, but I still have full confidence to say “great job!” to all singers, ringers, instrumentalists, and their supportive families for helping to make our worship so meaningful and worshipful. Our volunteer musicians are talented, loyal, hard-working, and, above all, faithful to ministering through music. First Lutheran Church is indeed blessed.

I hope you have made plans for attending the concert in celebration of the 25th anniversary of our Casavant pipe organ on Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m. Organ works will be performed by FLC music directors Mark Helms and Wayne Wold, and First Lutheran Choir and Jubilate Handbell Choir will also take part. The concert is free, and refreshments will follow. Come, and invite your friends! The concert will be live-streamed for any who cannot attend in person.

Choir rehearsals continue into May. Our bell choir, Jubilate, continues to meet Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Contact Jenne Burnham at <fenris1954@yahoo.com> for more information about joining. And First Lutheran Choir for adult and teen singers meets Thursdays 7:30-9:00 p.m. Contact Assistant Director of Music Mark Helms at <mark@firstlutheranec.org> for more information. Join us!

And keep singing:

*Death is swallowed up in victory; sin has lost its poison sting.
Life will blossom from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.
For the sureness of salvation let us sing “Thanks be to God!”
Christ is risen! We are living! Spread the word of grace abroad.
Nicolas Martinez, tr. Martin A. Seltz, ACS 934*

Wayne

JENNY JAMES
Preschool Director
jjames@firstlutheranec.org

The preschool is sponsoring a **Spring Fling, Tuesday evening, May 3 from 5:30p.m.-6:30 p.m. in our outdoor classroom.** We will be providing free pizza (first come, first serve), games, crafts for young children, and drawings for gift baskets! Come with your whole family, and bring your friends. This is a free community event. Our rain date is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4.

We are currently taking applications to fill our classes for next year. Please continue to spread the word about our fantastic staff and curriculum! We look forward to a new year of learning through play and exploration as we continue to be motivated by God's love.

CAMP

Week 1: Happy Campers May 31-June 2

Campers will explore how to set up camp in our outdoor classroom. Camp songs, S'mores, and tent-building are just some of the fun activities.

Week 2: Creatures Great & Small June 7-9

What creatures live in our outdoor environment? We will use STEM to learn about the birds, bugs, & critters we find in our outdoor classroom.

Camp is for 3-5 year olds. 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Parents pack lunch. \$105 per week. We have a few openings available.



Download the application form at <https://bit.ly/FLCCamp2022form>

Please remember to proceed with caution when driving through the parking lot.

Our preschool students and teachers now cross it often to get to their new outdoor classroom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

LEAD Team Update



The LEAD Team met on February 22nd and March 22nd, 2022. We went through our business items regarding Veterans Elementary and Dunloggin Middle Schools; Saint John's Community Association; and Lutheran Village at Miller's Grant. We continued our Bible study, with a focus on how to best continue the mission of LEAD. We agreed to meet next on April 26th, 2022.

Lydia Circle



The next Lydia Circle meeting will be Saturday, May 7, at 9:30 am at Lake Kittamaqundi, also known as the lake at the Mall off Little Patuxent Parkway. We'll meet by the fountain in Bailey Park, which is close to the Lakefront Stage.

Semi-Annual Frederick Road Cleanup



Our semi-annual clean-up of the three miles of Frederick Road for which we are responsible will be Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 9-11 am. Volunteers are needed for cleanup following winter and as an ongoing part of serving our community. Howard County requires youth younger than 18 who participate to have a Parental Permission signature and the church office has the form. This is a great project for high school community service credit in addition to just being a good thing to do. Please send an e-mail or call Rich Funke (rhfunke@aol.com, 410-992-8015) or sign up on Signupgenius, if interested.

DeDining Women

DDW will meet on **April 25 at 6:00 PM at Atlantic Seafood**. Please RSVP to Nancy Louia by April 24th.

The May DDW will be Tuesday, May 24 at 6:00 PM at River Hill Grill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

Wands for Wildlife



Spring is one of the busiest times for wildlife caregivers with lots of orphaned birds, bunnies, opossums and more. Your help is needed to get save wild lives! Mascara wands are used in the care and treatment of injured and orphaned wild animals, and in Wand Art creations.

We have had a box set up in the Narthex to collect donations of clean mascara wands. Please wash wands in warm, soapy water to remove all residual mascara and be sure to dry completely.

New Zoom Bible Study: “Walking in God’s Grace”



A new 8-week Bible Study, “Walking in God’s Grace”, will start on Thursday, May 5th. In this study, participants will explore what the Bible has to say about the wonders of God’s gift called “grace”. They will also learn how to experience that grace in their lives when they embrace God’s truths, how they can trust in God’s provision, and how to depend on Him for strength each day of their lives. This Zoom class will occur between 10:30am and noon each Thursday, have no fee and will be limited to 16 participants. If you would like to participate in this study, please contact Jim McDonald (jimmymac4747@aol.com) no later than April 22.

Job Opportunity



First Lutheran Preschool is looking for a creative, nurturing, positive, and fun-loving Pre-K Lead Teacher beginning August 29, 2022. We are a faith-based preschool and believe that children learn best through play and exploration. The ideal applicant will have experience leading 4–5-year old’s in a preschool setting. Experience creating and implementing play-based curriculum that meets Maryland state standards is also a plus. A bachelor’s degree in early childhood education is preferred, and a willingness to explore nature alongside young children in an outdoor classroom on a regular basis is required. The working hours are 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you share our vision and enjoy working with a supportive staff in a Christian environment, please send a resume and cover letter to director Jenny James at jjames@firstlutheranec.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

Property Committee Update from April 2022 Meeting

Members: Jim Anderson, Paul Miller, Rich Funke, Julie Riddler, Genny Hardesty, Diane Schwartzman, Nancy Louia, Harry Murphy, Linda Kay, Cathy Rice, Dave Miles

Budget Items: Utility costs were \$1500 higher due to cold weather, but budget savings from snow removal will be used for maintenance.

Parsonages:

Ant remediation in the Chatham parsonage being scheduled.

Need to clean gutters in spring, looking into different screen options.

Underoak-- addition of soil to grow grass in August to remediate erosion.

Indoor Facility Issues

Volunteers needed for baptismal font monthly cleaning.

Thanks to:

April – Janet Romsaas

May – Diane Schwarzman

Priority 1 Items in progress:

1) HVAC

a. Manufacture Representative replaced igniter on one boiler to resolve occasional igniter failures, continuing to monitor. Have not had an issue since the emergency cutoff switch was replaced in January. Will stop tracking this item unless it happens again.

b. For planning purposes, will need to have a service check in the fall.

2) Fire Protection System

a. Follow-up issue with detectors and air handler, need to connect detector to turn off air handler in event of a fire – address issue in 2022.

b. Sprinkler issue – had one sprinkler head leak above baptismal font and replaced with temporary head, due to degradation of internals, need to replace all of them. Motion approved by Council, NTE \$50,000 in case of additional piping or carpentry work. Planning to start work in two phases on Easter Monday. Help needed to remove communion rail, chairs, bell tables and some pews for contractor access.

3) Sanctuary Building

Subcommittee gathered estimates from four vendors to replace rotted portico wood and roof tiles and remediate damage to siding. Details will be provided to the committee, and vendors will provide opportunities to meet virtually to answer questions.

4) Church Hot Water System

a. Need to replace hot water circulating pump, it was not replaced in 2017 when the hot water heater was installed, the total price for the pump and installation is \$1,138; will need Motion from Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

5) Sanctuary Sound System

- a. Council approved motion for up to \$70,000 for sound system upgrades. Engineering study was done previously. Committee is deciding between two proposals for new calibrated microphones, processor, mixer, and desk.

6) Cost estimates being sought to add a carport to the Chatham parsonage to prevent additional car damage due to tree limbs and acorns.

7) Estimates for parking lot resealing for \$8000-\$10,000 will be brought to Council. This would be done in a two-step process.

8) In progress--replacement of second set of exterior stained-glass doors to the Sanctuary.

Outdoor Church Facility Issues

Currently evaluating dead tree removal needs on property, including the preschool classroom.

Girl Scouts came twice to assist with rain garden maintenance. Will return to help remove ivy from the outdoor classroom.

Gutter cleaning needed on the flat roof over narthex and office.

Boy Scouts built smaller rain garden and buried pipe to direct water out of Underoak backyard.

On Hold--replacement of three faded road signs directing people to the church (3 @\$210/each)

Landscaping Sub-Committee Report:

The volunteer workdays will be held again soon to complete removal of bushes in Chatham yard and transplant bushes.

Looking into grants to regrade area to remediate outside water leakage into the first floor Education Building classroom.

The Property Committee started the annual process of reviewing the entire church maintenance and replacement list and prioritizing work items for 2022. The evaluation process will continue into May.

News from the Neighborhood

Dear fellow FLC members and friends,

Spread the word!

There is a new non-profit in town helping the homeless. Its name is Home Of Our Own in Howard County. If you have slightly used furniture or household goods, don't throw it away.

Donate it to someone who will appreciate it.

You can give money, volunteer your time, or donate your furniture thru the following website: homeofourownhoward.org or call 443-832-3265

Any questions, call me Bill Harkins at 443-841-6106

ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

Church Landscaping Project

You might have noticed some major changes to the front areas of the church. A sub-committee of the Property Team has spent months planning for these improvements and, with the help of quite a few dedicated and hard-working volunteers, (and two dumpsters), it has now come to fruition!

After investigating the cost of hiring a landscaper to remove bushes and plant new ones, the sub-committee consulted with Steve Schwarzman and Cathy Rice for ideas on taking on the project ourselves. Deer-resistant native plants and garden designs were discussed and sketched. Some free plants were acquired through Howard County while others were purchased. Through some preliminary demo by Steve, Wayne Hoffman, a truck and a chain, bushes were taken out. Over the course of five designated workdays, grass was sown, ivy removed, trees cut back, new plants installed, and salvageable items transplanted. A donation of three holly trees was also provided by Ed Zeigler. The result will provide us with colorful, easy-care gardens that accentuate the beauty of the building and campus.

Tremendous thanks go to:

Steve and Diane Schwarzman, Wayne Hoffman, Nancy Louia, Cathy Rice, Bill Harkins, Pastor Mike, Dave Miles, Jim, Lisa and Becca Anderson, Jeremy Hargest, Katie and Anthony Perrera, Harry Murphy, Bruce, Amy, Paul and Grace Isler, Alfred and Lynn Moretz and Genny Hardesty.

How Do I Know If I Need A Stephen Minister?

People need people.

Those of us who are going through a difficult situation sometimes find it beneficial to speak to someone who can truly listen - without judgement – in a confidential setting. Someone who can share God's love, provide prayer, and offer comfort and support.

Some people request a Stephen Minister when:

- Life is a little more than they can handle right now.
- The health or attitude of their relationship(s) are suffering.
- They are adjusting to a new life change or situation they have put into, and are troubled, feel lost or confused.
- Stress from a job change, health issue, recent loss of a loved one, or a move.

Whatever the situation is, First Lutheran has a number of trained Stephen Ministers that are available TODAY to support you. Men always meet with a male Stephen Minister, and women always meet with a female Stephen Minister. In person visits or phone calls tend to be weekly or bi-weekly and last up to one hour.

Would you like more information? Please contact the church office at 410-465-2977 or Colleen Fowler at 410-750-2453 or email: stephenministry@firstlutheranec.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

In-Person & Online Worship Services & Gatherings

You can find information regarding in-person and online worship services and gatherings (guidelines, bulletins and livestream service links) on the website under Connect <http://firstlutheranec.org/connect/>

Midday Prayer

Midday Prayer gatherings will be held three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday). We invite you to join fellow disciples on Facebook live for a time of scripture reading, meditation, song, and prayer at noon. Recordings of these gatherings are available on demand for replay on Facebook, YouTube, online, and the app. Send requests for prayer to **Pastor Tamika** at tamika@firstlutheranec.org.

Healing Prayers

Receive healing prayers by phone with **Lynn Anderson**, one of our healing prayer leaders at (443) 562-9690.

WELCA Lydia Circle

Monthly on the first Saturday at 9:30am. Contact: **Amy Isler** at (443) 840-6570

WELCA Martha Circle

Monthly on the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Contact: **Valerie Roth** at (410) 456-6733.

WELCA Rebecca Circle

Monthly on the third Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Contact: **Sue Davis** (410) 418-4535 or betsysue8@gmail.com.

Small Group Bible Study

Weekly on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. Contact: **Sue Davis** (410) 418-4535 or betsysue8@gmail.com.

Living in God's Story

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Contacts: Pastor Mike prmike@firstlutheranec.org and **Pastor Tamika** tamika@firstlutheranec.org.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Monthly on the third Friday at 7:30 a.m. Contact: **Jay Zumbrun** (443) 745-0737.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Creating Shawls, Lap Robes, and Scarves)

Monthly on the first Monday at 10:00am Contact: **Karen DeWitt** (410) 750-9744.

Sewing Circle (Creating LWR Quilts and Isolette Quilts)

Monthly on the second Monday at 9:30am. Sewing skills are not required. Contact: **Deb Hardesty** (410) 530-9772.

First Lutheran Choir

Weekly on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Contact: **Mark Helms** at mark@firstlutheranec.org

Jubilate Bell Choir

Weekly on Thursdays at 6:30pm. Contact: **Jenne Burnham** at fenris1954@yahoo.com

For meeting locations and login details for Zoom meetings, check the church calendar on the website at <https://calendar.churchart.com/calendar/738973650> or call the office at (410) 465-2977.


UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

Concert in Celebration of
the 25th Anniversary of the organ at
First Lutheran Church

featuring
organists Mark Helms and
Wayne L. Wold,
the First Lutheran Choir,
and Jubilate Handbell Choir

FREE ADMISSION

Sunday, April 24 at 3:00PM
3604 Chatham Road
Ellicott City, Maryland



The concert will also be livestreamed via Facebook & YouTube (<https://youtu.be/v0s5t3fTdlw>)

PARISH REGISTER

Memorial Gifts

General Memorial Fund

In memory of Melinda Sanders

by: Sandy and Rich Funke

In memory of Toshie Sagawa

by: Sandy and Rich Funke

in memory of David Reed Galloway

by: Nancy and Ron Galloway

as of March 31, 2011



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR FELLOW DISCIPLES, NEIGHBORS, & COMMUNITY

Welcoming, Growing, Sharing in God's Grace

- Blankets for Project Linus
- Howard County Food Bank & Community Garden
- Virtual Food Drive in partnership with Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC)
- Breath of God Lutheran Church Food Distribution (Baltimore/Highlandtown)
- Clothing and textile donations for Project PLASE
- Donations for Grassroots Day Resource Center
- Women and Children's Shelter/Soup Kitchen

Soup Kitchen: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4aaba92aa46-soup>

Baptismal Font Cleaning: www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4aaba92aa46-baptismal

Worship Assistant: www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4aaba92aa46-worship

Worship Sponsorships: www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4aaba92aa46-worship2

You can find these and other opportunities to serve and support our neighbors and community in the weekly e-letters by visiting the **GET INVOLVED** section on the website and clicking the link under **Current Service Opportunities** - <https://firstlutheranec.org/get-involved/>.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH REMINDERS

Prayer Requests

Submit prayer requests by calling the church office (410) 465-2977. We kindly ask that when requesting prayer for others to obtain their permission beforehand, include your name, and if possible, the nature of the prayer request. Prayer requests will be included in the congregation's prayers for two weeks, unless specified otherwise. For more information about prayer requests, express interest in becoming a part of the First Lutheran Prayer Network or receiving the Inter-cessory Prayer List, please contact the church office at flcoffice@firstlutheranec.org or (410) 465-2977.

You Shop. Amazon Gives. We Benefit.

First Lutheran Church participates in AmazonSmile. This is a way for Amazon customers to support First Lutheran and other charitable organizations every time they shop with Amazon. Amazon will donate a portion (0.5%) of the price of your eligible purchases price to First Lutheran when you make God's church the charity of your choice. Signing up is easy! Go to https://smile.amazon.com/b?node=15576745011&ref_=pe_732550_495707060

Photo Use Exclusion Forms

Members who prefer not to have their personal and/or family photos taken at church and/or church related events/activities used in communications outside of FELC (social media, etc.), can let us know by completing the Photo Use Exclusion Form. To obtain a copy of the form, please contact the church office at flcoffice@firstlutheranec.org.

First Lutheran App

Submit Prayer Requests, access social media, services (livestream and recordings), and receive push notifications for upcoming gatherings, important church updates, and more on the app. It's free. Text 'firstlutheranec app' to (833) 316-5698, or search your mobile device's App Store for First Lutheran Ellicott City.

Moving or Relocating?

Moving out of the state? Just as you have been a blessing to this congregation and community, we'd love to bless you and your family with a hearty Farewell and Godspeed as you go forth and continue to be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in your new home town. So, please be sure to contact the church office by phone (410) 465-2977 or e-mail (flcoffice@firstlutheranec.org) and let us know - **before** you go.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

Susan Garde, Council Secretary

council@firstlutheranec.org

Our congregation Council met on April 19 2022 both in person and via Zoom. We spent time with devotions focused on living as God's faithful people, reviewed ministry reports received by various staff and ministry leaders, and took the following actions:



Motions approved:

Disbursement from Endowment of \$5,000 to Breath of God congregation

Reception of new members: Holly and Zachary Parker, and their children Ethan and Grant; Adam and Lisa Lowe, and their children Chrisoper, Elizabeth, and, after his baptism, Zachary; and Alfred and Lynn Moretz. New members will be received during the May 1st service.

Addition of Elizabeth Schumm as Lay Voting Member to the 2022 DE/MD Synod Assembly

Disbursement of not more than 1,500 to replace the church hot water heater and circulation pump.

Discussion:

The Annual Congregational meeting is happening next month on Sunday, May 22, at 10:45 am. The hybrid meeting will feature updates and announcements from Property, Finance, the Sound System task force, Reconciling in Christ, as well as voting for new council members.

Received the following report from our finance committee:

Congregation Income and Expense Financial Statistics

March 2022 marked the end of the first financial quarter for First Lutheran. Overall, our unrestricted offering income for the quarter, while below expectations, combined with other income from a variety of sources, covered our quarterly expenses as shown in the YTD data in the chart below. Expenses were in line with expectations and included our quarterly insurance premium as well as other expenses.

We finished the first financial quarter with a net loss in our Restricted financial results, which represent our income and giving for specific, restricted items. We did make our annual offering to Pangani Lutheran Centre, the income for which was received in 2021. The negative income for March (shown below) is a result of a correction in our restricted income.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

Susan Garde, Council Secretary

council@firstlutheranec.org

A summary of income and expenses is shown in the charts below:

Unrestricted giving and expenses (Faith Spending Plan)

	March 2022	YEAR TO DATE (Thru 03/31/2022)
Income	\$57,291.54	\$190,410.38
Expense	\$72,369.45	\$183,175.73
Net	- \$15,077.51	+ \$ 7,234.65

Restricted giving and expenses:

	March 2022	YEAR TO DATE (Thru 03/31/2022)
Income	- \$ 985.00	\$ 15,087.50
Expense	\$ 20,962.50	\$ 24,000.00
Net	- \$ 21,947.50	- \$ 8,912.50

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic and God's community experiences a season of rebuilding, your faithful financial support is appreciated. This year, specifically, we are living into our plan to support three areas of ministry as we rebuild: worship and music, faith formation (especially with children and youth), and communications and engagement. For those who have increased their financial support in 2022, a heartfelt thank you! If you haven't increased your regular giving, please prayerfully consider how you might be called to do so. Every dollar offered to God's ministry transforms lives in the congregation, the neighborhood and all of God's kingdom. Everyone is invited to give as you feel called and are able, either through your weekly offering via cash or check (placed in the offering plate or delivered to the office) or on-line via our giving portal available on our website or mobile app. Use this QR code to access that portal as well:



CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

Susan Garde, Council Secretary
council@firstlutheranec.org

Sunday Attendance

2021			2022			
	On-line Views	On-Line Attendance*		In-person Attendance	On-line Views	On-Line Attendance*
March 7	283	566	March 6	168	174	348
March 14	302	604	March 13	109	204	408
March 21	336	672	March 20	144	159	318
March 28	273	546	March 27	132	198	396

*calculated as number of video views one week after premiere, multiplied by 2

Wednesday Midweek Worship

2021		2022		
	On-line Attendance*		On-line Attendance*	In-person Attendance
March 3 Lent 1	232	March 2 Ash Wednesday	244	104
March 10 Lent 2	186	March 9 Lent 1	214	26
March 17 Lent 3	172	March 16 Lent 2	158	20
March 24 Lent 4	236	March 23 Lent 3	154	19
		March 30 Lent 4	162	19

** On-line attendance via ZOOM (live-streamed in 2022)

Yearly Average Worship Attendance

1997	2002	2007	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
500	540	515	358	348	336	306	312	311

2020	Online Worship	In-person Worship (as of 3/8/20)	Wednesday Midweek Worship
	588	288	28
2021	Online Worship	In-person Worship (resumed 3/14/21)	Wednesday Midweek Worship
	257	92	86

A NOTE OF THANKS

A Message from the director of the Pangani Lutheran Children's Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, a school that we have supported for over 20 years.

I am writing to inform you that we received a donation of 9,972.17 on 30.3.2022 from First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Please convey our greetings and appreciation to all who participated in one way or another in making this possible.

May the lord reach out for the cry of your hearts
With kind regards
Mary Mshana

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF



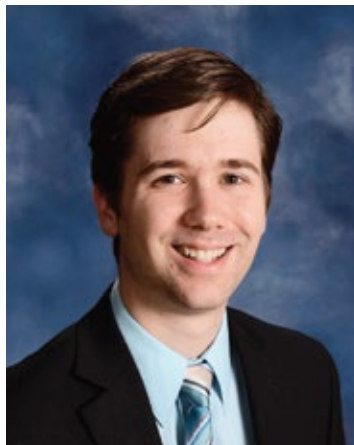
Rev. Michael Louia, Senior Pastor
prmike@firstlutheranec.org



Rev. Tamika Jancewicz, Associate Pastor
tamika@firstlutheranec.org



Dr. Wayne L. Wold, Director of Music Ministry
wayne@firstlutheranec.org



Mark Helms, Assistant Music Director
mark@firstlutheranec.org



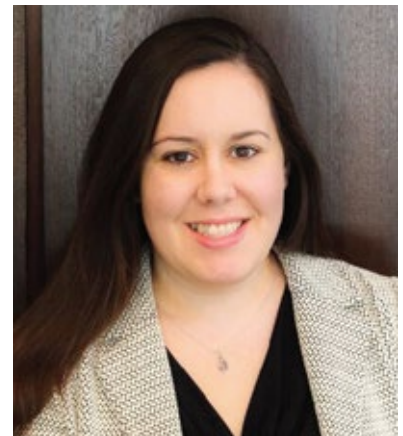
Jenny James, Director of Preschool
jjames@firstlutheranec.org



Alyssa Terry, Director of Children & Youth
Ministry
alyssa@firstlutheranec.org



Lori Teitelbaum, Ministry Support Specialist
lori@firstlutheranec.org



Sarah Smit, Director of Communication &
Engagement
sarah@firstlutheranec.org

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF | COUNCIL | MINISTRY MEMBERS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF COUNCIL MINISTRY MEMBERS			
STAFF			
Senior Pastor	Rev. Michael K. Louia	410-465-2977 x1	prmike@firstlutheranec.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Tamika Jancewicz	410-465-2977 x2	tamika@firstlutheranec.org
Director of Music Ministry	Dr. Wayne L. Wold	410-465-2977 x4	wayne@firstlutheranec.org
Assistant Director of Music	Mark Helms	410-465-2977 x4	mark@firstlutheranec.org
Director of Children & Youth	Alyssa Terry	410-465-2977 x3	alyssa@firstlutheranec.org
Director of Preschool	Jenny James	410-465-5977	flcpreschool@firstlutheranec.org
Director of Communications & Engagement	Sarah Smit	410-465-2977	sarah@firstlutheranec.org
Ministry Support Specialist	Lori Teitelbaum	410-465-2977 x7	lori@firstlutheranec.org
COUNCIL MEMBERS			
	Glenn Severn (President)	410-465-0369	gsevern@comcast.net
	Amy Isler (Vice President)	443-840-6570	amyisler@gmail.com
	Susan Garde (Secretary)	410-549-1757	susangarde09@comcast.net
	Michelle Miles (Treasurer)	410-461-6853	treasurer@firstlutheranec.org
	Wade Wray (Financial Secretary)	410-465-2977	finsec@firstlutheranec.org
	Rajakumar Ayahpillay	410-262-9290	raja1945@yahoo.com
	Genny Hardesty	410-740-9277	hardestygenny@gmail.com
	Ray Facto	410-465-3185	bjfacto@verizon.net
	Sandie French	410-531-2394	shfrench19@gmail.com
	Lisa Hines	443-745-2266	lisahines0810@gmail.com
	Annaliese Mmari	443-934-7556	mmariannaliese@gmail.com
	Julie Ridler	608-469-2590	jriddle9@jmh.edu
	Janet Romsaas	301-529-5087	janetromsaas@hotmail.com
	Matt Scott	410-206-3029	matthewscott899@gmail.com
	Greg Seen	410-465-9160	gseen@verizon.net
	Kathi White	410-465-7384	kwhite2@jhu.edu
ORGANIZED FOR MISSION			
WELCOMING MINISTRY			
DeDining Women	Nancy Louia	410-988-5380	louia@comcast.net
Fellowship	Steve Schwarzman	410-440-6624	sschwarzman8964@gmail.com
Property	Jim Andersen	301-461-4199	jwandersen101@gmail.com
GROWING MINISTRY			
Caring for God's Creation	Cathy Rice	410-750-9631	cprpenpal@gmail.com
Children's & Youth Ministry	Alyssa Terry	410-465-2977	alysssa@firstlutheranec.org
Personnel	Genny Hardesty	410-740-9277	hardestygenny@gmail.com
LEAD	Joanna Casto	301-596-9234	hokiejo93@gmail.com
Men's Bible Study	Jay Zumbrun	443-745-0737	jzumbrun@ccbcmd.edu
Stewardship	George Conklin	410-750-7208	conkgeo@gmail.com
Women of the ELCA	Diane Schwarzman	410-480-9711	diane.schwarzman9@gmail.com
Worship & Music	Kim Kerns	410-750-8988	kskearns@verizon.net
SHARING MINISTRY			
Endowment	Frank Palulis	410-868-1206	fwpalulis@gmail.com
Finance	Ken Danker	410-375-1295	ksdanker@gmail.com
Memorial Gifts	Gail Hikel	410-461-6296	onthegogail@msn.com
Prayer Shawl	Karen DeWitt	410-750-9744	kydshop1@verizon.net
Sewing Circle	Deb Hardesty	410-530-9772	debsummercrest@gmail.com
	Karen DeWitt	410-750-9744	kydshop1@verizon.net
Social Ministry	Jay Zumbrun	443-745-0737	jzumbrun@ccbcmd.edu
Stephen Ministry	Coleen Fowler	410-750-2453	stephenministry@firstlutheranec.org

ABOUT FIRST LUTHERAN

Keep up with the latest news, events and activities in and around First!

To receive church announcements, bulletins, monthly newsletters and weekly e-letters, sign up on our website under CONNECT, click the **Subscribe** button.

Sign up to stay in touch!

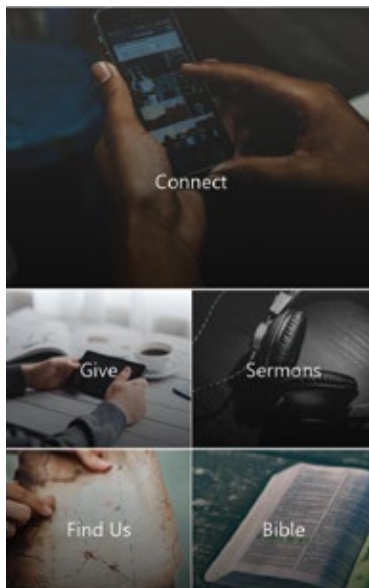
Then fill in your name & e-mail address. It's that easy!

Stay Connected on Your Mobile Devices!

Search and download 'First Lutheran Ellicott City' on your mobile device's App store or text "firstlutheranec app" to (833) 316-56981. It's FREE!

Be sure to opt-in for push notifications, so that you don't miss FELC updates.

Connect, grow and share with us in all the amazing things God is doing here at First Lutheran Church.



Services on Demand

Sunday services and some of our other worship services are available via YouTube, Facebook, the app, and our website.

Interested in Joining?

When Jesus called his first disciples, he simply invited them,

"Come and see."

Following Jesus' example, we invite anyone who would like to become a member of the congregation to contact one of the pastors for a one-on-one orientation. New members are received on the fourth Sunday of every month.

You are welcome to grow, and share in God's grace with us!

Electronic Giving

Did you know that even if you have to miss a service, you don't have to miss an opportunity to give? There are several easy and convenient ways to consistently give.



1. Website - Select the "GIVE" tab
2. Text "firstlutheranec" to (833) 316-5698 from any mobile device.

Establishing an online giving profile also allows you to make offerings to a variety of designations. Offerings can be made from a checking account, debit card or credit card over a safe, encrypted connection.

*Please be aware that Msg & Data rates may apply. For full Terms & Conditions please visit <https://pushpay.com/terms>. For the Privacy Policy please visit <https://pushpay.com/privacy>. For help reply HELP or STOP to cancel.

First Lutheran's After Hours Emergency Phone Number (evenings & weekends only)

If you have a medical emergency,
or death in the family
and need to speak to the pastor immediately
call:
410-465-6779

For emergencies during office hours, please
continue to call the church office at:
410-465-2977

Like • Follow • Engage • Share





The Messenger | May 2022
First Lutheran Church, Ellicot City

