

THE MESSENGER

August 2022 Edition



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Welcoming, Growing, Sharing in God's Grace

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July 21, 2022



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

REVEREND MIKE LOUIA

Senior Pastor

prmike@firstlutheranec.org

"Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord!'" (Luke 2:8-11, NET)

Some congregations include celebrating "Christmas in July" in their summer programming. Many times these celebrations are a time for a special social ministry collection (in either money or items), a special fellowship activity, or even a special musical event ... all aimed at recapturing the "joy of Christmas" in the middle of those long, hot summer days. And who wouldn't benefit from a jolt of "Christmas spirit" on those days when the weight of the world seems almost unbearable.

For me, I thought about celebrating "Christmas in July" after a recent conversation at the conclusion of our July executive committee meeting. One of the meeting participants asked me several questions regarding the use of the term "evangelical" in the name of God's congregation here in Ellicott City (First Evangelical Lutheran Church is the complete name for the congregation). Her concern, and it is a concern that many of my colleagues, fellow parishioners, and leaders within the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) share, is that the term "evangelical" has been somewhat adopted by media outlets, social and political movements and parties, to define a theology that seems in conflict with her (as well as other's) understanding of the message of hope that comes with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Which brings me to my reference to the angel's message to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth. The angels tell the terrified shepherds first, don't be afraid and then to listen carefully to what they say next. And it's what they say next that makes all the difference in the world.

The herald of angels speaking to the shepherds proclaim, for the first time at least according to the gospel writer of Luke, the "evangelion" (Greek for "good news" or "gospel"): God had delivered on the long-awaited promise to God's people to deliver a savior who would bring about the dominion of God that would never end. That savior, the baby Mary had just delivered, came in a most unusual way, to be sure, which ended up being the first of many radically grace-filled actions God would take to ensure God's people would always remain in this eternal relationship with God.

That eternal relationship would be one that was based in self-sacrificing love, granted freely to God's people, simply because God had chosen to grant it. Talk about a Christmas gift (whether in July, December, or whenever we hear about God's "evangelion" of love)!

God's good news love, freely given to God's people through God's grace-filled mercy, is the foundational meaning of "evangelion", a word that was transliterated, at about the time of the Protestant reformation, into the English word "evangelical." And while I understand the struggle we might have with many current-day uses and references of the word, evangelical, I wonder if, instead of throwing up our hands and abandoning using the word at all, if maybe we're being called to do something as radically grace-filled as God's work in Jesus was that first Christmas night.

I wonder if, as we consider how we might celebrate "Christmas in July" in our own hearts, if in these days we are being called, again, to "not be afraid" and to listen to God's love-based message.

I wonder, as we celebrate "Christmas in July", if God might be calling us to become the latest iteration of that herald of angels proclaiming God's evangelion, good news, in God's world today.

I wonder ...

Peace,
Pastor Mike

REVEREND TAMIKA JANCEWICZ

Associate Pastor

tamika@firstlutheranec.org

Small Encounters: A Series

[Jesus] said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴ As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. ⁶ But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. ⁸ Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. ⁹ Everyone who has ears should pay attention.

The parable of the sower is one of my favorite parables that Jesus told. It's challenging and complex but the idea of G-d being like a reckless farmer willing to scatter seeds everywhere and allowing what needs to grow is splendid to me. I've found this especially delightful recently because of time I've been spending volunteering at a couple of farms. I haven't been volunteering for a very long time, in fact, I've only been to two farms a few times, but I find it so satisfying to be out there helping weed, harvest, and be in nature.

These small encounters with agriculture and all of the bugs that live among the planted food have really expanded my perspective on this parable and on life. All around on a farm things are living or withering away. While some fruit or vegetable plants are ready to harvest for sharing or selling, others have already reached their full potential or have just begun to grow. The animals have a purpose. They either help the plants to grow by eating away at the weeds and/or provide food and nourishment for the people who need it. And everyone and everything is needed to make it all happen. It's quite beautiful to be a part of, and it makes me wonder about the things I cannot see that is happening under the earth we all walk on. Once a seed spreads its roots in the dirt everything, aside from watering, happens without us seeing any of it. But the hope is that things will grow. And whatever does grow is usable.

I've been imagining G-d's love and care in this way as well. I cannot see everything happening under the surface, but somehow things are happening for good in spite of how things might seem to be withering away. Somehow the little seeds of hope are somehow growing into greater sustainable life in the face of what feels quite hopeless. It's all about perspective really. How we perceive what is happening in ways we cannot fully comprehend. How we then embrace the possibilities of G-d's love in our world.

So, my hope for all of you this month is that you encounter more seeds of grace and mercy. That you can feel and even know that there is more coming even if the ground seems barren right now. G-d is recklessly scattering seeds and things will grow as they need to. Keep the hope, friends.

Peace, y'all!
~Pr. Tamika

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

During the month of June we had several visitors at worship. I am not referring to people right now—as wonderful as it is to see new faces in our midst. I mean the machines.

Due to the repairs being made to our sprinkler system, we had a mechanical lift present for a couple Sundays, and there were holes visible in the wooden ceiling. If our worship planning committee had anticipated this project, we could have chosen “Earth and All Stars” (ELW 731) to be sung, especially these lines:

*Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song!*

We also had an old friend missing for a couple weeks—the altar rail. Again, we should have sung “Thine the Amen” (ELW 825) that day. Stanza two contains these lines:

gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

(Both of these hymns are by the same author, by the way. Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009, was a renowned author, poet, hymn writer, Lutheran pastor, teacher, pilgrimage leader, and inspirational speaker.)

You may have noticed one other visitor that appeared at worship early in June—a harpsichord. It may look like a small piano, and it is an ancestor of the piano, but it has quite a different sound. Harpsichords were a standard fixture in most churches, opera houses, concert halls, and even homes in Europe beginning in the 1600s and also in colonial America. While we may think of them mostly for secular music, harpsichords were part of the orchestras that were heard in the great sacred works presented in Lutheran services during the Baroque era—the time of that most famous Lutheran, J. S. Bach.

So let’s thank the objects that offer their gifts to our worship of God, whether they be heavy machinery that ensure our safety, wood and fabric that help us kneel (and get up again), and intricate combinations of wood keys and metal strings that delight us through their melodies and rhythms—all for the glory of God.

*God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!*

Keep singing! Wayne

ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

LEAD Update



The LEAD Team met on July 5th, 2022. We looked at our agenda and realized that our school-related “Old Business” should be suspended until the fall (Veterans Elementary and Dunloggin Middle Schools). We plan to reach out to the Saint John’s Community Association to see what they have planned this summer and fall and to consider coordinating our plans with them. The LEAD Team is looking to expand its membership by 2 or 3 members to better represent the members of FLC’s congregation. We agreed to meet again on August 23rd, 2022. We also plan to attend the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) meeting, upon receiving an invitation, on August 15th to meet and discuss coordination of our efforts.

New Bible Study Beginning in September



A 12-week Bible study will commence on September 8 and be held via Zoom on Thursdays from 10:30 to noon. There will be a \$10 fee for the study guide. If you would like to participate in this Bible study, please notify Jim McDonald by email no later than August 20.

Lydia Circle August Location



The WELCA Lydia Circle will gather again in August, on Saturday the 6th at 9:30 am. We'll walk and talk around Lake Kittamaqundi. Meet at the fountain in Bailey Park; there is plenty of parking in front of Whole Foods.

July DeDining Women



The July gathering will be on Monday, July 25th at the home of Lynn Moretz at 6:00 PM. All women are invited to attend for fellowship and fun. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and BYOB, if desired. RSVP to Nancy Louia by Sat. July 23rd for Lynn's address.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

Vacation Bible School will be held August 15th-19th from 9am-Noon.

Open to ages 3 to 5th grade.

Volunteers needed!

Download registration forms at

firstlutheranec.org/vacation-bible-school-2022/

Please return your completed registration form to alyssa@firstlutheranec.org or to the church office.



PARISH REGISTER

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Kyle Miller
by Renee and Jeffrey Loovis

In memory of Carol Stickel
by Sandy and Rich Funke

as of June 26, 2021



ANNOUNCEMENTS • REMINDERS • UPDATES

On-Site & Online Worship Services & Gatherings

You can find information regarding on-site 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.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Property Committee – Summary from July 2022 Meeting

The Property Committee met by ZOOM on Monday evening, July 11, 2022, for the normal monthly meeting. In attendance were Jim Anderson, Nancy Louia, Cathy Rice, Linda Kay, Diane Schwarzman, Rich Funke, and Paul Miller. The following projects and topics were discussed:

Budget: The June financial reports were not available for the meeting. The Committee is monitoring the higher-than-normal maintenance expenditures or planned expenditures, and the higher-than-normal utility costs, and is working with the Finance Committee and Council on project start dates.

Underoak Parsonage: No significant issues.

Chatham Parsonage: No significant issues discussed. Looking into gutter screening options that can be used.

Church Facility (Inside):

- (1) HVAC – no issues, discussed planning for fall maintenance checks for both the church HVAC and Education Building HVAC heating systems (approximately \$2500).
- (2) Fire Protection System – sprinkler head replacement work has been completed under the budgeted \$50,000. As part of this work, we addressed a leaking pipe outside the Narthex bathrooms, a leaking piping in the Fire Pump Room, and some additional carpentry/pipe hanger work.
- (3) Work continues on the emergency exit door in the sanctuary, the vendor is currently working on the replacement door (not to exceed \$10,000).
- (4) We will be working with vendors on estimates for replacing the baptismal font recirculation pump switch, we will also be looking for an estimate to install a new electrical outlet in the Narthex ladies bathroom which then can be used to plug in a small electrical wall heater.

A member of the Property Committee provided an update on the Sanctuary Sound System Task Force. The recent article in the Messenger was mentioned.

Church Facility (Outside):

- (1) The preschool had some branches in the outdoor classroom removed by a tree company
- (2) ELCA Roadmarker signs--We have at least 3 signs directing motorists to our church along nearby County roads that are faded – on hold

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

- (3) Wooden Areas of Church Building, have a dead tree near the Underoak parsonage, which is not in danger, will continue to monitor
- (4) Discussed the main entrance hose faucet which is leaking and committee agreed to replace the faucet, not expected to exceed \$800
- (5) Looking to address excess storm runoff between Office, Education Building, and Breezeway leaking into Education Building using grant money from Howard County and from Property Committee. Water will be directed to collection area and utilize plantings to decrease the amount of runoff water
- (6) Stairs from Chatham entrance to Social Hall kitchen, have concrete degradation in area. Plan to have concrete contractor provide estimates for this and three other projects (address degradation of the Underoak patio slab, a slab for the potential Chatham carport, and addressing water running down the stair area going down to the Education Building)
- (7) The contracts for the two entrance porticos (not to exceed \$5500) and the organ gable area (not to exceed \$8000) have been signed, materials to address the wood degradation are being ordered and the project will probably start in September
- (8) Resealing of Church Parking Lot, contract has been signed for resealing the half the parking lot (not to exceed \$10,000). Plan is to address half of lot in 2022 and the other half in 2023. Work will be completed in July.

Landscaping Sub-Committee Report: The volunteer spring work days were a big success. Discussed possible fall projects – to address water runoff issues in front of the Underoak parsonage, supporting the water runoff and leakage into the Education Building, and maintenance of the church garden areas.

Other Priority 1 Items Under Evaluation:

Other current issues being evaluated or worked include:

- Moving forward on improving signage around the church grounds to direct individuals to correct rooms/building. A sample was provided for discussion. Will be talking with Memorial Committee for possible monetary support.
- Adding a carport to the Chatham parsonage to prevent car damage due to falling limbs and acorns. Looking at several options, need to get estimates regarding concrete slab, price for structure, and price for installation.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:50pm.

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>

Grassroots Meal: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4ca5a629a5f94-grassroots>

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.

WALKING IN GOD'S GRACE

At the completion of the “Walking in God’s Grace” Bible study, class participants were asked to answer the question, “What does it mean it means to Walk in God’s Grace?” These are their responses:

Knowing that God loves me deeply and has adopted me into his family and choosing to keep that fact prominent in my thinking as I face various trials in life.

Facing various challenges with the knowledge that He, through the Holy Spirit, gives me the power to overcome difficulties.

Striving to follow God's commands as I understand Scripture, His written word to me.

Being obedient to God and live a life to become more like Jesus.

Seeking time with God daily in prayer and in His Word.

Serving God through my time, to those in need, feeding the hungry, offering forgiveness to those who wrong me, and loving my neighbors even if they are hard to love.

Giving thanks, praise and gratitude for all the grace and blessings God has given me.

Knowing that living in the radiance of God’s grace is redemptive and refining.

Accepting that even as the world puts a spotlight on our imperfections, God's grace makes all of us perfect beyond our human understanding.

Turning towards God, connecting with all my siblings in Christ, seeing Christ in them, and hoping they see Christ in me.

Acknowledging and acceptance that as God's children we have been granted the gift of ultimate forgiveness and everlasting love and life through the death of God's only begotten son, Jesus, on the cross.

As God's Child, walking in obedience and responding in love.

Going first to Jesus in prayer for support, guidance, and comfort, and spreading God's love through acts and sharing of His Word.

Because of Jesus, God's grace gives us a free gift of salvation and eternal life.

Knowing that I am a child of God and my sins are forgiven because of my faith.

WALKING IN GOD'S GRACE

Living in the Light of God's love and to passing it on to others

Loving and trusting God in everything and loving and forgiving others as God has loved and forgiven me.

Experiencing God's love each day with Jesus as my BFF (best friend forever) and knowing that I can freely share that love with others without worry of being perfect.

Joyfully accepting God's gift of unearned, outrageous, rescuing, sacrificing, glorious, saving, and transforming grace leading to eternal life forever and ever in heaven with all the saints!

Going to the Father and confessing my sins, knowing that the sacrifice that Jesus suffered forgives my sins and guarantees my eternal place with Him and God in heaven.

I no longer have to travel with the guilt of my sins, but rather, I can confess them to Jesus, receive his forgiveness, and ask for His strength to guide me on His Way, not my way.

Receiving unconditional love from our Heavenly Father simply because we are His creation; it is not earned, but given in pure love.

Gratefully accepting the unmerited gift of grace and acknowledging that all are unworthy and incapable of earning grace by human efforts.

Relinquishing full control of my life to God and striving to live a life that honors him and seeks to do His will.

CONGREGATION INCOME AND EXPENSE FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Note: Our Finance Team or Council did not meet in July. However, the following report provides on-going information regarding the financial ministry of the congregation.

Similar to May, June was another financially positive month for God's congregation here at First Lutheran. The combination of increased giving from many of our fellow disciples, another very generous offering (representing an annual offering), and continued monitoring of expenses resulted in a positive cash flow (in the unrestricted portion of the faith spending plan) for the month as well as for the year-to-date (see chart below for specifics).

Restricted Funds (both income and expenses that support a specific ministry) reflected a negative cash flow for the month and the year-to-date. Again, this negative number reflects disbursements made in 2022 from funds received in 2021 as well as expenses paid to-date from the Capital Reserve Fund for repairs to the sprinkler system, for a special offering from our Endowment Fund earnings (to support Home of Our Own) and disbursements from the Payne and Ludwig Scholarship Funds.

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

Unrestricted giving and expenses (Faith Spending Plan)

	June 2022	YEAR TO DATE (Thru 6/30/2022)
Income	\$75,465.50	\$412,384.99
Expense	\$59,298.16	\$374,333.47
Net	+ \$16,167.34	+ \$ 38,051.52

Restricted giving and expenses:

	June 2022	YEAR TO DATE (Thru 6/30/2022)
Income	\$ 525.00	\$ 40,479.50
Expense	\$ 7,887.88	\$ 84,053.90
Net	- \$ 7,362.88	- \$ 43,574.40

Your financial offerings continue to sustain life-giving ministries across the neighborhood and community. Thank you for continuing to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support the variety of ministries entrusted to our care, especially in the priority areas of worship and music, faith formation (especially with children and youth), and communications and engagement.

Scanning this QR code
will take you directly to
our online giving page.



A NOTE OF THANKS



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

June 14, 2022

Thank You

First Lutheran Church
3604 Chatham Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042-3920

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in April 2022.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Robin Brown
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for gift detail.

A NOTE OF THANKS



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

June 14, 2022

Thank You

First Lutheran Church
3604 Chatham Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042-3920

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in April 2022.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people near and far feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin K. Brown".

The Rev. Robin Brown
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for gift detail.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank yous from Project Linus

To learn more about Project Linus visit www.projectlinus.org

Friends at First Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your continued
support of Project Linus and
for your recent donation.
We *truly* appreciate your
generosity, kindness, and talents!
With gratitude,
Arla Cashner

Friends at First Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your recent blanket
donation! We will ~~be~~ participating
in a 'Backpack Buddies' program in
Laurel in mid-August and your blankets
will help us meet the requirements
(200 blankets)
We are enormously *grateful* for
continued *support*
With appreciation,
Arla Cashner

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF



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prmike@firstlutheranec.org



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tamika@firstlutheranec.org



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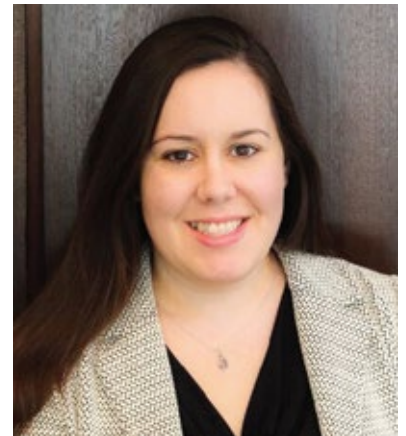
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FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF | COUNCIL | MINISTRY MEMBERS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF COUNCIL MINISTRY MEMBERS			
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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
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Personnel	Genny Hardesty	410-740-9277	hardestygenny@gmail.com
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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!

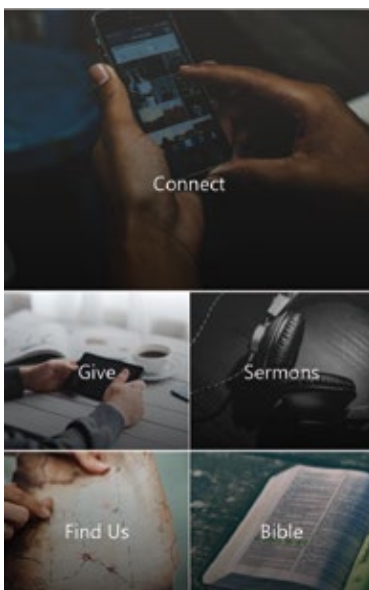
Then fill in your name & e-mail address. It's that easy!

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) 316-5698. 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

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First Lutheran Church, Ellicot City