

# THE MESSENGER

*February 2023 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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January 20, 2023



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## REVEREND MIKE LOUIA

Senior Pastor

prmike@firstlutheranec.org

*Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near-- 2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. 12 Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16 gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. 17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" (Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17, NRSV)*

"Where is their God?" The prophet Joel strikes a nerve as he ends his challenging words to God's people, a people called to return to their God who awaits their return, with that poignant question. Joel's words are a daunting set of verses each Ash Wednesday, a time in our life together when we, too, are called to return to the LORD our God even as we remember that "you are dust and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19, NRSV)

"Where is their God?" Perhaps we've heard our neighbors ask this question as they discuss the brokenness in God's world, a brokenness that fills every headline, a brokenness that continues to divide and separate, a brokenness that oppresses and imprisons.

Maybe we've even wonder ourselves, "Where is their God?" as we too have witnessed families torn apart, friendships strained beyond repair, or institutions in which we once placed our trust crumble before our eyes.

There is no doubt that God's world is in an upheaval. There is no doubt that God's people are in need of a manifestation of God that will lead to the end of what we know today and usher in a new season of life. There is no doubt that our every-day experiences likely force us to ask, more often than we might like to admit, "Where is your God?"

This upcoming season of Lent, we are invited to participate in a weekly meditation on the gift of Jesus Christ, God enfleshed in God's world, who will take steps necessary to answer our "Where is your God?" question. Through our midweek services, which will include an intentional study and reflection on some of the oldest scripture in all of what we know as the New Testament, Philippians 2:5-11, we'll hear of Jesus' work in the world, work that answers our "where is your God?" question as we are reminded that when we do return, we will be greeted by God who patiently awaits our return.

Not only will our time together this season answer our "Where is your God?" question, it will also reveal the answer to our often-related "Who is your God?" question as it reveals to us the very nature of God: who relents from punishing and instead is "gracious, merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

See you at worship!

Pastor Mike

## REVEREND TAMIKA JANCEWICZ

Associate Pastor

tamika@firstlutheranec.org

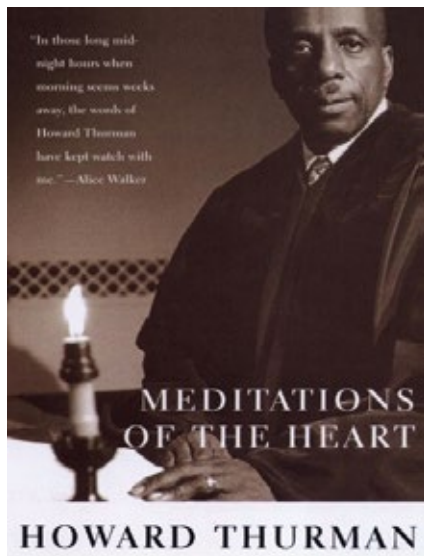
### *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us*

I started my book musings with the beautiful heartfelt work of author Cole Arthur Riley, **This Here Flesh**. Riley's writing is so exquisite. She has a way of poetically inviting us into her thoughts and understanding, and her vulnerability and storytelling made this book so relatable. I borrowed it from the library, but I plan to buy it so I can go back to it time and time again for assurance and guidance through my spiritual journey. Her words spoke to me and my life in ways that I cannot fully encompass in a messenger article, so I'll dive into the chapter that broke me open and made me feel the most seen.

Chapter thirteen is entitled, Joy. In it, Riley shares a beautiful understanding of what it means to have joy. For me, joy and happiness are not the same. I consider happiness a fleeting feeling, while joy is something unexplained that lasts. Riley gives a more scientific explanation of what she learned. She shares that happiness "works itself out the sympathetic nervous system," making a person "excitable and energetic." While joy "has to do with the parasympathetic nervous system, and it's much more about peace than vibrancy" (167). Joy brings a sense of peace. I could never find the words for it until I read this, so I found her description helpful.

The part that made this chapter stay with me was how Riley shared the relationship of joy amid sorrow and suffering. This past year was a challenge in the joy department. I wanted to embrace the delight and tranquility joy offers, but I couldn't find my way toward it with sorrow and pain so near. I wondered how to embrace joy in these moments, and it wasn't until I read this chapter that I could fully comprehend how it could be so. Riley offers that "joy situates every emotion within itself...[it] doesn't replace any emotion; it holds them all and keeps any one of them from swallowing us whole" (164-165). She explains further that "to find joy in suffering" doesn't have to mean letting the pain go or moving on. Instead, joy invites us to "hold on to [our] sorrows" because it is safe to do so (165). I needed this invitation to have a joy that did not dismiss the other important feelings that comes with grief. It allowed me to fully feel and know that I can still have peace in the knowledge that I will get through it. I also needed to know that I wasn't alone in my somberness when it arose. And it does appear.

I'm highlighting this chapter because it stuck with me and because I know many of us struggle to hold our sorrows and joy in the same space. If you're like me, you may have learned that to have "bad" feelings means an absence of "good" things. And therefore, it is best to bury them and think about the good. Or there's pressure to rush our feelings. And there's no room to feel and lament as a part of our healing. I have not found that to be the best way to heal. Grieving takes time. Healing is an ongoing process, which often means hard feelings come up repeatedly. But it does not have to be absent of the peace we can find in joy's presence. If you have any other thoughts about this, I'd love to hear them. Feel free to email me or catch me on a Sunday after service. I appreciate the dialog.



Next month, I will continue my journey amid fellow Christian mystics with an ancestor and one of my favorites, Howard Thurman. I will revisit his book, **Meditations of the Heart**. Feel free to read along during February!

Peace y'all,  
~Pastor Tamika

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

*Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring.  
Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing.  
Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done.  
Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.*  
Thomas Troeger (ACS 977, st. 1)

One of my favorite new authors is Brandan Robertson, a pastor, writer, and media creator who has roots in Howard County. In his book **Dry Bones and Holy Wars: A Call for Social and Spiritual Renewal** (Orbis Books, 2022) he talks about the importance of communal worship and the extreme importance of participating regularly. Building on St. Paul's lament found in Romans 7:15 when he confesses "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do," Robertson writes "this is also why gathering in Christian community is essential. Let's face it, when we are not gathering with other believers, being reminded of what we believe in, it is far too easy to fall off the path of following Christ. It is easy to become complacent, falling into unhealthy habits. The very things we know we don't want to do become the things we do . . . Community helps us hear the voice of the Spirit more clearly, and to tap into that inner wisdom that is the law of God written in our hearts, so that in every circumstance, we know what is good for us and what is right" (p. 84).

Who knew the power behind that seemingly arbitrary decision "do I go to worship today or not?". Singing praise, confessing and receiving forgiveness, hearing the Word, praying together, sharing the holy meal, and receiving God's blessing to go out into the world—all form us into the people we really want to be. Come and worship—for yourselves, for each other, and for the sake of the world.

Our bell choir, **Jubilate**, continues to meet Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Contact Jenne Burnham at [fenris1954@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:mark@firstlutheranec.org) for more information. **Choir for Children** takes place as part of their Sunday morning educational hour starting at 11. Join us!

*Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised  
by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes  
when he blesses bread and breaks it—truth and manna from above!—  
and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.*  
(ACS 977, st. 4)

Keep singing!  
Wayne

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

## First Lutheran Preschool Enrollment



Enrollment is now open for the 2023-24 school year which starts in September. We offer half-day classes for 3-5 year olds. Members of First Lutheran Church receive a 10% discount on their tuition. Please visit the preschool's website: [www.firstlutheranpreschoolec.com](http://www.firstlutheranpreschoolec.com) or contact Jenny James at [jjames@firstlutheranec.org](mailto:jjames@firstlutheranec.org) for more information.

## Super Bowl Subs



Order your subs for Super Bowl Sunday after 9:30am Worship on Sunday or online below. The last day to order your subs is February 5th.

Subs will be available for pick up on Sunday, Feb. 13th at 10:30, 12:30, and 1pm as a Drive Up outside of the Social Hall.

All proceeds benefit youth ministry at First.

## First Communion Class



Communion Instruction will be held on Saturday, March 4th from 9am to noon in the Fellowship Center for 2nd graders or any child older than 2nd grade who has not received instruction. The instruction will be led by Pastor Mike, Pastor Tamika, and Alyssa. During the instruction, children will bake bread, make their own banner to be hung on the families' pew and receive a Bible. Each child should be accompanied by an adult (parent, grandparent, godparent, etc.). Please, no siblings as we would like to give our undivided attention to your First Communion recipients.

Children and parents are invited to commune together on Sunday, March 5th during the 9:30 Service.

## After School Hangouts



Next Session January 25 at 4pm

During After School Hangouts, the Youth Room is open for 8th-12th grade students to hang out. Feel free to use this space to do homework, hang out, and recharge with friends. We have an X-Box and a basketball hoop to enjoy during this time. All are welcome.

# SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Carnival



The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Carnival is back! Mark your calendar for **February 21**. The pancake supper, sponsored by the fellowship committee, starts at **5:30 p.m. in the social hall**. A free-will offering is appreciated. **The carnival begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center** and will be sponsored by the preschool. Games, prizes, cotton candy, and a cake walk will be part of the festivities. Donations of cakes for the cake walk can be left in the kitchen before the carnival. Tickets for the carnival can be purchased on site: 5 for \$1. Any proceeds will go to the Preschool Scholarship Fund. The carnival ends at 7:00 p.m.

## WELCA February Gathering



Bring the whole family and your favorite covered dish to celebrate Presidents' Weekend on **Saturday, February 18 in the Fellowship Center beginning at 10:00 am** with a potluck brunch followed with a presentation from Dr. Wayne Wold about his experience of serving for 17 years as Director of Chapel Music at the Camp David presidential retreat. Save the date as you will not want to miss this unique program and yes, men and kids (everyone) are invited to join in this WELCA event hosted by the Lydia Circle.

## WELCA - Day of Renewal



**Saturday, February 11 from 8 am to 3 pm**

The Delaware - Maryland Synodical Women's Organization is holding a Day of Renewal on Saturday, February 11 from 8 am to 3 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville. **The \$8.00 registration is due by February 1**. This year's program is Bold Women and includes speakers Rev. Sandra Carlson Alexis and Rev. Eileen Kelley Warner.

Visit [firstlutheranec.org/welca-day-of-renewal/](http://firstlutheranec.org/welca-day-of-renewal/) to download a registraton form.

# SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Lenten Bible Study



“Give It Up!” is a seven-week study to enable participants to give up various distractions in life and live more deeply in Christ. Each session is based on a key Scripture passage, and will require deep personal reflection before each class, questions and discussion during class and prayers to enable all participants to Give it Up for Christ as we approach Easter, the day when He Gave It All Up for Our Salvation. Classes will be held via Zoom, 10:30am to noon for the 7 Thursdays starting on February 23, the day immediately after Ash Wednesday. There will be a \$10 fee for a study guide. If you would like to participate in this study, please contact Jim McDonald no later than February 10 via email at [jimmymac4747@aol.com](mailto:jimmymac4747@aol.com). If you have any questions, please call Jim at 410-707-5361.

## Veteran’s Elementary Snack Drive Ongoing



We have been asked to help provide snacks for the students at our partner school, Veteran’s Elementary. We’re looking for snack size donations of healthy snack items such as:

- Goldfish crackers
- chewy granola bars
- popcorn
- Pirate Booty
- veggie straws
- cheese n’ crackers.

Please bring donations to church and place them in the cart labeled VES Snack Donation in the vestibule. Contact Joanna Casto with any questions.

# SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Grassroots Day Center Meal



We will serve Grassroots Day Center lunch and dinner on February 19th

Deliver your donations to the Social Hall Kitchen on Sunday, October 16th, and we'll prep the food. If you have questions, please contact Joanna Casto or Amy Isler. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Use the SignUpGenius or call the office at 410-465-2977 if you would like to donate part of the meal.

Items needed include:

prepared Manwich clementines

bananas

frozen corn

frozen peas and carrots canned green beans dinner rolls

hamburger buns bagged kale salad potato salad

macaroni salad chocolate chip cookies

Please see the sign-up genius for more specific instructions regarding donations.

## PARISH REGISTER

### DEATHS

**George Karabanoff**

March 12, 1930 - January 3, 2023

### GENERAL MEMORIAL GIFTS

in memory of Herb Coss

by: Sandy and Rich Funke

In memory of Herb Coss

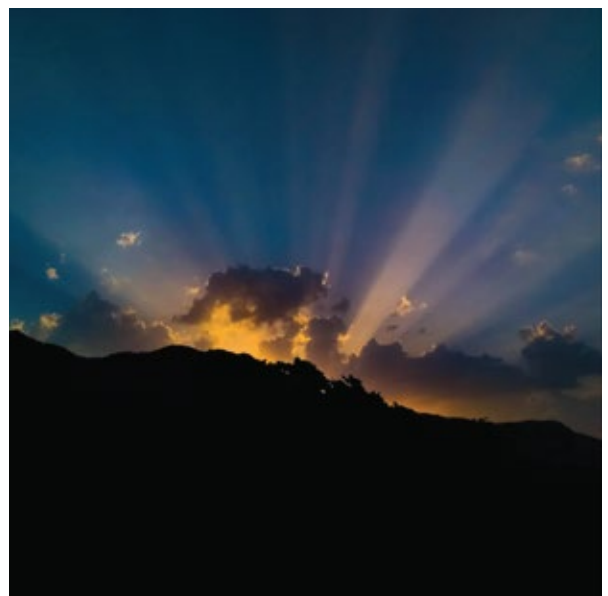
by: Betty Christmas

### MUSIC FUND

In memory of Herb Coss

by: Thomas Brzezinski

*as of December 18, 2022*





# LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES | FEBRUARY 22

Join us Wednesday, February 22, for Worship with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

**Noon**  
on-site only

**7:00 p.m.**  
on-site and online

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## LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

**Wednesday evenings | March 1 – 29 | 7:00 p.m.**

Lenten Midweek Worship Services provide us time to reflect on one of the oldest recorded pieces of scripture in the New Testament: Philippians 2:5-11. Known as the Christ hymn, this scripture describes the work of God through Jesus and serves as a great preparation for Palm/Passion Sunday and all of Holy Week. Scripture lessons and themes for the Wednesday services include:



### March 1

Christ emptied and humbled himself (Isaiah 53:4-9, Psalm 145:14-21)

### March 8

Christ became obedient (Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 37:1-9)

### March 15

At the name of Jesus all knees shall bow (1 Kings 18:30-40, Psalm 22:25-31)

### March 22

Every tongue confesses Jesus (Genesis 28:10-15, Psalm 148)

### March 29

Let the same mind be in you (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 25:1-10)

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## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Our worship for Holy Week begins Palm/Passion Sunday (April 2) and continues with worship on Maundy Thursday (April 6) and Good Friday (April 7).



**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
April 2

**9:30 a.m.**  
on-site and online

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 6

**Noon**  
on-site only

**7:00 pm**  
onsite and online

**Good Friday**  
April 7

**Noon**  
on-site only

**7:00 pm**  
onsite and online

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## EASTER MORNING SERVICES

**Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia! | Sunday, April 9**

Join your fellow disciples as we celebrate the Resurrection!

**Festival Eucharist Worship Service**

9:00a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
on-site and on-line

**COUNCIL CORNER**  
**Greg Seen, Council Secretary**  
secretary@firstlutheranec.org

Our congregation council met on January 17, 2023 in a hybrid fashion (on-site and via ZOOM). Council spent time with devotions centered on our call as leaders in God's church using our devotion resource, Wholehearted Faith, by Rachel Held Evans. This month our discussion focused on how we experience God's presence and activity in our lives. We also reviewed ministry reports received by various staff and ministry leaders, including a review of two motions that were approved by our Executive Committee prior to council (which happens when a decision is needed between council meetings): 1) approving the Youth Super Bowl Sub Sale fundraiser, and 2) approval of paying Paychex, our payroll processing company, to file appropriate paperwork to amend our payroll tax records for specific quarters in 2020 and 2021 as part of our application for a payroll tax refund under the Employee Retention Tax Credit.

Council also took the following actions:

**Motions approved:**

- Approve new members ( Sean and Corinne Happel ) per constitutional requirement.
- Approve fundraising request for Preschool Scholarship Fund.
- Approve hiring of Kyle Spicer to serve as the Coffee Hour Clean-up resource.

**Congregation Income and Expense Financial Statistics**

Financial reports for December received at this point in the new year are always preliminary as we await several bills from December that are paid in January but charged back to our December numbers. Preliminary financial reports show that we posted a negative cash flow on the unrestricted side of the faith spending plan of -\$2,920.91. However, for the total of 2022, we posted a positive cash flow of \$48,958.46. Several factors contributed to those year-to-date numbers: an increase of 8% in unrestricted offerings, including a one-time gift of \$15,000, as well as reduced spending in Youth Ministry after the planned National Youth Gathering was cancelled.

On the restricted side of the faith spending plan, we posted a positive cash flow of \$24,369.92 (due in part to the very generous response to our annual Christmas Basket ministry, a \$10,000 memorial gift, and a \$15,000 offering to the Capital Reserve Fund). For the totality of 2022, we posted a negative cash flow for the restricted faith spending plan of -\$63,018.00. That figure includes spending for facility maintenance for sprinkler system repairs, parking lot sealing and restriping, repairs to the porticoes and staining and repair of the wood trim around the worship center.

Our Finance Team, Stewardship Team and Council monitor our spending and income throughout the year, making recommendations or adjustments, as needed based on income received and a prioritization of expenses. We will continue to do so in 2023.

A financial snapshot for December and for the Year-to-date is provided in the chart on the following page. (Please remember that these figures will be adjusted as required by accounting principles as we finalize the books for 2022.)

**COUNCIL CORNER**  
**Greg Seen, Council Secretary**  
 secretary@firstlutheranec.org

A financial snapshot for November and for the Year-to-date is provided in the chart below.

Unrestricted giving and expenses (Faith Spending Plan)

	November 2022	YEAR TO DATE (Thru 11/30/2022)
Income	\$77,129.33	\$767,941.32
Expense	\$63,367.45	\$716,061.95
Net	+ \$13,761.88	+ \$ 51,879.37

Restricted giving and expenses:

	November 2022	YEAR TO DATE (Thru 11/30/2022)
Income	\$ 13,780.50	\$ 81,657.20
Expense	\$ 6,796.67	\$ 169,045.12
Net	+ \$ 6,983.83	- \$ 87,387.92

Your financial offerings enable God's life-giving work in this community, the neighborhood and the world around us. Thank you for continuing to support God's work. A special thank you, too, to those who completed and returned their financial intention forms for 2022. We received 85 forms (as of 1/13/2023) representing approximately \$354,000 in intended financial offerings for 2023.

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



# GET INVOLVED

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:betsysue8@gmail.com).

## **Living in God's Story**

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Contacts: Pastor Mike [prmike@firstlutheranec.org](mailto:prmike@firstlutheranec.org) and **Pastor Tamika** [tamika@firstlutheranec.org](mailto: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](mailto:mark@firstlutheranec.org)

## **Jubilate Bell Choir**

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

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR FELLOW DISCIPLES, NEIGHBORS, & COMMUNITY

- 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](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4aaba92aa46-baptismal)

**Worship Assistant:** [www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4aaba92aa46-worship](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4aaba92aa46-worship)

**Worship Sponsorships:** [www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4aaba92aa46-worship2](http://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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](mailto:flcoffice@firstlutheranec.org)) and let us know - **before** you go.

# A NOTE OF THANKS

with heartfelt  
**thanks**



Many thanks  
for your very generous  
gift! Services with you is  
indeed a blessing! Pastor Mike

For what thanksgiving can we  
return to God for you, for all  
the joy that we feel for your sake  
before our God

1 Thessalonians 3:9

Thank you for  
your very thoughtful  
& kind gift!

You are a  
Blessing to us  
all! Lori

Many thanks for your  
generous gift! It is  
a joy to serve alongside  
you! - Mark

Thank you  
so very much  
for your kindness  
and generosity. I'm  
so grateful to be in this  
Community w/ all of you.

Pr. Lamika

Many thanks to our  
wonderful & thoughtful  
congregation!  
Wayne

Thank you for the  
generous gift and  
your support of all  
the ministries at  
First. Happy New Year!  
Genay

Thank you  
so much for your  
kindness and generosity.  
It is truly a blessing to serve  
alongside you.  
Alysa

Thank you all for  
such a kind and generous  
Christmas gift! It has  
truly been a blessing  
to serve with you  
this year!  
Stacy

## A NOTE OF THANKS



December 19, 2022

Jay Zumbrun, Chair  
Social Ministry Committee  
First Lutheran Church  
3604 Chatham Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Jay:

On behalf of Grassroots thank you and the First Lutheran Church Social Ministry Committee so much for your very generous contributions of 11 Christmas baskets for former Grassroots shelter residents currently living in their own home in Howard County. It is especially meaningful that the team delivered the baskets, which was greatly appreciated by all who received them as most do not have reliable transportation and may not have made it to our center to pick them up.

As you all know firsthand there is an increasing level of food insecurity in our community as more people are affected by economic downturns and finding it difficult to make ends meet. The food items in the baskets help ensure low-income households have a wonderful holiday experience and gives them some financial breathing room so scarce dollars may be spent on other needs, such as rent, utilities, or transportation.

It's always a pleasure working with you and we are grateful for your continued partnership. Your donations make a difference in the lives of some of Howard County's most vulnerable citizens. Thank you again for your generous support for the people we serve and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monteith Mitchell".

Monteith Mitchell  
Volunteer & In-Kind Donations Coordinator

# A NOTE OF THANKS



30 December 2022



To First Evangelical Lutheran Church

We have been blessed by your generous donation to Koith Are Mission. When you give to NAM, you are making a tangible, immediate difference in the lives of our community members, and so we write to say "Thank you!"

Your donation helps in several ways, including funding for Family Life Workshops, the care and keeping of Red Shell Village, stretch bags which include critical PPE and nutrition for housing insecure neighbors, as well as produce from Black farmers for Farm to Stoop Free Market, to name a few things. It also directly contributes to the leadership development of NAM community members through supporting weekly stipends for various positions, such as Village Steward, Sector and Market Manager.

Your belief in this mission, your tangible support, and your prayers mean so very much. Join us in praising God!

Blessing and hearts full of thanks,

P. Blazer and the Community members



# 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



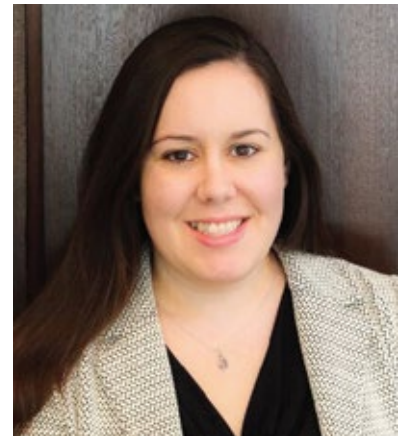
**Jenny James**, Director of Preschool  
jjames@firstlutheranec.org



**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**

<b>STAFF</b>			
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
<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>			
	Amy Isler (President)	443-840-6570	amyisler@gmail.com
	Keith Hauk (Vice President)	410-988-5747	keithhauk04@gmail.com
	Greg Seen (Secretary)	410-465-9160	gseen@verizon.net
	Michelle Miles (Treasurer)	410-461-6853	treasurer@firstlutheranec.org
	Wade Wray (Financial Secretary)	410-465-2977	finsec@firstlutheranec.org
	Becca Andersen	443-896-8679	andersen.becca5@gmail.com
	Genny Hardesty	410-740-9277	hardestygenny@gmail.com
	Mark Holmgren	310-529-3231	mholmgren@gmail.com
	Sandie French	410-531-2394	shfrench19@gmail.com
	Tony Harris	410-799-4050	redace8@msn.com
	Natalie Rye	410-995-1147	natsrye@gmail.com
	Julie Riddler	608-469-2590	jriddler0528@gmail.com
	Janet Romsaas	301-529-5087	janetromsaas@hotmail.com
	Matt Scott	410-206-3029	matthewscott899@gmail.com
	Paul Ulrich	443-545-5581	ulrich.paul56@gmail.com
<b>ORGANIZED FOR MISSION</b>			
<b>WELCOMING MINISTRY</b>			
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
<b>GROWING MINISTRY</b>			
Caring for God's Creation	Cathy Rice	410-750-9631	cprpenpal@gmail.com
Children's & Youth Ministry	Alyssa Terry	410-465-2977	alyssa@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 Zumbun	443-745-0737	jzumbun@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	kskerns@verizon.net
<b>SHARING MINISTRY</b>			
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 Zumbun	443-745-0737	jzumbun@ccbcmd.edu
Stephen Ministry	Coleen Fowler	410-750-2453	stephenministry@firstlutheranec.org

3604 Chatham Road | Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Office:** 410.465.2977 | **Preschool:** 410.465.5977 | **Fax:** 410.465.8700

# 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!**

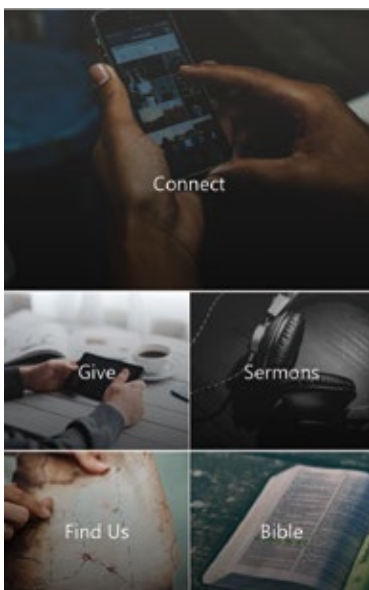
Then fill in your name & e-mail address. It's that easy!

## 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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# The Messenger | February 2023

First Lutheran Church, Ellicot City