



THE MESSENGER

The News from First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ellicott City

UPCOMING EVENTS

Congregational Meetings



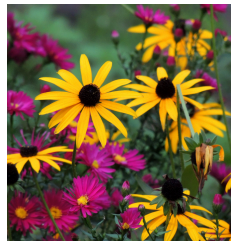
SUNDAY,
MAY 5 & MAY 19
Page 11

Preschool Art Show



WEDNESDAY,
MAY 1
Page 11

Native Plant Sales



FRI. & SAT.
MAY 3-4
Page 11

Vacation Bible School



MON. - FRI.
JUNE 24-28
Page 12

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Soup Kitchen Donations



SATURDAY,
MAY 18
Page 12

Volunteer for VBS



MON. - FRI.
JUNE 24-28
Page 12

Frederick Road Cleanup



SATURDAY,
MAY 18
Page 13

WAYS TO CONNECT

Dinner Church



WEDNESDAY,
MAY 22
Page 11

DeDining Women



TUESDAY,
MAY 28
Page 13

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2-6

[Reflections](#)

PAGE 6

[Parish Register](#)

PAGE 7

[Congregational Meetings](#)

PAGE 8

[Firm Foundations](#)

PAGE 9-10

[Ministry Updates](#)

PAGE 11-15

[Announcements](#)

PAGE 16-17

[Reminders](#)

PAGE 18-19

[Council Corner](#)

PAGE 20

[Get Involved](#)

PAGE 21

[Thank You](#)

PAGE 22

[Staff](#)

PAGE 23

[More Reminders](#)

PAGE 24

[Ministry Contacts](#)





Rev. Mike Louia, Senior Pastor

prmike@firstlutheranec.org

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”

John 21:30-31, NRSV

There’s discussion in scholarly circles that perhaps these words from the Gospel of John, words that follow the story of Thomas’ first experience with the Risen Jesus, form the original ending of the Gospel. Everything that comes afterwards (the story of the Risen Jesus and the seven disciples on the shore) serves as more of an epilogue to the Gospel itself.

Whether this is the original ending or not, there is one thing clear: the purpose of the Gospel of John is clearly stated! Words attributed to John are there so that those who hear them or read them will **“come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name”**. Sounds like a singular purpose with an undeniable outcome: hear or read and believe!

Or is it? What if there is a reality within those words that leaves room for those moments in which we all are left to wonder if we really believe strongly enough such that we can trust in God’s promise through Jesus and have life, especially life eternal that begins in the present and bridges into the future?

In the original Greek, words translated as “come to believe” from verse 31, which always sounds like an action that is concrete and provable, are just as correctly translated “continue to believe” or “continue in faith” or even “continue to trust” all of which leaves space for those moments when the realities of the world overwhelm us, when the voices that challenge our understanding of things we have been taught as “universal truths” drive us to that space of doubt or unbelief or fear, and our believing, or at least fully trusting in what we claim to believe, becomes difficult.

In those times, perhaps we are like that father of the young man possessed by the evil Spirit we’re told about in the Gospel of Mark, chapter nine, who begs Jesus to heal his son. Jesus hears his request and then challenges him: **“All things can be done for one who believes.”** The father’s authentic response: **“I believe; help my unbelief!”** (Mark 9:14-24, NRSV)

The reality we experience through the resurrection is that in all aspects of our lives, ones in which we are confident in our believing and ones in which our trust in our believing is shaky at best, Jesus is alive and breathing and shows us that there is nothing that can ever separate us from the promise of God to be our God forever.

[Back to Front Page](#)



The reality we experience through the resurrection is that Jesus will walk alongside us and continue to teach us how to live in the radically grace-filled love of God that doesn't wait for us to get our beliefs in order before we are loved, but instead continues to give us the opportunity to share the radically grace-filled love we have been given with people in our lives, even those who challenge us at every turn.

The reality we experience through the resurrection is that we are called to living in the faith God's Holy Spirit has given us, to turning to God through prayer when we are struggling, and to being vulnerable enough to trust that the promise of eternal life with our gracious God is in fact a gift we are given, not because we have somehow earned it or are more worthy than our neighbor, but is a gift given to us by the creator of the whole world who loved creation in such a way as to risk everything to give that gift.

In the coming weeks and months ahead, as our shouts, of "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!" Turn to whispers at best, we are surely going to experience circumstances in our lives that will challenge us and perhaps our long-held beliefs. It's in those very times when our prayer might be, "Help my unbelief", that the resurrected Jesus will meet us, inviting us to a place of vulnerability, a place of wonder, a place of grief, and also a place to experience life, to relinquish control, to open ourselves up to being cared for, and to trust in the reality of "Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God", in whom our whole life is based.

See you at worship!

Pastor Mike

Rev. Tamika Jancewicz, Associate Pastor

tamika@firstlutheranec.org

The Joy of Holy Communion

The tradition of Holy Communion is a sacred and holy event, one that holds a special place in the hearts of many. As a child, I grew up in a church tradition where we celebrated Holy Communion once a month. Alongside the words of institution, the presiding minister would read from the letter written to the church in Corinth: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor 11:27, NRSVUE).

This was to remind us not to partake in holy communion in the wrong state of mind. I do not believe the intent was to deter us from taking communion, but it made communion a scary experience for me. I was always afraid that my thoughts and

[Back to Front Page](#)



heart weren't pure enough and that something terrible might happen if I took holy communion without rigorous repentance and prayer.



I share this with you not to paint my childhood church badly but to explain why I enjoy presiding and sharing communion in church. I remember learning a more freeing and liberating understanding of G-d's grace in seminary when we partake in communion together. It's something given freely, in love, for all who want to join in. Knowing that I do not have to be afraid of this gift brings me joy. That we are all welcome to the table. So, when you see me smiling and singing along, or talking with a little one, know that I am filled with gratitude for the gift of communion, and for the

gift of being able to share it with others. It's a special moment that brings us all together, and I am blessed to be a part of it. I hope you feel the same.

Peace,
Pastor Tamika

Dr. Wayne L. Wold, Director of Music Ministry

wayne@firstlutheranec.org

*This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst his three-day prison, our faith had been in vain.
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen!*

George R. Woodward, ELW 391, st. 1

Even with such archaic words as "Eastertide" and "morrow" we get the point, don't we? Many of our hymn texts exhibit an exuberance that begs to be sung. When one



alleluia doesn't seem like enough, we pile them on. During this "Eastertide" it has been a joy to keep singing alleluias and proclaiming that Christ has arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen . . .

Let us also direct some of our alleluias to the many individuals who gave so much time, energy, and spirit for our Holy Week and Easter services through music. Hundreds of people hours go into each hour of worship. Thanks to all singers, ringers, and instrumentalists who give of themselves so generously each week for the sake of praising God, proclaiming the Word, and edifying God's people.

Choir rehearsals continue into mid-May. Our bell choir, **Jubilate**, meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Contact Jenne Burnham at <fenris1954@yahoo.com> for more information about joining. **First Lutheran Choir** for adult and teen singers meets Thursdays 7:30-9:00 p.m. And our **Children's Choir** program continues as part of the Sunday morning educational hour at 11. Contact Assistant Director of Music Mark Helms at <mark@firstlutheranec.org> for more information. Join us!

Speaking of Mark Helms, let us offer one more alleluia for Mark's successful completion of his doctoral degree in choral conducting from the University of Maryland, College Park. The DMA after his name stands for Doctor of Musical Arts. Congratulations, **Dr. Helms!**

■ *But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen!*

Keep singing! Wayne

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

Dear Members of First Lutheran,

As I sit down to write this message, my heart is filled with gratitude. As I reflect on my time spent with all of you, I am overwhelmed by the warmth, kindness, and support that you have shown me throughout my journey.

From the moment I entered First, I was greeted with enthusiasm, open arms and welcoming smiles. Your eagerness to embrace me and allow me to become a part of your community has meant more to me than words can express.



Over the years, getting to know you and serving this community has been an honor and a joy. First Lutheran has some of the best adult volunteers I've ever had the joy of working with. Your unwavering faith, dedication to our shared mission, and commitment to one another have truly been inspiring. It has been a privilege to be a part of your children's childhood and to witness them grow in our community.

Moreover, I want to express my deepest gratitude for making Maryland a home for me. Your hospitality, friendship, and the sense of belonging that I have experienced here have made my time in this state incredibly meaningful. I will carry with me the cherished memories and adventures from my time at First. I will always remember you when I think back on this chapter of my life.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing me to be a part of your lives and for enriching my ministerial journey in ways I could have never imagined.

With sincerest gratitude and warmest regards,
Alyssa Terry

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths

Jovito Raynor (Ray) Facto
September 23, 1937 - April 10, 2024

New Members

Charles Richard Piel
Francis Walter Coleman
Valerie Coleman Gist
Thomas Bruce Gist
James &, Jessica Hall
Abigail, Elizabeth, Andrew

General Memorial Fund

In memory of Marlene Ruehl
by: Paul and Frankie Miller
In memory of Ed Zeigler
by: Sherrie Collins-Carkey
Wayne and Melanie Hoffman
Mary Lang Brzezinski
Lisa Myers
Evelyn Combs
Anna Marie Howser
Hazel Rectanus
Robert and Barbara Appel
Garcia G Sampson
Rev. Glenn and Stella Ludwig

Rev. Payne Scholarship Fund

In memory of Edward Zeigler
by: Sandy and Rich Funke

UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS



Meeting to Call New Director of Children & Youth Ministry Sunday, May 5th

The group that has been discerning whom God is calling to join us in ministry as our next Director of Children and Youth Ministry has brought to council a person they feel is a great fit for the position!

Council has voted to present the candidate to the congregation who will continue the discernment process. Because the candidate is on the Word and Service roster of the ELCA, the congregation is the body empowered to issue a call for this candidate to begin serving here at First.

A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2024 for the purpose of voting to extend a call. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM in the worship center. Ballots have to be physically handed in at the conclusion of the meeting, so the meeting will be held onsite only.

We'll be holding a meet and greet session on Saturday, May 4th at 4pm. This will be a time for a time for congregation members to engage in conversation with the candidate before the vote.

[Click here to read the candidate's bio.](#) Please keep in mind that this candidate is currently serving in a call nearby, so we ask that you be discreet with this information until a public announcement is issued.

Please Save these Dates!

Meet and Greet

Saturday, May 4th at 4:00pm

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 5th at 5:00pm

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 19th

Save the date for our Annual Congregational Meeting!

Sunday, May 19th after the worship service. Onsite or online
Be on the lookout for the Annual Report, which will be mailed out and posted on the website in the coming days.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81778830162?pwd=HqreCxCLyz4G499KBvjZO6Bah8uMR1.1>

[Back to Front Page](#)

FIRM FOUNDATIONS CAMPAIGN



As disciples of Jesus at First Lutheran Church, we are called to many ministries – each one a demonstration of our continuing commitment to be Welcoming, Growing and Sharing in God’s grace – the hands and feet of God in a world in need. And our capacity for ministry is growing – as witnessed by greater onsite and online worship attendance, more baptisms, gatherings for fellowship, and increased participation in faith formation.

In 2025, First Lutheran will celebrate 150 years of ministry! You're invited to partner with your fellow disciples as we invest in the next 150 years and build a lasting legacy of ministry and outreach to our community and world for generations to come.

We are the stewards of a large property, encompassing a building constructed in 1955 and expanded in 1967, 1987, and 1995; parking facilities; and two parsonages. While we do a good job of maintaining our facility, we must always consider the expected remaining service lives of major facility components, such as roofs and high-cost equipment. As every homeowner knows, we need to replace such components in a timely manner – before they fail!

The monies from our Firm Foundations campaign will be invested in an endowment fund with the sole purpose of funding upcoming significant property repairs or significant capital expenses. Removing these expenses from the Faith Spending Plan will free up monies for our on-going and future ministries.

Firm Foundations is intended to provide an ongoing source of income for First Lutheran to use in caring for the buildings and grounds, from which all of our ministry originates.

Firm Foundations will provide funding:

- for short-term maintenance, repair, and replacements
- for long-term maintenance, repair, and replacements
- allowing our offerings to go directly to mission & ministry

Important Dates

May 5 **Bishop Gohl Preaching**
May 19 **Commitment Sunday (& Pentecost!)**
June 9 **Giving Kick-off**

21 Day Devotional

You’re invited to an intentional time of devotion and prayer! One of the three foundational components of our Firm Foundations Capital Campaign is an invitation to intentional time with God in prayer. To assist us in that practice, a 21-day devotion guide is available. This daily devotion guide will be distributed in one-week increments. The first section is available here. Join your fellow disciples in continued discernment as to how God is calling you to faithfully support Firm Foundations.

The devotional will be sent out week by week, or you can request a printed copy from the church office.

[Back to Front Page](#)



RIC TEAM

At the Congregational Meeting on May 19th, one of the agenda items is to vote on an updated Welcome Statement.

Proposed Welcome Statement

First Evangelical Lutheran Church recognizes and celebrates that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We welcome into ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, and economic status. We commit ourselves to anti-racism through the protection against oppression individually and institutionally. We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

This updated statement has been revised according to ReconcilingWorks' updated standards. Since the summer of 2020, ReconcilingWorks has expanded its scope to include a focus on anti-racism and intersectionality. We've chosen to use more intentionally inclusive language and reflect evolving understandings of various terms.

The team has prepared an informational handout that provides:

- a review of the changes
- an overview of ReconcilingWorks and of the requirements for adopting an RIC designation
- an overview of where we've been and what we're already doing
- a sample of frequently asked questions

You can access the full handout by:

- scanning the QR code
- visiting firstlutheranec.org/RICHandout
- picking up a copy in the Narthex





STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a program that matches specially trained members of a congregation with people going through a tough time. Nationwide, more than 10,000 churches representing more than 150 different Christian denominations offer Stephen Ministry.

The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need.

Pastors often find there are more needs for care than they can provide, so Stephen Ministers are there to supplement, but not replace, pastoral care. First Lutheran Church has over 10 members of our church who have gone through the extensive training and are commissioned as Stephen Ministers.

A member of a church was matched with a Stephen Minister, a fellow member of her church, and the two met once a week for more than a year. When asked about her relationship with her Stephen Minister she said, "She would hold my hand and let me spill out my heart. I call her my earth angel. She really helped me through a hard time in my life. She didn't give me specific advice as much as she just listened to me and validated my pain." Now that the formal Stephen Ministry relationship has ended, the two remain friends. "I will always be grateful that she came in a time of my life when I really needed someone to talk to."

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through difficult times (grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other issues). A Stephen Minister usually meets with a person once a week for about an hour. Stephen Ministers listen, care, encourage, support, and provide emotional and spiritual support to hurting people. The care you receive is confidential, free, and very helpful.

For more information please contact Colleen Fowler at stephenministry@firstlutheranec.org



PRESCHOOL ART SHOW

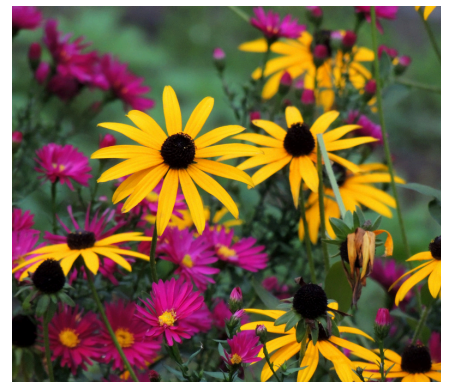
First Lutheran Preschool students have been working on various art projects that will be on display in the Fellowship Center on **Wednesday, May 1 from 6 -7 pm** and on **Sunday, May 5**. We hope the work will bring joy to those who view it.

Plants purchased from the preschool's plant sale will also be available for pick up during these times.

NATIVE PLANT SALES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Whipps Garden Cemetery will be holding their annual plant sale at First on **Friday, May 3, 8am-6pm** and **Saturday, May 4, 9am-3pm**. [Click here for more information!](#)

St. John's Episcopal is also be holding a native plant sale. All orders must be submitted by Thursday, May 2nd for pickup on Saturday, May 4. [Click here to order.](#)



DINNER CHURCH

Join us for dinner church on May 22nd!

We will be hold dinner church in the Fellowship Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:15 pm.

Please bring a dish to share and an open heart as we worship, have a meal, and continue to grow in community together.



REGISTER FOR VBS!

This year, we are journeying down the river to learn about God's gracious gift of water. From the waters of baptism to the waters that sustain farms and gardens, water is life. As a church, the ELCA is committed to accompanying communities that lack access to clean water and proper sanitation, both in the United States and internationally, through ministries supported by ELCA World Hunger. The simple reason for this is that all of creation relies on water to live. But water is much more than a resource. For people of faith, water is a powerful symbol, with significance as deep as the natural stores that cover the globe.

When: June 24-28th | 9am-12pm

Where: First Lutheran Church

Who: 3 year olds - 5th grade

All are Welcome!

[Click Here to Register](#)

Registration Closes June 1st

VOLUNTEER AT VBS

VBS is only possible with the help of volunteers! We are in need of many volunteers to make VBS successful! If you are interested in volunteering to help with VBS please fill out a volunteer form.

Not free all week? No problem! Just indicate which days you're available on the volunteer form. You can even come for just a day or two!



[Volunteer Form](#)



WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SOUP KITCHEN

Please consider making and donating dishes for the Women and Children's shelter for May 18.

You can sign-up on the Sign-up-Genius link . For more information, contact Gail Tabeling at 410-531-3938 or 443-506-3814 or email gtabeling@aol.com. Thank you for supporting this ministry! You may drop-off your food ahead of time.

[Sign Up Here](#)

[Back to Front Page](#)

DEDINING WOMEN

All FLC women and their friends are invited to join the group for an evening of fellowship. It's a great way to get to know others in the congregation. We gather at 5:30 pm for Happy Hour food and drink specials, and we order dinner at 6:00 pm to accommodate anyone working later. Please RSVP to [Nancy Louia](#) if you plan to attend, no later than the Saturday before, so we can give the correct count to the business.

Tuesday May 28

Turn House, at [Hobbit's Glen Golf Club](#)

11130 Willow Bottom Dr, Columbia



ENDOWMENT EARNINGS DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Each year, our Endowment Team distributes, according to the governing documents of our current Endowment Account, a minimum of 10% of the distributable assets (earnings) from our Endowment Fund. The amount to be distributed in 2024 is \$14,600.00. As part of this process, the team seeks recommendations from the congregation for recipients of those funds. Recipients must be organizations that are benevolent in nature. To make a recommendation, [this form](#) should be completed and returned to Karen McLaughlin, Endowment Team Leader, [via email](#) by May 15, 2024. What a blessing our Endowment Fund continues to be in the ministry of First Lutheran!

FREDERICK ROAD CLEANUP

Our semi-annual clean-up of the three miles of Frederick Road for which we are responsible will be **Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 9-11 am (note the new date!).**

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. Contact Mike Murphy (mandmun7@verizon.net, 443-799- 8540) or sign up on [SignUpGenius](#), if interested.



FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Week 1: May 28, 29, 30

Week 2: June 4, 5, 6

9am-11:45am

Activities include:

Nature Hike | Gardening | Water Play | Friendship Bracelets |
Stories | Crafts | Music | and more

Admission

\$95/week

Ages 2 1/2 - 5 years

Register online at www.firstlutheranpreschoolec.com



FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

First Lutheran Preschool enrollment is open for the 2024-2025 school year.

We offer weekly chapel and the best nature and play-based learning environment for this age group. Our caring teachers are credentialed through the Maryland credential program for early childhood professionals. Scholarships are available, and church members receive a 10% discount. Please call Jenny to set up a tour. Additional information may be found on the preschool's website: www.firstlutheranpreschoolec.com

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 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.



[Back to Front Page](#)



FREE HANDYMAN SERVICES

Are you in need of minor repairs or maintenance around your home? Look no further! I am offering my handyman services for FREE to those in need within our community and congregation.

I can assist with:

- Basic plumbing repairs
- Electrical fixture installation
- Small carpentry jobs
- Painting touch-ups
- Furniture assembly
- And much more!

Terms & Conditions:

- Free services are available for minor repairs and tasks only.
- Materials and supplies must be provided by the requester, or can be arranged for an additional fee

About Me:

I am recently retired from the federal government after 35 years of service. I enjoy working around the house - fixing, and updating our 70 year old home. I am passionate about helping people in the community and giving of my time and talents to serve those in need.

Kevin Molz
443-538-1144
kevinmmolz@gmail.com

"DIG IN: OUTDOOR STEM LEARNING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN" BOOK GROUP

Join Preschool Director Jenny James for a discussion with her co-authors of *Dig In: Outdoor STEM Learning with Young Children*, May 3rd at the Robinson Nature Center. They will share research about the importance of providing children rich experiences in nature to authentically teach STEM concepts, social emotional learning, and academic skills. Learn how significant life experiences in nature lead to environmental sustainability, critical thinking, and sensorial learning for children and adults alike.



This event is hosted by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. [Click here for more information on how to attend.](#)

[Back to Front Page](#)



ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSION SYSTEM

It's easier than ever to submit information about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, general announcements, and more!

The form will ask you for all the information we need - you just need to fill in the blanks!

If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please reach out to Sarah Smit by email at sarah@firstlutheranec.org.



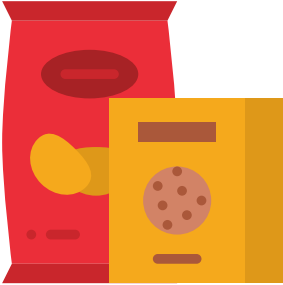
ONGOING FEEDING MINISTRY

Our feeding ministry is providing ongoing support to a few Veteran's Elementary school families by providing food throughout the month.

You can assist with this ministry opportunity by:

- a. **donating non-perishable items** (such as pasta, rice, beans, cereal, pasta sauce, canned vegetables) in the bin in the Narthex. Please make sure donations are nut free.
- b. making a **donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund** (either online via our website or mobile app or via check) which will be used to provide fresh produce, meats and other food items.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and response as we live into our call to love God and neighbor. Please feel free to contact Pastor Tamika or Pastor Mike with questions.



VETERANS' ELEMENTARY SNACK DRIVE

We have been asked to help provide snacks & school supplies 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.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHOIR & JUBILATE REHEARSALS

The First Lutheran Choir is for adults and teens, and it is open to anyone who would like to sing at worship services and attend rehearsals.

Rehearsals are held Thursdays at 7:30pm.

Jubilate, our three-octave bell choir rings in worship several Sundays a month. Past ringing experience is not necessary. However, the ability to count rhythms and read music is important.

Rehearsals are held Thursdays at 6:30pm.



Our congregation council met on April 16, 2024 in a hybrid fashion (onsite and via ZOOM). Council continued its devotion time using our current resource, Wholehearted Faith, by Rachel Held Evans. This month our reading focused on the third chapter, Where Stone Becomes Flesh.

We reviewed ministry reports received from various staff and ministry leaders and took the following actions:

- Pastor Mike Louia –Motion Approved for the annual donation to Our Daily Bread for devotional guides (regular and large print) in the amount of \$100.

In executive session, reviewed several personnel items.

We also finalized the agenda for our upcoming congregational meeting, scheduled for May 19, 2024 (after the worship service). Meeting materials, including information on those on the ballot for the next congregation council term, will be mailed in the coming weeks.

Congregation Income and Expense Financial Statistics

Financially, 2024 continues to be a year when folks are generously supporting God's ministry at First Lutheran. As for our unrestricted faith spending plan, we posted a \$10,821.70 positive cash flow (income exceeded expenses) for March and a positive cash flow of \$62,071.19 year-to-date.

Our restricted faith spending plan, as has been the case throughout 2024, posted a negative cash flow for March of (\$10,177.79) and year-to-date of (\$69,677.37). It must be noted that we made our annual offering to Pangani Children's Center in March, \$10,000, which came from funds raised in 2023.

Unrestricted giving and expenses

	March 2024	YEAR TO DATE (Thru 3/31/2024)
Income	\$96,281.32	\$257,573.26
Expense	\$85,459.62	\$195,502.07
Net	+ \$10,821.70	+ \$ 62,071.19

Restricted giving and expenses:

	March 2024	YEAR TO DATE (Thru 3/31/2024)
Income	\$ 8,996.72	\$ 18,130.72
Expense	\$ 19,174.51	\$ 87,808.09
Net	- \$ 10,177.79	- \$ 69,677.37

Your generosity means that God’s work continues through this community. Thank you all for your faithful financial support.

If you would like a copy of your individual giving statement, one may be requested either from Wade Wray, our financial secretary (finsec@firstlutheranec.org) or online through our Servant Keeper portal (www.ServantKeeper.com/member-portal/FELCFamilyFacts).

Sunday Attendance

	2023				2024		
	On-site Attendance	On-line Views	On-Line Attendance*		On-site Attendance	On-line Views	On-Line Attendance*
March 5 Lent 2	266	195	390	March 3 Lent 3	182	192	384
March 12 Lent 3	141	165	330	March 10 Lent 4	150	202	404
March 19 Lent 4	154	177	354	March 17 Lent 5	193	172	344
March 26 Lent 5	190	195	390	March 24 Palm Sunday	219	226	452
				March 31 Easter, 9 & 11am	484	311	622

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

Wednesday Midweek Worship

	2023				2024		
	On-site Attendance	On-line Views	On-Line Attendance**		On-site Attendance	On-line Views	On-Line Attendance**
March 6 Lent 1	13	90	180	March 6 Lent 3	36	110	220
March 8 Lent 2	18	64	128	March 13 Lent 4	28	72	144
March 15 Lent 3	19	54	108	March 20 Lent 5	21	59	118
March 22 Lent 4	11	59	118	March 27 Dinner Church	12	--	--
March 22 Lent 5	11	71	142	March 28 Maundy Thursday	86	132	264
				March 29 Good Friday	112	144	288

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



WORSHIP & PRAYER

Find information regarding onsite and online worship services on the website under the [Worship With Us](#) tab

Midday Prayer is held at noon on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We invite you to join your fellow disciples on Facebook live for a time of scripture reading, meditation, song, and prayer with one of the pastors. Recordings of these gatherings are also available on demand for replay on Facebook, YouTube. You are invited to send requests for prayer to Pastor Tamika at tamika@firstlutheranec.org.

Receive healing prayers by phone with Lynn Anderson by calling (443) 562-9690 or onsite during Sunday worship services near the baptismal font.

FELLOWSHIP & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Living in God's Story | Meets weekly on Sundays at 11am
For more info, contact: Pastor Mike or Pastor Tamika

WELCA Martha Circle | Meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 10 am
For more info, contact: Valerie Roth at (410) 456-6733

WELCA Rebecca Circle | Meets monthly on the third Thursday at 1 pm
For more info, contact: Sue Davis (410) 418-4535 or betsysue8@gmail.com

WELCA Lydia Circle | Meets monthly on the first Saturday at 9:30am
For more info, contact Kirsten Boswell kirsten.s.boswell@gmail.com

Small Group Bible Study | Meets Tuesdays at 1 pm
For more info, contact: Sue Davis (410) 418-4535 or betsysue8@gmail.com

Men's Fellowship Breakfast | Meets monthly on the third Friday at 7:30am
For more info, contact: Jay Zumbrun at (443) 745-0737

Prayer Shawl Ministry | Meets monthly on the first Monday at 10am
For more info, contact: Karen DeWitt (410) 750-9744

Sewing Circle | Meets monthly on the second Monday at 9:30am
For more info, contact: Deb Hardesty (410) 530-9772
(Sewing skills are not required!)

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.

Find these and other opportunities to serve and support our neighbors and our community in our weekly e-news and by visiting the **Get Involved** tab on our website.



thank you

VERY MUCH

Michelle -
Thank you for taking care of the luncheon after my brother memorial Service. We were very grateful that it was so lovely and everything was so great. Thanks again -

Denise, Jeff, Michael Patrick Fuchs
my Parents, Linda & Brian,
Dibbie, Chris & Lauren Wagner

FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF



Rev. Mike Louia
Senior Pastor
prmike@firstlutheranec.org



Rev. Tamika Jancewicz
Associate Pastor
tamika@firstlutheranec.org

Church office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am – noon.

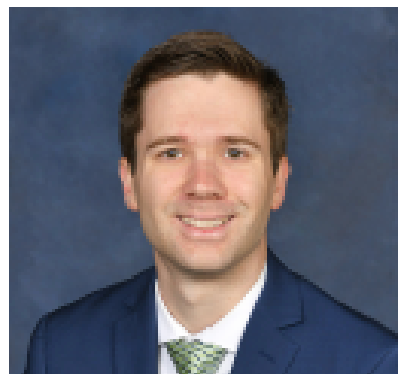
Please contact Lori Teitelbaum at flcoffice@firstlutheranec.org or (410) 465-2977 to arrange an appointment at another time

Appointments for visits with Pastor Mike or Pastor Tamika can be arranged by emailing them directly.

As a reminder, the office is staffed by phone or email, Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm.



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



Dr. Mark Helms
Assistant Music Director
mark@firstlutheranec.org



Jenny James
Preschool Director
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

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 Intercessory Prayer List, please contact the church office at (410) 465-2977 or 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 e-mail (flcoffice@firstlutheranec.org) or phone (410) 465-2977 and let us know - **before** you go!

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

If you have a medical emergency or death in the family on an evening or weekend & need to speak to a pastor immediately, call (410) 465-6779.

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

STAY IN TOUCH!

Make sure you are signed up to receive church announcements, bulletins, newsletters and more! Sign up for our mailing list by visiting firstlutheranec.org and filling out the signup form at the bottom of the page. It's that easy!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

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 monthly

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS

It's easier than ever to submit information about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, general announcements, and more!

The form will ask you for all the information we need - just fill in the blanks! Get started by visiting firstlutheranec.org/announce

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. Simply click the "GIVE" tab on our website OR 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.

*Msg & Data rates may apply.



**FOLLOW US
ON SOCIAL
MEDIA!**

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF | COUNCIL | MINISTRY LEADERS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF COUNCIL MINISTRY LEADERS			
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	Dr. 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			
	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
	Lisa Coster	410-442-3734	lbcoster@verizon.net
	Tony Harris	410-799-4050	redace8@msn.com
	Ehren Casto		elspooky06@gmail.com
	Betty Kohls Stehman	301-275-5690	
	Janet Romsaas	301-529-5087	janetromsaas@hotmail.com
	Paul Ulrich	443-545-5581	ulrich.paul56@gmail.com
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	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 Zumbrun	443-745-0737	jzumbrun@ccbcmd.edu
Stewardship	George Conklin	410-750-7208	conkgeo@gmail.com
Women of the ELCA	Sue Wehr	410-428-6918	wehrhouse1@verizon.net
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

3604 Chatham Road | Ellicott City, MD, 21042

Office: 410.465.2977 | Preschool: 410.465.5977 | Fax: 410.465.8700