

Vine Street Journal

Johnstown, PA

First Lutheran Church

June 2024

A message from Vicar Christy...

"Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

As we begin to look forward to summer – although I think Mother Nature believes we are already there, we look to all the beautiful colors that will soon "spring up."

On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated with JOY and HOPE the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a time in which we feed the embers of that fire burning within each one of us. We know the awesome colors that a campfire can bring – the reds, oranges, and yellows. We know that warmth that fire can bring us. We do not walk alone, but we walk together as one body in Christ Jesus. We live in the hope of Jesus' Word. So, that as children of God, we may go out and spread the Good News, that message of forgiveness, love, and hope to those around us.

As we look toward Holy Trinity Sunday, we hear about the great prophet Isaiah!! He in all his sinfulness, was the one whom God called. We know there are times when we go astray, as sheep often do. We know there are times when we just don't listen, as children often do. We know there are times when we just want to say – I can do it my way, I want it my way!! But then, we circle back around and realize that even in our own sinfulness, our Shepherd is always there. Jesus is walking with us, through good times and bad times and everything in between. We are children of God. God calls us, God holds out his hand and says, "follow me."

Do you hear God calling you? What is God calling you to do? Where is God calling you to go? Are you ready to shout from the highest hill, from the highest mountain top, "Here I am. Pick me. Pick me."

May you enjoy this season of rest, rejuvenation, and time spent with friends and loved ones. May you be blessed by the pictures that God paints for you each day!! May your harvest be plentiful and may you share with your neighbors. And my wish for each of you this Pentecost season is that you blow on those embers of the fire within each of you. Make that fire burn bright within each of you and go forth sharing the love of Christ with your neighbors. "Here I am Lord!! Send me! Send me!!"

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Christy



SUMMER LITURGY

A return to
Of the Land and Seasons liturgy

was prompted by your positive reaction to this liturgy last summer. *Of the Land and Season* was developed at the Gettysburg Seminary borrowing Appalachian folk tunes. All the usual liturgical elements appear as very singable hymns or songs.

Many of the tunes in *Of the Land and Seasons* are graceful and ballad-like. One melody of a different character is found in the Communion section as the Sanctus. SHADY GROVE is a rugged melody often adopted by Blue Grass ensembles. Shady Grove might be a place or a young girl, as its origins are unclear. It is first found in print around 1915 in Kentucky, but the song may be older with roots in England or Scotland. As with folk songs taught by ear, there are many variations to the tune as well as numerous verses.

We will be using *Of the Land and Seasons* through the summer months.



Vine Street Journal

Published by the

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Barry Critchfield (Treasurer), Rob Abele (Vice-President), Bill Price (President), James Hargreaves, Karen Hargreaves,, Heidi Piurkowsky, Joel Hoshaw, Jody Kirk (Secretary), Rick Blackford, Susan Dietz, Josh Rinaman, Janice Hill.



~ CONTRIBUTIONS ~

CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND

In loving memory of Ralph M. Raymond
gifted by Sheryl Raymond.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Pastor Bob Kaltenbaugh
gifted by Shirley Hilbrecht.

In memory of Pastor Bob Kaltenbaugh
gifted by George Fattman.

In memory of Pastor Bob Kaltenbaugh
gifted by Harriett Miller.

Paper Cutting Banner for Summer

The creative talents of Martha Ringler as well as our paper cutting team will grace our worship space this summer. The newly created paper cutting reflects the *Of the Land and Seasons* summer liturgy we will be using. The themes of sowing, growing, nurture and harvest are depicted in the banner. Martha Ringler is an inspired artist who allows her faith to speak through her art. She fell in love with paper cutting as an art form at a workshop held at Camp Sequanota. Kathy Reed is one of her inspirations. She is an art teacher at Richland High School and is also very familiar with the world of agriculture as the wife of a farmer. We appreciate her gifts. Thanks also goes to our paper cutters and design finishers.



Hospitality will be taking a break over the summer, returning in September.

In our prayers



In the life of our congregation, there are often important events which touch the lives of the First Lutheran family. We commend them to you and encourage you to share news with us.

+ Sympathy and prayers for Mary Jones and family on the death of her daughter, Jennifer Jay Muller on May 3.

+ Sympathy and prayers for Scott and Cheryl Becker, family and friends on the death of their son, Zach, May 5.

+ Sympathy and prayers for Dale Frye and family on the death of his daughter, Marilyn Ann, May 10.

**Income and Expense Summary
as of April 30, 2024**

	Current YTD Actual Jan. 1 thru April 30, 2024	Current YTD Budget Jan. 1 thru April 30, 2024	Difference over+/under- Budget
Regular Offering Income	\$62,480.68	\$54,357.24	\$8,123.44
Trust Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Income	\$689.00	\$1,416.68	-\$727.68
TOTAL INCOME	\$63,169.68	\$55,773.92	\$7,395.76
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$65,049.90	\$56,769.64	\$8,280.26

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness to First Lutheran Church. God bless.

Next Journal Deadline

Tuesday, June 18
Share your news with us!



Council met May 8, 2024, to hear reports as the church is winding down after the Lenten and Easter seasons.

The Worship and Music committee will meet later in May for a regular meeting and also the joint committee with Benscreek will meet. The organ is undergoing needed repairs which will be sponsored by the Organ Restoration Fund.

The Property committee is looking into leaks in the roof over the library. This is not the newly installed roof over the sanctuary—that has held up well over the recent rainy months.

The Tuesday Noon Recitals for April were a success with great attendance all month.

The next regular council meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, at 7:00 pm.



ALTAR/ORGAN FLOWERS

Here is a listing of flowers available. Please sign up on the boards in the lounge.

Altar dates available:

June 23, July 14, 28, August 25

Organ dates available:

June 9, 16, July 21, August 4, 11, 18, 25

Sign-up boards are available for reserving your flower requests. The charts are located on the wall in the Lounge area. One board is for Altar Flowers - \$40. (If there are 2 listings on the same day, the flowers are only \$20.) the other is for Organ Flowers - \$30. Payment will be due on or before the date you have chosen. Thank you!

June Readings and Psalm

June 2 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

- Deuteronomy 5:12-15
The commandment regarding the sabbath
- Psalm 81:1-10
Raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Treasure in clay jars
- Mark 2:23—3:6
Doing the work of God on the sabbath

June 9 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 3:8-15
God confronts Adam and Eve in the garden
- Psalm 130
Wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love.
- 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1
Renewed in the inner nature
- Mark 3:20-35
Doing the work of God as brothers and sisters of Christ

June 16 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

- Ezekiel 17:22-24
The sign of the cedar, planted on the mountain of Israel
- Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
In Christ, a new creation
- Mark 4:26-34
The parable of the mustard seed

June 23 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

- Job 38:1-11
The creator of earth and sea
- Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
You stilled the storm and silenced the waves of the sea.
- 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Paul's defense of his ministry
- Mark 4:35-41
Christ calming the sea

June 30 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

- Lamentations 3:22-33
Great is the Lord's faithfulness
- Psalm 30
I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up.
- 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Excel in generosity, following the Lord Jesus
- Mark 5:21-43
Christ healing a woman and Jairus's daughter



There are many ways to serve Christ by serving others. First Lutheran has these opportunities on our ongoing outreach ministry list. Please consider supporting these partners any way that you are able.

West End Food Pantry will take donations of just about any non-perishable food items. They also distribute household, cleaning supplies, paper products and baby food. Donations may be left in the shopping carts in the Social Hall and Lounge.

Cambria County Backpack Ministry accepts individually packaged items – cookies, crackers, cereal, soup, peanut butter, fruit snacks, etc. Donations may be left in the barrel in the Lounge.

Cambria City Mission will accept new or clean in good condition used clothing – male, female, youth, children and infants. The clothing is distributed at no cost at the Mission's center on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Donations may be left on the table located in the basement areaway.

ELCA World Hunger serves people all over the world. They provide animals that allow for a steady income, educational opportunities are provided and supplies that encourage and allow for families to live self sufficiently. Make donations online or directly to the church. Check out the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog.





**Soprano will open
July recital series**

Andrea Blough of Meyersdale will sing a recital of art songs and show tunes at noon **July 9**.

This will be her third appearance in the Tuesday Noon Recital Series. Her accompanist will be *Kim Rauch*.

When Andrea and her family lived in Taiwan, she appeared in various productions.

A light lunch will follow each recital. There is no charge because all costs have been covered by contributions.

Other recitals are:

July 16. *Johnstown BrassWorks*. Five music educators play a variety of pieces on trumpets, trombone and baritone horn. Four of them also brought the all-star high school jazz band to First Lutheran.

July 23. *Aaron Sproul*, organ. He plays at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Pittsburgh and also has performed throughout the city.

July 30. *Take Two*. A pops program by *Russ and Donna Miller*, who have performed together since they were teenagers. This light-hearted performance returns for another crowd-pleasing performance.



**Saturday
August 3**

Plans are underway for the August 3rd Strawberry Festival Homecoming. A postcard invitation will be sent to folks we haven't seen for a while. It will simply say that we have missed them and would love to see them again. As soon as the cards are printed they will be made available to you so that you can send to people that you would like to invite. The Outreach Team will also be mailing out cards.

Please plan on coming and bringing a friend or family member who hasn't been here for a while. The hour of fellowship will begin at 4:00 PM. An outdoor service will follow at 5:00PM. Let's make this a special day!



Outdoor Worship Service



Thank you to *Maria Hoshaw* for the beautiful prayer shawls she creates on her hand loom. Vicar Intern *Christy* blessed them, so they can be given as comfort to those in need.

The shawls are available for anyone to take to someone they feel may need one. Just ask in the office to select a shawl of your choice.

Thank you

The generosity of First Lutherans reaches beyond our church walls, into the community, the church at large and globally. We receive notes of thanks and acknowledgements for many of the gifts given. Acknowledgements received are noted each month in the VSJ and posted on a bulletin board located in the Lounge.



Thank you to all the Pentecost decorators!! Your results were phenomenal!!

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Carol Allison | Rick Blackford |
| Barry Critchfield | Cindy Fabo |
| Polly and Bill Grubb | Donna Kovalchek |
| Vicki and Bill Price | Dick Schrott |
| Shirley Waclo | |

Community foundation for the Alleghenies wrote. . .

On behalf of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, thank you for your recent gift in support of the Allison Vaughn Memorial Fund. Each fund managed by the Community Foundation helps to serve our mission of empowering individuals to become philanthropists, donors make meaningful change, and caring citizens to create a legacy around causes they love.

We appreciate your commitment to our community and your trust in the Community foundation to help support your giving.

*With Sincere Thanks,
Katrina Perkosky
Director Donor Services*

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State wrote. . .

Thank you for your gift to Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State! Your support makes it possible for us to walk with students, helping them grow in faith through these important college years at Penn State. Because of your gift, we can gather students and build a faith community while also reaching out to the wider university, as well. Your partnership is so important and truly makes a difference!

Thanks to your support, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State continues to build a caring and welcoming community of faith here on campus. Thank you again for your gift, for keeping our students and community in your prayers, and for all the ways you help Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State reach out to campus in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Blessings!
Alicia Anderson
Campus Minister*



**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Prayers for Healing
Saturday June 29
Sunday June 30**

Thought for the month. . .

Jesus answered, "very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

John 3:5



Tea Party an Enchanting Event!

The Ladies Tea Party on May 5th was a truly enchanting event! From the elegant hats provided by Carole Pastorek to the beautifully set tables adorned with tea pots and bird cages, every detail added to the charm of the occasion. With over 35 different shapes and sizes of teapots on display, it was a sight to behold for tea enthusiasts.

The menu was absolutely divine, with quiche, tea sandwiches, a refreshing strawberry spinach salad, frozen strawberry pie cups, lemon and strawberry cupcakes, and a decadent chocolate fountain to indulge in. The addition of music by Kim Rauch and a short blessing from Vicar Christy surely added to the ambiance of the gathering.

Games with prizes and a touching short story from Guideposts about "Our Mother's Wisdom" added depth and warmth to the event, fostering fellowship and connection among the attendees.

A heartfelt thank you to the planning committee—*Ann Furlong, Karen Bennett, Cindy Fabo, Jody Kirk, Heidi Staib, Patty Riddle, Polly Grubb, Donna Kovalcheck, and Fawn Slonka*—for their hard work and dedication in organizing such a delightful and memorable occasion. It's evident that their efforts created an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie that will be cherished by all who attended.

A New Look!!

Beginning June 1 and 2 you will see a change in the weekly bulletin cover. We have been working up to this point, using up the existing covers, designing the new covers and confirming the new covers will work nicely. As you have heard we have had difficulty finding suitable bulletin covers to order as a subscription. Purchasing single week bulletins has also become difficult due to the limited size of covers available.

SO Worship and Music has recommended that we create our own covers using beautiful unique graphics from our Sunday and Seasons Resource.

Graphics will relate to the theme of the day's worship. The Gospel Message will remain on the back of the cover. Any comments or questions may be directed to Vicki Price, Worship Chair.



The Tuesday Bible Study group finished their year with a short series of lessons on Ecclesiastes.

Short, because

the book is short; only 12 chapters which take up a mere seven and one fourth pages in the Revised Standard Version Bible.

Short on pages it may be, but we found it to be long on meaning and wisdom. In some brief statements of our own, the group wishes to share with you the message we received from Ecclesiastes.

Live a life filled with faith that God is with you and enjoy life as everything has its season.

Life is short. Enjoy every day the Lord has given you. Follow God's directives in all you do so when you are judged it will be favorable to the Lord.

Share what you have. There is a season for everything. Do not be quick to anger. No one knows what the future holds.

Don't let your life be in vain. For life is too precious a gift to waste on useless things.

Everything happens in its own season. You should enjoy the gifts that God gives you every day. All things, whether we perceive them as good or bad, come from God.

God wants us to enjoy life while remembering that life is a gift from God.

Live your life as God has commanded as you will be judged on the last great day. You can't turn back the clock on life.



Volunteer Page - Month of June

ALTAR GUILD

Annie Hayes and Carol Massingill – *Saturday*,
June 8, 22, and 29
Fawn Slonka and Donna Kovalchek – *Saturday*,
June 1 and 15

Vicki Price, Carol Allison, Caryl Swanson -
Sunday

COUNCIL GREETERS –Joel Hoshaw and
Jancie Hill

FLOWER DELIVERY – Janice Hill

ACOLYTES

2 Ushers
9 Ushers
16 Ushers
23 Ushers
30 Ushers

CANTORS

1* Josh Rinaman
2 Joel Hoshaw
8* Josh Rinaman
9 Josh Rinaman
15* Vicki Price
16 Josh Rinaman
22* Josh Rinaman
23 Joel Hoshaw
29* TBD
30 Joel Hoshaw
*Saturday Cantors

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

2 Barry Critchfield
9 Bill Hargreaves
16 Barry Critchfield
23 Tom Roberts
30 Jody Kirk

SATURDAY PIANISTS

1 Vicki Price
8 Harriett Miller
15 Heidi Staib
22 George Fattman

TOWER BELLS

2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Heidi Staib
3, 10, 17, 24	Anne Fattman
4, 11, 18, 25	George Fattman
6, 13, 20, 27	Harriett Miller
7, 14, 21, 28	Kim Rauch

VIDEO

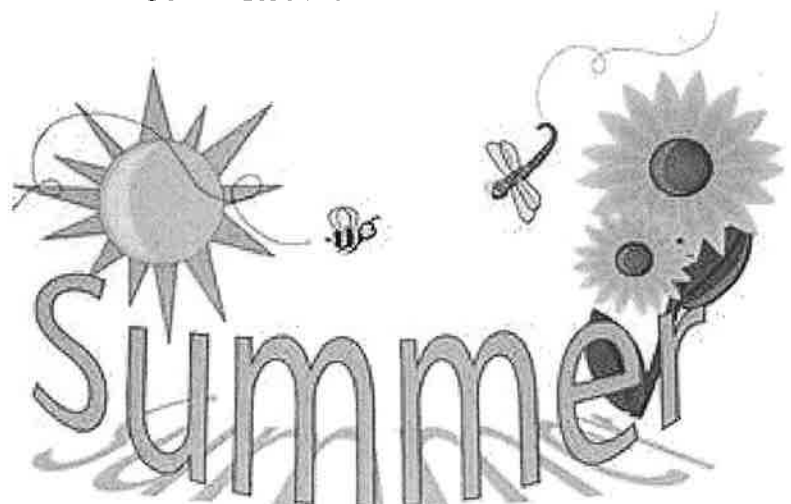
2 Bill Price
9 Rob Abele
16 Bill Grubb
23 Bill Hargreaves
30 Bill Price

LECTORS

1* Vicki Price
2 Dick Schrott
8* Fawn Slonka
9 Bill Hargreaves
15* Heidi Staib
16 Anne Fattman
22* George Fattman
23 Tom Roberts
29* Joel Hoshaw
30 George Fattman
*Saturday Lectors



SOUND

2 Bill Grubb
9 Chuck Staib
16 Harry Bennett
23 Rick Blackford
30 Rob Abele



June 2024

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Johnstown, Pennsylvania
814-536-7521 email: firstlutheran@wppia.net
Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9 am – 3:30 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Pentecost 2 9:30-Bellechoir 11:00- Of the Land and Seasons Word & Sacrament Basket Raffle winners announced.	 3 11:00-Staff Meeting 11:45-Communion 12-Prayer Meeting. 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	4	5	6	 7	1 Eve of Pentecost 2 Walk of Hope 11:00 -Geoff Miller Memorial Service 5:00-Word & Sacrament Basket Raffle drawing.
9 Pentecost 3 11:00-Of the Land and Seasons Word & Sacrament	10 11:00-Staff Meeting 11:45-Communion 12-Prayer Meeting. 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	11	12 7-Council	13	14 Flag Day	15 Eve of Pentecost 4 Allegheny Synod Assembly 5:00-Word & Sacrament
16 Pentecost 4 Father's Day 11:00- Of the Land and Seasons Word & Sacrament	17 11:00-Staff Meeting 11:45-Communion 12-Prayer Meeting. 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	18 12-VSJ Deadline	19	20 First Day of Summer	21	22 Eve of Pentecost 5 5:00-Word & Sacrament
23 Pentecost 5 11:00- Of the Land and Seasons Word & Sacrament	24 11:00-Staff Meeting 11:45-Communion 12-Prayer Meeting. 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	25	26	27	28	29 Eve of Pentecost 6 5:00-Word & Sacrament and Healing
30 Pentecost 6 11:00- Of the Land and Seasons Word and Sacrament and Healing	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: Ecclesiastes 3:1</i></p>					