

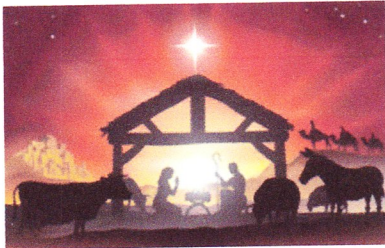
Vine Street Journal

Johnstown, PA

First Lutheran Church

November 2025

A message from Vicar Christy...



"A stable lamp is lighted, whose glow shall wake the sky; the stars shall bend their voices, and every

stone shall cry."

Advent is quickly approaching! This year's Advent theme is: *"A Stable Lamp is Lighted."* In the midst of everything happening in our world, let us take time to prepare our hearts, find hope, and await the coming of Jesus! Each of you will receive an Advent Calendar and a stable – ready to be colored and filled with daily prayers, scripture, and hymns. It is a meaningful activity to enjoy both in church and at home.

Last month I shared information about ELCA World Hunger. One of its many ministries ELCA Good Gifts, allows us to help those in need by "purchasing" practical gifts such as water, barnyard animals (chicks, roosters, goats, cows, piglets – just to name a few), school supplies, and clean cooking resources. One gift can make a lasting difference.

ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS



As we enter into this of hope, waiting, and love – let us remember our neighbors in need (both near and far). Even the humblest place – a stable – can become warm, welcoming, and filled with light. When we make space for hospitality and care, even a simple shelter can move the sky and stars. Like the stable that offered rest and refuge to Mary and Joseph, may our hearts and homes also become places of care, rest, and reflection for all who enter.

May we light our stable lamps, welcome all who travel among us and join together in the work of the church, building one another up in Christ's love.

Yours in Christ,

Vicar Christy

FESTIVAL CHOIR – we will be having a Festival Choir for Vicar Christy's ordination. Please see Kim if you wish to join the choir. More information forthcoming.



Vine Street Journal

Published by the
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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+ + +

VICAR

Christy Harford

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Kim Rauch

LEARNING MINISTRY ASSOCIATE

Barbara J. Pingatore, R.N.

OFFICE MANAGER

Deneillia (Danny) Mitchell

CLEANER

Paul Eisenhuth

CHURCH COUNCIL

Barry Critchfield (Treasurer), Rob Abele (Vice-President), Bill Price (President), James Hargreaves, Karen Hargreaves, Jody Kirk (Secretary), Rick Blackford, Josh Rinaman, Janice Hill, Dick Schrott, Fawn Slonka, Shirley Waclo.

~ PASTORAL ACTS ~
NONE

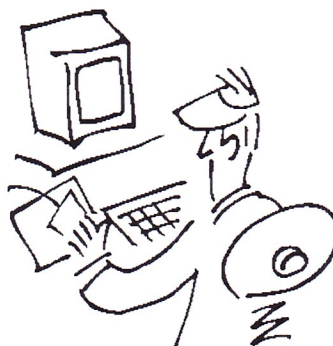
~ CONTRIBUTIONS ~

CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND

*Caryl Swanson
Barry A. Critchfield
Ann Furlong
Jane Hanechak
Richard & Patricia Schrott
Lance & Debbie Shomo
Nancy Turner
Donald & Beverly Brocious
Barbara Penrod
Albert Johnson
Donna Caprous
Greer Koeller*

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

*Caryl Sawnsen (Special Donation)
Barbara Penrod (Tuesday Noon Recital)
Anonymous Contribution (Tuesday Noon Recital)
Jane Hanechak (Social Ministry)
George E. & Ann Fattman (Social Ministry)
Paula & Gerald Regan (Social Ministry)*



Next Journal Deadline

Tuesday,
November 18th, 2025

Share your news with us!

Income and Expense Summary as of September 30, 2025



	Current YTD Actual Jan. 1 thru Sept 30, 2025	Current YTD Budget Jan. 1 thru Sept 30, 2025	Difference over+/under- Budget
Regular Offering Income	\$110,970.56	\$125,407.62	-\$14,437.06
Trust Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Income	\$2,132.00	\$2,347.00	\$215.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$113,102.56	\$111,015.77	-\$2,086.79
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$124,117.10	\$133,607.30	-\$9,490.20



Worship & Music Notes...

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS: 103
School Kits, 8 Personal Care Kits,

18 Blankets

November 1st & 2nd - ALL SAINT'S DAY. We will be remembering all members who passed away this past year and celebrate those newly baptized. The names of our departed loved ones will be read and votives will be placed at the front of the church to light in their memory.

November 8th & 9th - VETERAN'S DAY. We will remember all our members who are veterans.

November 15th & 17th - HEALING SERVICE.
No communion

November 24th - Hanging of the swags - 9 am.
We will be hanging the swags on the outside doors and putting up the Sanctuary Tree and Lounge Tree with blue lights. All are Welcome!!

November 30th - First Sunday in Advent

Church Council met on October 15 at 7:00 pm to review reports and conduct new business.

The Ministry Covenant Agreement between First and Benscreek has been signed by the presidents of Benscreek and First's councils. The next step is for Pastor Kevin Shock of the Allegheny Synod to approve the agreement and allow Benscreek to proceed in calling Vicar Christy according to their constitution.

The Outreach Team will help St. David's with whatever they request for the reception after Vicar Christy's ordination. They will also host a Sunday reception to welcome the new pastor at First. They are also busy planning many events this November and December.

The Joint Worship and Music Committee met and planned events through Epiphany. Pastor Nathan Pile will be the supply pastor for Sunday November 1 as Vicar Christy will be with family at Zion to remember her uncle. A tentative date for the joint worship service at First is January 18 at 10:00 am, with a pot-luck lunch afterward. A gas leak was detected by the gas company near the gas meter and have temporarily patched the outside pipe. They plan to permanently repair it and also replace the meter.

George Fattman is resigning as chair of the Tuesday Noon Recital committee. Kim Rauch, previously vice chair, will take over as chairperson, while Fawn Slonka will become the new vice chairperson.

The Nominating committee is searching for members to serve on council. Please prayerfully consider serving your church in this rewarding way. Speak to a council member or Barry Critchfield if interested. The next regular council meeting will be held Wednesday November 12, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

October Readings and Psalm**November 2 – All Saints Sunday**

- Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom
- Psalm 149
Sing the Lord's praise in the assembly of the faithful
- Ephesians 1:11-23
God raised Christ from the dead and made him head over all the church
- Luke 6:20-31
Jesus speaks blessings and woes

November 9 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

- Job 19:23-27a
I know that my Redeemer lives and I shall see God
- Psalm 17:1-9
Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
The coming of the Lord Jesus
- Luke 20:27-38
Jesus speaks of the resurrection; the God of the living

November 16 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

- Malachi 4:1-2a
A day of blistering heat for the arrogant; a day of healing sun for the righteous
- Psalm 98
In righteousness will the Lord judge the world
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Do not be idle, but do what is right for the sake of Christ
- Luke 21:5-19
Jesus speaks of wars, endurance, betrayal, and suffering for his sake

November 23 – Christ the King Sunday

- Jeremiah 23:1-6
Coming of the shepherd and righteous Branch who will execute justice
- Psalm 46
I will be exalted among the nations
- Colossians 1:11-20
Hymn to Christ, firstborn of all creation; peace through his blood
- Luke 23:33-43
Jesus is crucified between two thieves; you will be with me in paradise

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 2:1-5
Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace
- Psalm 122
I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
- Romans 13:11-14
Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep
- Matthew 24:36-44
The sudden coming of the Son of Man

Thought for the month. . .

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

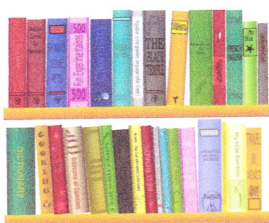
Ephesians 4:4-6



Upcoming worship opportunities:

November 2 – All Saints Sunday
November 16 – Healing Service

November 19 – Tower Moments
Wednesday Worship Service.



LITTLE LIBRARIES...

Just a friendly reminder that we continue to support the Little Libraries at the Johnstown YMCA and Johnstown

YWCA. We are always accepting donations of: Children's and adult books, snacks, winter items (such as mittens, hats, and other warm gear). Your generosity helps ensure everyone in our community has access to books, nourishment, and warmth – especially as those cold, winter months approach.

Stewardship Is ongoing, not just a fund campaign

Pledges of time and cash are arriving in response to our annual stewardship emphasis, *Growing Our Faith Through Generosity*. Members have been encouraged to pledge and to do so by Thanksgiving. They also have been encouraged to increase their commitments to ministry activities and monetary support. "God has much for us to do," said George Fattman, stewardship chair. "We are hoping for a growth of ministry and participation." Because stewardship is caring for all of God's creation, the committee hopes to encourage an attitude of stewardship year-round. The committee will be expanded to guide and support a greater sense of stewardship in all of what we do as Christians. If you have questions or suggestions, or want to join the Stewardship Committee, please speak to George or to Vicar Christy.



Serving Christ by Serving Others

ALTAR/ORGAN FLOWERS

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

Altar dates available:

November 30

Organ dates available:

November 2, 23, 30

Sign-up boards are available for reserving your flower requests. The charts are located on the wall in the Lounge area. You can sign up on the boards but please notify the church office that you reserved a date. Or you can call the church office and reserve the date you want.

One board is for Altar Flowers - \$40. (If there are 2 listings on the same day, the flowers are only \$20) the other is Organ Flowers - \$30. Payment will be due on or before the date you have chosen. Thank you!

Christmas for Heritage Ridge

The Cambria County Auxiliary is planning to make gift bags for each resident. Several churches are donating items for the bags. **First Lutheran** will be collecting *boutique size tissues* until December 15th. Packing the bags will be on December 16th at Heritage Ridge at 10:00 am. We have also been asked to decorate the trees and windowsills at Heritage Ridge on December 4th at 9:30 am. All are welcome to join and give us a hand. Any questions - please contact Caryl Swanson at (814) 255-3225.



BLANKET OFFERING

John S. Kiser
 Greer Koeller
 Barbara Pingatore
 Shirley Waclo
 Paul Abele
 Polly & William Grubb
 Jane Hanechak
 Shirley Hilbrecht
 Wendy Hilbrecht
 Susie & Derrick Kinsey
 Rose & David Haroford
 Anonymous
 Carol Allison
 William & Claudia Boyd
 Loretta Knapp
 Donna Kovalchek
 Barbara Penrod
 Fawn Slonka
 Nancy Turner
 Linda Prozialeck
 Robert R. Miltenberger
 Mina M. Zlato
 Jody Kirk
 Judith Roberts
 Anonymous
 Cindy Fabo
 Donna Caprous

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.

A Huge Thank You to the Cambria County Blind Association!

A heartfelt thank-you to the Cambria County Blind Association (CCBA) for helping us give the sanctuary a thorough cleaning! It's always a pleasure to welcome this wonderful group. Their visits not only lend us helping hands but also provide opportunities to practice life skills, teamwork, and community interaction. This time, their task was no small feat — wiping down every pew, cleaning under each cushion, and replacing everything with care. They worked hard and did an amazing job!

Afterward, we enjoyed cupcakes, cold drinks, and great conversation.

CCBA's team takes on many types of work but they especially enjoy opportunities to serve in the community. Once their work here was finished, they celebrated with lunch at Big Dogs and an afternoon of bowling.

Special thanks to the hardworking crew: Tamires Pasquerilla, Chris Sabo, Mark Sheehan, Zak Hrabosky, Tyler Harnish, and Richard Sanchez, along with advisors Tracy Ashbrook and JJ Thomas. Thank you again, CCBA, for your time, effort, and wonderful spirit!





Recitals to resume next April

The Tuesday Noon Recital Series presented 12 recitals with lunch this year, ending in October.

But programs already are booked for the next series, in April. Vox Nova, the Mt. Aloysius College Chorale, will return April 7. An all-star high school jazz band, created solely for the recital series, will perform April 14.

Thanks to a grant of \$3,527 from the 1889 Foundation, most of the recitals are repeated at area senior-care homes, as part of the foundation's arts and wellness project.

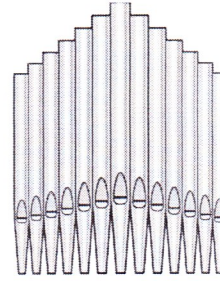
Recitals at First Lutheran are followed by lunch. This requires the effort of 10-12 volunteers headed by Caryl Swanson and Greer Koeller. They plan the menus, buy the food, prepare it, serve it, decorate the dining area and clean up afterwards.

"They don't know until the last minute whether they will be feeding 65 people or 135," said George Fattman, chair of the recital task force. "What they accomplish is amazing, and their food is as popular as the recitals."

There never is a charge because everything is pre-paid by donations. Whatever is donated during the programs is saved for a later recital series.

The major source of funds is a campaign conducted in February. About 75 people donate, most of them as program sponsors. Grants come also from Thrivent Financial.

Attendance at the events grew last year.



ORGAN PROJECT UPDATE

When will the organ be back?

As I work with Mark Steiner, our organ technician and renovator, I ask him that question often.

Mr. Steiner's hope is that the organ will return in Advent. Many tasks have been addressed since the console was removed and sent to Cumberland, MD. The console is being updated electronically at the organ workshop. Steiner and his crew have been at the church completing work behind the scenes in the organ pipe chambers. Old, outdated, and unreliable electronics and relays were removed and replaced with solid state components. The crew crawled through some very tight spaces feeding cable and soldering connections.

Sometime in the coming weeks the console should return though it won't be functioning till all connections have been made and thoroughly tested. A special thanks goes out to Rob Abele who has completed wiring and flooring work at the console site.

We are all looking forward to the Advent and Christmas season, and especially with the return of the Skinner organ.

Kim Rauch



GIVING THANKS DINNER

Advance notice...we will once again host our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 25th, with dinner starting at 5:00pm.

By the middle of October, I will have the usual sign-up sheets in the lobby for the items we supply as well as the times for kitchen helpers.

Please help spread the word to all wishing to attend, as we did last year, everyone will need to have a ticket. Anyone who is 5 and older must have one. They are being printed and will be available at the beginning of November.

Be sure to watch for further information. Any questions, please contact Howard. Leave message at 814-421-5429 or email Taketimeandhurry13@gmail.com.



Outreach Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendars because December is going to be a busy

time at YOUR church!!

Advent - The Christmas Giving Tree will benefit the IU08 Special Needs children. They are suggesting the following: Hats, mittens, scarfs, socks, underwear and t-shirts.

Please feel free to take an ornament or tag from the tree. Items to be placed in the gift box beside the tree. As Tiny Tim says "God Bless You Everyone."

December 3 - Community Dinner. Vicar Christy was given a grant from the ELCA to serve dinner for those in our downtown neighborhood. It is a way to reach out and serve those around us. Doors will be open from 4:00 to 6:00 PM that day and people may come anytime during that period. This is another opportunity to show that we care.

December 7 - St. Nicholas Day celebration at noon following the Sunday service. This event will kick off a month-long collection of sweaters for veterans. We are collecting new or gently used sweaters for both men and women - all sizes accepted. We will be packing them up to go to Hindman Funeral Home. They will then be delivered to the Veteran Homes in the area. Let's show our support and give them warm hugs from our sweaters.

December 13/14 - The Cookie Walk. Cookies will be prepacked and ready to go.

December 19 - Christmas Caroling!! We will gather once again for this annual event! We will meet in the Lounge at 5:30 pm, and carpool to area Senior Living Centers to spread Christmas cheer to the residents.

Look for more information in the December Vine St. Journal.



Congregational Meeting

November 15th and 16th. This is to approve the Nominating Committee.

Volunteer Page - Month of November

ALTAR GUILD**Saturday**

- 1 Fawn Slonka and Donna Kovalchek
- 8 Fawn Slonka and Donna Kovalchek
- 15 Price (open); Donna (close)
- 22 Annie Hayes and Carol Massingill
- 29 Annie Hayes and Carol Massingill

Sunday

- 2 Carol Allison, Polly Grubb, Greer Koeller, Vicki Price, Caryl Swanson
- 9 Carol Allison, Polly Grubb, Greer Koeller, Vicki Price, Caryl Swanson
- 16 Carol Allison, Vicki Price
- 23 Carol Allison, Polly Grubb, Greer Koeller, Vicki Price, Caryl Swanson
- 30 Carol Allison, Polly Grubb, Vicki Price

ACOLYTES

- 2 Ushers
- 9 Ushers
- 16 Ushers
- 23 Ushers
- 30 Ushers

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

- 2 Barry Critchfield
- 9 Dan Hill
- 16 Jody Kirk
- 23 Jim Hargreaves
- 30 Vicki Price

LECTORS

- 1* Fawn Slonka
- 2 George Fattman
- 8* Heidi Staib
- 9 Dan Hill
- 15* Joel Hoshaw
- 16 Joel Hoshaw
- 22* George Fattman
- 23 Jim Hargreaves
- 29* Vicki Price
- 30 Vicki Price

*Saturdays

SATURDAY PIANISTS

- 1 Linda Prozialeck
- 8 Heidi Staib
- 15 Joel Hoshaw
- 22 George Fattman
- 29 Vicki Price

SOUND

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

VIDEO

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

TOWER BELLS

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Vicki Price | Sunday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 |
| Vicar Christy | Monday 3, 10, 17, 24 |
| George Fattman | Tuesday 4, 11, 18, 25 |
| Anne Fattman | Wednesday 5, 12, 19, 26 |
| Vicki Price | Thursday 6, 13, 20, 27 |
| Kim Rauch | Friday 7, 14, 21, 28 |
| George Fattman | Saturday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 |

COUNCIL GREETER – Fawn Slonka**FLOWER DELIVERY– Rick Blackford**

November 2025

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Johnstown, Pennsylvania
814-536-7521 email: firstlutheran@upia.net
Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9 am – 2:00 pm

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 All Saints Day 5:00 -Word and Sacrament Clocks fall back
2 All Saints Sunday 10:45-Sunday School 11:00- Word and Sacrament Pastor Nathan Pile 12pm "Baby Shower" Brunch	3 11:00 Staff Meeting 11:45 Communion 12 Prayer Meeting.	4 6:30 Bell choir	5	6	7	8 Pentecost 22 5:00 -Word and Sacrament
9 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost 10:45-Sunday School 11:00- Word and Sacrament Noon-Hospitality	10 11:00 Staff Meeting 11:45 Communion 12 Prayer Meeting.	11 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir	12 7 Council	13 2:00 Johnstown Conf. Meeting 6:30 pm Worship & Music Meeting	14	15 Pentecost 23 5:00 -Healing Service – No Holy Communion Congregational Meeting
16 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost 10:45-Sunday School 11:00- Healing Service – No Holy Communion Congregational Meeting Noon-Hospitality	17 11:00 Staff Meeting 11:45 Communion 12 Prayer Meeting.	18 6:30 Bell Choir 12 VSJ Deadline	19 11 Tower Moments	20 7:00 Thanksgiving Service – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Windber)	21	22 Christ the King 5:00-Word and Sacrament
23 Christ the King 10:45-Sunday School 11:00-Word and Sacrament Noon-Hospitality	24 9:00 Hanging swags 11:00 Staff Meeting 11:45 Communion 12 Prayer Meeting	25 5:00 New Day Giving Thanks Dinner 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir	26	27 6:30-Worship and Music	28	29 Advent 1 5:00-Word and Sacrament
30 First Sunday in Advent 10:45-Sunday School 11:00- Word and Sacrament Noon-Hospitality						