

First Edition

Where the News is Good!

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Do you have Questions? Or Feedback? A Suggestion?
Contact a Congregation Council Member listed below.

Eugene Comber, Gail Espinoza, Terry Horner, Brenda Johnson, Michael Laurin, Karen Linn, Martha Paulson, Jim Wahlberg, Sandy Hatfield, Michael Dearman, Paul R. Johnson, and Jane Young

First Lutheran Staff

Daniel S. Rumfelt, Pastoral Leader in Transition

Brian A. Bogey, Minister of Music

Kimberly King, Worship Leader and Coordinator of Contemporary Worship

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Mike Thompson, Sexton





The Old Testament lesson for Sunday, July 4th, opens with a command from God to Ezekiel. *“O mortal, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you.”* In the midst of a radiant vision of God, Ezekiel had cast himself to the ground, hiding his face. How could he stand in the *“Presence of the Lord?”* He could not. Ezekiel was powerless, awestruck and afraid. He tells us: *“A spirit entered into me and set me on my feet.”* And so, Ezekiel stood before the Lord and welcomed his calling as a prophet of God, *“sweet as honey,”* empowered not by his own courage, but by the Spirit of God.

The Gospel reading for the last Sunday in July ends with the disciples four miles into the Sea of Galilee when a vicious storm threatens to swamp them. They notice Jesus come walking on the waves. *“And they were terrified.”* How were they to make sense of this? Like Ezekiel the disciples were powerless, awestruck and afraid. Jesus, standing calmly upon the waves near the boat said to them: *“It is I; do not be afraid.”* They welcomed him into the boat and made their way safely to shore.

These two scripture readings bookend our worship services for the Sundays in July. Both highlight our weakness and God’s power; our awestruck paralysis and the welcome with which we can stand before God; our fear and the Spirit who fills us with courage. Notice also, in both lessons, all the initiative belongs to God. God comes to speak with Ezekiel and lifts him from the floor. Jesus comes to the storm-tossed boat and brings the disciples

safely home to shore. Both experiences could be called, *“sweet as honey,”* even in the midst of the struggles Ezekiel and the disciples would certainly come to face.

These two scriptures also take place in settings of transition. Ezekiel, a young husband, had been preparing for the priesthood in Jerusalem when the Babylonians conquered Israel and herded Ezekiel, his wife, and thousands of others into exile in Babylon. The Jerusalem Temple lay in ruins; Ezekiel lived in between exile and a homecoming where there would no longer be a priesthood. The disciples sail literally in between two shores; symbolizing perhaps the life they knew before Jesus and the life they would come to know in his death and resurrection and their Apostleship. Between those two shores they face drowning in a night of chaos as the waves increase.

In the face of Ezekiel’s grief as an exile, God revealed his glory. God would finally bring the exiles safely home. A changed home, but not a changed God. Jesus revealed his glory in the face of the waves. He protected his disciples safely to the far shore. *“It is I; do not be afraid.”*

These stories were from 2000 years ago and more. Does their promise still remain? Yes. First Lutheran lives in a transition time. We don’t know the far shore, but we can trust its arrival. We face decisions about calling a pastor; the Spirit stands us up to make them wisely. And Christ Jesus meets us as we make our way and he proclaims: *“It is I; do not be afraid.”*

Pastor Dan Rumfelt



FAMILY LIBRARY NEWS JULY 2021

July already! It seems like summer is slipping away. Need to stop and smell the flowers and slow things down a bit with a good read? Check out the Family Library for a great selection of inspirational books. The following are some of the recent additions to the library collection:

My Remarkable Journey: A Memoir by Katherine Johnson (Remember the movie “Hidden Figures”?)

Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century by Jessica Bruder

Finding Home by Julie Aageson

Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage by Anne Lamott

Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Bishop Michael Curry

Brave Talk: Building Resilient

Relationships in the Face of Conflict by Melody Stanford

The World is About to Turn: Mending a

Nation’s Broken Faith by Rick Rouse

The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Have you read or watched something recently that you found particularly

inspirational, helpful or educational? Recommendations are always appreciated and I will be happy to consider them for addition to the library shelves. Janet Wahlberg just suggested the book *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack* by Tiya Miles. I ordered it and can’t wait for it to arrive. It sounds like a wonderful read – but, selfishly, you will have to wait for me to read it first!

Recently, Augsburg Fortress – the publishing ministry of the ELCA – recommended a re-released booklet (original copyright 1992) entitled *Manna and Mercy (A brief history of God’s unfolding promise to mend the entire universe)* by Daniel Erlander. In the words of Augsburg Fortress the book is “A vibrant, in-depth exploration of the Bible, focusing on God’s grace and never-ending love for humanity.” We have two copies of the publication in the library and I think you will enjoy a quick read through this 77 page, quirky book. There are also four companion Manna and Mercy children’s board books that are available in the library as well. Those books are *Partner People*, *See You Tomorrow!*, *Looking for Jesus* and *God With Us*.

Volunteers Needed!

Looking ahead to January through March of next year, I will be in need of volunteers to man the library on Sunday mornings. Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays to help out. No experience is necessary and I will have a training session for you to attend if you feel you need some instruction. Please contact me by email at

wendy.j.larson@gmail.com or talk to me in the library on Sunday morning. Thanks.

The Family Library is open Sunday mornings and by special request. Thank you to the congregation for the ongoing support. God bless.

*Give thanks for each new morning
with its light
For rest and shelter of the night
For health and food
For love and friends
For everything thy goodness sends.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



We extend a sincere thank you to the following people:

Memorial Fund – Library Fund

In Memory of Heather Potter by:

Sharon & Bob Hamilton
Wendy & Fred Larson

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Heather Potter by:

Janet Lindstrom
Elaine M. Rissel

Memorial Fund – Organ Fund

In Memory of Lucy Rider by:

Gail & Mike Espinoza

Bell Choir Fund

In Memory of Lucy Rider by:

Martha Paulson & Lamont Wager

Memorial Fund – Building Endowment

Douglas Anthony



June, 2021

Committee Reports

- Altar Society came in on Saturday, June 19th to clean the kitchen and in the Nave, polished window sills and washed Jesus' feet

Personnel

- Will meet with a discussion on some benefit updates

Pastor's Report

- Baptism on Sunday, June 27th of Nora Isabelle Roetzer
- Met w/ Kim & Les to do brainstorming on Contemporary service to include singing and 20 hr work week

Treasurer's Report

- Expenses not covered with income is up 19%

OLD BUSINESS

- Defer discussion on 2021 Council goals until next meeting

- MS&O and Stewardship still needing leadership
- Motion from Property Committee / 2nd by Paul Johnson, carried to contact JHS superintendent after graduation to alert our intentions on the student parking lot as we have to work it into our 2022 budget process- decisions need to be mad soon. Jim will draft a letter for the Council to critique.

- Council voted to not recommend the Pastoral candidate

Newsletter DEADLINE

NEW BUSINESS

- Mask Wearing – **beginning Sunday, July 4th** - we will follow the CDC Guidelines that now allow the FULLY vaccinated to choose not to wear a mask indoors, whereas the **UNVACCINATE will still be required to wear a mask,** in accordance with the CDC guidelines.
- Please observe social distancing as you sit and use hand sanitizer
- Communion distribution will remain the same as it is with ziplock safety of self-contained “hour glass” unit
- The Community Store will follow the building mask guidelines (CDC) beginning July 1st , if FULLY vaccinated no mask is needed, but If UNVACCINATED, a mask must be worn in accordance to the CDC guidelines.
- 6’ tape intervals need to be removed from carpet in the parlors
- Shellie Jones photos- Council declined her offer to sell her photos in the church
- Non-members fees for use of the church is tabled for a later date

The deadline for articles for the August 2021, *First Edition* newsletter is Thursday, July 15th. Please have all information into the church office by that date. Thank you.

Community Outreach Store

The Community Outreach Store is now opened. The store will be open M - W - F, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We are also accepting donations during that same time frame. Face Masks are required.



CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Devotional Booklets
July, August, September
Now Available in the **Church Office and also in the Little Library**

Call ahead to the church office to make sure a copy is available.
716-664-4601



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

July 2021

**Brian A. Bogey, Minister of Music
and Organist**

The upgrade to our Cassavant Pipe Organ in the church nave is not completed yet and so electronic components have been sent back to the Classic factory in Canada to tweak the problem areas. They have restored my old memory system so that I can continue to play for Sunday worship and hopefully the upgrades will be completed soon. Below is the Traditional Worship Service musician schedule for the month of July.

LECTOR/LITURGIST HYMN CANTOR/SOLOIST

July 4th Frank Gozdalski
July 11th Beth Johnson
July 18th Peter Larson
July 25th Fred Larson

Beth Johnson
Brenda Ecklund
Julie Costantini
Peter Larson

I have decided not to continue with **THE SYMBOLS OF THE LITURGICAL CHURCH YEAR** in my “First Edition” articles, as we have previously followed the liturgical calendar and celebrated the following seasons: **Lent, Easter, and Pentecost**. I won’t continue with **Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany** until this coming November, December, and January respectively. Instead, I would like muse about my musical choices in life and the meaning of music.

Besides being Organist and Choirmaster here at First Lutheran for 36 years, I also taught music in the public schools for 45 years. I taught choral music at Mayville and Ripley Schools for 2 and 3 years respectively, and then on to Jefferson Junior High for 10 years, and then finally at Jamestown High School for 21 years. After retiring from public school music I taught choirs at

Jamestown Community College for 11 years and I also headed up the organ department at SUNY Fredonia for 7 years. You could say that music has been my life and my passion along with my wonderful family including my devoted wife, my three loving children, and my four very energetic and precious grandchildren! I have been so very blessed!

One of my former student teachers and one of my primary soprano soloists here in our First Lutheran Choir for many years is Marjorie Switala. She taught Choral Music at Chautauqua Lake Central School for 34 years. She has continued to teach private voice students since she retired and she has inspired countless generations with her many-faceted talents and teaching skills! I first saw “**Why Music**” on face book that was posted by Marge a few months ago. She stated “I saw this post today and it says EVERYTHING! My whole life has been about teaching music and I do love it still!” Thanks Marge ~ I couldn’t have said it better. BAB.

Why Music?

- 1. Music is a Science**
- 2. Music is Mathematical**
- 3. Music is a Foreign Language**
- 4. Music is History**
- 5. Music is Physical Education**
- 6. Music Develops Insight and Demands Research**
- 7. Music is all these things, but most of all,
Music is Art.**

That is why we teach music:

**Not because we expect you to major in music...
Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life...
But so you will be human...
So you will recognize beauty...
So you will have something to cling to...
So you will have more love, more compassion, more
gentleness, more good –
in short, more LIFE.**

I hope for each of you the Joy of Music as you enjoy the summer months!

Blessings ~ Brian

July, 2021
First Lutheran Church
Contemporary Worship

Kimberly King
Worship Leader & Coordinator of Contemporary Worship
Sacred Fire – Praise Team

Hello Everyone,

This month I wanted to focus on a well-known Christian Artist and an Artist that Sacred Fire sings of frequently. The focus will be on “Chris Tomlin”. Worship together.com is a great website that features many, many Christian artists. In the “New Song Café” series, you can hear artists new songs and the heartfelt stories of how the song evolved and was born. The following description is taken from Worship Together.com on Chris:

“Chris Tomlin is one of the most heralded singer-songwriters in the world who has amassed an impressive body of work. He has sold more than 8 million albums, 11.3 million digital tracks with 16 #1 singles. Tomlin is one of only four artists ever to receive the Sound Exchange Digital Radio Award for over 1 Billion digital radio streams, others include Justin Timberlake, Pitbull and Garth Brooks. The GRAMMY® winner’s list of music awards include an American Music Award, 3 Billboard Music Awards, 21 Dove Awards, a BMI Songwriter of the Year Award and more. Tomlin’s latest #1 charting album Never Lose Sight contains three #1 radio singles- “Jesus,” “Good Good Father” and “Home.” Tomlin’s concert tours have sold-out venues in major cities including New York City’s Madison Square Garden, The Forum in Los Angeles, Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena and Red Rocks in Denver, among others. His 2017 “Worship Night in America Tour” became the first Christian tour sponsored by Amazon Music.”

So, if you hear a Christian song you like on any music listening site, go to Worship together.com and search for that Christian artist and songs, along with tons more. You will see videos of inspiring dialogue and the performance of the song. I am providing the website “url” for Chris Tomlin’s song “Jesus Loves Me” to connect to Worship Together and then the You Tube link, which may be easier to find.

<https://www.worshiptogether.com/worship-leaders/chris-tomlin/>

<https://www.worshiptogether.com/videos/jesus-loves-me-chris-tomlin/>

You Tube Link - Jesus Loves Me // Chris Tomlin // New Song Café

Now I would like to have you compare and contemplate the lyrics of Chris Tomlin’s song, “Jesus Loves Me”, to a song that is probably the first song we learned in our early childhood, “Jesus Loves Me.” Consider the words of both songs and see the great connection between a Christian song we learned so long ago and a song that is a modern-day tribute to “Jesus Loves Me.” I hope you can go online and view the New Song Café of “Jesus Loves Me”, with Chris Tomlin and Ben Glover (2 of the writers). The third writer is Reuben Morgan.

“Jesus Loves Me This I Know (Jesus Loves Me)”

Verse 1

Jesus loves me
This I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong

Chorus

Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me
The Bible tells me so

CCLI Song # 4771887
Anna Bartlett Warner | Philip Percival | William Batchelder Bradbury
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Music: 2004 Percival, Philip (Admin. by Philip Gordon Percival)
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“Jesus Loves Me” (by C. Tomlin, B. Glover and R. Morgan)

Verse 1

I was lost I was in chains
The world had a hold of me
My heart was a stone I was covered in shame
When He came for me

Pre-Chorus

I couldn't run couldn't run from His presence
I couldn't run couldn't run from His arms

Chorus 1

Jesus He loves me
He loves me He is for me
Jesus how can it be
He loves me He is for me

Verse 2

It was a fire deep in my soul

CCLI Song # 7028829
Ben Glover | Chris Tomlin | Reuben Morgan
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Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
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I hope the above devotional provides you inspiration and joy! Listening and watching the above song on New Song Café is very moving and powerful.

Verse 2

Jesus loves me
He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide
He will wash away my sin
Let His little child come in

Verse 3

Jesus loves me He will stay
Close beside me all the way
On the cross You died for me
I will ever live for Thee

I'll never be the same

I stepped out of the dark and into the light
When He called my name

Bridge

He holds the stars and He holds my heart
With healing hands that bear the scars
The rugged cross where He died for me
My only hope my ev'rything

Chorus 2

Jesus He loves me
He loves me oh
Jesus how can it be
He loves me He is for me

Chorus 3

He loves me He loves me
He loves me He is for me
My God it's amazing oh, Jesus loves me

Our Contemporary Worship Service continues each Sunday **at 9:00am** in our Worship Center in the lower level of the church. The service last 30 - 35 minutes. The first Sunday of each month we offer Holy Communion (COVID safe).

The service is videotaped each week and posted on Facebook, Vimeo and on our new church website. You have access to our current and past Contemporary Services on both our church Facebook page, Sacred Fire's page and on Vimeo.com. On Vimeo, search First Lutheran Contemporary Service and Sunday's date. For example, First Lutheran Contemporary Service 5.16.2021. Don't forget to share these services with your friends and family!! A GREAT Outreach Ministry!!

You can continue to listen to contemporary music and inspiring messages everyday on FM radio channel 90.9 Family Life Network Or online at fln.org. Also, on Sirius XM radio, "The Message" on channel 63.

If you are looking for a devotional type inspiration, check out www.youversion.com
Great site! They have an "App" too.

Remember that God is ALWAYS with us!!

As God continues to shine Love and Blessings on you! Remember to share God's Love with others!!

Take Care and Be Safe!!

God's Blessings to you all

From All of Sacred Fire and

Kimberly King, Worship Leader and Coordinator of Contemporary Worship

Offering Envelopes for 2021

If you use the offering envelopes and have not picked up your box for 2021, the boxes are now located in the church office. You can call Office Manager Liz Lobb at 664-4601 to arrange to pick yours up, or you can request to have it delivered to you. You can also contact Liz via e-mail at firstlutheran@flcjny.org,



Income & Expenses through May, 2021

Month	Income	Expense	Total
January	*66,770	40,226	26,544
February	18,785	19,887	-1,102
March	23,295	24,553	-1,258
April	*57,791	14,919	42,872
May	14,209	25,246	-11,037
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total	180,850	124,831	56,019

Mailing Address:

LCDR Andy "SMEDIUM" Carlson
 VFA 211, Unit 200204, Box 4
 FPO AE 09502

MASR Scott D. Johnson
 11688 Breckenridge Lane NW
 Silverdale, WA 98383

CAPT Eric Spitzer
 850 Ticonderoga St., Ste. 100
 JBPHH, HI 96860-5102

Attendance for June

June	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday
2020	N/A	N/A
2021	76	73
	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
2020	N/A	N/A
2021	83	92

*** 40,000 from Endowment**
Thank you to all who are mailing their offering!

On-Line Views of Worship Video

Date	Contemporary & Traditional	Total
5/16/21		91
5/23/21		28
5/30/21		111
6/6/21		75
6/13/21		101

Church Mailing Address

When mailing information to the church please use:
 120 Chandler Street, Jamestown, NY 14701.
 We are trying not to use the PO Box any more.



Sunday School News

We are continuing with Remote Sunday School with videos being posted weekly to the First Lutheran Sunday School Jamestown, NY page. We are posting videos for Preschool/Kindergarteners, Grades 1-3 and then Grades 4-6. All the students were given leaflets that go with the lessons. The children and their parents can send pictures on Messenger to Tracy Grey or post to the Sunday School page of completed pages. If your child didn't receive the leaflets, please contact the Church office of Tracy Grey 485-3754. Thank you to all the parents and kids who are working so hard this year!!

Thank You!
Tracy Grey

PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

The Church Council would like to thank the following individuals who have accepted the Council's invitation to be on the Call Committee for a new pastor:

Hannah Dearman
Brenda Ecklund
Gail Espinoza
Julie Gable
Tracy Grey
Peter Larson (Chairperson)
Lee Lindeman
Glen Utter

(Jeanine & Mike Dearman – Non-Voting Members)

PARISH RECORD

Baptism of Nora Isabelle Roetzer on June 27th

Confirmation Class Schedule for July

Confirmation classes will not meet in July.

Sunday School Teacher Recognition

Thank you to Tracy Grey, Jeanine & Hannah Dearman. If you don't have children in Sunday School you may not know that since the start of the pandemic, they have recorded the lesson's each week and posted them on our Sunday School Facebook page. Tracy has made sure each student received the lesson worksheets in the mail. She has also sent special gifts throughout the year for holidays. Teachers have also sent notes to students to let them know we are thinking about them. Even though we have not been able to meet in person, she has made sure our students have not been missed. Hopefully at the start of the new school year we can resume meeting in person.

Pastor Dan Rumfelt has had Zoom meetings with the confirmation class. We confirmed 5 students on May 23.

Wendy Larson has opened the library on Sunday mornings since we have been back to in person worship.

We have purchased the following books in the library in honor of them:

My Remarkable Journey by Katherine Johnson
Wherever You Go, I Want You to Know by
Melissa Kruger
Jesus Loves Everybody by Katie Kenny
Phillips
Peace Train by Cat Stevens
The Mighty Mountain and the Mustard Seed by
Candace Alford



Baptismal Anniversaries

SCRIPTURE READINGS IN JULY

Lectionary 14

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4th

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalms 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

Lectionary 15

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 11th

Amos 7:7-15

Psalms 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

Lectionary 16

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 18th

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Lectionary 17

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 25th

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalms 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

We celebrate with you!

*indicates birthday when baptism is not known

July Baptisms:

- 7/1 Kathryn Wozniak
7/3 James Rissel
Addison Spitzer
*7/4 Doug Grey
7/6 Mary Hubbell
*7/6 Susan Kent
7/9 Amy Rupp
7/11 Robert Bragg
*7/15 Denis Ahlstrom-Priestman
JoAnn Smith
*7/17 Duke Holt
7/18 Johanna Larson
7/20 Amanda D. Laurin
7/21 Kevin Sixbey
Carolyn Volk
7/23 Andrew Laurin
Andrew Spitzer
Taige White
Zoe White
7/24 Ariana Linn
Gabriel Linn
Julie Livengood
7/26 Crew Costantini
Bret Heath
7/27 Chloe Napierala
*7/27 Patrick Hoyt
7/30 Gina Bloomquist
Kimberly King
Devon Westerberg
Timothy Wright
*7/30 Doreen Sixbey
*7/31 Julie Costantini

Synod Mission Message



You helped make Chhani’s dreams come true through your Mission Support. *Thank you!*

We are church together for the sake of the world. God’s Work. Our Hands.

DREAMS COME TRUE

Chhani Marandi used to be a domestic worker. She is 24, lives in Nepal, and always dreamed of being a health care professional, inspired by her father’s health problems. He died when she was 5, and her older siblings had to leave school and work to support the family. Chhani herself started to do domestic work in third grade to pay for her own education, eventually graduating from 10th grade. Then she heard about a scholarship program from the Lutheran Community Welfare Society, a partner of Lutheran World Federation in Nepal. This is one of many projects supported by ELCA World Hunger that create opportunities for women.

After 18 months of study, Chhani completed her training as an auxiliary nurse midwife, and now works at Anjali Hospital. She plans to also provide health services to her community by phone, and to continue her training so she can provide free care to families in poverty. “It was my dream to be a health worker since the time my family could not afford proper treatments for my father,” Chhani said. “I got the opportunity to fulfill my dream from the Lutheran World Federation in Nepal. I realized that it was ‘God’s grace to me and my dreams.’”



Prayer Ventures July 2021

- 1** Give thanks that God is attentive to our prayers, hearing our cries for help, comfort and renewal and our expressions of joy, mourning, praise and thanksgiving.
- 2** Pray for the adults and young adults applying to volunteer for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering; give thanks for their eagerness to serve in this ministry, sharing their faith, gifts and time with youth and the adults who work with youth.
- 3** Ask God to bless and equip newly elected synod bishops as they live into their leadership and ministry responsibilities; give thanks for the help and encouragement they receive from leaders and members of their synods, who have also responded to God’s call.
- 4** Give thanks to God for the gift of freedom we enjoy in our nation. Pray that we will use that freedom thoughtfully and responsibly, working for justice and equity to liberate our neighbors—here and around the world—who are oppressed or excluded.

5 Praise God for calling, equipping and entrusting us to do God's work in the world. Pray for strength, boldness and wisdom to proclaim the gospel, overcome obstacles and hesitance, engage others in conversations and questions about faith, and serve our neighbors in need.

6 Pray for individuals and families who are traveling this summer, that God will protect them; that they will be immersed in the wonders of creation and be renewed; that they will meet people who enrich their faith and worldview; and that they will bear the good news of Jesus Christ wherever they go.

7 Ask God for mercy and forgiveness when weakness and imperfection tangle our daily life; give thanks that God's enduring mercy and grace renew our faith, no matter what is happening in our lives.

8 Ask the Spirit to grant us wisdom and insight as we help children and youth recover and learn from the pandemic and its social isolation. Pray that they will experience healing and wholeness through interacting with peers and adults; enjoying play, school and community activities; and returning to their faith communities to rejoin their siblings in Christ.

9 Pray that we will be humble, but also bold and confident, knowing that the power and grace of Christ energize and sustain us throughout our baptismal journey.

10 Remember in prayer the summer staff serving in ELCA outdoor ministries across the country; ask God to renew their spirit, faith and energy at this point in the summer and for the duration of their service.

11 Give thanks to God for our siblings in Christ throughout history who have sacrificed their lives to proclaim the word of God and the gospel, so that all might believe, experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ, know true freedom and have eternal life.

12 Pray for those affected by the Middle East crisis, especially for refugees, people returning to their countries and those internally displaced. Pray that God's healing presence will give them peace, hope and strength in their time of need.

13 Thank God for our special relationship with the Moravian Church in America, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.

14 Give thanks that, through Jesus Christ, we have been chosen, adopted as children of God and immersed in grace, blessings and the truth of God's intent for humanity and creation.

15 Ask God to nourish and strengthen the church's relationships with global companions during this time of transition, as we assess how best to work together while continuing to respond to the impact of COVID-19.

16 Pray that our senses will be tuned to God so that we "hear what God the Lord will speak," and will be obedient and faithful in following God's word, commandments and ways for the sake of the world.

17 Ask the Spirit to help us greet our neighbors with hospitality, empathy, concern and hope as we maneuver the uncertainty of reopening public places and holding events where people once again gather in person.

18 Pray that we will respond to God's call to serve our neighbors in need and share the gospel wherever we go with those unique gifts, skills and passions the Spirit has cultivated in us through our education, life experiences and communities of faith.

19 Remember in prayer those congregational leaders and volunteers planning and creating fall

programs and ministries for all ages that will offer education, service and spiritual growth.

20 Pray for the Building Resilient Communities team, a collaboration of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response, and for our work together across all expressions of our church as we accompany communities from disaster through recovery, ensuring that we and our neighbors can thrive today and tomorrow.

21 Ask God to remind us daily that we live in hope and unity, drawn together as “citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,” with Christ at the center.

22 Give thanks for synod and churchwide organization staff, neighboring congregations and ecumenical partners who, during the pandemic, have supported and assisted congregations and leaders through the challenges of adapting to changing circumstances and opportunities, and of continuing to learn and work together to help the church grow and thrive.

23 The work of a shepherd is unfamiliar to most of us, but we all know how it feels to be guided and assisted through dark and difficult times, to have our spirit restored when we are weary and to be reassured that we are not alone in life. Give thanks and praise to God for being our ever-present, loving and good shepherd and for equipping our communities of faith and siblings in Christ to shepherd one another and our neighbors.

24 Pray for a just, respectful and lasting solution to the long-standing conflict between Palestine and Israel; pray for those most vulnerable to the violence, unjust laws, displacement and schisms that stir fear, suspicion, abuse and despair; and ask God to bless and sustain those working for peace, justice and healing in the Holy Land.

25 Pray that when we hear stories of Jesus performing miracles, the Spirit will deepen our understanding of God’s ways, power, compassion, justice and activity in the world, and

that these will guide and influence how we live and serve as followers of Jesus, children of God.

26 Give thanks that our contributions to Mission Support help fund global mission work in leadership development, evangelism, ministry support, education, sustainable development, in-country scholarships and interfaith relations.

27 Ask God to strengthen our commitment and guide our efforts to end hunger in our nation and throughout the world. We ask for the faith to believe that there will be enough food and resources for all if we let God’s justice and generosity influence our own, listen closely to our neighbors in need, deal with the root causes of hunger and poverty, and work together to create sustainable solutions.

28 Who in your community, congregation or family concerns you right now? Pray for their needs and well-being, and ask the Spirit to guide you in responding to, caring for and accompanying them.

29 Pray that with Christ in our hearts and the Spirit in our midst, we will grow in our understanding of God’s boundless love and broaden our vision of what we can accomplish as we do God’s work in the world.

30 Give thanks for volunteers, congregational leaders and professionals who serve older adults in a variety of circumstances and settings; care for their spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs; encourage their gifts and involvement in congregations; and help them stay connected with life-giving relationships and communities.

31 Give thanks and praise to God for being kind, just, understanding of our complexities, responsive to our prayers and needs, and trustworthy in word and deed.

Women ⁱⁿ THE ELCA 
Niagara Frontier & Southwestern Conferences



*Spiritual Renewal ~
Centered
in
Prayer*

Saturday, September 18, 2021

at

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

6360 Route 242E, Ellicottville, New York 14731

Program presented by

Contemplative Outreach Buffalo

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

~ Closing Worship - 2:45 PM ~

Cost: \$10.00

~ Luncheon provided ~

Registration Deadline September 11, 2021

~ Registration forms available by contacting ~

Lois Rumfelt

(716) 664-4409

e-mail: rumfelt@stny.rr.com

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service
Contemporary Worship Center

10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
Main Sanctuary

The Council has made a few updates for July
These are highlighted in RED

- If you are ill, we ask that you remain at home out of concern for the health and wellbeing of others
- **Beginning July 1st masks are no longer required at First Lutheran for those who are fully vaccinated. We respectfully request that those who are not vaccinated please continue to wear a mask inside the building. Thank You!**
- Temperatures will **no longer** be taken when entering the building
- Hand sanitizer stations will be in place at entrances to the church and worship areas
- Everyone will be asked to fill out attendance cards
 - These cards will be used to contact individuals if someone tests positive for COVID19 at a later date
 - Please place the cards on the chair/pew where you are seated
- Social distancing will be practiced
 - Chairs will be spaced six feet apart
 - **Pews in the Nave will no longer be blocked, but please continue to practice social distancing**
- Offerings will be placed in a box at the entrance to the worship area
- **The congregation may now sing liturgy and hymns**
- Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month with personal communion cups.
- We will video record both worship services and post the recordings online through: Vimeo, YouTube, Facebook and the First Lutheran website: flcjny.org
- Worship services will be approximately 30 minutes in length

We will adjust our practices as health concerns evolve.

We will celebrate Jesus Christ, risen from the grave!

We understand that some of our church family will refrain from attending worship due to health concerns. This is a personal choice and we support all our family in this decision-making process.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
120 Chandler Street
Jamestown, NY 14701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office at 664-4601 or by e-mailing us at:
firstlutheran@flcjny.org

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First Edition

Living the Good News at First Lutheran Church