

First Edition

Where the News is Good!

Published by First Lutheran Church

120 Chandler Street

Jamestown, NY 14701

March 2022

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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.

Gail Espinoza, Michael Laurin, Karen Linn, Sandy Hatfield, Michael Dearman, Paul R. Johnson, Randy Elf, Wendy Larson, Elaine Rissel, Brigetta Overcash, Carey Skelton, 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

Liz Lobb, Office Manager

Mike Thompson, Sexton

You are invited to come meet our Pastoral Candidate on March 5, 2022 in the Parlors from 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM for coffee and cookies.

He will also conduct both the Contemporary Service at 9:00 AM and the Traditional Service at 11:00 AM on Sunday, March 6, 2022.

Special congregational meetings will be held following each service.

Please come and be a part of this important weekend at First Lutheran Church.



On Sunday, March 6th the Rev. Mark E. Swanson joins us at First to lead worship at both the Contemporary and Traditional services. A Special Congregational Meeting will follow each service. The purpose of the meeting is for the members of First to vote yea or nay to call Pastor Mark to serve as the next pastor of First Lutheran Church, Jamestown, NY.

During the call process both the Call Committee and Church Council have interviewed and deliberated upon the candidacy of Pastor Mark. References were checked and a Criminal Background Check completed. Both groups unanimously and “enthusiastically recommend him for consideration to become our next pastor.” Peter Larson served as Call Committee Chair. His letter recommending Pastor Mark to the Council offers excellent insight into why both the Call Committee and Council “respectfully and prayerfully” recommend Pastor Mark to the congregation:

Pastor Mark is a child of Jamestown, having grown up at Immanuel Lutheran Church. His brother still lives in Jamestown and his wife, the Rev. Laura Csellak, was recently hired as Chaplain at Lutheran nursing home. One of his references, a long-time co-pastor, indicated that Pastor Mark had always desired to return to Jamestown for a long-term call.

He is incredibly personable, charismatic and approachable, an excellent “face” of the congregation. He seemed remarkably comfortable in an interview setting and generally “comfortable in his own skin.” He appears to fit in well

everywhere he goes, as confirmed by references from his interim calls.

He places great emphasis on the liturgy, the Lutheran confessions, and biblical scholarship. His preaching style is conversational and narrative, and should feel very familiar and comfortable to our congregation following Pastors Nagle and Rumpfelt. He can speak with the authority of biblical passages while maintaining a friendly and welcoming demeanor.

He discussed the importance of pastoral care and talked about having formed Congregational Care committees at previous calls to facilitate pastoral and lay visitation for members. He also expressed comfort with attending community events as the face of the congregation to promote visibility.

As an administrator, he does not micro-manage and prefers to be able to delegate tasks when appropriate. He expressed a genuine desire to work with the congregation and give direction and support to achieve our goals, rather than insisting on advancing his own ideas or “enforcing change.”

Some adjectives used by his references to describe him are: Pastoral, dedicated, very Lutheran, outgoing, compassionate, empathetic. One reference volunteered that “Pastor Mark is the person I would want to be my pastor.”

Please take the opportunity to meet Pastor Mark in person on Saturday, March 5th, between 3:30 and 5 pm in the Parlors.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

Bio: Pastoral Candidate Mark E. Swanson

Pastor Mark Swanson is in his 34th year of ministry. Pastor Swanson is a Jamestown native and was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, where he was baptized, confirmed and ordained. Pastor Swanson is a graduate of Jamestown High School, Jamestown Community College, the State University of New York at Fredonia and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He spent his early years in ministry serving congregations in Queens, New York City; Dansville and Cohocton, in rural Upstate New York; and for 18 years was pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Coopersburg, PA. More recently he served as interim pastor of three congregations in the Allentown area of Pennsylvania as well as serving as pastor of two congregations in the rural coal region of eastern Pennsylvania. Pastor Swanson is now completing an interim assignment in the Syracuse area. He is married to the Rev. Laura A. Csellak, who is Chaplain at *Lutheran* in Jamestown and with whom he has two adult children, Stefan and Luke. Pastor Swanson is an avid runner, gardener, and Chicago Cubs baseball enthusiast. He can often be found in his backyard tending to his chickens and walking with his beloved Labrador Retriever, Bailey.



We extend a sincere thank you to the following people:

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Thomas J. Neelen by:
Glenn Utter

Memorial Fund – Drive Thru

Donation by:
DeAnne & Frank Gozdalski

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Robert L. Bragg by:
Marilyn & Ronald Wilcox
Mary Hubbell
Jed Phillips

Memorial Fund – Drive Thru

In Memory of Robert L. Bragg by:
Kathleen & Terry Horner
Ellen & Guy Ditonto

Memorial Fund – Library Fund

In Memory of Robert L. Bragg by:
Wendy & Fred Larson

In Memory of Rick Willman by:
Helen Willman



February, 2022

- Property--Guest Jim Wahlberg led a discussion regarding the Property Committee's motion to approve a resolution for the sale of the parking lot at the corner of Foote and Chandler to the Jamestown Public School district. This resolution must pass the council by a 2/3 vote and then receive approval from the School Board PENDING a congregational vote on March 6. Following approval by the school board and the congregation, there will be an opportunity to negotiate additional terms such as a possible "carve-out" for the church sign and a possible division of the green space next to the staff parking lot. The resolution will then become part of the school budget vote in May. The council discussed possible plans for creating future parking and ways to handle parking for weekday events such as funerals and Lenten luncheons. Following this discussion, the council voted unanimously to approve the resolution.
- Worship and Music--There will be a noon Ash Wednesday service in the nave at First Lutheran on Wednesday, March 2. No ashes will be imposed due to COVID restrictions. All other midweek services during the Lenten season will be available by video only.
- Stewardship/Pledge Cards--The council will decide later this year whether or not there is still a need to order pledge cards and offering envelopes.
- Pastor's Report--The brief bio of pastoral candidate Mark Swanson was shared with the congregation on February 20. A "Meet and Greet" session with Pastor Mark will be held on Saturday, March 5, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM in the church parlors. There will be light refreshments and an opportunity for questions and answers. Volunteers are needed for set-up on March 4. Pastor Mark will preach for both services on Sunday, March 6. The congregational meeting and vote will begin following the first service; the meeting will then be suspended and the ballots secured until after the second service, when the meeting and vote will conclude. Pastor Rumfelt and two members of the congregation will tabulate the votes, after which Pastor Mark will be notified of the results.
- Treasurer's report--Jane Young asked council members to submit finance-related questions to her prior to each month's meeting so that she can prepare answers.

Old Business

- Council goals--Paul Johnson is analyzing current

membership lists, the membership directory, and attendance cards to determine which members are currently active and which members should be contacted as part of the council's "Reconnect" initiative. Brigetta Overcash volunteered to assist Paul in this effort. The council is hoping to resume coffee hours and First Breakfasts soon, as well as to proceed with plans for a "Reconnect" dinner at LCLC.

- Missions--The council revisited the current mission statement and approved it. The council also voted to include the First Lutheran mission statement in future bulletins.
- Library--The council members continued to discuss the proposed merger of the current library with the Sunday School storage room in order to create a bigger and more inviting library space with room for a children's corner and possibly a coffee corner.
- The property committee has completed painting over the mural on the first floor.

New Business

- Nursery--The first floor nursery space needs to be modernized/updated. Carey Skelton mentioned that parents must be made to feel safe leaving their children so far from the nave and parlors; it may be possible to use buzzers such as those used in restaurants. Karen and Carey also mentioned the idea of removing some pews in the back of the nave and creating a "crying space" where parents and their small children can comfortably remain in worship.
- Refugees--Rev. Luke Fodor from St. Luke's Church is looking for assistance in settling Afghan refugees in the Jamestown area. Interested persons may attend the Rotary Club meeting on February 28 to obtain more information.
- Some Other Place--Sandy Hatfield stated that the former thrift store's name needs to be officially changed on accounts, reimbursement forms, etc. The committee would like to keep \$100 in cash in the safe for emergency situations.
- Fred Larson was approved as a member of the Endowment Committee. Paul Johnson will join the Property Committee.
- COVID restrictions – The council approved a motion to remove our mask requirement as soon as the mask mandate in the schools is lifted. When this occurs, the council will establish "start dates" for coffee hours, First Breakfast, etc.

Synod Mission Message



CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Devotional Booklets
January, February, and March
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



ENTERTAINING ANGELS

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for
thereby some have entertained angels
unawares. Hebrews 13:2

The United States is resettling 75,000
Afghans. Chances are your town is
welcoming one or more families. The
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
(LIRS) is playing a major role in making
this happen. In fact, the need is so great that
an extra office of LIRS has recently opened
in Virginia, an office staffed by Afghans,
many of whom recently arrived themselves,
wanting to help with those countrymen who
are still coming. But please don't call them
refugees. Because of the circumstances of
their departure, they are being referred to as
"allies" or "neighbors." These families have
experienced massive trauma, and most come
here with only a backpack of their
belongings, if that. LIRS makes sure they
get a roof over their heads, food in their
cupboards, and access to medical and mental
health care. The organization helps the
newly arrived Afghans acclimate to the
culture, learn English, find affordable
housing, secure furniture and culturally
familiar food, enroll children in school, and
find employment. LIRS will find foster
families for children arriving alone. The new



March 2022

**Please make sure you stop and
visit the library!!**

Virginia facility has an active homework club, teaches people to drive and fill out essential forms.

Newsletter
DEADLINE

LIRS is an ELCA ministry. You are already helping this effort because of your mission support to the Synod. **Thank you!**

Here are other ways you can help:
LIRS Circle of Welcome includes co-sponsoring an individual or family.
Lirs.org/circle-of-welcome.

Opportunities to donate, advocate or volunteer in other capacities. Lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies.

Financial support. Elca.org/ldr.

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

The deadline for articles for the April 2022, *First Edition* newsletter is Tuesday, March 15th. Please have all information into the church office by that date. Thank you.

PARISH RECORD

Memorial Service for Robert L. Bragg on 1/31/22 who passed away on 1/25/22

Confirmation Class Schedule for February via Zoom

Sunday, March 13th
Sunday, March 20th



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

March 2022

Brian A. Bogey, Minister of Music
and Organist

We begin our Lenten journey this month with Ash Wednesday being commemorated on March 2nd with a service in the CHURCH NAVE at 12 p.m. noon. The first four Sundays of Lent will

take place on March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. Our First Lutheran Choir will have our regular Sunday morning rehearsals at 9:30 a.m. in the choral rehearsal room # 9. **Since we are not having an evening Ash Wednesday Service, the choir will also rehearse on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd at 6 p.m. in the choir room. Please note the new time for rehearsal at 6 p.m.** The Liturgist/Lector/Hymn Cantor listing for the month of March is printed below.

LITURGIST	LECTOR	HYMN CANTOR
3-6 Frank Gozdalski	Martha Paulson	Peter Larson
3-13 Peter Larson	Brenda Ecklund	Julie Costantini
3-20 Beth Johnson	Paul R. Johnson	Marika Koch
3-27 Brenda Ecklund	Lynn Novo	Beth Johnson

Several years ago I attended a choral music workshop with the world-renowned British composer, John Rutter. His works are among the best examples of Twentieth and Twenty-First Century contemporary choral compositions such as the Rutter “Requiem,” and his sacred choral works including “For the Beauty of the Earth,” and “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” are just a few examples. I just came across something that John Rutter recently wrote about the choir and choral music and I would like to share it with you. I hope that it will be inspirational to our wonderful First Lutheran members, musicians and choristers!

The Importance of Choral Music – John Rutter

“**Choral Music** is not one of those life’s frills. It is something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls. You express when you sing your soul in song, and when you get together with a group of other singers, it becomes more than the sum of its parts. All of those people are pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony, which is kind of an emblem for what we need in this world when the world is at odds with itself. It expresses in symbolic terms what it is like when human beings are in harmony! That is the lesson for our times and for all time!

I profoundly believe that musical excellence, of course, is at the heart of it, but even if the choir is not the greatest in the world, the fact that they are meeting together has a social value and a communal value. I always say that a church or a school without a choir is like a body without a soul.

We have to have a soul in our lives and everybody tells me that those who have sung in a choir, that they feel better for doing it. That whatever the cares of the day whether they meet after a long day’s school or work, that somehow you leave your troubles at the door and when you’re sitting there making music for a couple of hours, it somehow is the only thing that matters at the

2 John 1:3 (NIV) Grace, *mercy* and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and *love*.

Psalms 40:11 (NIV) Do not withhold your *mercy* from me, Lord; may your *love* and faithfulness always protect me.

Proverbs 3:3 (NIV) Let *love* and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

Psalms 116:1 (NIV) I *love* the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for *mercy*.

Psalms 86:15 (NIV) But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in *love* and faithfulness.

Do a Bible search and see how many times "Love and Mercy" are spoken in scriptures. I think that the words Love and Mercy sum up and encompass all human actions. If all your actions are done in love, you will also be showing mercy. Let us faithfully walk every day in love and mercy. Amazing things can happen!

SERVICES

Contemporary Worship Service continues each **Sunday at 9:00am** in our Worship Center in the lower level of the church. The service lasts about 35 minutes. The first Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion (COVID safe). Facial masks are required for all within the church building.

Sunday School Our Contemporary Service ends with enough time for you to go to prepare and participate in Sunday School.

A GREAT Outreach Ministry - 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 2.20.2022. Don't forget to share these services with your friends and family!!

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 and Grace 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

Some Other Place Donation List

Clothing: all sizes especially larger sizes. Outdoor clothing: Coats, Hats, Gloves.
(Please everything must be clean, not ripped or missing buttons)

Kitchen Items: dishes, silverware, decent knives, mixing bowls, measuring spoons and cups, cutting boards, dish towels, hand held can openers, pots and pans.

Small Appliances: crock pots, hot plates, hand held mixers, electric tea pots, electric fry pans.

Toys: All ages
(Please make sure toys are clean, not broken, and have all pieces)

Toiletries: tooth brushes & paste, combs & brushes, deodorant, shampoo & cream rinse, bar soap.
(Please these items need to be new)

Linens: must be in like new condition.

All items **MUST** be clean, in good condition, contain all pieces
NO large furniture, appliances or televisions.



Please fill in the form below if you would like to donate lilies for Easter Sunday. As in the past, the lilies will decorate the nave for our Festival Easter Worship, and then be given to members who are in the hospital, nursing homes, or are homebound. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. You may send your payment with this form. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and note that the check is for Easter flowers.

In memory of:

How many lilies _____

Your Name:

I am willing to deliver plants to homebound members on Easter Sunday

Yes _____ No _____

Thank you so much for your participation!

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
- Glenn Utter

(Jeanine & Mike Dearman – Non-Voting Members)

Thank You

A BIG thank you to Sunday School and Christian Education Committee by being recognized for something you love to do is amazing. Every week being around the children and their families was one of the best times of my life. In the Sanctuary every week I think of all the programs I was a part of and marching and waving palms on Palm Sundays. So thank you First Lutheran for some of the best times of my life!

Judy Rhodes

Omissions from 2021 Annual Report

Nominating Committee 2022

- Michael Laurin
- Michael Dearman
- Paul R. Johnson
- Sandy Hatfield
- Congregation Members:
 - Ellen Ditonto
 - Julie Gable

Audit Committee 2022

- Paul Holt
- Lorie Johnson
- Brenda Johnson
- Sharon Rissel



Income & Expenses through January, 2022

Month	Income	Expense	Total
January	*58,580	25,039	33,541
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total	58,580	25,039	33,541

Mailing Address:

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

MASR Scott D. Johnson
 1917 Richmond Avenue
 Portsmouth, VA 23704-5544

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

Attendance for February

February	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday
2021	71	75
2022	81	68
	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
2021	64	84
2022	79	

* 40,000 from Endowment

Thank you to all who are mailing their offering!

On-Line Views of Worship Video

Date	Contemporary & Traditional	Total
1/16/22		132
1/23/22		138
1/30/22		29
2/06/22		145
2/13/22		115



SCRIPTURE READINGS IN MARCH

First Sunday in Lent
March 6th

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2,9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Second Sunday in Lent
March 13th

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Third Sunday in Lent
March 20th

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27th

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

**Baptismal
Anniversaries**

We celebrate with you!

*indicates birthday when baptism is not known

March Baptisms:

3/1 Lisa Heath
3/4 Sally Stohl
*3/4 Wyatt Perry
3/6 Debra Basile
Beth Johnson
Janell Lundgren
3/8 George Johnson
*3/8 Barbara Keefe
3/9 James Wahlberg
*3/9 John Olson
3/10 Joy Clauson
*3/10 Craig Garaas-Johnson
*3/11 Aimee Olson
3/12 Jamie Bloomquist
Cole Main
3/13 Drew Bloomquist
Isla Seekings
*3/14 Tracy Grey
3/15 Andrea Jodko
3/16 Gail Espinoza
Elizabeth Gruber
3/18 Carrie Brown
Kevin Brown
3/21 Carol Winterburn
Jennifer Wozniak
3/22 Robert Henke
Mila Olson
3/24 Karin Johnson
Donald Puder
3/25 Karen Digirolamo
Stacey Dixson
3/25 Kathy Horner
Leslie King
3/26 Aric Bloomquist
Walker Perry
3/28 James H. Sweetheimer
3/29 Ellen Ditonto
Gerald Nagle
Margaret Nelson
*3/29 Marjorie Switala
3/31 Emily Harkness
*3/31 Krista Leone



Prayer Ventures March 2022

1 *Women's History Month* Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements, influence, leadership, stories, gifts and faithful witness of women in our church and society throughout history. Pray for women who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will cling to hope and be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly as loved and valued children of God.

2 *Ash Wednesday* On this day, let us approach God in prayer with humble and penitent hearts, marking ourselves with the ashes of our messy, fragile human lives yet doing so with the reassuring sign of the cross — the mark of Jesus Christ, our source of forgiveness, salvation, hope and new life.

3 Pray for our synod bishops and presiding bishop as they gather for the Conference of Bishops. Ask God to bless their time together for worship, study, building relationships and deliberating on how we can share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve our neighbor, strive for justice and peace, work alongside our global companions and grow the church.

4 Praise God, who is boundless, awesome, merciful, pure and attentive, and who loves justice and peace.

5 Remember in prayer refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria who have been stuck at the Belarus-Poland border since last November; pray for the Lutheran Church in Belarus as it assists refugees with translation services, food, clothing, hygiene items and other essentials; and give thanks for the

support and assistance we are able to provide through Lutheran Disaster Response.

6 Give thanks that we know Jesus as the son of God, who did not give in to worldly temptations of power or serving his own needs but humbled himself and demonstrated God's sacrificial love for the salvation and healing of humankind.

7 Pray for the work, advocacy and networks of ELCA Disability Ministry, and that our congregations and communities might, without hesitation, preconception or limitation, connect with and embrace people living with disabilities, inviting them into full participation in the life and leadership of the church and society.

8 *International Women's Day* Celebrate and give thanks to God for the gifts, influence and leadership of women and girls everywhere. Pray that we will continue to strive for a world free of bias and injustice, providing women and girls with equitable access to education, health care, work and opportunities to use their gifts in the church, our communities and our world.

9 Ask the Spirit to help us see beyond our weaknesses and self-doubt and confess with confidence our faith in the saving, life-giving love of Jesus Christ and the encouragement we receive from our siblings in Christ.

10 Give thanks that our church accompanies our global companions, working together to share God's love, respond to neighbors in need and participate in God's mission.

11 Lift up prayers of gratitude that God is our refuge and fortress, the one in whom we can trust in every circumstance, no matter how complicated or threatening.

12 During Lent, as we spend time reflecting on our human weakness and limitations, pray that we do not slip into discouragement or hopelessness but allow the Spirit to lead us toward the hope, forgiveness and newness we receive as a gift through Jesus Christ, the manifestation of God's enduring and redeeming love for us.

13 Give thanks for the humbling, awe-inspiring example of Jesus Christ, who persisted in his ministry and work of healing the world undeterred by criticism and death threats. Pray that the Spirit will inspire and embolden us to be committed and unwavering as we care for our neighbors in need, sharing our faith and spreading the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ.

14 Pray for the community ministries of congregations across the country that serve neighbors in need through community gardens, meals, food pantries, homeless shelters, counseling, disaster response, neighborhood renewal, day care for children and adults, educational opportunities and connecting volunteers with ecumenical partners and community organizations.

15 Pray that being siblings in Christ will inspire us to encourage and care for one another; equip each other to live our faith and serve our neighbor; strive for justice and peace in the world; trust each other with our joys, sorrows and questions; and gather together to praise God for claiming and restoring us as loved children with an eternal inheritance.

16 Our church has deep, long-standing relationships with Lutheran churches and partners around the world. Pray that we will grow stronger as a global church, receive one another's gifts and expertise, and support the growth and work of our companions, which includes urban and youth outreach, establishing new congregations, providing theological education, pursuing justice and peace, and training new leaders.

17 Thank God for our special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

18 Ask God to remind us that we accomplish far more of God's work in the world by embracing relationships and partnerships with our siblings in Christ and others.

19 Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, Young Adults in Global Mission and seminary interns who accompany and support the work of our companion churches around the world, especially as they adapt to the changing needs, circumstances and opportunities in their respective countries during the lingering pandemic.

20 *First day of spring* Praise God for the wonders of creation and the signs of hope, life and renewal that emerge with spring.

21 Pray that our lives, relationships and behaviors might reflect God's patience and undeserved confidence in our capacity to change, grow and love as the Spirit works within us.

22 *World Water Day* God's gift of water — in all its forms — nourishes and sustains life and stirs awe and wonder. Pray that we will faithfully steward the water resources entrusted to our care and enjoyment. Pray that we will work together to conserve water, help those who lack access to clean water, take thoughtful action during droughts and do the work of cleaning up and protecting water that we have polluted or misused.

23 Give thanks for God's faithfulness, actions, teaching and example throughout the ages, which guide us to follow the word and desires of God, enrich our faith, and bear hope and the good news of Jesus Christ to all people.

24 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving alongside church bodies and companion organizations in Central America to train leaders; share the gospel; respond to poverty, hunger and violence; advocate for laws that respect the human rights and dignity of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers; and teach church leaders to care for victims of trauma.

25 "My mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you" (Psalm 63:5-8). Thank God for being our ready help and refuge in every moment of our life.

26 Across the country, congregations and synods working with resettlement agencies are sponsoring individuals and families who have been evacuated from Afghanistan. Pray that the Spirit will guide our efforts to welcome, support and care for people who are resettling and adjusting to unfamiliar communities, neighbors and cultures. Give thanks for the challenging and essential work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Services in America and the ELCA's AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).

27 Recall recent experiences — personal or witnessed — when God's grace far exceeded your expectations and comprehension. Lift up prayers of acknowledgment and gratitude to God.

28 Ask God to build up our resiliency, optimism, hope and confidence in God's presence when we feel anxious, overwhelmed or powerless in today's world.

29 Rejoice and give thanks to God for surrounding us with steadfast love and forgiveness that cannot be taken away or diminished by anyone or anything.

30 Remember in prayer poets who free us to see and contemplate in new ways the beauty and complexity of creation, diverse human experiences, challenging social conditions and our faith.

31 Pray for the leaders from across our church who serve on the ELCA Church Council. Ask the Spirit to guide them as they support, review, advise and enable God's work in the world with thoughtfulness, integrity, respect and partnerships sharing a common vision.

Some Other Place Story

Many of you may be curious about the name "Some Other Place." As we began planning this Mission and were discussing a name for it, Karen Linn shared the story below.

After a storm in Beaumont, Texas, people in need were calling organizations to get help. A lot of times they were told "We don't handle that; you'll have to call some other place". So, the church saw the need and decided to open a mission called "Some Other Place". They found out that there was a real need, and they began helping those with an emergency when people needed the help. Right then not sometime later. That way they did not have to go through the red tape of other organizations that take too much time. The happy ending is that they have grown into a huge mission and had to build their own building AND they are helping people in need all over the county with utility bills, food, school clothes and school supplies, etc.

We all agreed that this is what we want to do in our own area. A group of us continue to meet and refine the vision and structure of this Mission. Currently we are able to provide clothing of all sizes, household goods, toys, and limited amounts of furniture. This will be by referral from our partner agencies. Currently, we have 4 Partner Agencies. To date we have helped the family that lost their home and their youngest child in the fire in Sherman and the women's shelter.

We are putting together a list of items that We Want and What We Don't Want. It will be posted in the first-floor hallway in the near future. In the meantime, we are accepting donations....**please only clean items in good condition!!**

We would invite anyone who would like to be a part of this mission to call Janet Wahlberg at 716-567-4064 or Karen Linn at 716-708-6211. We would also welcome monetary or Memorial donations.

2022 First Lutheran Church Sunday School Schedule:

Jan 16	Jan 23	Feb 6	Mar 20	March 27
Bible Story: The Ten Commandments	Bible story: The Battle of Jericho	Bible story: Naomi and Ruth	Bible Story: David and Goliath	Bible Story: Elijah and the Widow
April 3	April 24	May 15	May 22	
Bible Story: Jonah and the Big Fish	Bible Story:	Bible Story:	Bible Story:	

Please look at the First Lutheran Sunday School Jamestown, NY page weekly for updates due to last minute cancellations or changes.

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service Contemporary Worship Center

11:00 am Traditional Worship Service Main Sanctuary

- If you are ill, we ask that you remain at home out of concern for the health and wellbeing of others
- Beginning August 22nd masks will be required at First Lutheran for both of those who are fully vaccinated and those who are not vaccinated. Thank You!
- 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 continue to sing liturgy and hymns while wearing a mask
- 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