

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PORTAGE, PA

NEWSLETTER

July, August & September 2023



Isaiah 41:10:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Monthly Happenings

July: 2 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 4 4th of July
 9 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 16 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 23 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 30 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 No Council Meeting Scheduled

August: 6 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 7 Council Meeting @ 6:30PM
 13 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 20 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 27 Sunday Worship 9 AM

September: 3 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 4 Labor Day
 10 Grandparent's Day & Sunday Worship 9 AM
 11 Council Meeting 6:30 PM
 17 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 24 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 31 Sunday Worship 9 AM

The Small Catechism by Martin Luther

What does God say of all 10 Commandments? He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

What does this mean for us? God warns that he will punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we are to fear his wrath and not disobey him. But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we are to love and trust him, and gladly do what he commands.



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Sally Rush

Vic Schaffranek

Harry Maul

Bob Bieter

Ida Kerch

Pastor Kaltenbaugh

Elzie Pauley

Michelle Coukart

Prayers: Be near me in my time of weakness and pain; sustain me by your grace, that my strength and courage may not fail; heal me according to your will; and help me always to believe that what happens to me here is of little account if you hold me in eternal life, my Lord and my God. Amen.

Please keep in your prayers the sick, lonely, and forgotten.

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Woman's Day Daily Prayers:

The Guardian Angel Prayer: Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, rule and guide. Amen.

Act of Hope Prayer: O My God, relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Thy grace and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

The Prayer of St. Francis: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

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We apologize if anyone was missed on the birthday and anniversary list. If a correction is needed or if you would like to see something else in the newsletter, please leave the information in Becky or Sharon's mailboxes, located at the back of the church.



Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Quail Ave., Altoona, PA 16602

814.942.1042

Office hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30pm

<https://www.alleghenysynod.org>

Called by God to be one in Christ: we worship, grow in faith, and serve all people.

If you need assistance from the Allegheny Synod, contact information provided.

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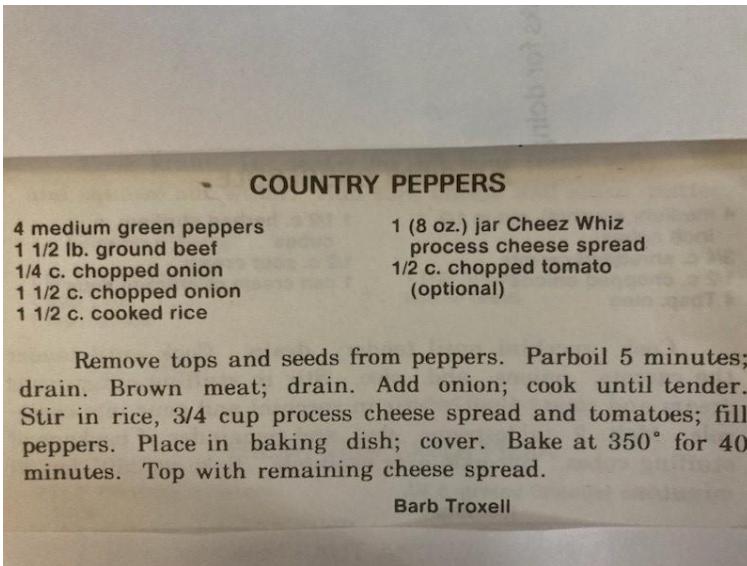
Lutheran Book of Prayer: Prayers for Others

For those who mourn: Almighty and eternal God, in whose hands are life and death, we come into Your presence to plead for all who mourn. Even as Your Son was moved to weep over the death of His friend Lazarus, so we know that You are touched by the tears of those who grieve over the loss of dear ones. In Your divine providence fill the aching void in their hearts with Your comforting presence, and wipe all tears from their eyes. Source of all consolation, raise them up with the hope in Christ. Reassure them of an eternal reunion in Your presence with their beloved, whom You have called to eternal peace and immeasurable joy in heaven. In their loneliness draw them closer to You. O Lord, cause the sorrow of separation to make the survivors more understanding of the grief of others and more ready to comfort them in their needs. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who died that we might live forever. Amen.

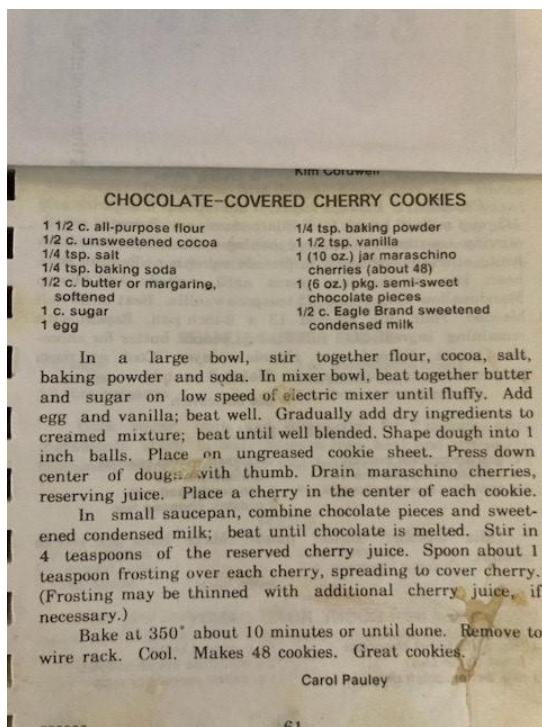
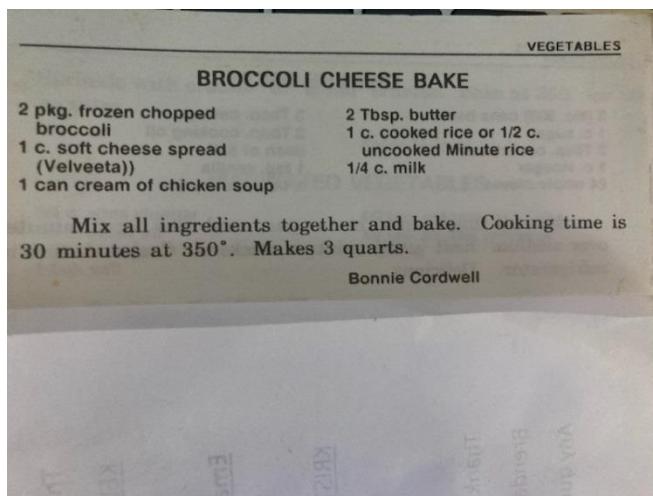
For acceptance of self: Father, teach me to trust the Spirit You have breathed into me. Give me grace to believe Your Word, by which I am made Your child. Help me to understand that I belong to You, even though I am undeserving of Your love. Help me to see Your judgment and mercy in the suffering and death and resurrection of my Lord Jesus Christ. Cause me to accept again the new life in Christ which You have given me by faith. Enable me to live without despair and without pride. Lead me to know with joy that You accept me as a whole human being. Father, teach me one more thing. Show me that in this new life You give, I no longer have to build walls of fear to protect myself from others. Help me to live cheerfully and generously, so that others may receive You through Christ's Word and work in me and begin to live in You. Bless me and keep me for Jesus' sake. Amen.

For wisdom and maturity: Lord God, You revealed in Jesus Christ that Your foolishness exceeds the wisdom of men, and Your weakness is greater than their strength. Give me the grace and wisdom to understand that in Your gentleness there is power, in Your kindness there is might, in Your forgiveness there is life. Keep me from the folly of relying on my own power or my own purpose. Help me to see that wisdom is born and grows to maturity through faith in Christ. Grant me confidence in Your mercy and hope in Your promises. I pray in the name of Him who is Wisdom. Amen.

KITCHEN KORNER: Recipes



If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please place a copy in Becky or Sharon's mailbox at church. Enjoy!



Happy Birthday

July 1
2 Tracy Engle
4 Kayla Krise
6 Heather Maul
9 Chris Troxell
10 Jim DeMatteis
11 Brenda Gouse
13 Dakota Cann
14 Kylee Cewwensky
15
17 Alan Schaffranek Jr
18
20 Joe Litzinger II
22 Krystal Cann
23 Madelyn Kittell
24 Carter Fuzie
25
27 Tom Lamar
28 Henry Harrison Jr
29 Meagan Lamar
31 Jason Troxel
Matt Hershberger

Happy Anniversary

Pat & Kelly McCarty Sr
Tim & Frances Popish

Dan & Sonny Kerch

Tony & Lacey Kittell
Paul & Tricia Burggraf

Steve & Joelle Lutz
Marty & Brenda Kerch
Jamie & Shelly Cadwallader

Terry & Nanci Steward Jr

Dan & Kelli Robine
Wayne & Ruth Ann Pinos



Happy Birthday

August	2	
	3	Austin Feathers
	5	Ryan Cadwallader
	8	Colleen Erndl
	9	Macy Stancovich
	10	
	12	Danielle Ciokota
		Tom Hodgkinson
	13	Wanda Hershberger
		Ava Cadwallader
	14	Johnathan Maul
	15	Courtney Cadwallader
		Ruth Ann Pinos
		Joanne DeMatteis
		Nathan Krisko
	16	Matthew Miller
	17	Izzy Leman
	18	Brian Maul
	19	Keira Burggraf
	21	
	22	Becky Mulato
		Tyler Bobolsky
	23	Kelli Robine
	27	Richard Maul Jr
		Amanda Maul
		Ava Stancovich
	28	
	30	Alfred J Maul
		Hunter Maul
	31	

Happy Anniversary

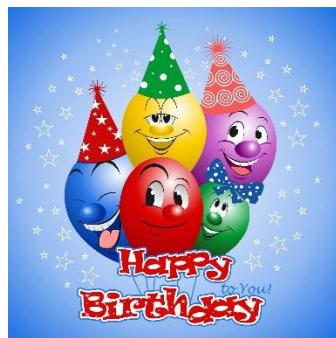
Mike & Gini Gray
Wade & Amanda Maul

Tom & Sharon Cordwell
Bill & Debra Cooper

Tom & Patty Hodgkinson

Bill & Colleen Erndl

Alfred N & Linda Maul



Happy Birthday

September	1	Kim Pohopin
	2	Emily Knopp
	3	Alan Schaffranek
	5	Terry Steward Sr
	6	
	7	George Ernest
	8	Paul Smith
	11	Jessica Rusnak
	12	Elizabeth MacLaughlin
	14	Renee Maul
	15	Allen McQuillen
	17	Philip Krisko II
	19	Lynn Steward
	20	Diana Lamar
	21	Garrett lamar
	22	Hayden Werner
		Krystal Cann
		Sophia Kittell
	23	Matt DeMatteis
	24	Matthew Maul
	26	Tim Palesch
	29	Terri Crum
	30	Patty Huber
		Linda Girard
		Lance Salovich

Happy Anniversary

Ray & Kayla Asfar
Jason & Sandy Yetsko

Jason & Misty Troxel



The Small Catechism by Martin Luther: The Ten Commandments: I am the Lord your God.

#1: You shall have no other gods.

Meaning: We are to fear, love, and trust God above anything else.

#2: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that we do not use his name superstitiously, or use it to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, but call on him in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

#3: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect his word and the preaching of it, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

#4: Honor your father and your mother.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and others in authority, but respect, obey, love, and serve them.

#5: You shall not kill.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that we do not hurt our neighbor in any way, but help him in all his physical needs.

#6: You shall not commit adultery.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that in matters of sex our words and conduct are pure and honorable, and husband and wife love and respect each other.

#7: You shall not steal.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of making a living.

#8: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, or lie about our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain his actions in the kindest way.

#9: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that we do not desire to get our neighbor's possessions by scheming, or by pretending to have a right to them, but always help him keep what is his.

#10: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Meaning: We are to fear and love God so that we do not tempt or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but encourage them to remain loyal.

FYI Section: Window information

Symbols on our stain glass windows and what they mean. Have you ever really looked at the stain glass windows in church and wondered what the symbols mean? We will feature a few windows from the church and their meaning every issue of the news letter



The symbol of the lamp and bible depicts the gift of the bible as the Light to the World.



This symbol is the all-seeing eye usually within a triangle and depicts the all-seeing eye of God and the triangle depicts the trinity.



The symbol of the harp depicts and stands for the joyful worship and for the angels' joy in heaven.

Rev's Reflection:

The editors of the newsletter asked Pastor Mark and Marna to share what has been happening in their lives the past two months. Yes, the first couple of days of May were challenging with Pastor Mark's accident when another driver failed to stop at a stop sign and crashed into his car and the next day, when Marna slipped in the morning snow which led to her breaking her foot. However, the rest of May and first part of June have much happier events to share: Pastor Mark and Marna attended his niece's graduation with her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Duquesne University on May 5th. Bill Cowher, former head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers was the commencement speaker and he kept his remarks humorous and short. As the students recessed at the conclusion of the commencement, he greeted the graduates and shook their hands. May 7th, we celebrated the first communion of Ben Fox. He was a great student and he had a good time baking a loaf of bread to take home along with a loaf for worship on May 7th. The next Saturday, May 13th, Pastor Mark and Marna were at Lebanon Valley College for Pastor Mark's son's graduation with a Master's of Science Degree. It has been a while since we had seen James and it was good to do breakfast with him before the commencement took place and hear of his plans for his future. On May 16th, Pastor Mark and Marna celebrated their third wedding anniversary. Yes, Pastor Mark remembered flowers and an anniversary card! On the next two Sundays, May 21st and May 28th, we celebrated the making of a new missionary with the baptism of William Allen Crum on May 21st and the confirmation of five of our young people, Keaton, Austin, Bryce, Marleigh, and Brayden on May 28th. Marna's granddaughter turned five on June 6th and Pastor Mark and Marna went east on Saturday, June 10th to celebrate the occasion with extended family and friends. Upcoming events for Pastor Mark are two weddings in July and August and no immediate plans to take time off. To all we wish a blessed summer of time for renewal and recharge. Gratefully, Pastor Mark and Marna

PEWS NEWS



We are adding a new section to the newsletter called Pew News. We will feature a couple articles of news from our friends and church family. If anyone has news that they would like to share with your church family, please put in Becky or Sharon's box in the back of the church.

Noah Kerch (son of Dan and Sonny Kerch) and Lena Doris Prenzel (daughter of Jochen and Stefanie Prenzel) were married on May 13, 2023 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Parish in Hof, Germany. A reception for family and friends was held after the ceremony at Konodienstadl. Noah is currently serving active duty in the Army as an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) instructor/operator. He most recently was promoted to Sargeant (E5). Lena is actively pursuing her teaching degree at Friedrich-Alexander University. The newly married couple reside in Weiden, Germany.