

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PORTAGE, PA**

**NEWSLETTER**

**October, November, & December 2023**



**John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

## Monthly Happenings

October: 1 Sunday Worship 9 AM  
2 Council Meeting 6:30PM  
8 Sunday Worship 9 AM  
9 Columbus Day  
15 Sunday Worship 9 AM/Harvest Fest @ Bethany Church 2-5PM  
St. Luke's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 11AM, All welcome  
18 CPR Class 6:30PM  
22 Sunday Worship 9 AM  
29 Sunday Reformation Worship 9 AM

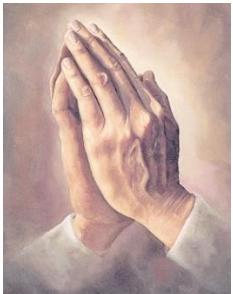
November: 5 Sunday Worship 9 AM/Daylight Savings Time Begins (Fall Back 1 hour)  
6 Council Meeting 6:30PM  
11 Veterans Day – Thank a Vet  
12 Sunday Worship 9 AM  
19 Sunday Worship 9 AM  
23 Thanksgiving Day- Enjoy Family & Friends  
26 Sunday Worship 9 AM

December: 3 Sunday Worship 9 AM/Advent Starts  
4 Council Meeting 6:30PM  
10 Sunday Worship 9 AM  
17 Sunday Worship 9 AM  
24 Sunday Worship 9 AM/Christmas Eve Worship 7PM  
25 Merry Christmas!  
31 Sunday Worship 9 AM/ Happy New Year!

### ***The Small Catechism by Martin Luther***

**What is Holy Communion?** "Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink."

**Where do the Scriptures say this?** Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul say: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you; this DO in remembrance of me." After the same manner, also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this DO, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Ava Stancovich Vic Schaffranek

Susan Kerch

Carolyn Pinos

Ida Kerch

Pastor Kaltenbaugh

Elzie Pauley

Dave Lamar

**Prayer:** 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.*

+++++

**Lutheran Book of Prayer: Advent:** Lord God, we praise You that You comforted Your people with the promise of a Redeemer. We praise You that in the fullness of time You sent Your Son as the Redeemer. We praise You that You give promise that You will send Him to us again to judge the world in righteousness. Open our hearts to receive our Redeemer now as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Open our eyes in awareness of His rule in our lives by His grace. Make Advent a blessing to us as we welcome our Kin in faith and love. We lift up our heads to welcome Him anew. Fill us with gladness as He comes to us. Amen.

**The Father's Love:** Dear Lord Jesus, through your human heart we can catch a glimpse of the divine love with which we are loved and with which you yourself love us, because you and your Father are one. Heavenly Father, help us to reflect your love in our lives each day. Amen.

**The Father's Love:** Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" Lord of Light, fill me with your peace in this day. Allow me to reflect it back out to the world as a beacon of my faith in you. Amen.

+++++

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.

+++++

## **Lutheran Book of Prayers:**

**Morning Prayer:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hand's, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**Evening Prayer:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hand's, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**Thanksgiving & Praise:** Great and wondrous God, Creator and Keeper of the world, You are so high above and beyond my little thoughts and ways that I cannot by my own reason or strength comprehend the extent and fullness of Your being. With thanks and praise I acknowledge Your majesty and power. Because in Your steadfast love and mercy You have made Yourself my Father in Jesus Christ and re-created me in the image of His holiness, I cannot by my own reason or strength comprehend the extent and fullness of Your love. In faith I thank and praise Your grace and mercy. You do so much for me without any merit in me that all I can do is thank and praise Your holy name through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

**In Anger:** I cannot pretend, Lord. You know I am angry, and You know I act like I never knew You. But You are here. Hold back my fury with Your love. Turn me around again, so that I may be filled with Your love that won forgiveness for all men. Enable me to speak forgiveness in Your name. Amen.

## **John 14:15**

**"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"**

## KITCHEN KORNER:

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

### Pretzel Jello

1 cup sugar

¾ cup melted oleo

1 large pkg strawberry jello

3 cups ground or crushed pretzels

1 cup boiling water

3Tbsp sugar

1 (10oz) pkg frozen strawberries,

9oz Cool Whip

8oz cream cheese (room temperature)

Mix oleo pretzels and sugar and press into 9 x13inch pan. Bake at 400 for 8 minutes Cool

Beat cream cheese and sugar Fold in Cool Whip spread over cooled pretzel layer on bottom and up sides of pan.

Dissolve 1 large pkg strawberry Jello and 1 cup boiling water. Add thawed strawberries. Mix and pour over cream cheese layer. Cool.

Karen Meintel

### Macaroni Salad

Cook Kraft macaroni and drain. Sprinkle powdered cheese over warm macaroni. Add 1 cup mayonnaise. Add fresh carrots, onions, green peppers, tomato, and cauliflower. Chill and serve.

Mary Lou Poorman

### Hamburg Pie

3 lb. hamburger

2 tsp. salt/pepper

12 medium potatoes, ground

3 medium onions, ground

Mix potatoes, hamburger, onions, salt and pepper together. Make pie dough. Put in pie dough; put 2 Tbs water on hamburger. Put top crust on. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until done.

Pearl Maul

## Happy Birthday

October  
1        Brady Warner  
3        Sam Lamar  
4        Patricia Nagle  
6        Lauryn Bobolsky  
7        Ellsworth Pauley  
8        Kirsten MacLaughlin  
Katie Lloyd  
10      Mina Dunlap  
11      Tristan Miller  
Carter Troxell  
12      Naomi C. Maul  
Benjamin Fox  
Parker Schmidt  
13  
18      Lorraine Steberger  
Cooper Maul  
19      Joseph D. McKrush  
20      Matthew Chappell  
Geri Maul  
21      Krista Leman  
Sammy Lamar  
22      Abigail Duttry  
Joelle Lutz  
25      Jacob MacLaughlin  
Kaylyn Steward  
26      Jenny Williams  
27      Alex Fedorko  
28      Leah Lamar  
29      Emily Canavan  
30      Ella Mae Kittell

## Happy Anniversary

Josh & Geri Maul  
Garrett & Heidi Lamar  
Robert & Holly Maul  
Rick & Kathy Hazlett  
Joe & Kelly Stancovich

Joe & Jen McKrush  
Scott & Kayla Krise  
Eric & Jill Maul

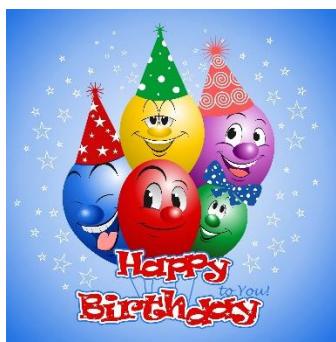


## Happy Birthday

November 1 Kelly Oldham  
4 Elizabeth Kleman  
Annette Labar  
5 Lindsay Selepack  
6 Tammy Warner  
Jessica Litzinger  
7 Casey Cann  
8 Gail Stancovich  
9 Richard Huber  
17 Patricia Burggraf  
Karen Pohopin  
18 Brandon Kick  
21 Wayne Pinos Jr  
24 Lisa Crum  
Ruth Elaine Pinos  
Joseph Litzinger III  
26  
27 Dayton Maul  
29 Skyliegh Slebodnick  
30 Madison Walter

## Happy Anniversary

Walter & Myrna Maul  
Sam & Diane Lamar



## Happy Birthday

December 1 Lydia Maul  
Karen Fedorko  
2  
3 Heather Franey  
4 Dan Kerch  
Linda Kick  
Rhylea Ciokota  
5 Cody Gouse  
Hailey Krisko  
6  
7 Mason Robine  
8 Noami Jean Maul  
Ann Franck  
Josh Canavan  
9 Misty Troxel  
10 Kelsey Lysinger  
Melissa Feathers  
11 Amy Canavan  
Sam Fedorko  
13 Brenda Kerch  
Kathy Kleman  
Carolyn Pinos  
17  
18 Gini Gray  
21 Scott Maul  
22 Savannah Maul  
23 Kaitlin Cann  
24 Landon Maul  
25 Breann Woznak  
26 Bethany Hanak  
29 Todd Feathers  
30 Steve Fedorko

## Happy Anniversary

Richard & Naomi Maul

Girard & Jessica Brunick

Frank & Kim Pohopin



## **The Small Catechism by Martin Luther: The Apostles' Creed**

**The First Article:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**What does this mean?** I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home, and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil. All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore, I surely ought to thank and praise, serve, and obey him.

**The Second Article:** I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**What does this mean?** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary is my Lord. At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

**The Third Article:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**What does this mean?** I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united in Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church day after day, he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day he will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;\*  
the third day he rose from the dead.

## 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:



A refuge against the storms of satan and the world. The dove and olive branch is God's promise that he will never again destroy the world by flood.



Bundle of Wheat: Wheat represents the true believers in Christ as well as the bread used in communion.



Depiction of the Ten Commandments, as they were originally given on two tablets of stone. The first tablet contains the first three commandments, which concern our relationship to God. The commandments of the second tablet (4-10) tell us how we should live with our neighbors.

## **The Altar**

The following information is taken from; The Altar Guild, A guide for the Ministry of Liturgical Preparations, S. Anita Stauffer 1978 copyright Fortress Press.

This is just another part of our service that some may be wondering about. Our formal communion service is done with great reverence which is appropriate to God's house. Reverence is a deep feeling of awe and respect and thanksgiving in the presence of the almighty God. Reverence is reflected and expressed in the way we speak and act, and in how we handle the things of worship and care for the altar, in our attitude toward our fellow servants of the liturgy and in our own worship and prayer.

The Altar represents God's presence in the church, it is fitting that we act and speak reverently whenever we are in the church. This should be whether its Saturday getting the altar ready or Sunday worshiping. We need to act in a way which befits our devotion to our Lord. This may mean entering the Nave or chancel to carry out Altar Guild responsibilities. We may kneel and pray and ask that the work be done to the glory of God. This may also mean to bow before the altar, or making the sign of the cross. The spirit of reverence is shown in the way we speak walk and act. Outside actions are not enough, however, they are worthless if they do not flow out of hearts full of love for God and obedience to his will. The altar is the focal point of the church. We will try to educate and inform you if you do not already know about the routine preparations that are done prior to any worship service, whether it be regular Sunday morning service, wedding or funeral or other special service. Routine procedures and to care for the linens, paraments, flowers, candles, torches, bulletins, hymns and how and why it is done will be a part of this section every issue and hope that it helps you to understand more about our service and liturgy and why we do what we do.

The members of the Altar Guild have a very important part in our worship service and we hope this helps you to understand the importance and dedication and love for God that these members have.

This part of the church and serving it is a ministry of preparation and helps make your worship more personal and meaningful. We will try to educate and inform you so that it may help you to understand how everything comes together for service and helps make your worship more personal and meaningful.

### **ROUTINE PREPARATION**

1. Clean the chancel, make sure all furnishings and appointments are in place and remove anything that will not be used in the service, such as vases if no flowers.
2. Make sure the proper linens and paraments are clean and are in designated liturgical color for the day or occasion.
3. Place the missal in its stand in readiness for use by the pastor, marking the pages according to Pastor's directions.
4. Arrange flowers and put them in place.
5. Make sure candles are in place and wicks are upright and ready to light.
6. If hymn board make sure correct hymn numbers are placed on it.
7. Put bulletins in place for acolytes and Pastor
8. See that the vestments for the Pastor and Acolytes are clean and pressed

## **The Altar Continued**

9. If the Eucharist or Holy Baptism is to be celebrated, prepare the sacramental vessels, elements, and linens according to the Pastor's preference.
10. If a processional cross, torches, or banner is to be used, be sure its stand is in place.

There are routine procedures to be carried out after service as well. The flowers, flower vases, missal and missal stand are removed from the chancel and placed in the sacristy. Flowers are distributed to the sick, and shut-in. The other items are kept in the sacristy till next service. Soiled linens or paraments are removed and cleaned. Anything else, such as hymnals, bulletins, Kleenex shall be removed from the chancel. Paraments shall be changed according to the calendar.

The next issues will feature more about the furnishings of the church and altar and their significance. We hope this is helpful and informative.

+++++

## **Recycle your Cell Phone**

With Christmas coming soon, many of us will be receiving new cell phones. Please consider donating your old wireless phone. There is a box in the entry room of the church to drop off your old phone. We will take your donated phone to the Women's Help Center, a non-profit organization in Johnstown. The phones will be recycled or refurbished. These gifts will increase the number of wireless phones available to domestic violence victims in need, provide 911 emergency phones to seniors and people at risk. Help provide lasting change for women, girls, and older adults.

+++++

## **Aluminum Can Collection**

The Knights of Columbus of Portage are continuing their aluminum can collection to help the people of Ukraine while also helping to clean up our community. We are at 97% of our goal of 100,000 cans. Drop off cans at Holy Family Church by the front entrance at the end of each month, the Portage Senior Center parking lot during the first weekend in October, or at 161 Hemlock Drive. Call 814-243-3845 for pick up information.

+++++

## **Praise the Lord**

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Lilly is celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 15, 2023. Service is at 11AM with dinner to follow. There is a signup sheet posted on the doors to RSVP by October 1<sup>st</sup>. All are welcome.

+++++

## **CPR Classes**

CPR classes will be held at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church Portage on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. Sign up sheet is on the church doors. Open to all.

**Stewardship:** We were created to be stewards of God's creation through our work. There are many passages concerning stewardship in the Bible that tell us this, but the following are important because they give us a biblical framework for stewardship in our lives.

Genesis 1:28- God blessed them. God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28 is the original call to stewardship. Its' where God first calls humanity to cultivate and care for his creation using the unique gifts and talents he has endowed to every person. There are echoes of this mandate I God's words to Noah found in Genesis 9:1-7.

2 Samuel 23:8-17- This is the story of David's mighty men, a story of stewardship in action. If you want to know what stewardship looks like, study this passage.

Matthew 25:14-30- This is the parable of the talents. It illustrates accountability, one of the four principles of biblical stewardship. For everyone who has more will be given, and he will have in abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

+++++

<b>Bible Verses</b>	Psalm 95:2-3	2 Corinthians 9:15	Jonah 2:9
	Luke 6:38	2 Corinthians 9:7	Colossians 3:15

+++++

## Bible Humor:

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?	He knew there was something fishy about it
How does Moses make his coffee?	Hebrews it
Who was the smartest man in the Bible?	Abraham. He knew a Lot
What animal could Noah not trust?	A Cheetah
What did God do to cure Mose's headache?	He gave him two tablets

+++++

## Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin:

A lady recently asked her co-worker what it was like to be a Christian? The lady replied, "It is like being a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see." Author Unknown

+++++

**Prayer:** We are thankful for our families, friends, food and our many blessings, thank you Lord. Amen

+++++

Wishing you all a blessed Harvest, Thanksgiving, a Joyful Christmas, and New Year!  
God Bless!