

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PORTAGE, PA
NEWSLETTER

October, November, & December 2024



906 Caldwell Avenue, Portage PA
Sunday Services @ 9:00AM
Phone: 814-736-3662
Website: Flcportage.com

John 17:21

"As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Monthly Happenings

October: 6 Sunday Worship 9AM
7 Council Meeting 6:30PM
13 Sunday Worship 9AM/HarvestFest Bethany Church 2-5PM
14 Columbus Day
20 Sunday Worship 9AM
18 CPR Class 6:30PM
27 Sunday Reformation Worship 9AM

November: 3 All Saints' Sunday Worship 9AM / Daylight Savings Time Begins (Fall Back)
4 Council Meeting 6:30PM
10 Sunday Worship 9AM
11 Veterans Day – Thank a Vet!
17 Sunday Worship 9AM
24 Sunday Worship 9AM
28 Thanksgiving Day- Enjoy Family & Friends

December: 1 *Sunday Worship 9AM / Advent Starts/ Congregational Meeting*
2 *Council Meeting 6:30PM*
8 *Sunday Worship 9AM*
15 *Sunday Worship 9AM*
22 *Sunday Worship 9AM/ Decorate church after service w/snack to follow*
24 *Christmas Eve Worship 7PM*
25 *Merry Christmas!*
29 *Sunday Worship 9AM/ Happy New Year!*



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Ava Stancovich

Carolyn Pinos

Walter Maul Elzy Pauley

Dave Lamar

Kay Pohopin

Emma Rosman

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.

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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.

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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@alleghenysynod.com

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

Our mission: Inviting people to love one another.

Our vision: All creation living in harmony with Christ.

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

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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.

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!

Octoberfest Pork Chop Casserole

4 or 5 slices of bacon 1 (16 ounce) can sauerkraut 4-6 pork chops, cut approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick
1 large onion sliced thin 2 or 3 large potatoes, peeled, sliced thin
1 (16 ounce) can sold pack tomatoes chopped $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp caraway seeds

Cover the bottom of a casserole with slices of bacon. Top the bacon with a layer of sauerkraut. Lay the pork chops on top with a layer of onion rings. Next arrange a layer of thin potato slices. Cover with the tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper and sprinkle on the caraway seeds. Cover and bake at 350 degrees until done approximately 2 hours.

Gail Stancovich

Freezer Pickles

2 cups sugar 7 cups sliced cucumbers 1 cup vinegar 1 cup sliced onions
1 1/2 tsp salt 1 cup chopped mango peppers 1 1/2 tsp celery seed

Mix sugar vinegar salt and celery seed in sauce pan. Cook until sugar is dissolved, cool. Pour over cucumbers & onions. Place in airtight freezer containers. Freeze

Nettie Rush

Easy Oven Baked Potatoes

Slice potatoes & onions & place in 9 x 13 pan

Melt 1 1/2 sticks butter. Add to butter 1 clove garlic or you can use garlic powder

$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp pepper $\frac{1}{4}$ celery seed

Drizzle over potatoes, cover and bake 400 degrees for 40 minutes

Sprinkle with paprika and bake uncovered 20 minutes more

Ruth Ann Long

I hope you enjoy these recipes and any suggestions or ideas are welcome. Fall is here and the air will get cooler and the leaves will change so please take in the beauty that God has created and be grateful for each day and thankful for all your blessings.

First Frost: "It looked like the world was covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon."
Sarah Addison Allen from Country Living

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
Myah Lamar
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

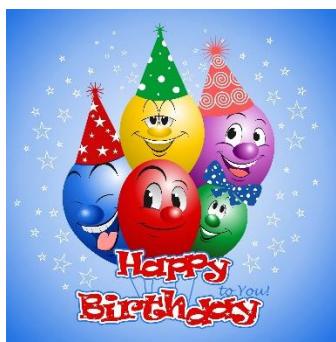


Happy Birthday

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



FYI:

We will continue in this section of the newsletter to explain the importance of the Altar Guild and the meaning, time, color, and reason for all the seasons and festivals of the church and how we prepare for each. The information is taken from the “The Altar Guild”: A guide for the ministry of Liturgical Preparations by S. Anita Stauffer.

The Altar Guild should have a reasonable understanding and significance of the various liturgical seasons and festivals. The principal festivals of the church are Christmas Day, The Epiphany, Easter Day, Ascension Day, the Day of Pentecost, and The Holy Trinity. The seasons of the church are Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Pentecost. Each of these having days within them that are celebrated also.

Advent: The first season of the church year is taken from a Latin word which means “coming.” Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Messiah at Christmas. The color of paraments used during this season is either blue (the color of hope) or purple (the color of penitence). An advent wreath may be hung or set near the altar. The wreath is a circle with four candles and covered with greens. On the first Sunday in Advent the first candle is lit just prior to the reading of the first lesson. Each Sunday a candle is lit until four are lit.

The Nativity of Our Lord: Falls right after Advent and any decorations for Christmas should not be put up during Advent because early decorating robs both Advent and Christmas of their full meaning. The liturgical color for Christmas is white, symbolizing the purity of Christ and our joy at his birth. Greens and wreaths may be placed around the nave and narthex, and the chancel may be adorned with abundant poinsettias. Never place plants on the altar itself, nor should it be obstructed by decorations. A Christmas tree may be set up if sufficient room on the chancel. The tree may be decorated with white lights or left bare and can be decorated with Chrismons (taken from the words “Chirst monograms”) are symbols of Christ and may be made by members of the parish. If possible, a Christmas crèche should be placed near the altar. The figure of the baby Jesus may be carried in the Christmas procession. The wise men may be omitted until Epiphany and placed on a rear window of the nave as a means of depicting their journey to Bethlehem and emphasizing the relation between Christmas and Epiphany

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Epiphany is always celebrated on January 6, marking the manifestation of Christ to the world. The coming of the wise men to Bethlehem is related in the Gospel and now the wise men figures may be added to the crèche. Paraments for Epiphany are white. The first Sunday after the Epiphany is known as the **Baptism of Our Lord**. Paraments are white. It is a most appropriate day for a baptismal festival. The second through eighth Sundays after Epiphany use green paraments. The **Transfiguration of Our Lord** is celebrated on the last Sunday after the Epiphany as a climax to the season. Paraments for the Transfiguration are white.

The Lenten Season: Ash Wednesday has been observed as the first day of Lent. The name is taken from the ancient tradition of placing ashes on the foreheads of penitents. Ash Wednesday remains the most penitential day of the year. Paraments are black (the color of ashes, humiliation, and mourning} purple (the color of penitence} or unbleached linen (suggesting purification}. Flowers are not proper on Ash Wednesday and the empty vases should be removed from the chancel.

FYI Continued:

From **Ash Wednesday** through the Saturday before Holy Week pictures and statues may be veiled with unbleached linen and crosses with purple chiffon demonstrating that Lent is a time for austerity purification and spiritual cleansing. Ashes are made from palms from previous years Palm Sunday celebration. The ashes are burned and mixed with a small amount of water or oil and placed in a small container for the imposition. A lavabo bowl and towel will need to be provided for cleansing the presiding minister's hands.

Lent is the forty-day season (not including Sundays) of preparation for Easter. Paraments are purple. Flowers since they are a symbol of joy are omitted from the altar during Lent to help the congregation absorb the penitential character of the season. Weddings are not appropriate during Lent.

The Sunday of the Passion, **Palm Sunday** is the first day of Holy Week. It is a mixed emotion day as it is triumph and tragedy, observing Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem as well as anticipation the sober events of the coming week. Paraments are purple and palms may replace flowers in the chancel for this day.

Maundy Thursday this day celebrates the Last Supper more than any other day of the church year. It is the festival of the Eucharist the name of the day is taken from the Latin word Mandatum which means command, referring to Jesus words at the Last Supper. "A new commandment I give to you that you love one another." Paraments for this day are scarlet or white. Altar flowers are appropriate and should blend with the color of the paraments. Holy Communion is always celebrated on Maundy Thursday. A foot washing ceremony, exemplifying Jesus servanthood, may be a part of the liturgy. Following the service the altar is stripped as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's humiliation by the soldiers. During the stripping, Psalm 22 is recited by the congregation or sung by the choir.

Good Friday this is the day we celebrate the sacrifice on the cross of Christ, our Passover Lamb. The altar is bare of all linens and worship ornaments and flowers are not used on Good Friday. It is not appropriate to celebrate Holy Communion on this day. If the Good Friday liturgy from the Lutheran Book of worship is used, a large rough-hewn cross may be prepared for the final section of the service. It is placed in readiness in the narthex or in front of the altar.

Easter: Preparations are made with White or gold paraments and abundant flowers and the usual preparations are made for the Eucharist. The Easter Vigil also normally includes the sacrament of Holy Baptism. The Paschal candle leads the Easter Vigil procession and its stand should be placed in readiness near the center approaching the altar. Easter Sunday the best paraments should be used and they should be spotless and white or gold. Vestments should be cleaned and ironed in preparation for the Easter celebration. White or gold flowers (Lilies) should adorn the chancel. All decorations should direct worshippers eyes to the altar and its cross. The Paschal candle is placed near the Gospel side of the altar and is lit for all services from Easter eve through Ascension Day. The Eucharist should never be excluded from any Easter service since Easter is the Paschal feast.

The Ascension of Our Lord: This festival of the Ascension is forty days after Easter and it celebrates Christ's triumphant ascension from the Mount of Olives to heaven. White paraments are used. The Paschal candle is extinguished after the reading of the Gospel symbolizing Christ's departure from his disciples. After the service the Paschal Candle is moved to its place near the font and will be lit when there are baptisms.

FYI Continued:

The Day of Pentecost: Pentecost occurs fifty days after Easter. Pentecost celebrates the time when the Holy Spirit came to the believers; it is the day when decorations and ceremonies should suggest sound and fire as symbols of the Spirit. Bright red paraments are used on the Day of Pentecost. Red flowers may be used on the altar (Gladiolas as their shape suggest tongues of fire and the chancel adorned with red Geraniums. It is appropriate for full procession. Holy Communion is normally celebrated on this festival. Confirmation is sometimes observed.

The Holy Trinity: This festival occurs on the first Sunday after Pentecost and it honors the doctrine of the Trinity. Paraments are white.

Christ the King: The last Sunday after Pentecost celebrates the kingship of Christ and is so named. The liturgical color is white.

Reformation Day: This day is fixed on October 31 but may be observed the Sunday preceding that date. Color is red.

All Saints' Day: This day commemorates all the people of God is All Saints' Day November 1. It may be observed the Sunday following that date. White is the color.

A Day of Thanksgiving: It is common to have a service on Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Eve. The color is white. Restrained decorations of the fruits of the earth such as grapes sheaves of grain ears or stalks of corn are appropriate but should not draw attention away from the altar. Since the word Eucharist is Greek for thanksgiving it is fitting to celebrate Holy Communion at Thanksgiving.

Proverbs 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

I hope this section on the importance of the Altar Guild and the celebrations of our church year and seasons has been interesting or even helpful. I hope it has given you some insight as to why we change colors of the paraments on the altar on certain days and what it all stands for. It makes our service so much more meaningful if when you look at the altar you understand what it is all about.

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Bible Verses:

Psalm 95:2-3

Luke 6:38

2 Corinthians 9:15

2 Corinthians 9:7

Jonah 2:9

Colossians 3:15

Pews News:

On a sad note: we wish to extend the Hodgkinson family our sincere condolences, prayers, and sympathy on the passing of their Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother and Uncle, Tom Hodgkinson. Tom passed away on July 5, 2024. he was a lifelong member of our church and served the church with his time and talents from being on council and Men's club to helping with any maintenance when needed and helping with pancake and sausage breakfasts and fish dinners. Tom could always be seen in the back of the church and counting attendance. He will surely be missed by us all.

Now on a happier note: we wish to send out congratulations to Apyle Earnest & Ryan Barrett on their marriage. Apryle is the daughter of George and Rose Earnest Apyle and Ryan were married on September 6, 2024. Ryan works at Forest Hills school district in the IT department. Apyle has a master's degree from St. Francis university as a Reading specialist.

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Harvest Fest will be held October 13, 2023 from 2-5 pm at the Bethany United Methodist Church parking lot, 700 Farren St Portage Pa. There will be games, food, prizes, pumpkins, music, and trunk or treat. Any donations for trunk or treat or volunteers to do anything at Harvest Fest would be appreciated. Our church will be represented by Kathy Franey who goes up with her car and gives candy out from her trunk for trunk or treat. A poster with all information is posted on the door in the narthex.

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Election day is coming up and our country needs your prayers, as does the world. Please pray for our country to get on the right path. The whole world is in dire need of getting on the right path and finding God. It feels like somewhere along the way people have lost their faith and trust in God. Election day is November 5, 2024 and prayer is needed for whoever gets elected, that they rule with the best interests of our people and country in their decisions. We can only hope that those running in the election also pray for faith and trust to move our country in the right direction.

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CH CH what is missing UR

Our church family is missing you. If you have not been coming, please consider coming back. It may give you the boost you need to face the challenges of the coming week. Hearing God's word and promises and being with all our other church family is a great feeling and we miss seeing you in the congregation and our family is not complete.

PEWS NEWS Continued:

Please let us know if anyone needs First Holy Communion or Confirmation class and if anyone is interested in teaching any of the classes or joining Sunday school or teaching a Sunday school class. We welcome any ideas or suggestions anyone might have to get our children involved and hear God's word and become a part of our church family.

Please let us know if anyone has any information that they would like to share with the congregation. I would like to have something in the newsletter (pews news) every issue from one family or another if you would like it shared just let Becky or Sharon know and we will be happy to put it in.

1 John 4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

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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.

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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.

Community Notice: FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

The Benscreek Social & Citizens Club will be hosting a FREE Thanksgiving Dinner for anyone in the Portage and surrounding communities. Dinner will be served Saturday, November 23rd at 1PM Benscreek Social & Citizens Club 157 Club Road, Lilly PA. Call 814-736-9977 or text 814-243-8450 with questions. Donations will be accepted. Notice will be hanging on the door in the narthex.

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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

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Congregational Meeting:

Our church will have a congregational meeting on December 1 to approve the adoption of the 2025 budget and elect 3 Council Members. Anyone interested in running for council please let a council member or nominating committee member know. Council installation will be the last Sunday in December. We would like to thank Tom Cordwell for volunteering to fill the vacancy in 2024.

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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 safe New Year!
God Bless!