

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PORTAGE, PA
NEWSLETTER

January, February, & March 2025



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

Romans 1:11-12: "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."

Monthly Happenings

January: 1 Happy New Year! May God Bless & Keep You!
5 Sunday Worship 9 AM
6 Council Meeting 6:30 PM/Epiphany Season
12 Sunday Worship 9 AM
19 Sunday Worship 9 AM/Congregational Meeting
20 Martin Luther King Jr Day
26 Sunday Worship 9 AM

February: 2 Sunday Worship 9 AM
3 Council Meeting 6:30PM
9 Sunday Worship 9 AM/Transfiguration of Our Lord
16 Sunday Worship 9 AM
17 President's Day
23 Sunday Worship 9 AM

*March: 2 Sunday Worship 9 AM
3 Council Meeting 6:30PM
5 Ash Wednesday Service
9 Sunday Worship 9 AM/Lent Season/Time Change Spring Ahead 1 hour
16 Sunday Worship 9 AM
23 Sunday Worship 9 AM
30 Sunday Worship 9 AM*

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Bible Verses:

1 Peter 5:7- Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Proverbs 29:25- Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

Matthew 11:28- Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Isaiah 66:13- As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted.



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Ava Stancovich	Emma Rosman	Carolyn Pinos	Beni Krisko
Elzy Pauley	Dave Lamar	Walter Maul	

Prayer: Father, Hear me. Have mercy. Help me. Have mercy. Heal me with Your peace. Father, I am in Your hands. Have mercy. Give peace. Amen.

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

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Lutheran Book of Prayer: New Year’s Day- Lord God, heavenly Father, though You have created us for a life of eternity, we confess that by our sins we have transformed the space of time into a prelude for death. Forgive us the sins of the past, and breathe into us the Spirit of Your Son that we may serve you in this new year. Amen.

Ash Wednesday- Lord Jesus, we come before You sprinkled with ashes of sorrow, robed in sackcloth of repentance, and humbled by our fault, by our most grievous fault. Help us so to watch with You in Your Passion, that we remain awake to the infinite power of Your love. Amen.

Lent- Lord, bring us close to Your cross that we might know how You loved us and give Yourself for us. Lord Jesus, through it all help us hear in Your prayer the single purpose for which You endured pain and death: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” 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 Small Catechism 1979:

Confession: *What is private confession?* Private confession has two parts. First, we make a personal confession of sins to the pastor, and then we receive absolution, which means forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess? Before God we should confess that we are guilty of all sins, even those which are not known to us, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer. But in private confession, as before the pastor, we should confess only those sins which trouble us in heart and mind.

What are such sins? We can examine our everyday life according to the Ten Commandments- for example, how we act toward father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, or toward the people with whom we work, and so on. We may ask ourselves whether we have been disobedient or unfaithful, bad-tempered or dishonest, or whether we have hurt anyone by word or deed.

How might we confess our sins privately? We may say that we wish to confess our sin and to receive absolution in God’s name. We may begin by saying, “I, a poor sinner, confess before God that I am guilty of many sins.” Then we should name the sins that trouble us. We may close the confession with the words, “I repent of all these sins and pray for mercy. I promise to do better with God’s help.”

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Lamentations 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.”

Bible Verses: Psalm 107:1 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Isaiah 41:10
Luke 18:27 Romans 8:31 John 15:13

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Bible Trivia: Old or New- test(ament) your knowledge

Genesis Exodus Matthew Mark Leviticus Numbers Luke John
Jonah Micah Titus James Ezekiel Joel Jude Acts

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What book of the bible can you find the Ten Commandants and can you place in the correct order?

- __ I am the Lord Your God __ You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain**
- __ Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy __ Honor your father & your mother**
- __ You shall not kill __ You shall not commit adultery __ You shall not steal**
- __ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor**
- __ You shall not covet your neighbor's house**
- __ You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's**

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Luther and Lutheranism: Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michaelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, "captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans." In these days Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. "I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God." Then, in the midst of that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a "merciful God justifies us by faith."

January Birthday & Anniversary

1 Isabella Lamar
1 Peter Maul
4 Jamie Schaffranek
6 William Cooper
6 Alfred N. Maul
6 Frank (Rocky) Pohopin
7 Robert Maul Jr.
8 Dann Crum
8 Aivah Maul
9 Jonathan Stauski
10 Donald Horner
11 Cheryl Sherbine
11 Emily Enderlein
11 Mimi Cole
12 Jason Cooper
12 Terry Steward Jr.
13 Pat McCarty
13 Bill Labar
20 Natasha Yohn
21 Myrna J Maul
21 Susan Schaffranek
21 Reece Werner

22 Karen Meintel
22 Todd Hershberger
22 Brandon Bobolsky
24 Stacy Gutshall
25 Wanda Hershberger
25 Cory Maul
25 Emma Rosman
27 Linda McKrush
27 Lindsey Palesch
28 Amy Krisko
31 Kelly McCarty
31 Tony Girard



19 Katie & Wesley Lloyd

Happy Anniversary!

February Birthday & Anniversary

1 Samantha Gouse

2 Alexis Miller

4 Linda Maul

5 Courtney Steward

6 Frances Popish

7 Nanci Steward

8 Kelly Werner

9 Kylee McCarty

9 Kelsey Maul

12 Marleigh Gray

13 Sharon Cordwell

14 Ericca Cadwallader

18 Clarence Shultz

20 Kiera McCarty

24 Kaelyn Troxel

26 Brittany Miller

27 Susan McQuillen

28 Noah Kerch

11 Jason & June Cooper

28 Andrew & Danielle Ciokota



Congratulations

on your
7 Wedding
Anniversary!



March Birthday & Anniversary

1 Sierra Franey

1 Luke Maul

2 Pat McCarty Sr.

3 Tammy Selepack

4 Ray R. Asfar

6 Jason Yetsko

6 Mikel Gray

7 Joseph Lloyd

8 William Erndl

9 Russell Cole

12 Alison Connaghour

12 Evan Boland

15 James Pohopin

17 Wendy Kerch

18 Kieaira Miller

20 Kimberly Hutsky

21 Walter Maul

21 Amanda Hershberger

23 Holly Maul

27 Taylor Maul

27 Jacob Franey

28 Amy Crum

30 Sherry Cadwallader

30 Colton Robine

31 Brittany DeMatteis

31 Tony DeMatteis



3 Mark & Stephanie Stancovich

Happy Anniversary!

FYI SECTION

In previous issues of the newsletter, we have gone over the importance of the Altar Guild and the seasons and festivals of our Lutheran church. Now we will look at our worship and what is Christian worship and our response to it and how the holy spirit works through God and in us and why we worship as we do.

Portions of this information are taken from the book Lutherans at Worship, Augsburg Publishing House, Board of Publication Lutheran Church in America.

Christian Worship is a basic part of Christian life, lived in response to the God who shows us in Jesus Christ who he is and what he intends. The only response appropriate to God's Word given to us in Jesus Christ is Amen to him: Amen to the God who sent him. According to scriptures, that response is the only one pleasing to God. It reflects a life in which the Word of God informs every decision and every value. Worship is the distinctive way in which we respond to God and his Word and is as basic to our lives as Christians.

What then are services of worship? Services are events in which people come together to acclaim God as Lord, to remember his mighty acts, to rejoice in his loving and redeeming presence and to receive his gifts in the sacraments. Being together with our church family brings into focus the faith we all share. Worship is our response to God and it is the event at which we offer our lives and our loyalties to God. Worship is to be directed at God and not at the people. Worship is not necessarily to be a learning experience although it may be a byproduct. Worship is done to praise God. Our response to God is not to win God's favor and we do not achieve salvation by anything we have to offer to God. God did that once for all in the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is finished. Done. The battle is won and God's victory is to be carried to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit

Through the Holy Spirit which is God (John 4), the word of the Lord does not return empty, those who hear it will respond. It is true that no human being can see God and live (Exodus 33), so some way we must know who he is and what he wants. Somehow, he must speak our language and God does that in his son Jesus Christ, in words as well as in flesh and blood. Jesus is risen and not here physically so how does his reality come to us? It comes through the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that calls and gathers us the faithful and inspires us and our response to God. It is the Holy Spirit that makes us want to hear the words and respond with a willingness to offer our lives to God in our decisions in daily life as well as actions in worship.

FYI SECTION Continued

Worship is one dimension and a response of the believer and the work of the Holy Spirit. Even though we do not see a body, the body of Christ on earth today carries on the work of Christ himself even though the head of the body is no longer visible on earth as the man Jesus. This takes us back to the mission of God “God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself” (2Corinthians: 5) by this last dramatic stratagem the creator of the world sought to one more time turn the hearts of people back to him so that their lives and the world might be restored back to the beauty and joy of Eden, a reflection of the glory of God. That was the purpose of the Lord Jesus and the purpose of the cross and resurrection; that is the purpose of the body of Christ today.

This section, I feel, ties into the importance and preparation of the Altar and how we worship. I hope some of this has been helpful if you did not know already know. There is much more to know but felt some of what we have talked about so far is important to our church family and how we as Lutherans praise God and worship.

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First Lutheran Church of Portage Newsletter

The Lord’s Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be they name, they kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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In this next section of the newsletter, we try to talk with and see what is going on in our church family’s lives and how they are doing and things you may or may not know about them and things they may want to share. Everyone is welcome to have anything put in the pews news that you may want to share with the rest of the church family, just put it in either Becky or Sharon’s mailbox or email us and we will be happy to put it in.

Pews News

We all have watched the kids in our church grow up and move on with their lives, in this section we are going to highlight a little about Philip Krisko. Philip is the son of Amy Krisko and the Grandson of Emma Rosman. As you will remember Philip was a very active member of our church family. Philip went to Sunday school, confirmed, and always could be seen serving on the altar on Sundays. He graduated from Portage Area School May of 2022, entered the service, and was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso Texas in December 2023. Philip married his wife Beni on July 6, 2024 and she is also in the service and was shipped overseas September 28, 2024 and will be back in April 2025. Philip will be going to Fort Campbell in Kentucky in March 2025. He is home at this time for Christmas and of course could be seen in church with Mother and Grandmother. Thank you, Philip and Beni, for your service and we are so proud of you and wish Philip and Beni the best.

It has been very busy at Tom and Sharon Cordwell's home especially since Thanksgiving getting ready for the holidays and the hunting season. A lot of the activities at our house over the years include my sister Myrna Maul's family since many years ago when Myrna and Walter's daughter Sherry was about 10 or 12, I would call to have her come and be at my house to make cookies with me. I would do this every year until Shelly was old enough to help and so on with all the nieces. I also would have my brother's girls, Alayna and Christine come. My own daughter Amanda got old enough to help also so every year, the Saturday after Thanksgiving became tradition to get together at our house and hunters go hunting and the rest bake cookies. Over the years this has grown into quite a large group as the girls got boyfriends, some got married, some just brought friends to join in and now there are nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, grandkids, and great grandkids. It has become quite a great tradition and I make a roaster of chili and different ones bring other food and drink to share and we wear special t-shirts and Santa hats or head gear and have a great time. Our family is our greatest treasure and this year we had a total of 47 family here for this yearly tradition. I am sure if you passed our house the sides were bulging. I think we made around 70-80 dozen cookies with approx. 8-9 little ones from 7 years old down to 1 running around playing, hunters coming in and out to get warm and eat and cookies all over. The house goes back to normal by the next day. I just thought it interesting as far as pews news, most of the 47 that were involved are members of our church family.



More Pews News

Hello All,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

I wanted to reach out because I have been doing a lot of thinking about the direction the church is heading. I consider all members of the church as my extended family. I sometimes sit on a Sunday morning, prior to the start of church and I look around. I start thinking of this family or that one, about their kids and even their kids now. I think of how you are missed. I think of what I can do to help in some way.

I am writing to let you all know that I would like to start up Sunday School again. Starting the 2nd Sunday in January, I will be preparing a 30–45-minute lesson. If you attend with your child and would like him/her to attend Sunday School, it will start directly after the service. Parents you are more than welcome to stay if you like. I also have a few people who are willing to help.

Every issue of the First Lutheran Church Newsletter I put in this little thing in...

I am excited to start fellowship with the kids again. I hope to see you soon.

Sonny

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CH__ __ CH what is missing UR

Here is a message to think about.

The children of the church are the future and without them what will our future be??? Please come be a part of our church family and hear the word of God that gives you the boost that you may need to face the week ahead. We miss you we are not the same without you.

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Fruit of the Spirit

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; ~Eph 5:9

S U L E E C G G E S U S T
S O O E G O O F N T O U E
E C N A R E P M E T N S O
N G G S A F A I T H E H O
K S S G S C P O E L O N O
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E T F O O P N R S S S V U
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FAITH

GENTLENESS

GOODNESS

JOY

TEMPERANCE

LONGSUFFERING

LOVE

MEEKNESS

PEACE



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