

First Notes!

February 16, 2020
Sixth Sunday
after The Epiphany



First Lutheran Church & Little Lambs Preschool

6300 Southern Maryland Blvd + Huntingtown, MD 20639

410-257-3030 + LLPS 410-257-3530

Traditional Worship 8:00am
Contemporary Worship 10:45am
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
firstlutheranchurch.org
www.facebook.com/FirstLutheran

Joyfully Proclaim God's Word and Enthusiastically Share Christ's Love



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February's a time of year when things start pointing me to Spring. I can't wait to see new life ... buds on the trees, flowers popping up, and planting my gardens. I like to plant ... so I can grow ... harvest my vegetables ... then have the satisfaction of saying, "Look what I did!" I can be pretty proud of my achievements when all my preparation, planting, and watering pays off. This pride can show up in other parts of life too where I might find myself saying, "Look what I did!"

Pride of this type, when it comes to God's people, His church, and the growth of His church is what Paul addresses in much of 1st Corinthians. The Corinthians had become enamored with certain leaders, crediting them with growing the church and enriching their faith. Twice in the first three chapters of 1st Corinthians, Paul calls to account those who line up their allegiance to Apollos, himself, or other leaders by giving them credit for the church's growth (1:11-13 and 3:4). But Paul scolds them. This pride creates divisions because it's idolatrous – creating idols from human leaders. In the 3rd chapter, Paul responds to the Corinthian's idolatry saying, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:6-7) While God calls on His servants to work in the fields of His creation and proclaim His Word to all mankind, it isn't the workers who bring in the harvest. It's only by the power of the Holy Spirit that people grow from unbelief into belief. That's God's work, not ours.

And this is good news! It's God who brings in the harvest! It can be frustrating to continually proclaim the truth of God's good news – the forgiveness of sin and eternal life through Jesus Christ's life, suffering, death, and resurrection for all who believe – especially when so many ignore it. We can think, "Well I guess I'm not worthy to spread the gospel. Jesus better find someone else." Or worse, "What's wrong with me?! I must not be a strong believer because nobody is coming to faith through me." The good news? God **isn't measuring the quantity** of the harvest. He's simply **measuring the faithful efforts we put into the planting and watering** work we do. God is the one bringing in the harvest. Paul assures us by saying, "He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers." (1 Corinthians 3:7b-9a)

All God asks you and me to do is to do our part – to put in the effort through our faith-filled, faithful words and deeds which show the love of Christ to others. He'll take care of the rest! Then, one day in His kingdom, we'll be able to say, "Look what God did ... through me!" Come to think of it, that's how I should respond to my gardening results too ... I may have planted and watered, but God gave me the seed, caused the rain and sun, and guided me in my tending and harvesting there too.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Jim

Prepare for worship this Sunday. Our readings for February 16th will be Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; and Matthew 5:21-37

This Week at FLC			
Monday	17	Beautiful Feet Bible Study	7:30p
Tuesday	18	Body & Soul	9:15a
		Circuit Meeting	9:30a
		Body & Soul	6:00p
		Deacons Meeting	7:00p
Wednesday	19	Evening Worship Service	6:30p
		Building Comm. Mtg.	7:15p
Thursday	20	Body & Soul	9:15a
		Body & Soul	6:00p
Saturday	22	Men's Morning Bible Study	9:00a
		Worship Planning Mtg.	10:30a
Sunday	23	Traditional Worship Service	8:00a
		Contemporary Worship Service	10:45a
		Voters' Assembly	2:00p
		American Heritage Girls	12:15p
		Youth Group	6:30p
		Altogether Beautiful Bible Study	6:30p

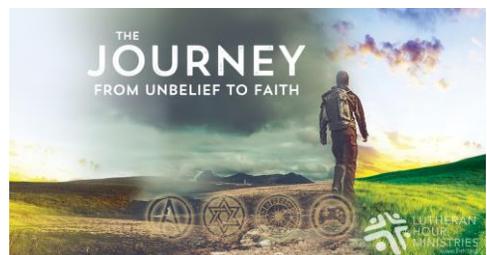
FLC office Hours: Monday - Thursday –9:00a - 4:00p



In this week's lesson, "A Nativity Night," Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where a simple stable serves as the birthplace for the promised Christ Child. Angelic hosts announce the birth of the Savior to ordinary shepherds, who hasten to worship the child. Having seen the Savior in the flesh, the shepherds quickly spread the news of His birth. Ask one another, "How can we share the message of the birth of the Savior today?"

Opportunities to GROW
in God's Word

Sunday Adult Bible Study
9:25-10:25am. – Multipurpose Room



"The Journey from Unbelief to Faith"

This four-session Bible study offers the viewpoints of four people who have made a remarkable journey. Follow the stories of four individuals from widely dissimilar pasts that arrived at the same conviction: Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and because He is they must tell others about it.

~ Deacon: Ardith Harle

Mondays
“Beautiful Feet”

The Gospel According to Matthew includes thirty references to the kingdom of heaven. The “Kingdom” was something for which Jewish people were hoping and waiting. It would be the culmination of all their needs, their desires, and their dreams. When the Promised One, the King, came, everything would be all right. All people, no matter when or where they live--no matter what their nationality or country--have needs, desires, hopes and dreams. Can the answer to all our searchings be found in the King and the Kingdom, promised by God? How does a person become a citizen of this kingdom? What duties and responsibilities does citizenship in this kingdom bring? (quote from Pauline and Leonard Erdman). This study is meant to enhance the Gospel readings from Lectionary Year A so that by the season of Pentecost the entire book of Matthew has been studied in depth.

Join our Beautiful Feet on a journey to study the Gospel of Matthew on Monday evenings at 7:30 PM (EST) using the platform Zoom via smart phones or iPads or desktop computers. Contact Dawn Boyd (dawn_boyd@me.com) for information on how to use your email address to receive an invitational link. Jesus followers from locations around the country gather together via the Holy Spirit and our screens.



There is currently a group meeting at the home of Bill and Cindy Peil that signs on from that location. Get your email address registered with Dawn. The class study book can be obtained from Concordia Publishing House (cph.org) or 1-800-325-3040. The item is from Concordia’s Lifelight series and is item # 203301 (Matthew Part 1 student’s guide and enrichment magazine) and it sells for \$9.99. Behold! A light in the darkness! Our King is the answer!

Wednesdays

~ Wednesday Lunch Bunch ~
Fellowship & Bible Study
2nd & 4th Wed. of each month
ALL AGES WELCOME
Bring your own lunch

Multipurpose Room + 11:30am



Wednesday Evening Worship Service
6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Another opportunity to worship, pray, commune & fellowship with fellow-believers. Come and learn basic biblical principles for living life abundantly.

Saturdays

Men’s Bible Study at 9:00am

Please come and join us in our prayer, fellowship and study.
 John Stellabotta

+ + + +

Prayer Ministry
of First Lutheran Church

Prayer is the privilege of every Christian. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection God brings forgiveness of sins and makes every believing person part of His family, the church. At the initiative of His grace, the Holy Spirit empowers faith for eternal life as well as faith for answered prayer. Prayer is conversation between a child of God and their heavenly Father.

Pray continually; give thanks
in all circumstances...” 1 Thess. 5:17-18a

Our Country: President, Vice President, Congress, Leaders Local, National, & International.

For Those Currently serving in the Military.

Our God is compassionate... Psalm 116:5

“I am the Lord who heals you...” Exodus 15:26

Prayer requests may be submitted to the church’s email address, through the website, or by calling the church office (410-257-3030). Prayer requests may be removed after 3 weeks pending updates.



PANCAKE SUPPER

The Youth Group will be hosting a Pancake Supper on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

+ + + + +

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 26, 2020 + 7:00pm

The Lenten Season

“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” Joel 2:13

Human Care Ministry News
Wendy Kirkpatrick, (Human Care)
Chairperson

Volunteers and Donations always welcomed!



The Mobile Compassion Center is a ministry of the Lutheran Mission Society. Their mission is to bring healing, health and wholeness to individuals, families and communities who are dealing with conflict and disease, through the power of Jesus Christ and the servanthood of compassionate care givers. This Compassion Trailer provides slightly used clothing, personal items, and small household goods at very low prices.

Since Jan 2018 we have assisted almost 400 individuals through this ministry!

As you can see, this is a vital ministry for our community. Although we are blessed to have some very faithful volunteers, we would love to have others join us in this meaningful and fulfilling ministry to our southern Maryland community. If you find that you have 2 hours to spare to help man the trailer for

just one shift, please let Tammie Lauer know. Please also consider donating any clothing or household items which can be dropped off when the trailer is at First Lutheran (preferable date for donations is on the Saturday the trailer is here).

Please keep these dates in mind:

The trailer will be here again:

March 12, 13 & 14

April 9, 10 & 11

The Compassion Trailer is stationed at First Lutheran Church on the second full Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of each month.

I would like to thank the faithful volunteers who have helped to allow this ministry to continue. You are a blessing to this community.



Food Pantry News

We are in need of donations of canned tuna and/or chicken; saltine crackers, packaged mini-muffins, pancake mix & syrup, breakfast bars and cereal at this time. Also, Giant or Safeway gift cards. Giant or Safeway gift cards can easily be purchased through our youth group.

FLC Members and friends...remember that the Food Pantry is available for you also, as needed.



Please volunteer to help with coffee hours. Each Sunday, it is always nice to have a light snack between services or to enjoy during Bible study.

There is a sign-up sheet in the multipurpose room for families to volunteer to bring in food. Fellowship provides the coffee/tea. We are looking for volunteers to help with coffee hour, and volunteers for maintaining the coffee hour. This is a small position with fellowship, but such a HUGE help!

Please see/email Fellowship Chair-Patricia Hopkins

Part-time Staff Position Available -- Annapolis, MD

The LMS Annapolis COMPASSION PLACE has an immediate opening for a part-time center staff worker. This position is for 25 hours per week -- Monday thru Friday, from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. (Some variation in schedule is possible and may be discussed with the center coordinator in person.) Please call 410-269-5016 (Mon-Fri between 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM) or email annapolis@compassionplace.org for more information or to arrange an interview. Starting pay is \$11.00 per hour.



BUILDING COMMITTEE:

The Building Committee is enthusiastic about a revised concept plan for a building addition that reduces the originally proposed footprint, optimizes the use of space for

both LLPS and other church ministries and stays within the congregation's and FHIF budget constraints. This plan and a proposal to move forward with a detailed design, incurring the associated costs, will be presented at the Feb. 23 Voters' Assembly. *Dave Anderson, Chair*

SANCTUARY UPGRADE COMMITTEE:

We will be proceeding with the approved plans to renovate the sound system and install video displays in our Sanctuary early this spring. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

SIGNAGE COMMITTEE: At our upcoming Voters' Assembly Feb. 23, the sign committee will present a proposal for new signage for our building and the front entry area of our church property and seek approval to move forward with the plan.

January-February FHIF prayer cards are available in the church lobby.

Free Estate Planning Seminar-

You are invited to attend a discussion with Andrea Baddour of the Baddour Law Firm, LLC, a full-service estate planning law firm offering services in the areas of Probate, Estate Taxes, Wills, Trusts, Charitable Trusts, and Estate Administration. This estate planning seminar will take place on **Thursday, February 27th at 7:00 P.M.** at First Lutheran Church. Together we will discuss the differences between wills and trusts and the consequences of not having the right one. We will also discuss the importance of having a Power of Attorney and a Living Will as part of your estate planning documents. Refreshments will be served. Contact us at (301) 494-2108 or email us at pat@baddourlaw.net to sign-up but reservations are not necessary.

Ministry Assistants for This Week

2/16	8:00	10:45
Acolyte	Bennett Zurvalec	Joshua Kirschbaum
Crucifer	Drew Cummings	Julia Sigmon
Com Asst.	Jim Harle	Kevin Hohl
Deacon	Ardith Harle	Rich Hoeferkamp
Lectors	Kristy Lester	Melli Lantz
Greeters	Anna Richnafsky	
Nursery	N/A	Wendy Kirkpatrick
Ushers	Keith Sainsbury Paul Maassel	Mark Brunworth Wayne Daniel Jeff Lauer
Altar Guild	Stephanie Sainsbury	

Little Lambs Preschool



It's time to think about registering for Fall 2020.

We currently have openings for ages 3 & 4, and a wait list for 2's. Please let your friends and neighbors know about your school. Contact Angie at angelsbox@aol.com or 410-257-3530 for more information.

~Angie Hohl, LLPS Program Director

Congregational Voters' Assembly February 23rd

There will be a Special Voter's Assembly immediately following service on **February 23, 2020**, beginning at 12:15. Items to be addressed at the assembly are:

- 1- Vote on amendments to the National Constitution for the LCMS. The proposed changes are administrative in nature and do not substantively alter the Constitution. It is meant to provide clarification and eliminate inconsistencies caused by piecemeal changes over time. These proposed changes were passed by a vote of 873 for and 77 opposed at the 2019 national convention. Information sheets are available in the narthex or details can be found here: <https://blogs.lcms.org/2019/official-notice-office-of-the-secretary-the-lutheran-church-missouri-synod/>
- 2- Update on Following Him in Faith financial position to include performance against pledges, current balances and commitments.
- 3- Discussion of signage committee progress and proposal to move forward with execution.
- 4- Discussion and presentation by building committee on revised concept plan and proposal to move forward with detailed design based on reduced footprint expansion to current building and associated costs to proceed.

Trent Wolfersberger, BOD Chairman



Altogether Beautiful
New Women's Bible Study
 Sunday, February 23rd at 6:30pm

Please purchase your book ahead at
www.amazon.com or www.cph.org



Birthright of Prince Frederick

Do you have a heart for the unborn and their mothers? Do you want a significant opportunity for participating in the life movement? Birthright of Prince Frederick is hiring an Executive Director to manage their center in Prince Frederick. Professional, part-time, and salaried position. For an information packet/application, call the center at 410-257-1402. For questions, call Joe Tiralla at 410-535-2109 or Jeannette Reinecker, LCSWC at 301-233-2582.



There will be a few Mission Board Chair openings in June.

[Fellowship](#) – open for nominees

[Worship](#) – open for nominees

[Human Care](#) – current Chair is running for another term.

We're also looking for a Bereavement Reception Coordinator.

If you'd like to find out more about any of these opportunities, please see me.

Wendy Kirkpatrick, Human Care Chairperson

We Are Here to Serve You...

James E. Kent, Pastor

DCE Shawn Maassel, Family Life Ministry

DCE Susan Fogleman, Youth Director

Dr. Robert Beeson, Music Director

Marilyn Beeson, Accompanist

Nancy Pope, Administrative Church Secretary

Christine Marcus, Receptionist / Secretary

Tom Spragg, Property Management

Little Lambs Preschool

Angie Hohl, LLPS Program Director

Laura Zeruto, Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

Chairman, Trent Wolfersberger

Vice Chairman, Keith Sainsbury

Executive Secretary, Tristan Beeson

Treasurer, Glenn Meier

Mission Board Representative, Wendy Kirkpatrick