

First Notes!

May 2, 2021

*Fifth Sunday
of Easter*



First Lutheran Church & Little Lambs Preschool

6300 Southern Maryland Blvd + Huntingtown, MD 20639
410-257-3030 + LLPS 410-257-3530

On-Line Worship 10:00am
Wednesday In-Person Worship 6:30pm
firstlutheranchurch.org
www.facebook.com/FirstLutheran

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

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Easter Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Learning something is hard, especially when trying to learn it on our own. I'm glad I had teachers who helped me learn my ABCs, math and science, and the arts. And that they also helped me learn to dig into the basics to understand why things worked the way they did. They've helped me throughout my life. I thank Mrs. Wong, Mrs. Fetzger, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Nido – to name a few of the schoolteachers I had. Next time you figure something out – thank a teacher for helping you develop the gifts God has given you.

While the 3 Rs, "readin', ritin', and 'rithmetic", are important, the most important subject is God's word. In His word we hear how to live our lives in this world in a way that also leads to eternal life. But, to understand God's word we need good teachers. We see one of these teachers in [Acts 8:26-40](#). An official in Queen Candace's court was trying to figure out the prophet Isaiah. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Philip asked if he understood what he was reading. The official said, "*How can I, unless someone guides me?*" So, Philip taught him the good news about Jesus. Because of Philip's teaching, the official started understanding God's word and how his eternal life depended on faith in Jesus. He told Philip, "*Here's water! Baptize me!*" So, Philip did – by the power of the Spirit, the man was saved for eternity by the most important knowledge of all, that Jesus came to save Him from Satan, sin, and eternal death.

God calls on us to teach others about Jesus through our words and deeds. He also encourages us to turn to His word for guidance when we're unsure of something. We're both teachers and students of His word. Let us all continue to learn from God while also teaching others that all might come to believe and trust in God's promises of forgiveness and eternal life through His Son, Jesus.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the Risen Christ's Love,
Pastor Jim

*Prepare for worship this Sunday. Our readings for
May 2nd are Acts 8:26-30; 1 John 4:1-11;
and John 15:1-8*

+++ Grads, Moms, and Dads +++

If you've got a grad, a mom, or a dad ... and who doesn't ... **send us a picture or two** for including in some upcoming slide shows to honor these important people in coming weeks. Email photos to flc@firstlutheranchurch.org and sfogleman@firstlutheranchurch.org.



In addition, **for those with grads (high school and college)**, pass along their names and a brief update on their plans so we can keep them in prayer as they make this transition in their lives.

+++ Worship +++

In Person Worship!

In-person worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 8:30am and Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm, in addition to our normal online worship service on Sundays at 10am.

Pre-registration is required for each in-person service so we can ensure we do not go over the capacity of our limited, socially-distanced seating, which will accommodate roughly 30 worshippers.

You can sign up to pre-register by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080544afa723abff2-inperson>, contacting the church office, or contacting Susan Fogleman. Sign ups close 3 days prior to each service.

First Lutheran Live!

First Lutheran Live offers live access to worship services, Bible Studies and classes, and small groups through Zoom.

The **livestream will open 15 minutes before services** start to enable you to catch up with others in virtual fellowship. Please **submit your prayer requests and any questions** you may have about the readings, message, or other areas through Zoom's chat feature.

Sunday Worship at 10am: -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88993441481>

(Call Church Office for directions on access)

Join Service by phone by calling (301)715-8592 and entering the following codes:

Sunday Worship at 10am: **88993441481**

+++ Bible Studies and Classes +++

(Waiting Room enabled. Please wait for Host to welcome you.)

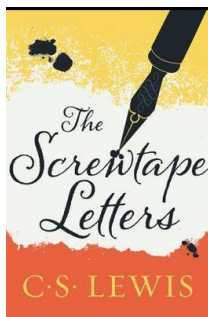
Sunday

Sunday Morning Bible Class at 11:15am
(find study guide on church website):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/693123954>

Phone Meeting ID: **693123954**

Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:15am via Zoom



**— April 11th – June 6th –
"Selections from the
Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis"**

The **Screwtape Letters** include the struggle between good and evil and the role of reason in the Christian life. The struggle between good and evil: Every person on earth is a soul for which Heaven and Hell are constantly struggling.

This study will be led by the Deacons. Please join us each Sunday, starting Sunday, April 11th through June 6th during the Adult Sunday School class at 11:15AM via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/693123954>).

Children's Sunday School ~ 2:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83664072761?pwd=bzJNUUZkenFJZ3l3TjdNWVU1SWN5dz09>

SUNDAY EVENING YOUNG ADULT Book Discussion & Get-together



College age (and beyond) young adults – join us, every other Sunday, as we meet and discuss Just Do Something by Kevin DeYoung. Purchase the book ahead at Amazon.com. **Next meeting is May 2, at 9pm!** Contact Shawn Maassel for the Zoom link to join.

Monday

"Beautiful Feet" Bible Study Starting on April 12th

The Gospel of Mark doesn't bother with shepherds or angels or baby pictures. Instead, this Gospel begins like a block of ice dropped from the balcony into the deep end of the pool: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." By verse 5 we are all drenched—standing face to face with John the Baptist! The Gospel of Mark moves at a breathless pace. People enter and exit the text with great frequency. Mark intends for us to notice everything, though, even the smallest of things, as he tucks in a surprise detail here and there in the Gospel. Mark's Gospel breaks into our lives with the invitation to believe in Jesus and to take up our cross and follow him. Join us on Monday evenings on the Zoom platform via your smart phone or iPad or desktop computer at 7:30 PM (EDT).

Contact Dawn Boyd (dawn_boyd@me.com) for information on receiving the weekly reading assignment and set of questions that will accompany our study. Jesus followers from locations around the country gather together via the Holy Spirit and our screens. Come, as we, too, encounter an empty tomb and must decide where we will go, what we

will say, and what we will do on the rest of our spiritual journey with Jesus! (description of Mark's Gospel is from Kimberly Clayton Richter)

Wednesday

Lunch Bunch Bible Study
(every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month)

<https://zoom.us/j/397280685>

Phone Meeting ID: **397280685**

+++ Small Groups +++

Saturday

Men's Fellowship - 10:00am

Please join us for men's fellowship.

Love in Christ ~ Todd & David

<https://zoom.us/j/339451332>

Phone Meeting ID: **339451332**

(See our website for the links to the podcasts)

+++ Stewardship +++

God calls us to work in His vineyard using the gifts He has given us all in advance – the time associated with our lives; the talents of knowledge, skills, and abilities to be His hands, feet, eyes, ears, and lips in the world; and our treasure. He calls us to use these gifts generously, trusting Him to replenish them as needed, to serve His church and the world. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve Him with the gifts He has given you.

+++ Time +++

Confirmation Cards – Please take a moment to stop by the church and sign the three cards in the lobby for our second year Confirmation student who will be confirming their faith in worship on Sunday, May 23.

~ DCE Shawn Maassel

Project Echo House – Do you enjoy providing hospitality for others? FLC provides the evening meal for Project Echo's guests on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Sign up to provide the meal at Sign-Up Genius. Recipes are available on the church website Outreach link.

Vacation Bible School Volunteers – We'll need small group guides, a games leader and helpers, a snack coordinator (simplified this year), a craft coordinator and helpers AND storytellers. VBS is July 19 – 23 from 9am-noon. smaassel@firstlutheranchurch.org

Prayer Circle – We're always looking for people to join the faithful prayer warriors to lift the concerns of God's people in prayer. If you have time to join them, please call the church office, 410-257-3030 to be added to the Prayer Circle.

+++ Talent +++

LLPS Preschool Board Members Needed – This board works to oversee LLPS and to help Angie and her staff conduct this ministry in the most efficient way possible. We're in need of members to serve on this board, **including any with financial management/accounting talents**, as Glenda Spragg, the past LLPS Board Treasurer has moved. Please contact Anne Swope or Angie Hohl (angelsbox@aol.com) if interested.

++ *Treasure* ++



Prayer Ministry of First Lutheran Church

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ... We truly appreciate your continued faithful giving in this difficult time. You can continue your support of First Lutheran Church by:

1. On-line: firstlutheranchurch.org/donate-now (be sure to enter the web address carefully)
 2. Mail: First Lutheran Church
6300 Southern Maryland Blvd.
Huntingtown, MD 20639
 3. Drop off: at the Church office, either in the outside mailbox, or in Nancy's mail slot in the church hallway.
- Praying for safety and wellness to all our faithful members and families. ~ Jeff Lauer, Financial Secretary



Vacation Bible School:

Join us **July 19-23, 2021** for God's Wonder Lab. VBS is

open to students age 4 – 5th grade. Registration and volunteer sign up is available through the church website (under 'ministries') or at: <https://vbsmate.com/events/firstlutheranhuntingtownmd/19810>

Our hope (and prayer) is to be able to meet 'in person' with safeguards in place but we remain open to another virtual VBS if necessary. Contact Shawn Maassel with any questions smaassel@firstlutheranchurch.org



Food Pantry News

We are in need of refilling our pantry shelves especially for breakfast bars, pancake mix, canned chicken, spaghetti sauce, rice, instant potatoes, stewed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, kidney beans, black beans, cornbread, saltine crackers, and jelly. Thank you for helping in this vital ministry to our community.

Contact the church office for information on all church meetings and events.

<i>This Week at FLC</i>			
Sunday	2	In-Person Worship Service	8:30a
		Worship Service (on-line)	10:00a
		Adult Bible Study (on-line)	11:15a
		Confirmation Class (on-line)	12:30p
		Sunday School (on-line)	2:00p
		Just Do Something Meeting	9:00p
Monday	3	UFO (on-line)	7:00p
		Beautiful Feet Bible Study	7:30p
Tuesday	4	Body & Soul	6:00p
Wednesday	5	Evening Worship Service	6:30p
Saturday	8	Men's Bible Study	9:00a
Sunday	9	In-Person Worship Service	8:30a
		Worship Service (on line)	10:00a
		Adult Bible Study	11:15a
		Sunday School (on-line)	2:00p
		Sunday Evening Bible Study	6:30p

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

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.

The World: Grant peace, comfort, and hope in the promise of the Gospel throughout God's creation. We pray especially for those living in nations in the midst of war and conflict: Afghanistan, Myanmar, Brazil, India, and Central America; the oppressed in all nations, and all battling health emergencies, epidemics, and pandemics.

Our Country: President, Vice President, Congress, Leaders Local, National, & International. Grant wisdom to lead and serve humbly in accord with Your word.

For Those Currently serving in the Military, Law Enforcement, and in vocations that serve and protect our communities: keep them safe from harm and enable them to serve according to Your will.

All Healthcare Providers, First Responders, and Scientists: Grant them protection from illness as they encounter and treat those with the COVID-19 and other illnesses. Grant them rest and recovery to keep them strong. Guide their hands and minds to discover and provide treatment and bring healing to all people in all places.

Teachers, Administrators, School Workers, Parents, and Students: Grant wisdom to all involved in making decisions about the manner in which education will occur in the coming schoolyear. Grant peace and protection to all that anxiety and disease may be kept at bay. We pray especially for all involved with FLC's Little Lambs Preschool.

Those Seeking Change: Grant peaceful expression of opinions that necessary changes are adopted where needed. Defeat the evil one and his means of violence and destruction on all sides which sows seeds of division and wickedness which only tear the fabric of creation apart.

All Affected by Fires, Hurricanes and Floods, and other Natural Disasters – May God send rain where needed, dryness where needed, and relief in any form where needed. Protect those affected from harm and danger and restore their lives to whole again. Grant energy and strength to all who are responding with disaster relief.

Our God is compassionate... Psalm 116:5



Praising God for the safe and healthy birth of a child: Jericho Cecil Dudley was born on April 21st, and weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz., 19 1/4" long. Jericho is the grandson of Bill and Beth Johnson. Congratulations!

"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.



BUILDING COMMITTEE:

Members of the Building Committee met with an architect from CMI on Tuesday, March 16. Drawings were reviewed by key ministry leaders to assure all preschool, youth, music ministry and storage needs were being addressed. Leaders came to agreement over minimal changes to the current drawings. The Building Committee is looking forward to sharing detailed architectural plans with congregation once updated. ~ Dave Anderson, Chair

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SANCTUARY UPGRADE COMMITTEE: The AV installation is complete. "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: The new building lettering has been installed and the new roadside sign is now completed!

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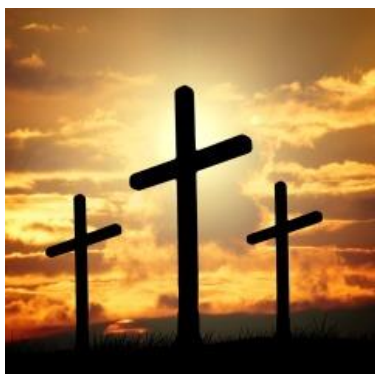
Little Lambs Preschool Fall Registration

Community Registration for the Little Lambs Preschool will be held on **Friday, May 7th** from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.



Body & Soul Fitness Classes Available

Mondays - 9:15-10:15am (in person, weather permitting and Zoom) and **Tuesdays - 6:00-7:00pm** (Zoom only until further notice) Go to www.bodyandsoul.org (Instructor: Shawn Maassel) or contact Shawn at smaassel@comcast.net for more information.



*Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.
(Ephesians 3:17 NLT)*

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

Little Lambs Preschool

Angie Hohl, LLPS Program Director
Laura Zeruto, Administrative Assistant

**The SED Lay
Deacon
Program is
Accepting
Applications
Now!**



The vision for this Lay Deacon Program is to equip and empower men and women for Kingdom service within your congregation and beyond as everyday missionaries in love and service to your neighborhood and community.

If you are feeling that tap on your heart from God personally, please reach out to Rev. Gary Rueter at ldcoordinator@se.lcms.org for more information and to sign up. Look for more information on our [website](#). You can also speak with David Chenevert (david.curtis.chenevert@gmail.com) as he is currently going through the program and will be happy to share about his experience.