

First Notes!

May 9, 2021

*Sixth 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.

Happy Mother's Day to all our Mom's! We all have one thing in common – we have a mother. I recognize not everyone's "mother experience" is the same. However, because of our mother's, who all laid aside some personal comfort for us, we've been given the gift of life. May God bless and keep all our mothers – the ones who bore us, the ones who cared for us, the ones who love us. Our lives come from God through them to us. We thank you.

Regardless of our experiences with our own mothers, and I'm more thankful than you can imagine for mine – though, in times past that might not have always been the case – their love pales in comparison to the greatest love of all ... the love of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus demonstrates this greatest of all love through His own life, death, and resurrection – for us. And not just for us, but for all mankind, even the people we personally cannot stand the sight of. Jesus laid His life down for them too.

Jesus' love for us guarantees that each of us who believe in Him and demonstrate that belief by keeping His commandments will receive the gift of eternal life with Him. In response, He asks us to also love one another. He asks us to love the people we like – who look, act, and agree with us. As well as, to love the people we don't like – who don't look, act, or agree with us. Let's show our love by laying down our lives for them. Not necessarily by dying, but by seeing them as fellow creatures God has also created in His image and then laying down our lives by giving of our gifts to support them in their needs. In this way we show them the love of Christ – the greatest love of all. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the Risen Christ's Love,
Pastor Jim

*Prepare for worship this Sunday. Our readings for
May 9th are Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8;
and John 15:9-17*

Thank God for mothers! The celebration of Mother's Day is an informal celebration that presents an opportunity to give thanks to God for His gift of mothers. In observing the day, we are connected with the biblical record of mothers and grandmothers and are reminded that motherhood is a special vocation. Although the customary celebration of Mother's Day is focused on family relationships, we can extend our gratitude to God for His faithfulness to all the faithful women who have been blessings in every generation.

Welcome to the FLC Ministry Team Stephanie Sainsbury!

We're happy to announce Stephanie Sainsbury has been selected from an extensive pool of very qualified candidates to serve God and His people as our new Administrative Church Secretary. She'll begin by working with Nancy in June and assume full duties when Nancy retires on June 25th. Welcome aboard! May God bless your work.

+++ Grads & Dads +++

If you've got a grad or a dad, **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

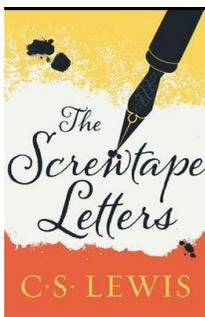
Sunday Morning Bible Class at 11:15am
(find study guide on church website):

<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=bzJNUUZkenFJZ3l3TjdNWU1SWN5dz09>

SUNDAY EVENING YOUNG ADULT Book Discussion & Get-together



College age (and beyond) young adults – join us, every other Sunday, **from 7-8pm** as we meet and discuss Just Do Something by Kevin DeYoung. Purchase the book ahead at Amazon.com. **Next meeting is May 16!** Contact Shawn Maassel for the Zoom link to join.

Monday

"Beautiful Feet" Bible Study

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* ++

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*

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

<i>This Week at FLC</i>			
Sunday	9	In-Person Worship Service Worship Service (on-line) Adult Bible Study Sunday School (on-line) Sunday Evening Bible Study	8:30a 10:00a 11:15a 2:00p 6:30p
Monday	10	Body & Soul UFO (on-line) Beautiful Feet Bible Study	9:15a 7:00p 7:30p
Tuesday	11	Body & Soul	6:00p
Wednesday	12	Lunch Bunch Bible Study Evening Worship Service	11:30a 6:30p
Saturday	15	Men's Bible Study Youth Group	9:00a 4:00p
Sunday	16	In-Person Worship Service Worship Service (on line) Adult Bible Study Confirmation Class (on-line) Sunday School (on-line) Just Do Something Bible Study	8:30a 10:00a 11:15a 12:30p 2:00p 7:00p

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

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*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.

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: Ethiopia, Myanmar, 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.



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.



"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

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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**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.

*How about making Mom a treat
for Mother's Day!*

Fudgy Chocolate Meringue Cookies

You'll Need

- 4 Large egg whites
- 1 cup sugar
- 12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted gently and cooled to room temperature
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

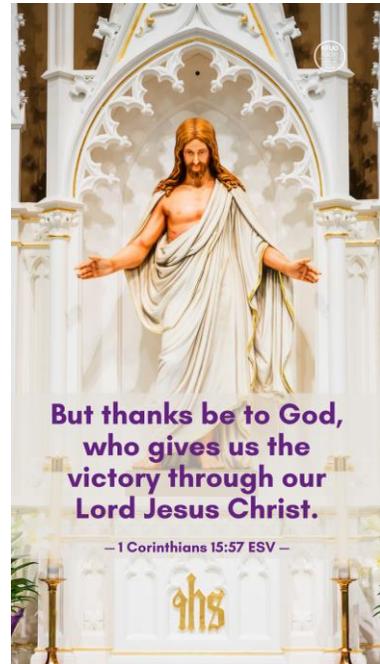
Instructions

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350° F.

Step 2: Lightly spray a baking sheet with non-stick spray, set aside. With a mixer, beat egg whites, slowly adding in sugar, until soft peaks form. With a rubber spatula, gently fold in chocolate and vanilla. Stir just until combined.

Step 3: Drop by 1.5 Tbsp-sized spoonful's onto prepared baking sheet, 1 inch apart.

Step 4: Bake for 10-11 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool 2 minutes on baking sheet. Remove to cooling rack to cool completely.



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

Board of Directors

Chairman, Andrew House

Vice Chairman, Keith Sainsbury

Executive Secretary, Mark Kirschbaum

Treasurer, Glenn Meier

Mission Board Representative, Wendy Kirkpatrick