

# First Notes!

May 16, 2021

Seventh 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.

"Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth – so help you God?" I've never testified in a trial, but from what I've seen many times on TV, the actual oath is close to that. I understand that to be a witness you must also have knowledge of the events, be competent, and make that oath. Then, your testimony becomes evidence to support one side or the other. But if your testimony is false, your perjury can cause you to lose your freedom.

While a trial is definitely different than our faith, we still testify. Through witnesses, God has given us testimony about who Jesus is and what He did. These witnesses, the Apostles, experienced firsthand everything Jesus said and did. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, they recorded their testimony for us to hear so we might "believe in the name of the Son of God that (we) may know that (we) have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

Because their testimony dwells within us, we are God's children. As His children, we're called to follow in the Apostles' footsteps by offering our own testimony about Jesus (1 John 5:10a). While the world may make different testimonies about who Jesus is and what He came to do, that testimony is not true. Just like someone who lies under oath is guilty of perjury – and will lose their freedom in prison – those who do not or won't make a true testimony about Jesus due to unbelief will also lose their freedom in the eternal prison of hell (1 John 5:11-12).

However, God desires that all His creatures hear the truth of His testimony so they may turn away from the world's lies and become His children through faith in Christ. So let us share our testimony of God with others. Let us tell others, through words and deeds, how God has freed us from sin and given us life. That they too might have life with us.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the Risen Christ's Love,  
Pastor Jim

*Prepare for worship this Sunday. Our readings for  
May 16th are Acts 1:12-26; 1 John 5:9-15;  
and John 17:11b-19*

## +++ Grads and 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](mailto:flc@firstlutheranchurch.org) and

[sfogleman@firstlutheranchurch.org](mailto:sfogleman@firstlutheranchurch.org).

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.

## Midweek Communion Service for High Risk Members

Pastor Jim will hold a 10-minute Service of Holy Communion on **Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM**. The service will include Confession and Absolution, the Creed and Lord's Prayer, Holy Communion, and a Blessing. For everyone's protection, the service will be limited to 6 households (and driver if necessary) of high risk members and will require attendees to sanitize hands, wear masks, and sit in socially distanced seats. If interested in attending, please call the office at 410-257-3030 to reserve a spot.



## Armed Forces Day ~ Saturday, May 15th

Our men and women in uniform are diligent, dedicated, and determined. As we celebrate Armed Forces on Saturday, ask God to bring peace to lands that are torn apart by war. Encourage our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen and their families as they struggle with difficult separations. Thank the retired veteran who has served with distinction in the past. Continue to pray for our men and women of the military and our Chaplains as they proclaim the life-giving message of the Gospel.

## +++ 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

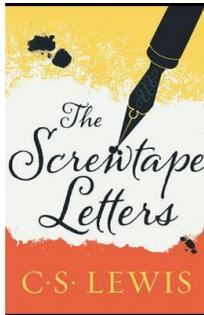
(find study guide on church website):

<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 11<sup>th</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup> 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=bzJNUUZkenFJZ3I3TjdNWU1SWN5dz09>

## **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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Gustafson & David Chenevert

<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* +++

**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](mailto: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.

**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

+++ *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 LLPS current LLPS Board Treasurer will be moving to Delaware this year. Please contact Anne Swope or Angie Hohl ([angelsbox@aol.com](mailto: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](https://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 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:smaassel@firstlutheranchurch.org)



**Food Pantry News**

We are in need of refilling our pantry shelves. At this time, we are in need of granola bars, pancake mix, rice, canned chicken, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, 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>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	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
<b>Monday</b>	<b>17</b>	Body & Soul UFO (on-line) Beautiful Feet Bible Study	9:15a 7:00p 7:30p
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>18</b>	FLC Staff Meeting Body & Soul	1:45p 6:00p
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>19</b>	Evening Worship Service	6:30p
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>22</b>	Men's Bible Study VBS Band Rehearsal	9:00a 2:00p
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	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

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: Israel and Palestine, Myanmar, India and Nepal, 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 school year. 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.

*"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

where faith and fitness meet

**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](http://www.bodyandsoul.org) (Instructor: Shawn Maassel) or contact Shawn for more information.

### Calling all missionaries!

God has called us to bring the good news of Christ to our own "Judea" here in our county. Please join me on Monday night, **May 24th at 7 PM** so that we can discuss new opportunities to serve our neighbors through a missionary style outreach. If you are interested in working on this important outreach opportunity, please contact me at 410-449-2146. All ages are welcome.

-In Christ, David Chenevert

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### Congregational Voters' Assembly Meeting June 13th

On Sunday, **June 13th**, immediately following the 10:00am service, we will meet for a Congregational Voters' Assembly. Please plan on attending this very important meeting. We will be electing new officers, approving the budget and giving a new building update.

*Andrew House, BOD Chairman*

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#### Upcoming Youth Events/Activities:

May 15, 4pm: In-Person Youth Group

May 15, 7pm: Among Us -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85762709090>

May 16, 3:30pm: NYG Informational Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81287540633>

May 22, 7pm: Among Us

May 29, 4pm: In-Person Youth Group

May 29, 7pm: Among Us

The annual youth yard sale will be **June 19th** (rain date June 29th), 7am-12pm. If you have items to donate, you can begin dropping them off at the LLPS Learning Cottage on **June 2nd**.



#### 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 25<sup>th</sup>. Welcome aboard! May God bless your work.

#### *We Are Here to Serve You...*

James E. Kent, Pastor  
pastor@firstlutheranchurch.org

DCE Shawn Maassel, Family Life Ministry  
smaassel@firstlutheranchurch.org

DCE Susan Fogleman, Youth Director  
sfogleman@firstlutheranchurch.org

Dr. Robert Beeson, Music Director  
rmbeeson@comcast.net

Marilyn Beeson, Accompanist  
rmbeeson@comcast.net

Nancy Pope, Administrative Church Secretary  
flc@firstlutheranchurch.org

Christine Marcus, Receptionist / Secretary  
receptionist@firstlutheranchurch.org

#### *Little Lambs Preschool*

Angie Hohl, LLPS Program Director  
angelsbox@aol.com

Laura Zeruto, Administrative Assistant  
littl lambs@firstlutheranchurch.org