

# First Lutheran Church & Little Lambs Preschool

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



# FIRST NOTES

September 26, 2021 — Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## SUNDAY SERVICE

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM  
In-person and On-line  
(Communion every Sunday)

## WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6:30 PM

### HIGH RISK COMMUNION SERVICE

10:00 AM and 3:00 PM  
(3rd Tuesday of the Month)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT BIBLE CLASS

9:15 AM

### A Word from Our Pastor

Dear Children of God,

"We're #1! We're #1!" Everyone wants to be #1. With college football season upon us the "Top Twenty-Five" polls are a common sight. And many are excited to see their team jumping in the polls ... others get crazy that their "arch-enemy" is ranked above them. I fall into the same trap with my teams. This year, they had a big win early on and looked to be flying up the polls, while their chief rival got upset – "YAY!" The next week my team got upset and fell out of the polls too.

This fascination with being #1 or on the winning team is nothing new. Even Jesus' disciples fell into the "We're #1" trap. They were beside themselves with jealousy because someone else, who wasn't on their "team" was healing people in Jesus' name. But Jesus reminded them, *"Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us"* (Mark 9:39-40). There is one "Team Jesus" and whoever calls on His name in faith is on that team. Wherever His name is proclaimed in truth and light, the gospel is being spread.

I can see myself in the disciples' sandals though. I have a pretty good idea on what I think is the correct interpretation of scripture in many areas. When I see others with different interpretations, it is tempting to join in with the disciples to call those others out too. But then I hear Jesus' scolding of His disciples ringing in my own ears. While we may differ in certain areas of scriptural interpretation, it's important to remember what Jesus says to us, *"No one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us"* (Mark 9:39-40). We are saved by the works and name of Jesus and faith in Him alone ([Romans 10:9-10](#)).

In Christ's Love, Pastor Jim

It is always with a mixture of sadness and joy that we face the passing of friends and family. Sadness because their deaths leave a hole in our lives. Joy because we know God's promises to receive His children into His holy and eternal presence. I am at once sad and joyful to let you know that our brother-in-Christ, Al Benzer and our sister-in-Christ Diana Bell recently passed away. Services for Al and Diana will be held as follows:



**Al Benzer's service will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30PM at Jefferson-Patterson Park Pavilion in St. Leonard MD.**

A reception will follow. If you can help support the service and reception, please go to Sign-Up Genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080544afa723abff2-albenzer> for details. Cards and notes of support to Linda and Sara can be sent to: Linda and Sara Benzer, 4970 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

**Diana Bell's service will be October 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM at First Lutheran Church.** A reception will follow. Due to family health concerns, the family respectfully requests that all in-person attendees be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Cards and notes of support to Frank and his family can be sent to: Frank Bell, 1407 Jewell Road, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

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Prepare for worship this Sunday, our readings for September 26<sup>th</sup> are:  
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; James 5:(1-12)13-20; Mark 9:38-50

### 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
- Stephanie Sainsbury, Admin. Church Secretary
- Christine Marcus, Receptionist/Secretary

### Little Lambs Pre-School

- Angie Hohl, LLPS Program Director
- Laura Zeruto, Administrative Assistant



### Worship Services

In-person worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM.

### 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.

### Zoom Link

Contact the Church office for details or visit our website at [www.firstlutheranchurch.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurch.org)

Joining the service by phone?

Call: 301-715-8592

and enter the following code:

88993441481

### Sunday

#### Three Creeds, One True God

Who is God? We profess our faith using the three Ecumenical Creeds. Why three? Isn't one enough? Pastor Jim will lead a study looking at the three creeds we use—Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian. We'll look at the reasons we have each one and the biblical basis for the faith we profess each week in worship. Please join us each Sunday in September at 9:15am (in-person or Zoom) for a study of the Christian Creeds.

### Monday

#### "Beautiful Feet" Bible Study

"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." Just as the boy Samuel learned to listen to the Lord, so we, too, will listen to the Holy Spirit on Monday evenings beginning Sept. 20 as we explore this transitional time in the history of God's people from judges to kings. Join us on Zoom via your smart phone or iPad or desktop computer at 7:30 PM Eastern time. Contact the Church office at [flc@firstlutheranchurch.org](mailto:flc@firstlutheranchurch.org) for information on receiving the weekly reading assignment and set of questions that will accompany the study as well as signing up for all needed login information. Get ready to listen as our story begins with the desperate pleas of a woman named Hannah and continues until we finally are listening for what it means to be a person after God's own heart!

## Bible Classes

### Wednesday

#### Lunch Bunch Bible Study

(2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month)

Lunch Bunch meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We start gathering for lunch and fellowship in the Multipurpose Room and via Zoom at 11:30 am and begin the study at Noon. Currently we're studying the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews. In addition to getting more familiar with this interesting letter, attendees will also be able to get ready for several of our upcoming Sunday worship services as Hebrews will be the Epistle lesson throughout Oct and Nov. Join us for lunch and God's Word.

### Saturday

Men's Fellowship – In 1975 I was a long way from God, full of worry and trouble. I guess you could say I was at the end of myself; a hurt, broken man. I needed real help that only God could bring. I found myself in a Christian book store with my brother. I noticed the New Testament on tapes, and thought that I would never read the bible but would probably listen to it. So I bought it, and my life began to change. St. John says "the Word was with God, and the Word was God". So began an adventure with God. With much trial and hardship, my life began to get better. The Word of God changed my life and can change yours also! There would be no need to study it if there was no reality or power in it. For

a mature Christian life its important to understand how Jesus views things. Come meet with us on Zoom at 10:00am to 12:00pm every Saturday starting Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Love in Christ John Stellabotta



### COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Looking to make an impact for Jesus in your community? Are you looking to study the Bible in a deeper way? Have you struggled to find a study that works for you?

Community Bible Study is a community-based, weekly Bible study that seeks to transform lives and make disciples of Christ through the study of God's Word in a community environment. We hope to start a new class and small group in Southern Maryland this Fall. If interested in learning more, please reach out to Shauna Kent, [shauna.kent@communitybiblestudy.org](mailto:shauna.kent@communitybiblestudy.org), (703) 505-5186 for more information.



## Outreach & Fellowship



### Classes Available

Thurs. - 10-10:45am & Tues.- 6-6:45pm.

Go to [www.bodyandsoul.org](http://www.bodyandsoul.org)

(Instructor: Shawn Maassel) or contact Shawn at [smaassel@comcast.net](mailto:smaassel@comcast.net) for more information.

### Food Pantry News

We need to refill our pantry shelves. Currently, we mostly need syrup, canned meat, canned chicken, tuna and canned soup. Thank you for helping this vital ministry to our community! In addition, some of our food pantry patrons need gift cards for gas to get to doctor's appointments, etc. Please also consider donating Wawa gift cards.



### FLC FALL FEST!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 11:30AM - 2:00 PM

### BARBEQUE, GAMES & TRUNK OR TREATING!

We're looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up as well as help with cooking, games, and hosting a trunk. Please consider sponsoring a trunk for our Fall Festival as an individual, family, or ministry of First Lutheran. This a perfect opportunity to share Christ's love. If you have a ministry, this is a great time to bring in new members or donations to your cause.

Let's have everyone involved! Please bring your friends! Have a bite to eat and get goodies and information about FLC ministries! If young children choose to dress up, please keep costumes joyful! Please avoid scary costumes, weapons, or anything to do with witches, goblins, ghost or the devil.

Please let Todd Gustafson know if you plan on sponsoring a trunk and if you need any special accommodations. Email Todd at [toddgustafson@hotmail.com](mailto:toddgustafson@hotmail.com).





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

**Feed the Homeless:** - FLC feeds Calvert County's homeless at Project Echo the 2nd Saturday of each month (October 9th). Please see signups and recipes at <https://www.firstlutheranchurch.org/outreach>.

**In-person Worship Requires In-person Support!** Expanding in-person worship opportunities means we need ushers, readers, musicians and singers, audio-visual system operators, offering counters, and altar guild teams to prepare the sanctuary for worship each week. If you desire to serve God and His people in any of these (or other) areas, please contact Pastor Jim or the church office and we'll get you equipped to do so.

**Need Help!** with Set-up and Take-down of Sunday School tables and chairs; *especially set up for the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month.* There is a sign-up sheet provided to designate which Sunday you would be available to setup and take down. Contact Shawn Maassel at [smaassel@firstlutheranchurch.org](mailto:smaassel@firstlutheranchurch.org) or 301-332-9801

### 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**, Please contact Anne Swope or Angie Hohl ([angelsbox@aol.com](mailto:angelsbox@aol.com)) if interested.

**B** *Do you have a heart for the unborn and their mothers?* Birthright is currently seeking a **Director to manage their center in Prince Frederick.** Please prayerfully consider if God may be calling you to work in this professional, part-time, paid position. Birthright is committed to providing confidential, non-judgmental support to any woman who is pregnant or thinks she might be pregnant, no matter her age, race, circumstances, religion, marital status or financial situation. For an information packet/application, call the center at 410-257-1402 or if you have questions, please call **Paula Bryant at 301-221-5085 or Denise Waters at 410-474-9393.**

### Treasure

*Do you have a spare room you'd be willing to rent to a member in need for a period of time?*



Every now and then, I receive a request from a member who is going through a transition and needs a room to rent. If you have a room to rent, please let me know about deposits and monthly rent, responsibilities/restrictions, other info you feel is important. If needed, I'll connect you with those in need as they make their needs known.

In Christ, Pastor Jim  
[pastor@firstlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@firstlutheranchurch.org).

**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](http://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 Stephanie's mail slot in the church hallway.

Praying for safety and wellness to all our faithful members and families.~ Jeff Lauer, Financial Secretary





# Stewardship

*a way of life*

Ministry Assistants for This Week		
9/26	8:00	10:30
Acolytes	Dana Dillon	Kat Hansen
Crucifer	None Assigned	Angel Hansen
Deacon	Neil Kennedy	Neil Kennedy
Lectors/Readers	Julia/Sabrina Sigmon	Tricia/Shawn/Youth
Ushers	Paul Maassel	Rob Wert
Altar Guild	Tricia Smeltzer	
Sun. School Setup	Bryan Dillon/AHG	

This Week at FLC			
All Worship is In-person and Livestreamed			
Sun	26	Traditional Worship Service Sunday School, Adult Bible Class Contemporary Worship Service First Communion Class Sunday School (Zoom) "Be Still" Bible Study	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30-12:30 pm 2:00 pm 6:30 pm
Mon	27	Body and Soul UFO (on-line)	10:00 am 7:00 pm
Tues	28	Body & Soul	6:00 pm-6:45 pm
Wed	29	Evening Worship Service	6:30 pm
Fri	1	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
Sun	3	Traditional Worship Service Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Bible Class Contemporary Worship Service Memorial Service (Al Benzer) "Be Still" Bible Study	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 2:30PM (Jeff-Patt Pk) 6:30 pm
<b>FLC office Hours: Monday - Thursday – 9:00am - 3:30pm</b> For more info go to <a href="http://www.firstlutheranchurch.org">www.firstlutheranchurch.org</a>			

## Prayer Ministry

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. By His grace, the Holy Spirit empowers faith for eternal life as well as faith for answered prayer. Prayer is conversation between God's children 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 conflict, natural disasters, and battling health emergencies, epidemics, and pandemics: Israel and Palestine, Haiti, Iran, Afghanistan, and the Korean Peninsula and Asia.

**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 this 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. We pray especially for those impacted by storms in the Southeast and Northeast and fires and drought in the West.

