



First Lutheran Church & Little Lambs Preschool

6300 Southern Maryland Blvd., Huntingtown, MD 20639

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

Phone: 410-257-3030
LLPS: 410-257-3530



Website: www.firstlutheranchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FirstLutheran

Sunday Services (Communion every Sunday) Traditional Worship 8 am (In-Person/Online) Contemporary Worship 10:45 am (In-Person/Online)	Children's Sunday School, Adult Bible Class & Confirmation Class 9:30 am	Monthly Communion 2nd Wed. of the Month at 1:00 pm	Wednesday Evening Service 6:30 pm
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Mar. 19, 2023
4th Sunday in Lent

FIRST NOTES

Words from Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"What's your problem there?" This simple question could mean a couple things. First, it could mean, "What's the cause of your difficulty?" – asking the who, what, why question to find blame. But it could also mean, "What can I do to help?" – asking the how question to assist you out of your predicament? It's a subtle difference. But when I have a problem, assessing blame doesn't usually fix the issue. I'd rather someone help me out.

Jesus teaches us a similar lesson when He comes along a blind man. His disciples seem most interested in the cause of his blindness, "Jesus, who sinned this man or his parents?" (**John 9:2**) Jesus didn't seem to care much about "who" or "why". He focused on "how" – how to help the man so God's glory might be displayed in the world for others to see (**John 9:3**). Jesus anointed the man's eyes with some mud and said, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam." Which he did and ... problem solved – he could see again.

Because of Jesus' action in the man's life, he came to see something even more important than his way around town. The man came to see and believe Jesus was the Messiah. Immediately he worshipped Jesus (**John 9:35-38**).

It's not that the cause of our problems is unimportant. But the cause isn't always the most important thing. God our Father knows what our main problem is – sin – and the cause – our fallen human nature inherited from Adam and Eve. But He's more interested in how He can help us out of our "sin" problem through His actions! Of course, that action is sending His Son Jesus to us to live, die, and rise from the dead to save us.

God calls us to action today. God calls us to share His love with others by helping them out. When we do this, we show God's love to and shine His glory on those in need – that they too might also see Him and say, "Lord, I believe!"

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jim



Church Spring Clean Day

March 25, 2023

from 9:30 am till 12 pm

RAIN DATE: APRIL 1st

There will be a sign-up sheet placed in the lobby. Please come help clean up the church for Easter. There will be lunch provided afterwards! Hot dogs, chips and drinks.

Come join the fun!



Prepare for worship this Sunday, our readings for Mar. 19th are:
Isaiah 42:14-21; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

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First Lutheran Church Staff

James E. Kent
PASTOR

DCE Shawn Maassel
FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

DCE Susan Fogleman
YOUTH DIRECTOR

Stephanie Sainsbury
ADMIN. CHURCH SECRETARY

Dr. Robert Beeson
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Marilyn Beeson
ACCOMPANIST

Little Lambs Preschool

Stephanie Mosely
LLPS DIRECTOR

Jessica Cook
ADMIN. ASSISTANT



Worship Services

Aug-June: In-person worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM, 10:45 AM and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM.

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

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

Please contact the church office for details.

Joining the Service by Phone?

Call 301-715-8592 and enter the following code: 88993441481

BIBLE CLASSES

† SUNDAY †

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

Raising Kingdom Kids: Join Adam and Bekah Bower and other parents of young children to take a look at Tony Evans Bible study from Focus on the Family. Raising Kingdom Kids equips parents to raise their children with a Kingdom perspective and also offers practical how-to advice on providing spiritual training as instructed in Scripture. This study runs **9:30-10:25am** in the Multipurpose Room next to the nursery and library.



Return to the Lord



...a key refrain each Lent comes from Joel 2:13, "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster." A question in many minds upon hearing this is, "HOW DO I RETURN TO THE LORD?" This Lent we'll engage with God's word each week to see how God invites us to return to Him by seeing the many ways people fall away from Him through the examples of key events during Holy Week – the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas' betrayal, Jesus' trial before the elders and chief priests, Peter's denial of Jesus, Pilate's attempt to find truth, the Last Supper, and Jesus' death and resurrection. Join me for our study each week, **continuing through April 2nd at 9:20AM in the Fellowship Hall**, as we live more deeply in the events of Holy Week. ~ Pastor Jim

Ladies' Sunday Night Bible Study

Women of Easter runs **March 5th thru April 2nd** Sunday nights on Zoom. Get your book now at Lifeway.com or Amazon. Reach out to Shawn Maassel at smaassel@firstlutheranchurch.org for the Zoom link to join or any questions.



† MONDAY †

"Beautiful Feet" Bible Study

Around 2000 years ago (some would suggest about the year A.D. 62) a physician by the name of Luke was busy writing (for future generations) a record that we now call the Gospel according to

Luke. Luke recorded the account of our salvation through Jesus Christ. These events that Luke recorded are significant, personally and eternally, for you and for me. God has a way of making each of us a part of His story. In a very real way, you are the Theophilus (whose name means "one who loves God" that Luke addresses at the beginning of his orderly account. Come discover how Luke's Gospel was written for you! Join us on **Monday evenings via Zoom** at 7:30 PM Eastern time to study Luke. Contact the church office at fle@firstlutheranchurch.org for information on how to receive a Zoom link and study questions from Dawn Boyd.

† WEDNESDAY †

Lunch Bunch Bible Study

Redemption through the Suffering Servant—a study of Isaiah 40-66 with Pastor Jim. We're preparing for and walking through the Lenten season by studying God's Old Testament word found in Isaiah and how He will redeem His creation through His suffering servant, our Lord Jesus Christ. Takes place the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We gather at 11:30 am for fellowship and bag lunch followed by the study at 12 Noon.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series

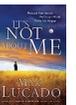


...God our merciful, loving, ever grace-filled Father in heaven sees us all wandering away from Him in any number of ways. He desires nothing more than that we return to Him (Joel 2:13). The Lenten season is a season of reflecting on the ways we wander away from God ...on the ways we fall short of His glory. While we may think we're unique, we're not when it comes to our wandering. The first Holy Week included many events that show the many ways we and others wander from God. But, through it all, it shows God's determination to bring us back to Himself. Join us this Lenten season for Wednesday evening worship, as well as for special Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services on April 6th and 7th.

† THURSDAY †

Morning Bible Study

Join us in-person **from 10:45am-12pm** as we take a look at Max Lucado's "**Its Not About Me**". The book is available thru Shawn Maassel—let her know if you will be joining! smaassel@firstlutheranchurch.org.



† SATURDAY †

Men's Saturday Morning Fellowship

Boy Scouts have a handbook to help them to become good boy scouts. Christians have the Bible which we believe to be the Word of God, to enable us to become men and women God wants us to be. The secular world says that ignorance of the law is no excuse. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In order to do so, we need to read and understand Gods Word, our manual to be a better Christian. Come and join with us every Saturday on **Zoom** (<https://zoom.us/j/339451332>) from **10:00am-12:00pm** to explore God's Word.

OUTREACH



FELLOWSHIP



Concordia Seminary
ST. LOUIS

As part of our outreach to the church, your weekly offerings support Daniel Brummet and his wife Sarah while Daniel attends Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Daniel and Sarah give us thanks for our continued support. He asks for prayers as they jointly minister to the people of St. Louis through a young adults ministry they've started and as they await Call Day in April when they will find out where they'll be assigned for their vicarage. Thank you for your support to the next generation of pastors and their families.



body & soul fitness

where faith and fitness meet

Classes Available

Classes are offered on
Tuesday at 6:00 pm
Thursday at 9:30 am

Babysitting is being offered at the morning class

Go to www.bodyandsoul.org or contact Shawn at smaassel@comcast.net for more information



Little Lambs Preschool

FUNDRAISER

Help LLPS raise money for their scholarship fund and playground improvements. Please pick up a flyer in the church lobby and bring it to Three Brothers Italian Restaurant.



March 30th from 5:00 pm to 8:00pm

65 Sherry Lane
Prince Frederick, MD

For more information email Stephanie Mosely
directorllps@firstlutheranchurch.org



Easter Lilies

There is still time to donate \$10.00 for Easter Lilies or give one in memoriam for a loved one. Please make sure your donation is received by April 2nd and placed in either the Secretary's mailbox or in the offering plate during church service. Thank-you. - Altar Guild

Ministry Assistants Sunday, March 19, 2023

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Acolyte	None Assigned	Colt Hanna
Reader	Kristy Lester	Shawn Maassel
Usher	Scott Lester	None Assigned
Altar Guild	Kristy Lester	
Nursery Assistants	During Sun. School	Dillon Family
	During 2nd Service	
Setup	Maassel	



Food Pantry Needs!

We **NEED** the following items: cereal, syrup, pancake mix, peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, soups, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, mac-n-cheese, diced tomatoes, muffin mix, canned tuna and chicken. Also rice, and green and yellow vegetables.

Please double check expiration/use-by dates on your donations.

We are not permitted to serve expired items. Thank-you!

Thanks for helping with this vital ministry for our community!

Please consider donating \$25 gas cards or grocery gift cards. We are currently out! Please use Youth Scrip or donate your own purchases (they are a tax write-off!) to benefit our patrons of the Food Pantry or our FLC youth.

This Week at First Lutheran Church All Worship: In-person and Livestreamed

Sun	19	Fourth Sunday in Lent Traditional Worship Service Sun. School, Adult Bible Study, Confirmation Contemporary Worship Service Luke & Clara Gibson Baptism Women's Bible Study	8:00 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 6:30 pm
Mon	20	UFO (online)	7:00 pm
Tues	21	Body & Soul	6:00 pm
Wed	22	Lunch Bunch Bible Study Staff Meeting Lenten Wednesday Evening Service Praise Team Rehearsal	11:30 am 1:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm
Thurs	23	Body & Soul Bible Study-MP Room Board of Directors—MP Room	9:30 am 10:45am 7:00 pm
Fri	24	OFFICE CLOSED	
Sat	25	Spring Clean Up at First Lutheran—Lunch Provided	9:30 am- 12:00pm
Sun	26	Fifth Sunday in Lent Traditional Worship Service Sun. School, Adult Bible Study, Confirmation Contemporary Worship Service American Heritage Girls Women's Bible Study	8:00 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 3:00 pm 6:30 pm

For more info go to www.firstlutheranchurch.org



VBS 2023 Register Now!

Register to attend www.firstlutheranchurch.org.
WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!! Please see display in church lobby. VBS will be held from
July 10-14, 2023 from 9am-Noon. Ages 4 - 5th grade



Stewardship

GIVE...BECAUSE HE FIRST GAVE

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 (**Apr. 8**). Please see signups and recipes at www.firstlutheranchurch.org/outreach.

Treasure

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 Stephanie Sainsbury's mail slot in the church hallway.

Worship Ministry

God calls us to worship for two reasons. First so we can hear His word gladly and receive His grace found in that word. Second, so we can thank and praise Him for His infinite grace and bring our requests to Him. We do this each day of the week, but especially as we gather together as the Body of Christ in worship each Sunday and Wednesday. In order to glorify God in worship and joyfully proclaim His word God provides through His people the means to worship Him each week In our current fiscal year, the administration budget includes:

- ◆ Salaries for Musicians, Accompanists, and Guest Musicians: \$53,619
- ◆ Operations of Sound and Video Systems: \$5,500
- ◆ Licenses for Music, Graphics, Bulletins: \$1,800
- ◆ Supplies (Communion, Oil, Candles, Cleaning): \$1,900

Little Lambs Preschool has Openings!
 for the 2023-2024 school year in the 3 day Pre-K class, all other classes have wait lists. Please share with family and friends. Contact the Preschool Director, Stephanie Mosely, for more information or to schedule a tour at 410-257-3530 or email directorllps@firstlutheranchurch.org




**The Lord is near to the
brokenhearted,
 and saves the crushed
 in *Spirit.***

✦

PSALM 34:18



Draw near to God,
 and he will draw near to you.
 James 4:8

