



First Lutheran Church & Little Lambs Preschool

6300 Southern Maryland Blvd., Huntingtown, MD 20639

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

Web: www.firstlutheranchurch.org • FLC Ph: 410-257-3030 • LLPS Ph: 410-257-3530

Epiphany



Sunday Services (Communion every Sunday)

**Traditional
Worship 8:00 am**
(In-Person/Online)

**Contemporary
Worship 10:45 am**
(In-Person/Online)

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School,
Adult Bible Class &
Confirmation Class 9:30 am

Monthly Communion

2nd Wed. of the month
1:15 pm

**Wednesday
Evening Service**
6:30 pm

January 7, 2024 Epiphany (Observed)

Words from our Pastor...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Light is God's first created thing. It's also His fastest, traveling at just over 186,000 miles/second. Its velocity makes it seem instantaneous. It starts from a point and travels simultaneously in all directions. And finally, it's one of His most relentless creations because it just keeps going and going, stopping for nothing. Therefore, it's one of the best examples to help us envision God. God is always present with us – we don't need to wait for Him. Not only is He with us, but He's with everyone else in creation. And, like light, He is relentless ... always searching for us, able to get through the very smallest of cracks to illuminate our lives.

God penetrates the darkest darkness, "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you." (Isaiah 60:2) His word shines, unstopped, in the world's darkness, reaching through it into hearts needing to be softened by Him.

God's gifts – His mercy, grace, and love – land on everyone, everywhere in His creation, even those who've never heard of Him, "This mystery is that the Gentiles are

fellow heirs (with the Jews, the original heirs to His promises), *members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*" (Ephesians 3:6) No matter who or where you are, God is there calling to you through the Holy Spirit to receive His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

God uses people, like the wise men who brought word of Jesus' birth to Jerusalem from far away, to carry His gifts throughout His creation to bring His good news to others (Matthew 2:1-12). His light travels through all the generations, coming to us today that we might continue to be the means He uses to keep spreading it to future generations. So let us receive His light and then boldly reflect it into the lives of others that they too will receive it and be saved by it.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jim



Volunteers Needed!

Saturday, January 13th at 9:00 am

Christmas season is coming to a close and we need to take down our decorations in the church. Any help is greatly appreciated.

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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Prepare for worship this Sunday, our readings for Jan 7th are
Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

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/Organist

LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL

Stephanie Mosely
Little Lambs Director

Jessica Cook
Administrative Assistant

FIRST NOTES

BIBLE CLASSES



Worship
Information
for



First Lutheran LIVE!

First Lutheran Live offers live access to worship services, Bible Studies, classes, and small groups through Zoom. The livestream opens 15 minutes before services start to enable you to catch up with others in virtual fellowship. Please submit 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 call the church office for passcode

*Joining the Service
by Phone?*

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

✝ SUNDAY ✝

Sunday Morning Sunday School and Bible Classes

Join us Sunday Mornings: Children's Sunday School,
Confirmation, Youth & Adult classes
from 9:30 am—10:30 am.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Watch for information on new Adult Bible Study starting Sunday,
January 7th at 9:30 AM.

DISCOVERY CLASS

First Lutheran Discovery Class with Pastor Jim ... Are you interested in learning more about what we believe, teach, and confess about God's Word, the gift of His Sacraments, and how we live our lives as His children? Are you new to First Lutheran and desire to know more about how you can participate in the life of God's Church here? **Starting on Sunday, January 7th at 9:30 am and running through Feb. 11th**, join me for a 6-session class called "Discovery" that answers these and other questions you might have. We will meet for about an hour in the Church Library between Sunday services. Please "RSVP" to Pastor Jim by calling the office or sending him an email at pastor@firstlutheranchurch.org. I look forward to spending time in God's Word with you in this class.
— Pastor Jim Kent

SUNDAY EVENING

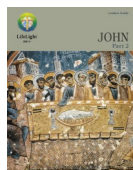
Ladies Bible Study

New Sunday Evening Bible Study coming January 21st.

✝ MONDAY ✝

"Beautiful Feet" Bible Study

(Taking a holiday break until January TBD)



How frequently do we turn to the book of Psalms to find comfort? What the book of Psalms is to the Old Testament the Gospel of John is to the New Testament in the opinion of many. It is a refuge, a harbor. Come dig deeply into the **Gospel of John (Part II)** in an online study group meeting on Monday evenings starting in January (TBD). Contact the Church Office at flc@firstlutheranchurch.org for information on how to receive a Zoom link from Dawn Boyd. The group meets at 7:30 PM Eastern time on Mondays on a weekly basis. Purchase the needed study guide from *Concordia Publishing House*.

✝ WEDNESDAY ✝

Lunch Bunch Bible Study

The Gospel of John (Class is January 10th)

Lunch Bunch meets on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month**. We'll gather at **11:30 am** for fellowship and bag lunch followed by the study at 12 Noon. This time around we'll be immersing ourselves in the Gospel of John. **If interested in attending, please let Pastor Jim know so we can have books available for you.**

✝ SATURDAY ✝

Saturday Bible Study for All!

Our Saturday morning Bible study is now open to all—men, women, young, old, anyone who has an interest in understanding the Word of God. The Saturday morning study meets every week via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/339451332>) from **10:00am-12:00pm**. Our study usually revolves around the Sunday scriptures of the week so it's a great way to prepare for Sunday worship! The study isn't a verse-by-verse lecture, but a discussion guided by the study leader. This type of study allows us to get to know each other better. After all, how can we love one another if we don't know each other? Why not join us?



Ministry Assistants Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Acolyte	Elizabeth Hopkins	Hayden Higgs
Readers	Tricia Smeltzer	Assistance Needed
Usher	Assistance Needed	Wayne Daniel
Altar Guild	Tricia Smeltzer	Tricia Smeltzer
SS Setup Takedown	Bosak family Wayne Daniel	

OUTREACH



FELLOWSHIP



Body & Soul Fitness, with support funds from Thrivent, is collecting gently used adult-sized sneakers to clean/recycle for those in need.

Please donate in Shawn Maassel's office (or downstairs at the Body & Soul class sign-in table) through January 7. Thank you!



CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS!

We need help re-stocking the food pantry!
The following donations are much needed and appreciated:

- breakfast items such as oatmeal
- canned pasta
- grits, cereal, cream of wheat
- drinks
- canned fruit, apple sauce
- mac & cheese
- rice
- canned tuna or chicken
- jelly

Kindly leave donations just under the coat rack to the right side so we can move the items to the pantry in the kitchen downstairs (far left corner).

Please make sure to check the dates on your items, nothing out of date can be used!

Thanks for helping with this vital ministry for our community!

THIS WEEK at First Lutheran Church

All Worship: In-person-Livestreamed

Epiphany Sunday (Observed)

Sun	7	Traditional Worship Service	8:00 am
		Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Confirmation Class	9:30 am
		Contemporary Worship Service	10:45am
Mon	8	UFO (on-line)	7:00 pm
Tues.	9	Body & Soul	6:00 pm
		Worship Committee Mtg.	7:00 pm
		Finance Mtg.	7:00 pm
Wed	10	Lunch Bunch	11:30 pm
		Monthly Communion	1:00 pm
		Pre-School Board Meeting	4:30 pm
		Evening Worship Service	6:30 pm
Thurs	11	Praise Team Rehearsal	7:30 pm
		Body & Soul	9:30 am
Fri	12	OFFICE CLOSED	

First Sunday after Epiphany

Sun	14	Traditional Worship Service	8:00 am
		Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Confirmation Class	9:30 am
		Contemporary Worship Service	10:45am
		American Heritage Girls	3:00 pm

For more info go to www.firstlutheranchurch.org



Little Lambs, Youth, Worship Ministry Addition Progress



Firewall finished!
Added floor to top half of addition, and interior has lights! Well, construction lights at least.





Stewardship

GIVE...BECAUSE HE FIRST GAVE

God calls us to work in His vineyard using the gifts He has given us all – 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

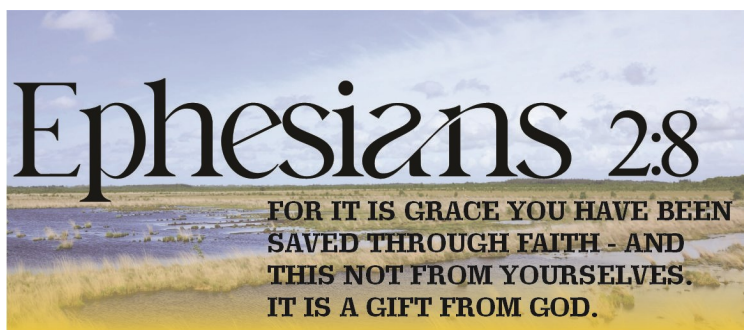
Feed the Homeless: FLC feeds Calvert County's homeless at Project Echo the 2nd Saturday of each month (Jan. 13). Please see signups and recipes at www.firstlutheranchurch.org/outreach.

TREASURE

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 Secretary's mail slot in the church hallway.

COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT **GOD** HAS DONE.



Your Treasure Supports the Administration of Ministries

Jesus calls us to be "in the world" not "of the world" (John 15:19). Because we are "in the world" we have obligations to the world—utilities, insurance, mortgage, and other bills - which come due each month so we can worship God, study His word, and care for His people. The tithes and offerings of God's people help pay these bills. In our current fiscal year, the administration budget includes:

- ♦ Licenses for software & equipment; Supplies for bulletins, Sunday School, restrooms, and cleaning: \$18,000
- ♦ Utilities (Electric, Internet, Trash Removal): \$23,000
- ♦ Property Services (Janitorial, Mowing/Snow Removal, Maintenance): \$20,000
- ♦ Property, Liability, and Workman Comp Insurance: \$15,000
- ♦ Mortgage: \$35,000



Christ
The Way, the Truth,
and the Life.

JOHN 14:6