

TEMPLE CHIMES

Volumes I - No 1.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION

January 2020



Dear Friends in Christ,

On that first Christmas, the angels praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will." The shepherds came and adored the newborn Savior of the World. And as Luke writes in his Gospel account, "And Mary treasured all of these things and reflected on them in her heart."

Friends in Christ, I think in similar way this Christmas season invites us to pause and treasure the gift of Christmas in our hearts. Because the gift we receive at Christmas is Jesus, true God and true man, who came to reveal God's truth and love to us, who died and rose for our salvation, and who founded a Church – where His presence continues in both Word and Sacrament. Advent is that opportunity for us to treasure and reflect on the gift of Jesus to our faith.

We must not let Christmas just be a passing day. Live in the spirit of Christmas each day. Reflect upon how to better treasure this gift each day by making prayer a critical part of your day, by continuing to read the that is Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Holy Spirit through the Church, by regularly making a self-examination of conscience and consciously confessing our sins while trusting in the grace and mercy of God. My prayer and hope for a fruit of our reflection is that the gift of Christmas, which is Christ, may move us by God's grace to an even more intimate relationship with our Lord this year. May our souls be like the stable in Bethlehem where Christ first made His dwelling among us.

As we end the year of 2019, I want to thank you for trusting and partnering with me, as your pastor, to be the Church in our community, and with our neighbors. I treasure the gift of you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you have shown to make this First Lutheran Church of the Reformation a beacon of Christ's love in New Britain and the World at large. I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! Please be assured of my prayers for your intentions. May the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Family be present in your lives and homes each day of the New Year, 2020.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dominic Smyth,
Parish Pastor, FLCR.

*Peace
on
Earth*



Council Meeting November 2019 Minutes

Gail Bates read a poem for opening devotions.

Tonight's agenda and the minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report: No written report; Pastor commented on a possible inter-church confirmation program and indicated that a hiring process is in place for a security person for Pasta Suppers.

Mission/Outreach: A written report was submitted. It was noted that the Polar Express will be expanded to Monday for the Friendship Center and Prudence Crandall.

Property: The altar area carpet will be installed shortly. The council approved Eric purchasing a new Christmas tree with money from the Edith Johnson fund, for approximately \$1000.00.

Youth and Family: No report.

Finance: A financial report was submitted.

Worship and Arts: A report was submitted. The importance of proof reading of bulletins was noted and this item was referred to the Executive Committee.

Stewardship: A report was submitted.

A Special Council Christmas Project was introduced. The council is asked to take parts for a Christmas Pageant to be held December 22 during worship. A script was distributed and council members selected parts.

The next Council meeting will be a Christmas Party and Pageant Rehearsal on December 17.

The meeting closed with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully,

Gail Buchholz



News of Worship and the Arts—January, 2020

Everlasting God...Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ...

Collect #23, Epiphany of Our Lord

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star The Epiphany of Our Lord kicks off a whole season of light

January 5, 2020—Epiphany of Our Lord

The word Epiphany means “showing forth,” and it names the day that the church tells Matthew’s story of the magi from foreign lands who follow the light of the star and thus “see” Jesus as Christ. Their gifts are symbols: gold, because they honor Jesus as the king; frankincense, because they worship Jesus as divine; and myrrh, because they are readying for his death.

Hymns, Readings and Service Music

Gathering Hymn: We Three Kings of Orient Are
Gloria for Christmastime—this is the 12th Day of Christmas.
Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalm 72 in a special contemporary setting,
“Lord, Every Nation” by Jesse Manibusan

Epiphany is an example of a Christian festival that owes a great deal to its traditional psalm. The first reading speaks of God’s light shining throughout the earth and of travelers coming from far with gifts of gold and frankincense, and we respond by singing Psalm 72. This is a royal psalm, asking God to bless the Israelite king, and Christians see in its imagery a description of Christ who comes to reign over all. This psalm speaks of kings from three cities who bring their gifts, and the use of this psalm at Epiphany has turned the unnumbered magi of Matthew 2 into “the three kings” of Christian calendar, art, hymnody, and pageants.

Ephesians 3:1–12

Alleluia for Christmastime (based on O Come, All Ye Faithful)
Matthew 2:1–12

Hymn of the Day: 308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Anthem: Jesus, What a Wonderful Child—arr. Larson

Traditional Communion liturgy

Communion Hymn: 301 Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

Sending Hymn: 300 The First Noel

Postlude: O Morning Star—D. Buxtehude

Your Help Needed! Christmas De-decorating Sat., Jan. 11

January 12, 2020—Baptism of Our Lord

Throughout the Sundays after Epiphany, the lectionary readings feature stories in which Jesus is shown forth as Christ, our Savior. The gospel for this Sunday tells of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus and a voice from heaven naming Jesus the Son of God. We who are baptized are also called sons and daughters of God. Come to worship, to remember and celebrate your own baptism.

Prelude (Organ): Lord Christ, the Only Son of God—

Dietrich Buxtehude, BuxWV 191

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Gathering Hymn: 307 Light Shone in Darkness

Gloria for Christmastime

Isaiah 42:1–9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34–43

Alleluia for Christmastime

Matthew 3:13–17

Hymn Of the Day: 305 When Jesus Came to Jordan

Anthem: Be Not Afraid—Bob Dufford

Traditional Communion liturgy

Communion Hymn: 457 Waterlife

Sending Hymn: 459 Wade in the Water

Postlude (Band): Wade in the Water—arr. Sowash

January 19, 2020—2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering Hymn: 627 O Day Full of Grace

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29–42

Hymn of the Day: 341 Now Behold the Lamb

Anthem: Come and Praise the Lord with Joy

Communion Hymn: 574 Here I Am, Lord

Sending Hymn: 841 Lift Every Voice and Sing

January 26, 2020—3rd Sun. after Epiphany

Prelude (Organ): Siyahamba – arr. John Carter

Gathering Hymn: ELW 866 We Are Marching in the Light of God

Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

Hymn of the Day: 817 You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

Anthem: Light Shone in Darkness

Communion Hymn: 798 Will You Come and Follow Me

Sending: 671 Shine, Jesus, Shine

Postlude (Band): Shine, Jesus, Shine—arr. Pethel

We are saving you a seat at the next Worship & Arts Committee meeting, Monday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m.!

Yours in faith,
William L. Hively, Minister of Music
(860) 224-2475, ext. 14
(860) 620-7280 (cell)



“IS IT TOO LATE TO REVISE MY RESOLUTIONS?”

As we began Lent, many asked me, “What are you giving up for Lent?” This reminded me of a similar question they asked a few short months ago, “What is your New Year’s resolution?” I don’t know about you, but for me every January brings a rash of New Year’s resolutions. And every Lent, I consider what unhealthy habit could I eliminate (even if it’s just for 40 days) that would make me feel better, that I might even stick with after Easter.

Some years I have been more successful than others and other years I have been completely “off the wagon” within a matter of days. After all, who *really* wants to give up ice cream or pizza?

Last January, I read an article in our local paper about New Year’s resolutions and the author was posing a unique perspective on the difference between resolutions and opportunities. She wrote, “As one ponders New Year’s resolutions, one might conclude that new resolutions should be given less priority and more attention should be given to new opportunities. Despite the word ‘new,’ new resolutions are often based on what we already know and have a past focus that may or may not change in the future. New opportunities, on the other hand, have a forward focus and are guaranteed to be new because they are yet to be revealed. Opportunities have an element of surprise.”

This has applications for our Lenten disciplines as well. Instead of thinking about what we are “giving up”, there is an opportunity to do more or something we’ve never done before. Opportunities are revealed by God and stem from the newness granted in Christ. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Just as spring is a time of renewal for our environment, so should this Lenten season offer an opportunity to reach for something deeper and transformational. So, I am setting aside those resolutions that reflect what I already know and where I’ve already been... and instead looking for where I might grow if I seize on opportunity!

Jenny Michael, of Pensacola, Florida, was the churchwide president of Women of the ELCA



Your help is needed. We would love it if you were able to bring goodies on Sunday mornings to have with coffee and fellowship time. If you like to bake or cook or even if you don’t do either but can go to the grocery store, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. All kinds of items would be greatly appreciated.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
only love can do that.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

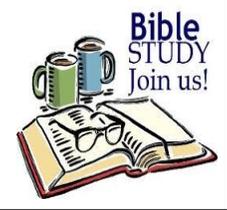
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 20th**

*****REMINDER***
Annual Committee Reports
Due Monday, Jan. 13th**

ON-GOING EVENTS HAPPENING AT FLCR

BIBLE CONVERSATION

All are welcome to our Wednesday morning bible conversation at 10:00am in the library. We hope to see all the regulars along with some new faces.



The Clothes Closet

Could use your help both on Wednesdays when it is open and during the week, to organize clothing.

Please contact Holly Erickson to see when and where you can help. The Clothing Rack is open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month at 4:00pm.

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY!
WORSHIP SERVICE IS AT 9:00AM

Wednesday is Pasta Nite and Clothing Rack

AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pasta Every Wed. 6:00-6:45 pm.
Clothing 1st and 3rd
Weds. 4:00-6:00pm.



COME-AS-YOU-ARE WORSHIP SERVICE
Every Wednesday evening from 5:15 to
5:45pm in the Fellowship Hall.



MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

"Stewardship is not about raising money; it's about raising Christians who willingly trust God."

- Unknown



*****REMINDER*****
**Annual Committee
Reports
Due Jan. 13th**

Prayer List

January 2020

This list is current as of the publication deadline.

Please note: Prayer names will remain for **two weeks** unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow.

Sandy Abucewicz; Myrtle Caswell; Joan Rydel; Leslie Marchesi; Greta Kobylarz; Phillis Davidson; Ryan Pavano (Cindy Pavano); Sherene, Donald (Pat Brown); The grieving family and friends of David Erickson; The grieving family and friends of Ed Bridgett.

Serving in the armed forces: Kevin Dubois serving in Iraq; Frank Sacco (Louis Sacco); Ali Sutherland serving in the U.S. Army (Alyssa Hughes); Wesley Givens serving as an Army medic (Beverly Walsh); Zack serving in the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, Millind serving in the Navy in the Middle East; Kienen Dyer serving in the Navy (Barbara Pond). Jonathon Pena serving in the AF Reserves, Elijah Morehead (Tameka Kelley); Shawn Dubois in the U.S. Army (Pat Brown).



Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

-Hamilton Wright Mabie



FROM THE OFFICE



Deadline for the February Temple Chimes is:

January 20, 2020.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday - 9:00am - 3:00pm
Friday - 9:00am - 2:00pm

Please call the church if you go into hospital, convalescent home, or if you are in need of pastoral care. We want to ensure that you are well taken care of. With the State's privacy laws, no institute will provide us with your info.

Please communicate any changes, updates, or questions you may have to Nancy at (860) 224-2475 ext.10 or office@1stlutherannb.org

We have now resumed accepting clothing for our Clothing Rack. The emphasis for donations should be for clothing that is appropriate



for the

population that we serve.

We are most in need of men's jeans, sweatshirts and sneakers.



We are also looking for volunteers to help sort the clothing. We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, at 9:30 a.m.

Please join us!



Each month in the Temple Chimes, we like to thank, congratulate and remember those in our parish. Have you seen someone do a special deed around the church whom you would like to thank? Is there a special anniversary/birthday coming up? E-mail or call Nancy in the church office - npeterson@1stlutherannb.org or 224-2475 by the deadline and it will be included.

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

THIS YEAR'S *FLCR POLAR EXPRESS FUN* WAS A TOTAL SUCCESS, THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY, AND GENEROUSLY GAVE YOUR TIME, RESOURCES AND EFFORTS TO BRING SMILES ON THE FACES OF FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE, IN OUR EFFORT TO CONTINUE TO BUILD AND FOSTER RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY. WE ALL HAD AN AMAZING TIME THANKS TO ALL OF YOU. HONESTLY, IT IS UNCLEAR IF THINGS WOULD HAVE RUN AS SMOOTHLY WITHOUT YOUR HELP. THANKS A BUNCH.

Financial News

All donations received and deposited on or by December 31, 2019 have been credited to your accounts for 2019. Anything received after Dec. 31 will be credited to 2020.



Currently we are out of ink cartridges. If you are able, please save and give them to the office to offset the cost of office supplies. We receive \$2./cartridge. You can get your family and friends to save for you as well. They can be placed in the basket located in the narthex or given to Nancy in the office. Thank you.

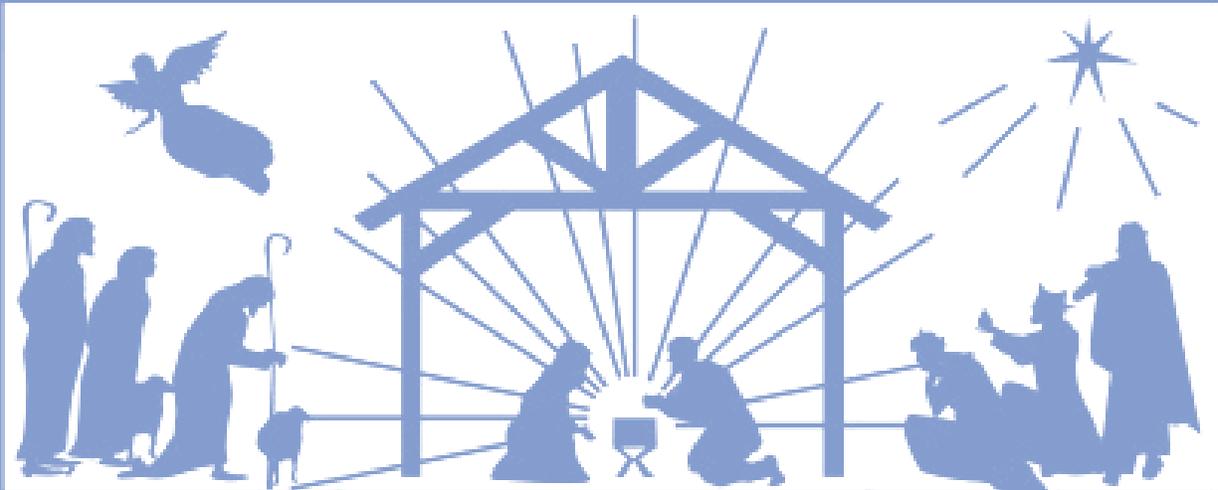
★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Abucewicz - 1st
Thomas Grant - 1st
Erik Merkle - 1st
Jonathon Pena - 1st
Diane Glaeser - 3rd
Juanita Alec - 5th
Roy Engwall - 5th
Marjorie Werhle - 6th

Vivian Scheyd - 7th
Avery Bergenty - 8th
Regan Bergenty - 8th
Daniel Berlandy - 10th
Daniel Munson - 14th
Alyssa Legnani - 17th
Dominic Legnani - 17th
Lynn-Ahlquist - 24th

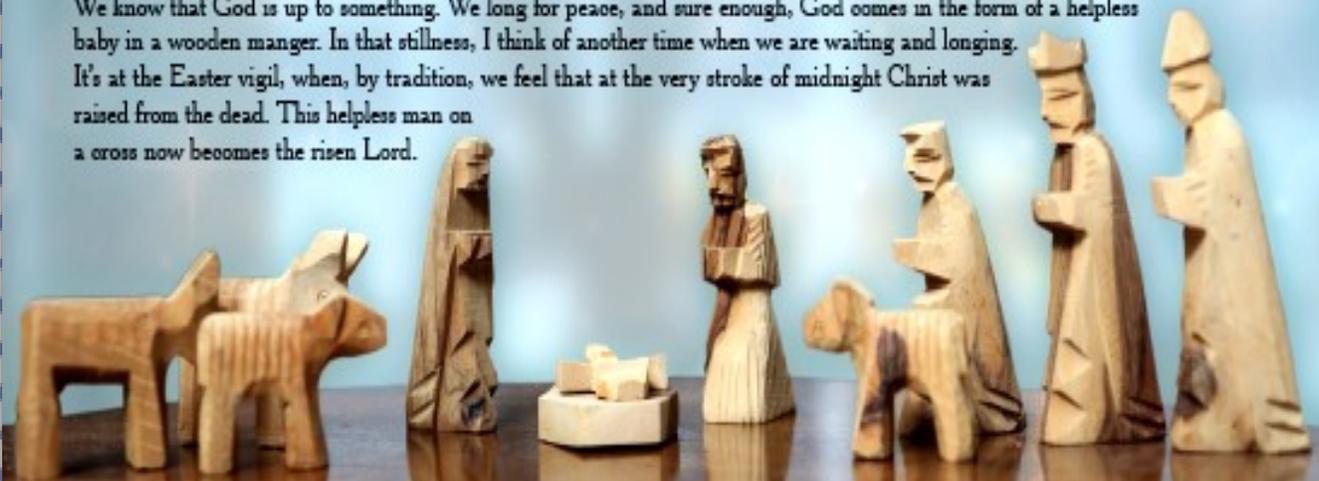
Alexis Farr - 25th
Beth Allen - 27th
Chandler Cameron - 27th
Margaret Murphy - 27th
Judy Dickinson - 28th
Michelle Brideaux - 30th



On Christmas Eve there always comes a time when everything is finally still. After all the preparations and Christmas pageants, after all of the rushing, it's wonderful just to settle into that stillness and have a chance to think about the *miracle of Advent and Christmas.*

For me that came after the 11 o'clock candlelight service and after going home. With my husband and children in bed, I could think and settle into that stillness and marvel at the miracle that had happened.

We know that God is up to something. We long for peace, and sure enough, God comes in the form of a helpless baby in a wooden manger. In that stillness, I think of another time when we are waiting and longing. It's at the Easter vigil, when, by tradition, we feel that at the very stroke of midnight Christ was raised from the dead. This helpless man on a cross now becomes the risen Lord.



I hope and pray, dear church, that in this season of Advent and Christmas you will find time for stillness, find time to sense the expectation and the longing, but also to celebrate the *miracle of God's love* that has come to us in the form of a tiny baby who grows to be a human being who gives his life for us, that we might have life.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

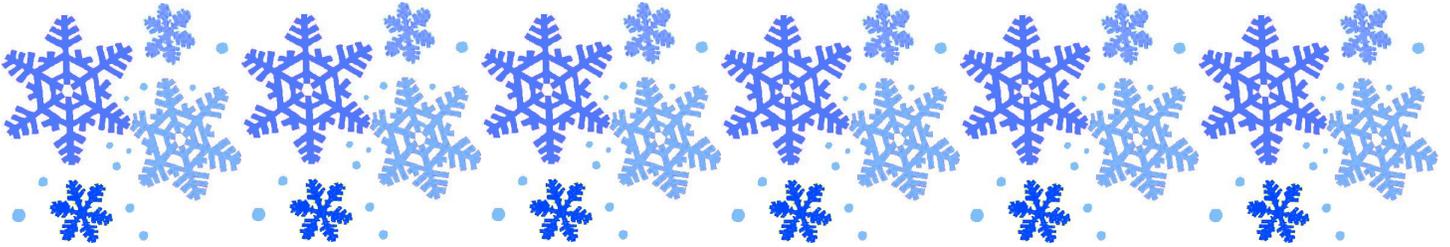


Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS 2020

Gale Anderson
 Donald G. Bates
 Esther & James Brown
 Angela Camillini
 Elizabeth Carcia
 Ernest & Florence Carlson
 Joanne Carlson
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter S. Carlson
 Ralph & Virginia Carter
 Axel Christensen
 Earl Christensen
 Evelyn Christensen
 Toby Clark
 Helen & Alexander Colwick
 Franco Conti
 Joseph & Mabel Conti
 Nero & Livia Conti
 Lino Conti
 Dalburg Family
 Johnny Durbis
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Firetto
 Walter and Mary Jane Fletcher
 Susan Gentry
 Joanne and Robert Girolomoni
 Mr. Donald C. Harris
 Loved Ones of the Harris family
 Donald Heslin
 Mr. & Mrs. Gaylord Hiser
 Aggie Hively
 Adolph & Signe Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur M.W. Johnson

Eli and Hilda Johnson
 Donald Knapp
 Lillian Knapp
 The Lord Family
 Joan Marchesi
 Donald L. Merkle
 Anthony Olson Michalski
 Mary & Stanley Michalski
 Mr. & Mrs. Allen R. Nelson
 Eleanor P. Nelson
 Robert Nygren
 Nygren Family
 Ada & Harold Olson
 Judi Olson
 Mark Olson
 Nannette Olson
 Ruth & Harry Olson
 Joseph E. Pavano, Jr.
 Adolph J. & Ruth V. Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Piatek
 Rentas Family loved ones
 Adele & William Rinas
 Pastor Dagmar Rosenberg
 William L Schubert
 Soderquist Family & Friends
 Alarik and Annie Soneson
 Warren and Elaine Soneson
 Jeanne & Joseph Stavola
 Ida Swanson
 Mrs. Priscilla Young



****REMINDER****
Annual
Committee
Reports
Due Jan. 13th



****REMINDER****
Annual
Meeting
January, 26th



JANUARY FUN FACTS - Did you know on:

January 1: The ball was first dropped at Times Square in New York City. (1908)

January 3: Construction began on the Brooklyn Bridge (1870)

January 6: Samuel Morse demonstrates the telegraph (1838)

January 7: Astronomer Galileo Galilei discovers four of Jupiters moons. (1610)

January 14: The United States of America ratifies a treaty with England ending the Revolutionary war. (1784)

January 21: Edward Jenner introduces the smallpox vaccine, which eventually leads to wiping out this deadly disease.(1799)

January 21: The first Kiwanis club is formed in Detroit. (1915)

January 23: The deadliest earthquake in history strikes Shansi, China, killing 830,000 people. (1556)

January 24: Beer was first sold in cans. (1935)

January 25: The first Winter Olympic games begin in Chamonix, France. (1924)

January 26: The Dental Drill was patented. (1875)

January 28: U.S. space shuttle Challenger explodes 72 seconds after liftoff, killing the seven crew members. Among the crew was school teacher Christa McAuliffe. (1986)

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of First Lutheran Church of the Reformation
77 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT,
will be held in the church Fellowship Hall
following the 9:00 AM Worship Service
on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

Possible Items of business include: committee reports for 2019, adoption of 2020 financial plan, elections, resolutions from the Church Council and other items as may be brought forth by members.

All confirmed members in good standing are eligible to participate in the Annual Meeting.

Reminder





First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

77 Franklin Square + New Britain, CT 06051 + Phone: (860) 224-2475 + Fax: (860) 827-9848

www.1stlutherannb.org

Welcome Statement: *We warmly welcome people of any race, nationality, sexual orientation, age, ability, possessions, or education. A community of believers, we are empowered by faith in Jesus Christ to make the Gospel open to all and visible to all whose lives we touch.—Adopted June 28, 2003*

First Lutheran Staff

The Rev. Dominic Smyth, Pastor
The Rev. Willard Baumgartner, Visitation Pastor
William Hively, Minister of Music
Nancy Peterson, Office Manager
Holly Erickson, Sexton

Sunday Worship Service

Service 9 a.m.
In the Sanctuary with Holy Communion

Wednesday Worship Service

Come-As-You-Are Service 5:15 p.m.
In fellowship hall.

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