

☆☆☆☆ May 2025 ☆☆☆☆

DATE	4	11	18	25
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carmen Cypher	Georgia Richardson	Tammy Manko	David Coulter
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	René Copeland	William Kerr	Carmen Cypher	Melvin Silvis
LECTOR	Tammy Manko	David Coulter	Georgia Richardson	René Copeland
CANTOR	Gregg LeMay	Gregg LeMay	Gregg LeMay	Gregg LeMay
USHERS	Melvin Silvis Calvin Deemer Sandra Hollis John Hollis	Melvin Silvis Donna Stone Jack Tickle Beverly Tickle	Melvin Silvis Kim Harmon Eloise Loughlin Kim Kneppshield	Calvin Deemer Robbie Deemer Joe Marchitelli Dot Doty
ACOLYTE	Brennon Faulkner	Melvin Silvis	Calvin Deemer	Kim Harmon
ALTAR GUILD	Dot Doty René Copeland	Vivian Boyer Eloise Loughlin	Lisa Carnahan Carmen Cypher	Georgia Richardson Grace Olson
PEW COMMITTEE	Cindy Shaner	Cindy Shaner	Cindy Shaner	Cindy Shaner
CAMERA PERSON	John Shaner	Lisa Carnahan	Lisa Carnahan	John Shaner

Please obtain your own substitute if these date conflict with your schedule.

Please notify the church office by Wednesday of any changes.

If we are not in the office, you may leave a message on the answering machine.

Thank You!





May 2025



CONGRATULATIONS to all those celebrating birthdays:

5 – Judy Altman	14 – Kathleen Altemus	21 – Dot Doty
6 – Debbie Flickinger	15 – Sylvia Patterson – 87 th	23 – Arline Calhoun – 98 th
10 – John Shaner	17 – Peyton Manko	
12 – Luke Hunter Postle	20 – Mary Ellen Emerick – 87 th	
13 – Kevin Gibbons	21 – Debbie Kerr	

CONGRATULATIONS to all those celebrating Wedding Anniversaries:

3 – Lisa & Kenneth Carnahan – 39th
8 – Bill & Marlonna Moore – 69th
17 – Beverly & Jack Tickle – 22nd

Members & Friends in our prayers: *Anthony Ward, Darwin Moore, Linda Thompson, Ernie Miller, Deacon Amy Santoriello, James Swift, Megan Swift, Ann Krafick, Susan Burkett, James Allshouse, Laura Rabikow, Mark Otwell, Doug Rearick, Barry DeMay, Joey Valella, David Fallecker, Debbie Townsend, Sandra Rivera, Jean Nulph, Nancy Hart, & Katie Loftus, LaMar Burnham, Thomas Hileman, Tyler Stone, Eric Kennedy and Baby Lucas Michael.*

Members and friends in our continuing prayers: *Mary Ellen Emerick, Mark Kestner, Pastor Al Petrill, Pastor Jack Delk, Barbara Grance, Pastor Richard Grance, Ed Smith, Scott Aikens, Brian Stone, Jim Stone III, Heather Eppley, Barbara Altmire, Al & Nancy Kochka, Audrey & Susan Siems, David Ellison, Debbie Hill, Virginia Madison, Jack Tickle, Darlene Davis, Ed & Rose Haberchak, Bill & Diane Sloan, Luke Kanish, Tim Kanish, Dakota Stone, and Shane Carnahan*

Our Homebound Members: *Donna Wilver, Lillian Yamber, Annette Cholock, Judy Altman, Arline Calhoun, Harry Branthoover, Yvonne Hilty, Earliene Klingensmith, Frances Klingensmith, Richard Mangus, Tom Mangus, Elinor Moody and Diane Papaila.*

We ask God's care for the following Military Personnel and their loved ones: *Stephen Porter and Nevin Downey.*

*The Mission of First Church is
to make God's good news
in Jesus Christ a reality
in the world*

Memorial Calendar

Open Memorials

Stop by the office and sign up for the days you want. Dates are starting to fill in. We prefer you to sign up rather than ask Leslie to do it.

Flowers \$50	May 25	June 1, 22 & 29
Bulletins \$10	May 4, 11 & 25	June 8, 15, 22 & 29
Celebrates \$10	May 4, 11, 18 & 25	June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
Oil \$20	-----	Open for the month of June

Openings: Please do not assume by sending in money that you will get that date.
Others may have already taken the date you want.



A reminder that any announcements that you would like included in the newsletter need to be given to the Office by **the 20th of the month.** Printing of the newsletter begins before the day of assembly

HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY

Wishing a very Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and other amazing women! May your day be filled with joy, love and appreciation!

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

214 N Pennsylvania Avenue
(724) 478-1283

P.O. Box 275

Apollo, PA 15613
office@flcapollo.org

A congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 28, 2025

My brothers and sisters of First Lutheran Church,

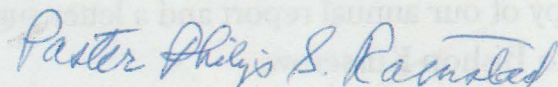
After sixty years as an ordained pastor and 13 years as your interim pastor, the time has come to resign from active ministry. My resignation will take effect July 31, 2025. It is clear to me that I no longer have the energy to fulfill my calling. It is time for new leadership for First Church.

It was a blessing when God called me to serve as a pastor in his church. God has blessed me with good congregations and good places to serve. In my first call there was one congregation that was an especially wonderful group of people and now at the end of my active ministry I have finished with another especially wonderful group of people. The two congregations are like book ends for my ministry.

In keeping with synod policy, when I leave I will not be available for pastoral service in First Lutheran Church, in fact I will not attend here. When the time comes I hope that my funeral will be here and I will complete my membership in this congregation and be commended to God's presence.

God bless you now and forever.

Sincerely in Christ,



Pastor Philip S. Ramstad

c: Bishop Kurt Kusserow

April Council Highlights

1. We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of worshiping and working in our present building. There will be a catered dinner on Saturday, October 25th (the caterer does not work on Sundays, so the Saturday before Reformation Sunday seemed like a good time.)
2. There was a brief discussion about controlling the humidity in our organ. The cost seemed prohibitive.
3. As our God's Work, Our Hands project for 2025 we decided to help the Lions with cleaning up the "old" cemetery (which is adjacent to the River View Cemetery).
4. Concerts for this summer have been lined up for June, July, and August. The first concert, in June, will be something different than we've done in the past: a Gospel Singer, Randy Quinn.
5. The Apollo Lions requested contributions for signs at the three entries to Apollo. We agreed to donate \$150.
6. Pastor Phil will be on vacation May 4th, Bill Kerr will supply for him.
7. The Apollo Ministerium will sponsor a community picnic August 10th. Each congregation connected with the ministerium is asked to have a couple of people to plan the day and more will be asked to help with the set-up and break-down.
8. A copy of our annual report and a letter suggesting that we are an active congregation was sent to Bishop Kusserow.
9. We need a plumber to provide a new toilet flange in the Basement Ladies room and to replace a cracked cast iron pipe. The low bid is \$2,825.00.
10. The Worship & Music Committee recommended getting a microphone for Gregg LeMay, our organist, when he chants during the service.



Thanks to all the people who worked at stripping the altar on Maundy Thursday and mostly the same people who worked at renewing all the appointments in the sanctuary and placed all the Easter flowers.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Gavin Jay Ellison, grandson of Joe & Harriet Marchitelli, will be graduating from Butler Area High School and also from the Vo-Tech Welding Program - Class of 2025!



CHURCH WISH LIST

The Church Council has created a Wish List to track items that would enhance the church but cannot be purchased due to budget constraints. We encourage members to consider this list when they wish to make contributions for church improvements.

1. Green Paraments
2. TV for Fellowship Room to hold Zoom Meetings
3. A new Clavinova for the Worship area so the current one can be moved downstairs to the Social Room to replace the aging piano.



The Outreach Committee is once again selling Hoagies and Pizzas for donations to help with the Outreach funding (Mailings, gifts, food, etc.)

Date Due: May 4, 2025

Delivery Date: May 16, 2025

(We must sell 100 items to place the order.)

Please help us make our goal and pick up your order form now!



Men's Breakfast Buddies

Men's Breakfast Buddies will be

Saturday, May 10, 2025

@ 8:30 a.m.



Ladies Lunch Bunch

Ladies Lunch Bunch will be

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Meeting at the church @ 11:00 a.m.
to go to Dick's Diner in Murrysville



CHURCH WORK DAY

There will be a work day on Monday, May 19th @ 9 a.m. Items on the list for that day will be cleaning out the basement maintenance/tool room and outside landscape clean up. We would love to have anyone who can help with these projects come out and play with us. This is another way to help take ownership in our church.



The last day of Sunday School will be May 18.
Classes will start again after Labor Day.



We are collecting donations for the Apollo Food Bank. You can make a monetary donation by putting it in the Giving Jug or marking an envelope "Food Bank" and placing it in the offering plate. We are also collecting non-perishable items.

Week of May 4	Dry Goods (Pasta, Rice, Noodles)
Week of May 11	Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Week of May 18	Cereal/Breakfast Bars
Week of May 25	Household Items (Laundry Soap, Cleaning Products)



If you are in need of a pastoral visit or are in the hospital or have been in the hospital, please contact the office @ 724-478-1283 or Pastor Phil @ 724-954-5228. He cannot visit if he is not alerted to your condition.



Today, we honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Let us take a moment to reflect on the bravery and dedication of our fallen heroes. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Clothesline for a Cause

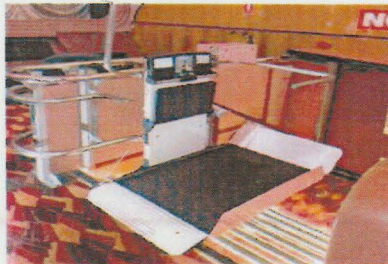
On Sunday, April 13, a clothesline was introduced to the congregation which supports the Platform Lift Project. A Platform lift is a dual functional unit. It can transport a wheelchair and has a separate chairlift.

Our goal is \$15,000. To raise this amount, we thought of hanging a clothesline with various envelopes marked from \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$200, \$100, \$50, \$25, and \$10 envelopes on the line. The congregation could take an envelope, or two, that works for their budget. The envelopes placed on the line total our \$15,000 goal.

As we see the envelopes disappear, the remaining envelopes are an indication that we still need to raise more money to meet the goal.

If you are unable to attend church and/or watch our video broadcasts, you too can participate in our Clothesline by mailing your donation to the Apollo First Evangelical Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 275, Apollo, PA 15613. Make sure you designate it for the "Platform Lift Project."

We appreciate any help you can provide for this important project. Together we can meet this goal.



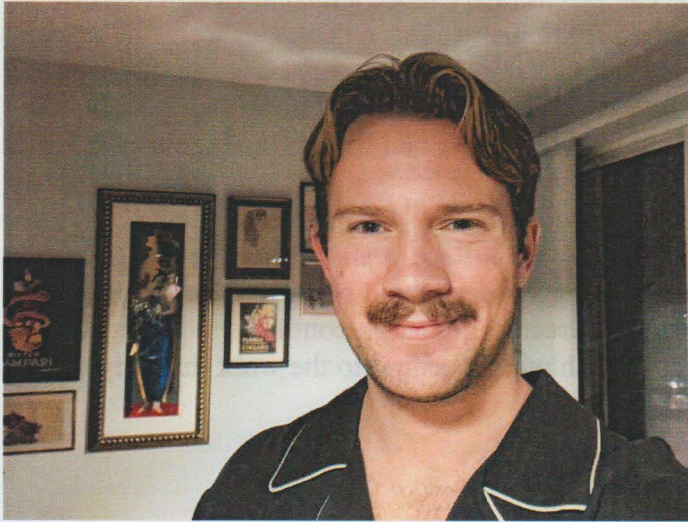
The Artira inclined platform wheelchair lift is a safe and reliable way to travel between floors for passengers in wheelchairs and those with limited mobility.

This wheelchair lift fits easily into most stairways and does not require extensive renovation or special construction. Garaventa Lift installation technicians normally install Artira lifts in 3 or 4 days.

Garaventa inclined platform lifts are ADA approved as a means to provide public accessibility. The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) recognize that inclined platform lifts provide a valuable access solution.

Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh

Our Stories: Intertwined



Eric MacFadden is a smart and talented young man who came to Pitt from Marion, OH. While at Pitt he majored in biology, minored in music and chemistry, and after graduating in 2020 went on to become a dentist through Case Western Reserve's school of dentistry.

When Eric arrived at Pitt, though, he was looking for a church to be part of. He had grown up in a church and wanted to continue during his college years. He did not really have any idea where to look. The only thing he knew was that he really loved Heinz Chapel, so he looked at the chapel's calendar, where he found there was only one worship service and it was run by the Lutheran Campus Ministry. Eric said, "I had never had any experience going to a Lutheran church before and I texted my mom. 'Do you know anything about Lutherans? Are they cool?'" His mom gave a wonderful affirmation of Lutherans and said his grandpa had grown up "as a young Lutheran boy." Eric recalls, "I was very inspired by that and decided to just try out the services."

After coming to a few services, Eric and the campus pastor went out for coffee to talk one-on-one. It was there Eric remembers getting invited to the midweek meals. At those meals Eric started to make real connections with peers in the group. He also began inviting others, including fellow singers from the Heinz Chapel Choir, his roommate Ben, and his future spouse Kayla.

The Lutheran Campus Ministry had a deep impact on his time at Pitt and his life in general. "I don't know how many friends I would have had, honestly, without the campus ministry." The only other social group that Eric was involved in was a choir that he loved singing in because he loved music, "but I didn't quite fit in socially with that crowd too well. So a lot of my closer friends were tied through the campus ministry."

Along with being a center of social activity, Eric credits the campus ministry with strengthening his faith. "It really solidified my faith in my life. You know when you are a kid going to church with your parents, you learn, you build your faith, but when you're actually exploring it and learning it by yourself on your own terms going to college, it is so much different. The campus ministry made a huge difference." Eric understands this faith has worked its way into his work as a dentist as well. "Whatever lessons I learned during college in the campus ministry are what I base my faith around now. They form my prayer, how I look at the world, and how I treat other people. All based on what we learned, like how to read the Bible, and how to think about the issues going on around us."

Eric continued his faith development during his college years because he was able to engage in a vibrant community and learn a great deal about being a faithful follower of Jesus. The Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh continues to be such a place that raises up such people whose faith will be central to the work that they do in the world.

LUCPGH.COM

Our mailing address is:
Lutheran University Center
4515 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



May 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Bill Kerr Presiding 4:30-6:30 p.m. Conference 3 Meeting via Zoom Hoagie Orders Due Today!!	5 Choir - TBA	6 Pastor's Text Study @ 10 a.m. WELCA Mtg @ 1 p.m. Crochet Club @ 6:30 p.m.	7 Building & Grounds Mtg. @ 9 a.m.	1 Pastor in the office @ 10:00 a.m. Worship & Music @ 5:30 p.m. Quilt Club Mtg. @ 7 p.m.	2	3 10 Men's Breakfast @ Valley Dairy @ 8:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch Meeting at church @ 11 a.m. to go to Dick's Diner/Murysville Quilt Club Sew-In
11  9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	12 Lion's Club Mtg. @ 6 p.m.	13 Pastor's Text Study @ 10 a.m.	14 Council Mtg @ 10:30 a.m.	15 Pastor in the office @ 10 a.m. Ministerial Assoc. @ 11 a.m. West Haven Communion @ 2 p.m.	16 Hoagie/Pizza Pick up from 1 -3 p.m.	17 Synod Assembly via Zoom Quilt Club Speaker @ 2 p.m.
18 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship * Last day of Sunday School for the Summer	19 Work day at the church @ 9 a.m.	20 Pastor's Text Study @ 10 a.m. Election Day	21	22 Pastor in the office @ 10 a.m.	23	24 Quilt Club Sew-In
25 11 a.m. Worship	26 Office Closed  MEMORIAL DAY	27 Pastor's Text Study @ 10 a.m. Newsletter Assembly & Mailing @ 10 a.m.	28	29 Pastor in the office @ 10 a.m. 	30	31