

The Pastor's Page

May & June 2018

"Christ, Irresistible!"



For many months, our children's school class was asking for our church to host a movie night where they could invite their friends. On the first Friday after Easter, their wish was granted. Our young folks invited MANY friends, so that the entire fellowship hall was bursting with life and laughter. They then spoke about inviting their friends to Sunday school and church—and quickly followed through.

As we prayerfully consider God's vision for the future of our church, the children set a tremendous example: *they don't invite their friends because we tell them that they must; they invite their friends because they want them to be a part of all that God is doing here.*

This is how the Church came to be: God drew in ordinary people from all walks of life to be a part of God's breaking into the present reality. It did not begin as a well-organized effort to keep the Jesus movement going after his resurrection. It began because the Holy Spirit made people alive with faith in Christ. With the hope, joy, and rebirth they had received—they couldn't help but tell others of what God was up to.

One of our most important tasks as a Church is to magnify the activity of God in our midst—and help each other to see what God is up to in our daily lives. The only way that the Church can be relevant is by teaching one another to see our daily lives as holy ground to witness God's goodness—and empowering each other to exercise their spiritual gifts to usher in God's new creation. After all, Christianity is more than just a set of beliefs—and the Church is more than just a group of people who gather in a building. We are the Body of Christ.

So how will we achieve this end?

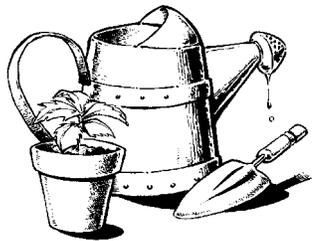
On Saturday, May 5 at 9:00 a.m., we will once again be welcoming Lee Kricher, the Pastor of Amplify Church and author of For a New Generation to help us capture God's vision for our Church. All are welcome to attend this meeting, and free copies of his book are available for you to read. The following Saturday, May 12 at 9:00 a.m., our monthly fellowship breakfast meets at King's for what has been a beautiful time of fellowship, conversation, and prayer. On Sunday, May 20, our four congregations are coming together at the Gilpin Township Fire Hall to celebrate Pentecost and Confirmation. Vacation Bible School will be on June 18-22 at Hebron Lutheran Church, in a joint ministry with them and First United Methodist Church. This is, of course, one of the most important ministries of the entire year.

The number one reason to participate isn't because *you should*, but so you can witness God's amazing grace at work in you and the lives we bless together. This is what the resurrected life is all about: Christ bringing new life into all the ups and downs of daily life—and your Church equipping you to play your part in God's new creation. Christ is ready to fill you so full of life and hope that you can't help but tell others of his wondrous love.

See you on Sunday,

+ Pastor Jim

WE WISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



MAY

- 1-Michael Shaffer
- 2- Rena Stitzinger
- 3-Amanda Graham
- 5- Alyson Benneman
- 5 - Jonah Zalenski
- 8-Linda Sinka
- 13-Kim Gvoth
- 14 – Ronny Krafick
- 16-Katie Muth
- 18-Judy Sluka
- 19-Mark King
- 22 – Peter Craig
- 28-Alexis Shaffer

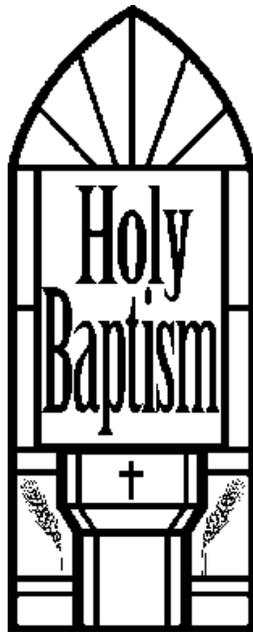
Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

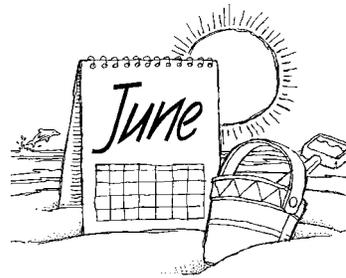
- 14 – Clint & Amanda Grahm
- 15 - Ralph & Diane Kuhn
- 21 – Daniel & Kati Headley
- 27 – Alicia & Matt Szarek
- 31 – Jeremy & Ashley Smail

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 5/1 – June Klingensmith
- 5/6 – Jared Woodside
- 5/12 – Alex Kalmar
- 5/13 – Andy Muth
- 5/13 – Alex Klazon
- 5/16 – Joseph Pellish
- 5/7 – Janis Hill
- 5/7 – Beth Shaner
- 5/7 – Elise Richardson
- 5/23 – Madison Shanta
- 5/27 – Jennifer Daugherty
- 6/1- Brianna Gagen
- 6/1 – Austin Gagen
- 6/3 – Eileen Eshelman
- 6/3 – Christian Shanta
- 6/5 – Karen Kalmar
- 6/5 – Ben Kalmar
- 6/6 – Alicia Hellpap-Kiro
- 6/6 – Olivia Smythe
- 6/7 – Shannon Kiro
- 6/10 – Lynette Israel
- 6/15 – Allison Fike
- 6/20 - Aaron Zalenski
- 6/20 – Elsa Zalenski
- 6/22 – Jonah Zalenski
- 6/22 – Tristan Zalenski
- 6/24 – Diana Shea
- 6/24 – Shyana Shea
- 6/26 – Bob Woodside



WE WISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



- 2 – Emma Moore
- 5-Logan Cribbs
- 6-Jaime Hogan
- 8-Gary Kalmar
- 11-Tracy Zimmerman
- 12-Ryan Hall
- 14 – Virginia Simon
- 14-Kim Magoon
- 14 – Grace Moore
- 16-Aaron Carter
- 19 – Joe W. Munko
- 19 – Joany McMullen
- 23-Lynette Remaley
- 23 – Kenneth Muth
- 23 – Kendra Machak
- 24-Tifanie Gagen
- 24-John Smail
- 27-David Pellish
- 30-Debbie Smail

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

- 4- Tifanie & Jason Gagen
- 6- Pastor Jim & Elizabeth Arter
- 6- Michael & Christina Gestner
- 12 – Russell & Betty Baker
- 19 – Paul & Janice King
- 29 – Richard & Brandy Muth

Worship Assistants

Acolytes

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|
| 5/6 | Spencer Libengood | 6/3 | Katie Muth |
| 5/13 | Katie Muth | 6/10 | Olivia Smythe |
| 5/20 | Tabytha Hogan | 6/17 | Victoria Hogan |
| 5/27 | Jonah Zalenski | 6/24 | Spencer Libengood |

Assisting Ministers

- | | | | |
|------|-------------|------|--------------|
| 5/6 | Andi McCool | 6/3 | Clint Graham |
| 5/13 | Kenny Muth | 6/10 | Jason Delp |
| 5/20 | Jason Delp | 6/17 | Kenny Muth |
| 5/27 | John Smail | 6/24 | Andi McCool |

Altar Guild

- 5/6 Cheryl Nelson & Deb Smail
- 5/13 Chris Fuller & Eileen Eshelman
- 5/20 Carolyn Shaffer & Kathy Munko
- 5/27 Diane Kuhn & Lois Bowser
- 6/3 Janis Hill & Eileen Eshelman
- 6/10 Cheryl Nelson & Carolyn Shaffer
- 6/17 Debbie Smail & Chris Fuller
- 6/24 Lois Bowser & Sandy Smythe

Head Usher

Bill Nelson - May
Jeff Smeal - June

**Oil
May**

Given in memory of Cheryl Baker
by Richard Baker

June

Given in memory of family
By Tom & Sandy Smythe

Newsletter Deadline June17



Wanted - E-mail addresses

Do you have an e-mail address you would like to share with the office? This would be used to send reminders and possibly items mailed by first class mail. You can send it to felc@windstream.net

Blood Pressure check

The **third Sunday** of every month, we will be checking Blood Pressure in the **Nursery**. If you are interested in a monthly record of your blood pressure, please join us immediately after church service. Those taking B/Ps are Sandy Smythe, Andrea McCool, and Amada Graham.



Clothing Closet

We will be open **every month** on the third Saturday. The next sale dates are **May19 & June 16**. If you would like to volunteer on one of the sale dates, please contact Janice King.

Check out Pastor Jim's BLOG page, <http://jamesarter3.blogspot.com> where you can read his sermons and Bible studies!

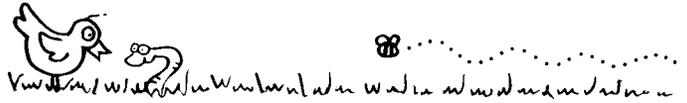
Prayer Ministry

We have a special place set up in the area behind the organ console. The 3 windows are set up for different prayer needs. There is a place for **public prayers** (situations and people that anyone can know about and pray for), there is a box for more **private prayers** and another box for prayers that **just Pastor Jim** would see and pray for.

If anyone would like to be personally prayed with; we will be available on Sunday mornings.

Office Angels

Thank you to all who come in to assemble the newsletter. More volunteers are welcome



Like us on **Facebook** and stay connected with all that's happening in our church!

www.facebook.com/servinggodgracefully



Bible Study

The Bible studies meet Wednesdays **May 9 & 23, June 6** from 9AM – 10 AM and Thurs. **May 10 & 24, June 7** from 7 PM - 8 PM



Come join us for Breakfast at King's Family Restaurant in Leechburg on **May 12 & June 9!** We will meet in the private dining room at 9 AM on the **second Saturday of every month**. This is a time for fellowship, a short devotion and prayer. Everyone is invited to attend!



Office Hours

The secretary is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
724-845-7518

Pastor James Arter

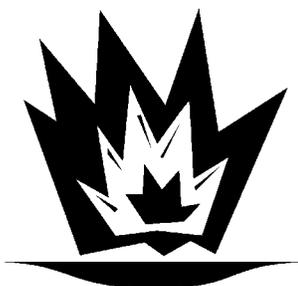
Tuesday – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Wednesday and Thursday – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Or by appointment

Contact Information

Pastor James Arter, 930 Wildlife Lodge Road,
Apt. 302, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
Phone 724-212-7240
pr.jim@comcast.net

GriefShare

The next session of GriefShare continues through May from 6PM – 8PM



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Together in the Spirit May 20, 2018

Liturgy of Word & Sacrament and
Confirmation

With guest preacher

Rev. Kirk Bish

10:30 AM

Luncheon at 12:30 PM

Cost of luncheon: \$3 / person

Reservations due May 6!

Gilpin Twp. Fire Hall

A Joint Ministry of:

First, Hebron, Forks-Zion, St. Paul's Highfield
Evangelical Lutheran Churches

RSVP 724-845-7826

felc@windstream.net



Remembering our Veterans

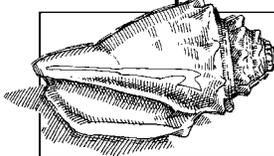


Over Memorial Day weekend we will be honoring family members who served in the military but are no longer with us. Photos of them in uniform, if possible, will be on display in the sanctuary windows.

Pictures that you wish to share should be brought to the church

between May 13 and May 27. If you have questions, speak to Janice King.

New Worship



Schedule for Summer



Summer Worship

9:30 AM

Beginning on May 27th

Leechburg Lutherans



Our team is registered for the Apollo relay on June 8-9 and we are seeking members, supporters and survivors!

Go online to relayforlife.org - find the Apollo relay then our

team (Leechburg Lutherans) from there you can join our team, support the team, register as a survivor, purchase a luminaria!



Synod Assembly!

Synod Assembly is fast approaching. Our congregation is able to

send three lay voting members, one male, one female and one youth.

(Confirmed member under the age of 21) This year's Assembly will be held June 14 – 16 at Thiel College in

Greenville. Contact the church office if you are interested in attending!

It is a nice retreat!



Vacation Bible School

Shipwrecked:

Rescued by Jesus

June 18 – 22 at Hebron Lutheran Church

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Age 3 year old

(Potty trained)

through sixth grade.



Register on line Servinggodgracefully.org/vbs
Volunteers and financial donations are needed!

Dear God,

Do you watch television or do you just see Earth on a big screen? Do you have a channel for Forest Hills in New York? This is where I live. Let me know when you will be watching so that I can dress up.
—Sybil (age 11)

Dear God,

I read about how Delilah cut Samson's hair. Is that why there are so many female hairdressers?
—Warren (age 10)

—From David Heller's

Dear God: Children's Letters to God

Ink Cartridges

Thank you to all who have brought in ink cartridges. Please continue to bring them in. This helps save considerably on our office supplies!



Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Ordination



Pastor Keefer (Our pastor from 1997 - 2007) & Pastor Hawk (Son of the congregation) will be among nine pastors being honored for celebrating their 50th anniversary of

ordination at this year's Synod Assembly. The Synod hopes to honor all of the honorees with contributions toward a scholarship at United Lutheran Seminary. Congratulatory greetings and scholarship contributions may be directed to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, 9625 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh 15237. In memo line "50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund"

New Policy

To ensure the safety and security of our congregation during worship, all doors except for the main entrance beneath the tower will be locked following the processional hymn.

Electronic Giving



First Lutheran Church is now accepting online giving. Go to our website, servinggodgracefully.net then click on **give on line**

Follow the directions.

Altar Flowers



Flowers on the altar are always such a joy! The cost of flowers from the florist may make this prohibitive. We welcome any type of real flowers, a potted plant or a small bouquet from your flower garden. If you would like to brighten our Sanctuary with flowers, please call the church office to make sure there are no other flowers for that Sunday.



June 17th

On June 17th we will be celebrating our High School Graduates and our dads with an ice cream social! What a great way to celebrate! Join us after worship!

Ice Cream Social

Pastor Jim will be on a much deserved vacation from June 1st through the 7th. In case of an emergency, please call Janice King at home (724-845-7826) or at the church office (724-845-7518), Messages are checked daily.

I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.

—George Washington Carver