JUNE 20-24, 2016

CAMP DOWNTOWN

LET US LOVE
9 A - 4 P / MON - FRI

a Vacation Bible School event for children in kindergarten through sixth grade
- grades 7-12 invited to serve as counselors -

TO REGISTER OR VOLUNTEER, E-MAIL
LES@FLCPITTSBURGH.ORG

SPONSORED BY
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TRINITY CATHEDRAL
SMITHFIELD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Soon the renovation will begin! In about a month, we expect to have the nave emptied of our congregation’s most precious possessions, which direct our hearts and minds to our Lord. The mezzanine (above the entrance to our offices) in the Parish House will be ready for noise and chaos to ensue. The preparations will have been made for the building’s internal renovations, funded by our capital campaign.

These kinds of sacred construction projects are older than Christ’s church itself. “In the beginning… a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” (Gen 1:2) God brought forth light and darkness, water and air, animals of every kind, and humanity itself. After being led by Moses into the desert, God instructed the Israelites to make an ark of the covenant, where “the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” (Ex 40:34) Many years later, King Solomon built a “temple for the name of the Lord”, where the ark of the covenant and his holy presence could be. (2 Chr 2:1) And finally, in the fullness of time, “the Word became flesh and lived among us”. (Jn 1:14)

Each one of God’s construction projects had its point in the Lord’s great plan. He cultivated holy spaces in our world, setting them apart to be places for him to be with humanity in a new way. God was preparing the way for an ever-expanding ministry of love and grace, meant to be shared with the world.

The congregation of First Lutheran Church has been set apart for 179 years, with this particular building for 129 years. First’s mission statement declares why we are set apart: the Holy Spirit “works through us, as Lutherans, to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship… and equips us to creatively reach out in service and witness to the Living Christ.”

The modifications that we will be making to our building are so that we can be further empowered to live our mission, as the body of Christ in the world today. Our congregation is called to proclaim the good news, the freeing gospel of love and grace, and sustain faith in all who would receive it. We’re to share that grace in our life of worship, education, and fellowship together, always seeking ways of more graciously welcoming and knowing our neighbors around us. We’re to witness to the communities around us, including residential, government, business, and university communities. We’re to live that grace in service to our neighbors in moments of crisis and offering real support to people facing chronic challenges like poverty and homelessness.

Jesus, the Word made flesh, has ambitious hopes for our life together! He has led the way, showing us what it means to be disciples, and consecrating our lives to his service. May our sacred construction prepare for his glory to be revealed, and his name to be known.

The Rev. Jennifer Peters McCurry
Associate Pastor
Congregation Council 2016-2017

COUNCIL OFFICERS

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Neal Venters</td>
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<td>Charles Torie</td>
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<td>Wesley Nelson</td>
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<td>Lewis Steele</td>
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<td>Barbara Anderson</td>
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<td>John Gaffney</td>
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<td>Kurt Herbst</td>
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<td>Amy Marsh</td>
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<td>Carl Rueter</td>
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<td>Deanna Ulrich</td>
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<td>Emily Weimer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STAFF OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

- The Rev. Brian A. Evans
  Senior Pastor

- The Rev. Jennifer Peters McCurry
  Associate Pastor

- Sr. Cynthia Pock, n/OLF, AAGO,
  Cantor
cantor@flcpittsburgh.org

- Lauren Elyse Scott
  Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry
  les@flcpittsburgh.org

- Mary Louise Proacina
  Administrative Assistant
  mlp@flcpittsburgh.org

- Suanne O’Dell
  Financial Secretary
  sso@flcpittsburgh.org

- André Bierman
  Tenor Soloist

- Christine Hoffman
  Parish Secretary
  fle@flcpittsburgh.org

- Norman Brozell
  Building Manager

- Margaret Lanyon
  Housekeeper
Take Note

Still ringing and singing!
First Church’s musical ensembles continue in to June. This year, the Parish Choir will conclude officially on Sunday, June 5.

The Gloria Dei Ringers, Bel Canto, and Cantate ensembles will finish on Sunday, June 12 with a special event. These groups will present musical offerings at the 11:00 AM liturgy; following worship, they will “take it on the road” – performing a short concert at Brookdale Assisted Living in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. It has been quite a while since we have shared our music beyond our sanctuary; we will be delighted to sing and ring for the residents of this facility and we hope to share God’s joy with them!

Upon returning from Brookdale, handbell equipment, along with other appointments in the church will be safely stored in preparation for construction involved in Reverence My Sanctuary. Organ pipes, organ console, Steinway grand piano, and many other things will be carefully removed and stored in climate-controlled environments for protection during renovation. A fascinating summer awaits us as we make improvements and updates in our worship space. May God grant us courage, vision, patience, and good humor as we undertake this project.

Sr. Cynthia Pock, n/OLF, AAGO Cantor

From The Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Our Christian Education programs rely on the hard work and dedication of individuals who devote their time to teaching every Sunday. My sincerest thanks to all of the teachers listed below!

Godly Play
Tara Kovach
Deanna Ulrich
Emily Weimer
Kim Wilson
Christine Hoffman
(Doorperson)

Confirmation
Pr Evans
Pr McCurry
Chuck Torie

High School
Kurt Hansmann
Ernie Hauser
Jim Nealon

Adult Class
Pastor Evans
Anne Harmon
Stephen and Kris Benham
Pastor McCurry
Jon Delano
Lewis and Ann Steele
Troy VanAken
Pastor Larsen
Pr. Natalie & Fr. Dan Hall
Sheila Talarico
The Social Ministry Committee
Pr Caroline Mendis
Robert Stratford

Coffee & Conversation Between Liturgies

Due to upcoming renovations in the nave, we are beginning to prepare for worship in Holy Cross Hall, which will likely start in mid-July. Because of those preparations, no formal Coffee & Conversation time has been planned for the summer, (though with some exceptions and provisions being planned). For the time being, coffee is available in Holy Cross Hall between liturgies and you are encouraged to gather for informal conversation and fellowship. Thank you for your flexibility through the next few months. Please Note: On Sundays, June 12 and 19 at 9:45 am in Holy Cross Hall, members of the Social Ministry Committee will be holding special Coffee and Conversation discussions of an article entitled “Rethinking Service,” by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells. You can pick up hard copies of the article on Sunday, June 5 or by calling the church office, or look for electronic copies in the Parish News email.
kudos

WALK-IN MINISTRY TEAM
Janet Bandle
Alma Bucher
Amelia Gehron
Brian Lays
Pr. Caroline Mendis
Pr. George Mendis
Kathy Slosky
Bea Weimer
Janet Wozar

BARBARA SCHIAVONE for organizing the Activity Bags.

KATHY SLOSKY, and her elves for preparing The Alert for mailing

CHRISTY RUPP for preparing the Cradle Roll mailings.

BILL OVERDORFF for straightening the pews and replacing the attendance cards.

WESLEY NELSON for handling the handicapped parking signs on Sunday mornings.

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE for bagging groceries for Walk-in Week.

RICHARD KING for stocking the shelves in the Food Pantry.

Congratulations Graduates

ROY NAVID from Shady Side Academy.

OLIVIA CRONIN from Avonworth High School.

JAROD CHESLAR from Keystone Oaks High School.

ANNA HEALD from University of Pittsburgh Masters degree in Applied Teaching - pre K through 4th grade.

OLIVIA MARSH from Davidson College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. She will begin a Master of Accountancy program at Wake Forest University this Summer.

BENEDICT HOFFMAN from Villanova University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

KANIS NEALON from University of Pittsburgh’s Swanson School of Engineering.

SAMANTHA LYNN SHERIFF from California University of Pennsylvania.

Walk-in Ministry
June 26-July 3

As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NORTHSIDE
616 W NORTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH PA 15212
412-321-1682

Dear Brian and Members of First Church:

Our thanks for your support of our Christmas Wish-list Ministry comes from one of the many cards we received. “I wanna [sic] say, Thank you so much for the help that you have given me. My kids enjoyed everything that they received. We are very grateful to have people like you.” Yes, we are grateful for the many people who gave generously to the children of our neighborhood.

John M. Cawkins, Pastor

April 18, 2016
Congratulations to Griffin Rupp, William Schroeder and Noah Venters who received their First Communion on Sunday, May 8. Also to John Schroeder who was confirmed on that day.

Welcome to new members Joseph and AnnaMae Lenkey and John David Harmon, Jr. who were received into our community of faith on Sunday, May 8.

Our sympathy to the Pflugh Family on the death of Elizabeth M. Pflugh on April 23, 2016. You may send condolences to the family to:

Ms. Joanne Pflugh
136 S. McCoy Place RD
Sewickley, PA 15143-8837

John David Harmon, Jr.

Joseph and AnnaMae Lenkey

Noah Venters with Pr. Evans and Pr. McCurry.

William Schroeder (L) and John Schroeder (R) with Pr. Evans, Pr. McCurry and their family.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00 AM FLC Jail Ministry Team lead worship at County Jail</td>
<td>11:45 AM AA Meeting</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist PR EVANS</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist FR HALL</td>
<td>10:00 AM Walk-in Ministry Team Meeting</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist PR MCCURRY</td>
<td>9:30 AM Cantate Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist PR EVANS</td>
<td>5:15 PM Property Committee work night</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist FR HALL</td>
<td>12:00 PM Weight Watchers meeting</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist PR MCCURRY</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9:40 AM Bel Canto Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 PM Dinner at Pleasant Valley</td>
<td>5:15 PM Property Committee work night</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist FR HALL</td>
<td>12:00 PM Weight Watchers meeting</td>
<td>12:00 PM Daytime Book Club</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>11:00 AM Holy Eucharist</td>
<td>6:30 PM Shopping</td>
<td>6:30 PM Stewardship Committee</td>
<td>10:00 AM Walk-in Ministry Team Meeting</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist PR EVANS</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Luther Reading Challenge</td>
<td>7:30 PM Luther Reading Challenge</td>
<td>12:00 PM Weight Watchers meeting</td>
<td>12:10 PM Holy Eucharist PR MCCURRY</td>
<td>1:00 PM Downtown Ministerium Board</td>
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<td>8:00 AM DEADLINE: Alert articles due.</td>
<td>7:00 PM Parish Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>12:10 PM Weight Watchers meeting</td>
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June 2016

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time value data, please do not delay

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The Rev. Jennifer Peters McCurry, Associate Pastor
Sr. Cynthia Pock, n/OLF,AAGO, Cantor
Ms. Elyse Scott, Director, Christian Education & Youth Ministry
Mr. André Bierman, Tenor Soloist
Mrs. Mary Louise Procacina, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Suanne O’Dell, Financial Secretary
Ms. Christine G. Hoffman, Parish Secretary
Mr. Norman Brozell, Building Manager
Mrs. Margaret J. Lanyon, Housekeeper
Mr. Justin Weilnau, Scholar-in-Church Music

PASTORS-IN RESIDENCE
The Rev. Dr. David P. Gleason, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Horst H. Bandle
The Rev. Brian O. Bennett, Lutheran Campus Ministry
The Rev. Natalie Gessert Hall
The Rev. S. Cyril Hurnyak
The Rev. Larry E. Kemp
The Rev. Leonard J. Larsen
The Rev. Caroline M. Mendis
The Rev. George W. Mendis
The Rev. Gordon Peers Ray
The Rev. Christine Rotella, Abiding Ministries
The Rev. Martin M. Roth
The Rev. Thomas A. Smith
The Rev. Robert W. Strobel

ORGAN ARTIST-IN RESIDENCE
Dr. Ann Labounsky Steele

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL
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Charles Torie, Vice President
Wesley Nelson, Secretary
Lewis Steele, Treasurer
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Kathy Pfister
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The Alert is published eight times a year.

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mlp@flcpittsburgh.org

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:
June 10