

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ALERT

615 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219



2023
PENTECOST
VOLUME 77, ISSUE 3

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Dear friends in Christ,

As we celebrate the Day of Pentecost and the birth of Christ's Church by the sending of the Holy Spirit, we give thanks for the life of our parish and all the ways God is at work among us.

On May 21, we had our annual Organizational Meeting and received a review of our many ministries that have been flourishing over the past year. If you have yet to read our Bulletin of Reports that highlighted those, I highly encourage it.

Even while our Associate Pastor, The Rev. Jennifer Peters McCurry, is being renewed on her sabbatical through July 29, we, too, are seeing the Spirit's renewal of our ministry. The pandemic last few years distanced us from one another, and now we are in a time of coming together. Our members are renewing their efforts to connect with one another by finding new ways of serving, caring, and ministering to one another. We have been visiting one another, providing meals to those in need, and taking communion to the homebound. Our outreach, as well, to our community, has continued to expand, for example, through a meal ministry to the hungry. Our ministries among our children and youth have been growing in many ways, too.

In terms of the physical structure that supports our ministry, we have been long awaiting permits to resume work, and, later this summer, we expect to finally see concrete, doors, and exterior lighting replaced. How generous our members have been in continuing to give to our Reverence My Sanctuary campaign, which has accomplished a great deal of work on our building over the past 10 years. As work commences later this summer, we will again ask our members to consider giving anew, as several additional pieces remain to be finished, including restoration of our stained glass windows and work on the organ. Thank you for your generosity in ensuring our Gospel ministry can continue from this historic sanctuary in the heart of our great city!

Recently we found that our largest tower bell, (named Faith, and weighing 2,332 lbs.), was separated from its clapper, which makes it ring. A fair amount of work will be required in our tower to make it ring again, including new motors on all three bells. We also had to replace large HVAC units on our roof recently.

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The Rev. Brian A. Evans

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*Connect with us online at all
of our social media outlets!*



TAKE NOTE!

Another season of service by our musical ensembles is drawing to a close. The dedicated members of the Parish Choir, Gloria Dei Ringers, Bel Canto and Cantate will sing and ring for the last time within the next few weeks and take a well-deserved break during the summer. The groups will reconvene immediately after Labor Day.



Sr. Cynthia A. Pock, n/OLF, AAGO

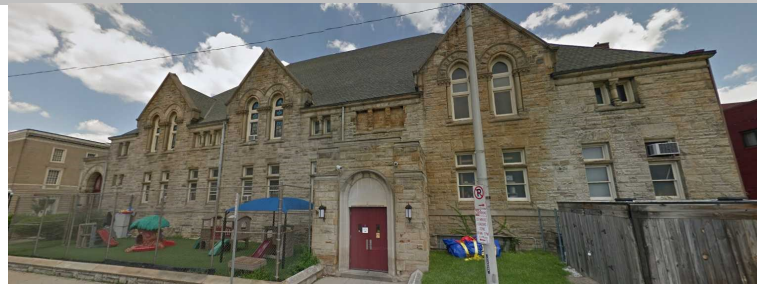
It's been a season of rebuilding following the pandemic. We are immensely grateful to all who gave time and effort to present music to God's glory, managing personal and professional schedules to do so. It's a joy to gather in this historic house of worship and prepare music together. Our ensembles do this each week with talent, commitment and love. Well done, good and faithful servants! Let us continue to "make a joyful noise" in the courts of the Lord!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Pock".

*Sr. Cynthia Pock, n/OLF, AAGO
Cantor*



The '2022-2023 class' of the Gloria Dei Ringers.



SHELTER DINNER CO-ORGANIZER NEEDED

Submitted by Barb, Steve, & Kyle Neumann

After a year of getting to collaborate with volunteers from First to make meals for the Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter, we are excited to reach out to ask someone new to bring their creativity and ideas to the meal coordinator role.

On the first Tuesday of every other month, First Lutheran Church volunteers provide a dinner at Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter on the North Shore. The coordinator for these dinners typically emails our list of volunteers several weeks in advance of a given meal date, to gather menu ideas. The coordinator works with volunteers to make sure a full meal is provided on the night of the dinner. Additionally, the coordinator gathers volunteers from the email list to serve the meal at the shelter. The coordinator does not have to but is welcome to contribute to the meal and help serve it.

Altogether, the coordinator role takes a few hours in the weeks coming up to a dinner then is often on pause until four weeks before the next meal, when they begin to send emails to organize the next dinner.

All meal dates have already been selected for 2023, so the coordinator will only need to organize the menu and servers from the volunteer list for the remaining dinners. **One volunteer has already come forward, we are hoping to lighten the burden by finding another.** If you feel a call to serve in the co-coordinator role, please contact the Church Office at 412-471-8125 or cgh@flcpittsburgh.org. The new person volunteering for the coordinator role will be sent the current email list of volunteers and the contact information for the Men's Shelter to ask how many men we should plan to provide food for at each dinner. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this vital service opportunity.



CHRISTIAN ED. CORNER

As the Sunday Church School year draws to a close, the Christian Education and Youth Ministry committees would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to our Sunday Church School teachers for their steadfast devotion to our children and youth.

CONGREGATION POTLUCK BREAKFAST

On **Sunday, June 25 at 9:45 AM**, the youth of First Lutheran Church would like to share with you the events from their week at Camp Downtown! Please join us in Holy Cross Hall during the Sunday Church School Hour for a potluck breakfast and a short presentation on the week we shared together with songs, art on display, and samples of the snacks we enjoyed. In addition to the snacks Camp Downtown will provide we invite those attending to bring a covered dish to share. During this time we will also recognize and send forth our youth going on the Mission Trip to Niagara Falls.

A YEAR IN REVIEW...

Enjoy these pictures from the many and varied events that our children and youth have participated in this



A pair of PKs—Zoe McCurry & Vivian Evans work with clay during Icefest: Hands of the Potter.



Ice skating at PPG Place concludes Icefest: Hands of the Potter.



Pastor Evans joins the Youth Group on the slopes at the Youth Ski Trip.





Vicar Elizabeth & Pastor Evans with the confirmation students at Devil's Den (Gettysburg) for the annual Confirmation Retreat.



Sharing a meal during the retreat.



The excitement was palpable as the confirmation class explored the Schmucker Hall cupola at United Lutheran Seminary.

...Continued from cover:

How true it is that maintaining this landmark church is a constant undertaking!

As the summer begins, I hope that all of us will have time for refreshment. There are many great opportunities for worship, formation, and fellowship planned in the coming months at First. May God keep us safe, continue to bring us together as Christ's body, and bless our Gospel ministry together.

With you in Christ,

The Rev. Brian A. Evans

Senior Pastor

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Charles Mehta graduated from Central Catholic High School on May 23, 2023 and will be attending Syracuse University to major in Sports Analytics this fall.

Sasha Petchal graduates on June 15 from Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) High School. She will attend the University of Central Florida, to major in Speech-Language Pathology.

Ella Venters will graduate on June 2, 2023 from Franklin Regional High School. She will attend University of Pittsburgh, intending to major in Neuroscience.

Megan Zimmerman is graduating from Mt. Lebanon High School on June 6th. She plans on attending the University of Tennessee in the fall.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Grace Hansmann graduated from PennWest Clarion University (formerly Clarion University) on May 6.

Continued on the facing page...



STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Submitted by Gail Carl

"All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord."

LEVITICUS 27.30

William Passavant served as pastor of First Lutheran Church from 1844 – 1855. In his lifetime he was also instrumental in establishing 18 other churches, bringing the Lutheran deaconess movement to the US, and helping to organize hospitals and orphanages throughout the United States (e.g., Passavant Hospital). In his honor, we have named the long-term savings of our congregation as the Rev. Dr. William A. Passavant Fund (the Passavant Fund). The Passavant Fund was formed in May 2019 by merging together the former Bequest and Memorial and Growth in Ministry Funds and includes gifts to the Church that the donor has not otherwise designated for a specific use. The Passavant Fund is prudently invested and managed to serve as a perpetual source of financial support for the congregation and its ministries through planned annual distributions.

Options are available for you to become a member of the William Passavant Society simply by directing a gift towards the Passavant Fund from your estate. A common form of planned or legacy gift is a bequest or gift designated through your will. The Fund can also be named as a beneficiary on a retirement plan, an IRA, a TOD (Transfer on Death) investment account, an insurance policy, and/or an annuity. Finally, an outright gift of financial assets, real or personal property can be made to the Passavant Fund at any time as long as it is in accordance with the [Gift Acceptance Policy](#) of the Church.

As Kurt Herbst explained in his Sunday School discussion last September, your estate typically can take advantage of tax benefits because of the nonprofit status our Church maintains. A trusted legal or financial adviser is recommended to help you properly structure your

gift and designate the dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to benefit the Church and achieve your estate planning goals. No matter what option you decide upon, you will be enriched by knowing you have honored the Lord with a tithe from your estate.

Tori Kocsis graduated from Duquesne University on May 5 with her Masters in Management degree. She will be moving on to medical school at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Walter Navid graduated from Washington University in St. Louis on May 14. He plans to begin medical school in the fall.

Ben Pasternak graduated from Slippery Rock University on May 6 with his BS in Education. He hopes to teach middle school history.

W. Roger Randolph graduated from United Lutheran Seminary with his Master of Divinity on May 19. He will soon be assigned to a call in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Charles Sherk will graduate from Cornell University on May 28.

Join us for a special coffee hour in Holy Cross Hall on June 4 after the 11:00 AM liturgy to celebrate both our confirmands AND our high school graduates!

CALL FOR COMMUNION ASSISTANTS & ASSISTING MINISTERS

Please consider serving as worship assistants on Sundays. Assisting Ministers serve as assistant to the presiding minister, leading prayers, preparing the altar for communion, administering the Cup. Communion Assistants administer the wine at communion, and other small tasks at the altar. Time commitment is about one Sunday a month. Please contact Christine Hoffman, who coordinates the assistants by calling 412-471-8125 or email cgh@flcpittsburgh.org. Thank you!





FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Submitted by the Finance Committee

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Statement of General Fund Activities

Accounts	3 mos Actual	3 mos Budget	3 mos Variance	Annual Budget
Revenues				
Offerings & other gifts	\$ 161,925	\$ 155,105	\$ 6,820	\$ 620,175
Distributions & interest	86,106	86,645	(539)	189,080
Total Revenues	248,031	241,750	6,282	809,255
Expenses				
Personnel	\$ 134,903	\$ 138,344	\$ (3,441)	\$ 560,600
Benevolence	15,100	15,600	(500)	62,400
Christian Education and Youth Ministry	3,554	4,000	(446)	18,400
Evangelism and Social Ministry	2,457	3,175	(718)	12,700
Parish Operations	10,675	12,275	(1,600)	49,100
Property Maintenance	31,160	23,056	8,104	87,518
Worship	3,816	5,350	(1,534)	18,400
Total Expenses	201,665	201,800	(134)	809,118
Net Total	\$ 46,366	\$ 39,950	\$ 6,416	\$ 137

As shown in the above chart, through the first 3 months of 2023, you continued to faithfully and generously support FLC's ministries. Offerings and other gifts of \$161,925 largely includes envelope giving at \$156,511. Offerings were \$6,820 ahead of budget during the first quarter of the year. Expenses of \$201,665 were on budget. Net Total, or Surplus, was \$46,366 during the first quarter. This positive first quarter surplus reflects a \$56,742 annual distribution from the Helmbold Fund at the Pittsburgh Foundation. This very generous donation is typically received as one lump sum during March of each year.

We remain grateful for your abundant and unfailing support of First Church and its ministries and ask that you continue giving as you are able. Please direct any questions, comments, or concerns you may have to the Chair of Finance, Jim Nealon.