

MINISTRY & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Lay leadership is vital to the mission and ministry of First Lutheran Church. We are all grateful for those who willingly serve, and pray that many more of our members will avail themselves of the opportunities for direct involvement in the unique ministry of our downtown parish. We invite you to prayerfully consider which of these opportunities is right for you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Church School Teacher

Sunday Church School teachers serve on a teaching team for a particular classroom of students. Curriculum, training, and additional educational and craft supply resources are provided by the pastors and the Christian Education Committee. Additional teachers are always needed.

Camp Downtown Counselor/Chaperone

Camp Downtown takes place the third week in June. It is a First Lutheran Church-created vacation Bible school program that involves lessons, craft activities, and field trips. It takes place Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Counselors/Chaperones are always needed. Days/times are flexible.

Small Group Bible Study

In fall and winter, adults may choose to participate in small group Bible study that meets about twice a month, either on Zoom or in person.

Crafts/Activities

Help develop or lead crafts and activities with children and youth. We can always use more helpers!

COMMITTEES

Committees

Committees, most of which report to Council, empower our members for ministry. Terms are three years, renewable once. All of our committees could use more members.

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee plans and implements our educational program for children and adults. It also works to facilitate ministry to, with, and by our children (6th grade and younger).

Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism Committee strategizes about outreach to the community, fostering a climate of hospitality to visitors, and supports the body of Christ in its fellowship and mutual consolation.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is responsible for the development of an annual Proposal for Ministry (budget), regular reporting of the congregation's financial transactions, and oversight of the congregation's fiscal affairs. Additional members with financial experience are needed.

History and Archives Committee

The History and Archives Committee locates, preserves, and organizes written documents, photographs, and other exhibits of historical interest and significance to the life of the congregation. Committee is currently inactive and in need of members.

Memorial and Fine Arts Committee

The Memorial and Fine Arts Committee oversees the acquisition and maintenance of ecclesiastical arts and furnishings so that the aesthetic and theological integrity of the church building and its contents are maintained. In addition, the committee works to encourage memorial and special gifts to the congregation and educational programs on the significance and value of its ecclesiastical art. Committee is currently inactive and in need of members.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee oversees the administration of the staff, excluding clergy, and recommends compensation structures for all staff members.

Property Committee

The Property Committee is responsible for the oversight, maintenance and improvement of the physical facilities of our beautiful church building.

Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee plans and implements programs intended to meet human need, and encourages the participation of parishioners. It provides opportunities for education and advocacy about suffering and injustice in our community.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee encourages and promotes congregation members' offerings of time, talents, and financial gifts.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee ensures that the liturgical life of the congregation is faithful to the witness of the historical, evangelical catholic tradition of the Church, oversees the music ministry of the parish, and seeks to promote the active involvement of the laity in worship leadership.

Youth Ministry Committee

The Youth Ministry Committee is responsible for programming designed to facilitate ministry, to, with, and by adolescent young people.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Council Member

The Council is the Board of Directors for our Congregation and usually meets once per month. A term is three years.

EVANGELISM

New Member Sponsor

A Parish member is present for the reception of new members and encourages their participation in the life of the church.

FELLOWSHIP

Coffee Hour Host

Hosts provide snacks (e.g. baked items) and help set up and clean up for coffee hour after 11:00 liturgy. We currently do not have a coordinator.

Sunday Church School Coffee Hour

Hosts provide snacks (e.g. baked items) and help set up and clean up for the Sunday Church School coffee hour in Holy Cross Hall.

Daytime Book Club

The Daytime Book Group gathers to discuss a book monthly at 12:00 PM on a Thursday at the home of a group member.

Adult Fellowship Group

Seasonal adult fellowship events are offered for adults of any age (18 and older). Volunteers are always welcome to host gatherings and help plan events.

Tween Group

Children in 3rd- 6th grades and their families meet for fellowship events.

First Church Family Circus

First Church Family Circus invites children ages 0 - 6 yrs.(and older siblings up to age 12) and their families to meet for fellowship events.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Fellowship Group

Young Adults (age 18-35) gather for fellowship events.

Campus Ministry Group

Current undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate in a student group that usually meets about once a month during the academic year.

Campus Ministry - Provide Lunches

Make a Sunday lunch for our small group of college students about once each semester.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group

Youth aged 7-12 grades meet monthly for fellowship, service projects, and growth in faith. High school students have some additional age-specific activities, including the ELCA Youth Gathering that occurs every 3 years.

Youth Group Chaperone

Youth Group Chaperones are adult members who offer a ministry of presence, relationship, and leadership with our teen youth group activities.

Youth Group – Provide Meals

Make a Friday evening dinner for our youth group to share at their monthly time of fellowship.

HELPING OUR PARISH FAMILY

Cradle Roll Mailings

The Cradle Roll includes our members from birth to age 3. Mailings, both informational and as greeting to the parents/child are sent out every few months. We use the Enduring Faith materials from Concordia publishing. We currently do not have any volunteers.

Card Ministry

Cards are sent to our over 80 members on their birthdays, as well as sympathy, get well and new baby cards to our parish members.

Cookie Bakers

Cookies are needed for receptions, college student bags, and Christmas cheerboxes.

Provide Rides

In the event that a parish member needs a ride to church volunteers to drive them are appreciated. Additional volunteers needed.

Provide Meals to Parish Members

Meals are delivered when member is convalescing. Additional help is needed.

Provide Housing for Visiting Groups

Often touring college choir members need a place to stay after their concerts.

Photography

New members photos, etc.

Maintenance and Repair

Help maintain our church building and property.

Vocational Mentor for Youth

Needed on an individual basis.

Receptions

Help is needed to host receptions at the church after funerals, concerts, etc. Additional volunteers and coordinators are needed.

MINISTRY TEAMS

Health Ministry Team

The mission of the Health Ministry Team encourages and promotes the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the members of First Lutheran Church and supports the well-being of our neighbors in the surrounding community.

Lay Visitation Volunteers

Lay Visitation Volunteers are trained to visit 1 or 2 homebound or chronically ill members each month to offer care and consolation and to share the Eucharist with them at home.

Care and Hospitality Team

The Care and Hospitality Team of First Church provides meals for those who are in need of extra help during stressful times. The team will also coordinate with the staff and volunteers for special receptions, congregation dinners, and funerals upon request. Additional help is needed.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Parish Choir

The Parish Choir proclaims God's word by supporting our liturgical music in worship and enriching it with special anthems. The Choir rehearses from 9:30 AM-10:30 AM on Saturdays and also on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM. New members always welcome.

Bel Canto

Youth in grades 7-12 The High School choir rehearses Sundays at 9:35-9:55 AM.

Cantate Choir

The Cantate Choir includes children in the first through sixth grades. The children's choir meets each Sunday, following the 11:00 AM liturgy. Through rehearsals and participation in worship, children learn about liturgy, hymnody, and worship leadership.

Gloria Dei Ringers

The Gloria Dei Ringers, the handbell ensemble, is a group of adults and youth. The group rings a five-octave set of Malmark handbells, and rehearses every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Instrumental Music

Instrumentalists may offer special preludes or anthems at Sunday morning or special midweek liturgies.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Midweek Meal Ministry

On Wednesday mornings, participate in making meals for two local non-profits to share with their shelter residents or program participants. Additional help is welcome.

Walk-in Ministry Volunteers

On our assigned week each month, in the morning, Walk-in Ministry Volunteers welcome neighbors who come to First Lutheran Church for emergency food supplies, local bus tickets, crisis support, and referrals to local nonprofit organizations.

Pleasant Valley Shelter Dinners

Six times each year, contribute food to and consider helping serve a Tuesday evening dinner for the residents of the Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter.

Jail Worship Ministry

One Sunday each month, members of First Lutheran Church's Jail Ministry Team lead worship for one or two pods of inmates at the Allegheny County Jail, with a liturgy that distributes pre-consecrated Eucharist. We hope to return to the jail soon. New members of the team are needed.

WORSHIP

Assisting Minister

Lay or ordained person who serves as assistant to the presiding minister by leading prayers, preparing the altar, and administering the wine. Volunteers are needed for both Sunday liturgies, Wednesday liturgies, and additional services during festival seasons. Youth, in addition to adults, are welcome and encouraged to assist.

Communion Assistant

Lay or ordained person who administers the cup at Holy Communion. Additional help is needed.

Acolyte

A liturgical assistant, often a youth, who serves in various roles such as crucifer, torchbearer, Gospel Book bearer, or candlelighter at the Sunday morning liturgies and any special festivals. More acolytes are needed.

Lector

Lectors are scheduled quarterly to read the scripture lessons at our Sunday morning liturgies. We welcome more people to lector, including youth.

Greeter

The ministry of serving as a greeter at our Sunday liturgies is one of the most visible signs of hospitality to visitors. As an urban church, we have many visitors who come to worship. The role of a greeter is simply to stand at the South Narthex door and welcome parishioners and visitors alike, and to answer any question visitors may have.

Usher

Ushers greet people as they arrive for liturgy, assist people with special needs, hand out bulletins, and collect the offering.

Altar Guild

Adult and youth members of the Altar Guild prepare the Eucharistic vessels and set up before liturgy and clean up afterward, and generally care for linens and vestments used in worship. Additional help is needed.

Livestream Operator

Livestream Operators receive special training to operate the cameras, computer, and sound system for the church's livestream broadcasts. Substitute livestream operators are needed to help cover emergency absences and vacation days for the Communications Coordinator.