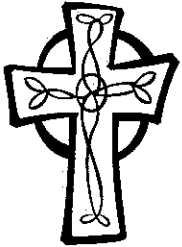


Vine Street Journal

Johnstown, PA

First Lutheran Church

January 2012



Time travel was on my mind recently as I drove to Saltsburg in Indiana County – or more accurately, time *and* travel. I used to drive to Saltsburg regularly, but now hardly ever. Along the familiar Route 286, a building or two had changed. But the road had the same curves and dips as

ever. I knew it was 2011, but it could have been 1985 or 1975 (except that I was that many years older – or was I?). Sometimes the puzzle of time and travel has a curious element of *time travel!*

We experience this same mystery as we travel through the church year. Around Thanksgiving, a new church year begins. We wait through the weeks of Advent for Christ to come again as he came the year before and the decade before and the century before... all the way back to Bethlehem two thousand years ago. We may have an artificial tree instead of a live one, a tabletop tree instead of a floor-to-ceiling one. But in significant ways, it's the same journey today as it was when we were children waiting for Santa or parents of children in a church pageant. Christmas takes us back. As much as times have changed, there is also a timelessness to the ancient celebration in each new church year.

Before we know it, there's a new year on our secular calendar, too. After the horns have been blown and the confetti picked up, we find ourselves saying some things have changed but the curves and dips are the same as ever. The road is familiar, but where is it taking us now? And who have we become since the last time we traveled this way?

Personally and corporately, we look down the road at the start of 2012. Memory and anticipation have almost magical qualities. With them, we begin to grasp abstract concepts from the “new physics” about multiple universes: everything that can possibly happen is happening – and happening simultaneously! The mystery of time unfolds before us as we start 2012 together. The good news is that we are on the road together. The best news is that God leads us through the curves and dips and has a great destination planned, the perfect reign of Jesus Christ our Lord. Happy Traveling!

Pastor Eleanor

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Celebrate Johnstown Here at First
Open the doors and let the New Year in!

First Lutheran will be one of the sites for Celebrate Johnstown this New Years Eve. We have three scheduled acts beginning at 6:30 pm until 10:00 pm. Performing in the Sanctuary will be:

Jennifer Drummey - 6:30-8:00

Croatian Singing Society - 8:00-9:00

Vivace String Trio - 9:00-10:00

Fireworks will begin at 10:00. A complete schedule of the evening's events should be released to the public very soon.

First will have our delicious ham BBQ sandwiches, chips and beverages available for guests to purchase and enjoy in the Social Hall.

Invite family and friends to this entertaining, fun family event to welcome in the New Year. You may come as a guest or a volunteer. Many are needed. Please speak with Ann Furlong if you wish to volunteer.





Vine Street Journal

Published by the
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

415 Vine Street
 Johnstown, PA 15901
 Phone: 814-536-7521

Email: firstlutheran@wpia.net

Fax: 814-536-0855

WEB SITE ~www.firstlutheran.info

Jody Blackford Kirk--Technical Editor

+ + +

PASTOR

The Reverend Eleanor Barney Abarno
 email: eabarno@msn.com

PASTOR EMERITUS

The Reverend Dr. Robert G. Swanson

LEARNING MINISTRY ASSOCIATE

Barbara J. Pingatore, R.N.
 email: bjping@aol.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Matthew J. Beckman
 email: mbeckman6@gmail.com

MISSIONARY

The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey A. Truscott
 email: jeffreyt@ttc.edu.sg

CHURCH COUNCIL

Howard Bennett, Susan Dietz, Becky Gregory, David Murphy, Fawn Slonka (President), Sally Winder, Bob Furry, Rick Hite (Vice-President), Heidi Staib, Dick Torp; ex-officio Barry Critchfield (Treasurer), ex-officio Matt Kocsis (Assistant Treasurer), Scott Becker, James Hargreaves, Richard Schrott, John Simons (Secretary). Newly Elected: Rob Abele, Blanche Cramer, Jody Kirk Mary Jane McCready

~ PASTORAL ACTS ~

TRANSFERS

Josh, Marigrace, Kadiya & Hayden Covert (Dec. 7)

BURIAL

Beverly A. Berkebile (Dec. 19)

~ CONTRIBUTIONS ~

WALDEN M. HOLL TRUST FUND

In Memory of Anne E. Neff

Given by Don and Bev Brocious

Given by Anne and George Fattman

In Memory of Randy Hess, Julie Ebert,

Bobby Miller, Brad and Brian Berkebile

Given by Dan and Geeg Eash

In Memory of Beverly & Glenn Berkebile and sons

Given by Anne and George Fattman

CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND

In Memory of Anne E. Neff

Given by Royal and Greer Koeller

MUSIC MINISTRY FUND

In Memory of Anne Elizabeth Neff

Given by Jeanne Burr

Given by Bill Good

ROBERT G. SWANSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Anne E. Neff

Given by Nancy J. Peretin

BEQUEST RECEIVED

We have received a bequest from the estate of Marigrace Schmidt. This will be used to finalize the balance on the new refrigerator and put towards the Capital Campaign for building repairs. We thank Marigrace and her family for their faithfulness to the ministry of First Lutheran Church.

WISH LIST - New Hymnals

Two hymnals have been gifted in memory of Anne Elizabeth Neff by Charlotte Aubrey and family.

New Refrigerator gifted...

Thank you to those who have made contributions towards the new Social Hall kitchen refrigerator: Herk and Connie Hubbard, George and Nancy Wargo, Charlotte Aubrey, Larry and Patty Riddle, Bev and Don Brocious, Patricia Huntsinger, Marigrace Schmidt Estate-Carol Massingill & family

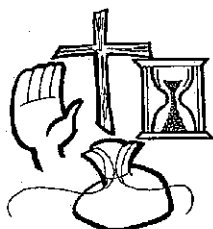
In our prayers



In the life of our congregation, there are often important events which touch the lives of the First Lutheran family. We commend them to you and encourage you to share news with us.

- +Sympathy to Barbara Sivi whose sister-in-law Barbara died on November 22.
- +Sympathy to the family and friends of Anne Elizabeth Neff who died on November 24.
- +Best wishes to Melissa Jedzrejek and Jeremy Varner, who were married here on December 10.
- +Sympathy to Clair Eash and family on the death of Clair's brother Merle on December 12.
- +Sympathy to family and friends of Beverly Berkebile who died on December 15.

GIFT WISH LIST



There are usually needs for the ministry of First that are not being met in ordinary ways. The gift wish list tells of specific needs. Please speak with Pastor Abarno or a staff member for information.

Ministry Item Needs

- Ten lightweight 8' tables – \$73 each.
- Sponsors for Family Kitchen meals - \$250 per meal
- New Social Hall kitchen refrigerator – cost \$3,295.00 (this has been gifted – thank you!)

Income and Expense Summary as of Nov. 30, 2011

	Current YTD Actual Jan. 1 thru Nov. 30, 2011	Current YTD Budget Jan. 1 thru Nov. 30, 2011	Difference over+/under- Budget
Regular Offering Income	\$169,908.05	\$182,500.00	-\$12,591.95
Trust Fund Income	\$7,017.18	\$5,621.09	\$1,396.09
Other Income	\$4,647.42	\$2,000.00	\$2,647.42
TOTAL INCOME	\$201,656.05	\$210,332.24	-8,676.19
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$228,525.72	\$244,263.94	-\$15,738.22

Note: Income and Expense budgets are mostly based on prior years' patterns.

Regular offering income at the end of November is 93.10% of budget, or \$12,591.95 below the budgeted amount. Expenses to date are *under* budget by \$15,738.22. Actual expenses over income for the year is \$26,869.67.

The Finance Committee



Council met on November 19 at Memorial Hospital. After a three-hour planning session, regular business was conducted and reports were received. Council moved to continue our insurance with the Brett Agency for the time being and to get at least three bids when there is time to reconsider. It was reported that income year to date is about \$10,000 below budget, but also that expenses are about \$12,000 below budget. The slate of nominees for council includes Rob Abele, Blanche Cramer, Jody Kirk and Mary Jane McCready. The election was scheduled for the November 20th congregational meeting. Outgoing council members willing to serve on the Nominating Committee for next year are Dave Murphy and Fawn Slonka.

Council met again on December 14. Reports from the Stewardship Committee and Capital Campaign task force indicated that responses are still being sought. Notes were distributed from November's planning session and will be used as the planning process continues. Council reconsidered constitutional provisions for council members' length of service, with the possibility of allowing for two consecutive three year terms. The congregation needs to approve any changes to the constitution and by-laws. To increase security on Sunday mornings, the back door (on the alley) and the side door (on the Crown side) will be locked ten minutes after worship begins – effective immediately. Council will hold a special year-end meeting on Sunday, January 15, after worship.



2012 offering envelopes are available in the Narthex. We encourage everyone to pick up envelopes for family and friends. In order to save money, boxes that are not picked up **will not** be mailed.



Next Journal Deadline
Tuesday, January 24th
Share your news with us!

**CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN
IS UNDER WAY!**



"How blessed is this place, O Lord, Where you are worshiped and adored; In faith we here an altar raise, To your great glory, God of praise. Here your angelic spirits send, Their solemn praise with ours to blend, And grant the vision, only given of this your house, the gate of heaven." LBW Hymn 186

Thank you Members and Friends of First Lutheran Church! To date, we have received over \$158,000 in pledges for our Capital Campaign. The Campaign goal is \$250,000 for this two year effort. Hitting this goal will be critical to have a beautiful Sanctuary in which to continue to worship each Sunday.

If you have any questions, please ask a member of Church Council, Jim Hargreaves, Capital Campaign Chairman (266-7900), or Dick Schrott, Property Committee Chairman (691-8455).

There are information packets available in the lounge and narthex.

Thank you for your continued support and faithfulness to the ministry of First Lutheran Church!



Start the New Year by visiting the church Library and enjoying a good book – there are a number of devotional,

prayer and Bible study books available. In addition to Lenten materials and biographies and fiction stories.

Suggestions for materials to add to the library collection are always welcome especially materials on CD or DVD.

We would like to offer appreciation to *Carol Massingill* for her tireless efforts in maintaining and caring for this wonderful treasure of a library. Her gifts and ministry are a blessing to so many who love and make use of our church library.



**NEW DAY GIVING
THANKS DINNER**

Many people gave thanks for those First Lutherans and friends who volunteered to make this year's New Day Giving Thanks dinner a success. We warmly welcomed approximately 180 guests and volunteers for a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings!

We are grateful for the more than 40 volunteers who helped with the dinner and others who provided pumpkin pies for dessert. All who helped with this outreach ministry include: *Rick, Mary and William Blackford, Tom, Deb and Tyler Karmanocky, Loretta Hunt, Ron and Jeanne Kuhs, Chuck and Heidi Staib, Cheryl Becker, Fred and Judy Bumbernick, Stephen Griffith, Herk Hubbard, Ray Eschrich, Bill and Becky Gregory, John Kiser, Fawn Slonka, Donna Kovalchek, Tom and Mary Kay Bianco, Sue Baretincic, Don and Joann Keefer, Bob and Caryl Swanson, Jody Kirk, Amy and Kayla Uveges, Nancy and Ted Gay, Pastor Bob Abarno, Pastor Eleanor, George and Sally Winder, and Barb Pingatore.* A special thank you to *Howard Bennett* for his culinary gifts.

**Singles
Fellowship**



**Singles Do Italian for
January Outing**

Friday, January 20th at 5:30 pm has been chosen as the date and time for the January gathering of the Singles group. The location is Numero Uno, located in the Westwood Plaza. Please contact Jean Walker for at 536-8135 for reservations.



First Lutherans Blessings to Many!

Christmas Blessings!


Being a blessing comes naturally to so many First Lutherans, and our recent holiday servant ministries were a visible sign of God's love and our care and concern for others. Christmas joy was shared in many and varied ways:

- The Giving Tree provided a variety of gifts for the Christian Home youth.
- Adopt-a-Family provided gifts for many children and families within our own church and the Greater Johnstown community.
- First Lutherans purchased gifts to be shared with residents of the Allegheny Lutheran Home and Laurel View Village.
- Holiday gift bags were filled with goodies and holiday surprises and delivered to the members of our church family and friends.
- Carolers shared the sounds of Christmas with family and friends.
- Fair Trade shoppers made a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters across the globe.
- Warm socks (along with some warm mittens, gloves, and scarves!) will be delivered to Head Start Programs and the homeless project in Erie, later this month.
- Children and youth sent a bit of Christmas joy into the lives of the members of our church family and friends with beautiful homemade crafts and blessings!

- Christmas charity will help those in need beyond the holiday season.
- Stockings for Soldiers received 20 large Christmas stockings filled to the brim with items for those serving in the military.
- Our church building and sanctuary was readied and decorated by a host of volunteers.
- The beautiful poinsettias were shared with our church family and friends.

While we continue to struggle with the poor economy and are saddened by little to no money budgeted to support benevolence ministries; First Lutherans continue to so generously bless others with acts of kindness and generosity. They say you don't need to be an angel to be a blessing. I guess there is some truth to that. But First Lutheran seems to be brimming with kind, loving and generous angels!

There will be many grateful hearts saying thank you for such angels!



**ATTENTION ALL
COMMITTEE CHAIRS !**

Annual reports due into
the church office by
February 6, 2012.



**Sunday, January
15th
Ashcom Chapel
Following Worship**

**ALTAR/ORGAN
FLOWERS
FOR 2012**



Flower sign-ups have started for 2012! Those who want flowers on specific dates in 2012 are asked to sign-up on the flower boards located by the guest book in the Narthex. One board is for Altar Flowers and one is for Organ Flowers. You can sign up for any Sunday for any month in 2012. Payment will be due for flowers on or before the date you have chosen.

If you've maintained flowers on a certain date each year, you will have to place your name on the board to have that date in 2012. If you cannot sign up in person, call and we will be happy to help you out.

If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Eleanor or call Sheri at the church office.


**FUNdraising Continues Sale
of Scrip Cards**

The First Lutheran Fun-Raising Ministry Team had a successful holiday season with selling scrip cards to help finance our many benevolence ministries. This FUNraising ministry will be continued into 2012. Watch for additional details and a listing of available cards and how to secure them.

Scrip is a pre-paid card that customers can use as cash in many stores and restaurants. The Fun-Raisers have purchased cards at a discount. Church members can buy the cards at face value and spend them at face value. The church nets the profits.

For instance, suppose the Ministry Team buys a \$100 Giant Eagle card for \$96, and sells that card for \$100. The buyer can buy groceries and gas worth \$100. The church nets \$4 for our many mission ministries.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the scrip, call Heidi Staib at 255-2989.



**SHEETZ FUNDRAISER
COUPON BOOKS
\$10.00 per book**

Each book holds 12 coupons
for a variety of Sheetz items

Available after worship on Saturday
evening and Sunday mornings



**SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND
February 4 & 5**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

January 8 thru February 5 ~ Donations of any kind of soups will be gathered in the Lounge at the Souper Bowl display. Our youth will also have homemade soup mixes available for purchase, all proceeds will support hunger needs. On Souper Bowl Weekend watch for the soup pots to donate your monetary gifts.



ELCA Malaria Campaign
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

**A child dies from malaria
 every 45 seconds.**

Today we are in a special moment where we could turn this around. Working through Lutheran churches in Africa, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease—for good.

Why a campaign against malaria?

For a long time, the ELCA has been supporting clinics and programs in Africa to provide health care. Now we're focusing on malaria with a new intensity. Malaria kills 800,000 people each year, most are children under five. That's a child every 45 seconds.

The ELCA, through the ELCA Malaria Campaign, is joining hands with eleven Lutheran church bodies in Africa and becoming part of an historic global movement to say, "enough is enough!" No child, no person, should die of a disease that is both preventable and treatable. Therefore the ELCA Malaria Campaign has committed to raise \$15 million to help prevent, treat and educate communities in Africa about malaria and eliminate deaths from this disease—for good.

Malaria Facts

- Almost 9 out of 10 of the 800,000 people who die from malaria each year live in Africa.
- An African child has on average between 1.6 and 5.4 episodes of malaria each year.
- In countries with high rates of malaria, the disease accounts for up to 60 percent of health clinic visits and 50 percent of hospital stays.

Why the ELCA?

For many years, the ELCA has been building relationships of accompaniment and mutual respect with our companion churches

in Africa. Together with our church partners, we are poised to bring about a massive grassroots movement to contain malaria and bring hope to those who suffer.

Lutheran churches in Africa aren't just places of worship. They are the center of community life. That's what makes our work—the work of the church, through churches—perfectly positioned to make a difference.

The ELCA Malaria Campaign funds programs of our companion churches that:

- provide life-saving health care—including medicine to treat malaria
- train health care providers and church volunteers to diagnose and treat malaria
- teach people how to protect themselves from the mosquitoes that spread malaria, recognize symptoms and seek treatment
- distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets and provide training on their use
- provide preventative medication to protect pregnant women and their babies
- encourage governments to provide adequate health care and malaria prevention activities
- support water treatment projects to control the environments where mosquitoes breed

**First Raises the Campaign
 Against Malaria**

NICKELS FOR NETS

Beginning in mid-January First will kick-off a campaign in support of the ELCA Malaria Initiative with the collection of nickels to purchase malaria nets. Large jars will be available to drop nickels and other loose change into. There will also be envelopes for donations of nets. The cost of each net is \$10.00, nets may be given in honor of or in memory of family and friends.

Watch for more campaign activities, events, information and resources as we launch our campaign to fight malaria!

Volunteer Page - Month of January

ALTAR GUILD – Donna Caprous, Nancy Peretin,
Patty Riddle, Carol Massingill

USHERS – Bill Grubb, Ralph Raymond, Sheryl
Raymond, Paul Ribblett

COUNCIL GREETERS – Becky Gregory, Bob
Furry, and John Simons

ACOLYTES

1 Tori Kocsis Rylei Dietz
 Zach Becker - Crucifer
8 Taylor Uveges Casi Stewrt
 Kayla Uveges - Crucifer
15 William Blackford Braden Grecek
 Zach Becker - Crucifer
22 Tara Fritz Cody Johnson
 Alex Skelly - Crucifer
29 Tyler Kocsis Jordan Kocsis
 Kayla Uveges – Crucifer

ASSISTING MINISTERS

1 David Finney
8 Don Keefer
15 Tom Bianco
22 Don Gardill
29 David Finney

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSES

Saturday 7 Barbara Pingatore
Sunday 15 Amy Uveges

LECTORS

1 Calvin Anderson
8 Cheryl Becker
15 Ann Furlong
22 Tom Dixon
29 Anne Fattman

NURSERY

8 Jody Kirk
15 Mary Blackford
22 Heidi Piurkowsky
29 Jocelyn Savering

SOUND TECHNICIANS

1 George Winder
8 Fred Bumbernick
15 Rick Blackford
22 Calvin Anderson
29 Chuck Staib

DRIVERS

1 Harry Bennett
8 Chuck Staib
15 Don Keefer
22 Richard Stephenson
29 Harry Bennett

VIDEO CAMERA

1 Dan Mollura	8 Rob Abele
15 Rob Abele	22 Dan Mollura
29 Rob Abele	

HOSPITAL VISITORS

4 Patty Mills
5 Harriett Miller
8 Jean Walker
12 Linda Miller
16 Ann Furlong
18 Mary Jane McCready
24 Doris Estvanik
25 Fawn Slonka
As needed: Lee Campus – Joan Fritz
 Windber – Peggy Lichtenfels

BELL TOWER SCHEDULE

2, 15, 16, 30 Greer Koeller
5, 12, 19, 26 Harriett Miller
9, 23 Anne Fattman
6, 13, 20, 27 George Fattman
29 Vicki Price

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Ann Bassi, Blanche Cramer, Doris Estvanik, Greer
Koeller, Donna Kovalchek, Loretta Hunt, Mary Jane
McCready, Patty Riddle, Peggy Trevenen

VSJ VOLUNTEERS

Blanche Cramer, Loretta Hunt, Sondra Magi, Jo-
Anne Overdorf, Nancy Peretin, Joyce Schmid,
Dorothy Swick, Dorothy Wadsworth



**Thanks
Volunteers!**

January 2012

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Johnstown, Pennsylvania
814-536-7521 email: firstlutheran@wpia.net
Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9 am-3 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Coming soon! Souper Bowl Weekend February 4 & 5, 2011						
1 Name of Jesus 9:30-NO Learning Hour 10:45-Word & Sacrament	2 OFFICE CLOSED 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	3 11-Staff Meeting 7-Bible Study	4 6:30-Adult Choir 7-Personnel	5 12-Bible Study 6:30-NO Handbells	6 Epiphany	7 5:30-Word & Sacrament <i>Blood Pressure Screening</i>
8 Baptism of our Lord 9:30-Adult Choir 9:30-Learning Hour/Adult Study 10:45-Word & Sacrament	9 7-Fellowship & Evangelism 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	10 11-Staff Meeting 7-Bible Study	11 6:00-Council Reorganization Dinner	12 12-Bible Study 6:30-Handbells 6:30-JALY- Mt.Calvary	13	14 5:30-Word & Sacrament
15 Epiphany 2 9:30-Adult Choir 9:30-Learning Hour/Adult Study 9:30-Council Orientation 10:45-Word & Sacrament <i>Council Installation</i> <i>Blood Pressure Screening</i> 12-Service for Healing 12-Year End Council Meeting	16 7-Worship Planning 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	17 11-Staff Meeting 7-Bible Study	18 6:30-Adult Choir	19 12-Bible Study	20 5:30-Singles Numero Uno Westwood Plaza	21 5:30-Word & Sacrament 6:30-Mutual Ministry
22 Epiphany 3 9:30-Adult Choir 9:30-Learning Hour/Adult Study 10:45-Word & Sacrament 3:30-Lutheran Home Service	23 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	24 11-Staff Meeting 12-VSJ Deadline 7-Bible Study	25 7:30-Worship & Music	26 12-Bible Study 6:30-Handbells	27	28 5:30-Word & Sacrament
29 Epiphany 4 9:30-Adult Choir 9:30-Learning Hour/Adult Study 10:45-Word & Sacrament 3:00-Ecumenical Liturgy – Zion, Hollidaysburg	30 7-FUNdraising Taskforce 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	31				5:30-Word & Sacrament