

+ June 2016+

GOOD NEWS

FOR OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH • ALTOONA, PA

FROM PASTOR FOLMAR

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

God bless you as we begin summer. Yes, Memorial Day weekend is past and many of us have a varied schedule and Sunday worship patterns may change. I hope in your weekend travels on Sundays you will find a church and worship.

Of course we are here to welcome folks as the body of our Lord Jesus Christ at First Lutheran Church. We are known as a welcoming congregation which is really good. I am thankful for your efforts in helping to grow our community of faith. I never tire of meeting new people and also welcoming those who are returning to First Lutheran Church. Summer is a more casual time, yet and never-the-less, our weekend liturgies are vital for our growing in faith, hope and love.

We believe Jesus Christ is the living and abiding Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are claimed in Holy Baptism as God's people.

The living presence of Jesus Christ is alive among us as the scriptures are read, proclaimed in preaching, announced in the forgiveness of sins and in Jesus' bodily presence in, with, and under the bread and the cup of wine in the Holy Communion. Also we encounter the bodily presence of Jesus among the Christian community. God gives the Word and the Sacraments to the Church and by the power of the Spirit creates and sustains the Church so as to be true to the mission of offering the means of grace. So that all people may hear and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Spirit gathers us and sends us into God's own mission for the life of the world.

From sections of The use of the Means of Grace (1997 ELCA Worship Statement).

Remember our building is air conditioned and so you need not be concerned about summer's heat and humidity. You can come and be comfortable and be fed with the bread of life.

Peace in Christ's Love,

Pastor Folmar