



# THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD  
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

FEBRUARY 2021

## The Lenten Spiritual Journey

Last year at this time, I was getting ready to head to the Holy Land in order to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. As with most people who have traveled there, I came back with a new perspective and outlook on my faith because I was able to better grasp the culture, climate and history of the region in which Jesus and the disciples lived. However, the biggest change to my understanding of scriptures is that the Bible is not just listing places where Jesus visited as an afterthought, but instead these places are essential to understanding the full story of Jesus.

This epiphany that I experienced last year has made me see that Jesus' journey to the cross was choreographed by God in order to share a fuller picture of God's love for us. When we seek to understand the significance of the places that Jesus leads us to in his last days, it allows us to understand more fully the events that took place.

During our Lenten journey this year, both the devotional "Places of the Passion" and the mid-week services will seek to give us better insights not only to Jesus' journey to the cross, but the places he encountered. Each week starting with Ash Wednesday, which is February 17th, we will be reflecting on a place that Jesus visited in His last days and the importance of it to Jesus' triumphant over sin, death and the devil.

On Tuesdays in Lent, I will be doing a brief talk on Facebook Live about the historical and cultural significance of the places we will journey to for the week. Then on Wednesdays at the noon Service of the Word (In person only) and 7pm Holden Evening Prayer Service (In Person and On Facebook Live), I will be focusing on the theological importance of the place and events that happened there. On this journey, we will be traveling to the small town of Bethany for

Jesus' anointing and to the places of power in Jesus' day, such as the courtyard of the High Priest and Pontius Pilate's court. We will visit the Mount of Olives on which the Messiah was to ascend from and the quiet Garden of Gethsemane where the rowdy mob encounters Christ.

Since over the last year most of us have been weary to travel anywhere, why not take this time to journey with Jesus this Lenten season as He leads us to experience new life.

Pastor Ian Reid

Please also be sure to update the office of any changes in address or email.

## Church Council

### FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT -

As you know, council elected not to call our customary January Congregational meeting this year. The January meeting is normally a time to look back and celebrate the many accomplishments from the past year. We felt fortunate to have held a successful in-person Congregational meeting last fall, and decided we could still celebrate our many accomplishments without the January in-person meeting, and disseminate our Annual Report by other means. The 2020 Annual Report has just been sent out electronically through our "One Call" system, and printed copies are being made available to those without email. Please notify the church office if you are a member and have not received your copy. As you read the report, I pray you will be amazed at all we have accomplished during the COVID pandemic. Even during times when indoor worship, meetings, and our favorite events were cancelled, our church remained active in many different and creative ways to continue reaching out to our parishioners and to our community. For me personally, the report showed me that I belong to a healthy, strong, and resilient church capable of providing ministry to others during the hardships of COVID. I am very thankful for that!

On behalf of council, I wish to once again personally thank each of you who were able to support our church financially throughout last year. Council continually watched for ways to reduce expenses, and were able to continue paying our staff salaries throughout the entire year with the help of a forgivable Payroll Protection loan. We will not be getting another government loan in 2021, so we are asking for your continued faithful giving during this upcoming year.

I am sad to report that our recently hired Office Administrator, Barbara Huffman, did not work out and is no longer with us. Amanda Whitlatch has agreed to continue supporting our office work on a part-time basis, although she will not hold regular office hours. A dedicated cell phone is being carried by Amanda to monitor calls into the church office during days when she is not there. Amanda will listen to and relay messages left on the church's voicemail, but if you need to reach Pastor Ian please continue to call him directly on his cell phone.

Election of council officers was held at our January council meeting. Paul Freeman was elected Vice President, and Jarad Ice was elected Secretary. The President's position has not been filled as of this writing. I am currently leading discussions on how big the President's roles and responsibilities have become over the years, making the position more difficult to fill. I will remain as Council President until voting

resumes at our February meeting.

Council was made aware of several new issues and concerns with our property. We have a list of repair and upgrade projects, but volunteers from the congregation are still needed to assist with finding contractors who can do the work. Council approved \$5,000 for a much-needed upgrade to our church's network and computer backup systems. Jarad Ice has graciously volunteered to use his expertise in this area to manage this project and provide installation and configuration assistance. Council also approved \$5,000 for replacement of several faulty spotlights above the chancel. I will be managing that project once warranty issues are resolved.

Your Church Council is always open to hearing any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns from the congregation. Please feel free to contact myself, Pastor Ian, or any Council member. May God pour out His rich and abundant blessings on each of you this Christmas season and throughout the New Year in 2021!

Yours in Christ,

Doug Woolley

*A note from your Treasurer -*

2020 Financial Information:

	<u>December 2020</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Total Income	\$57,323	\$334,323
PPP Loan		\$34,517
Total Expense:	<u>(\$33,490)</u>	<u>(\$311,933)</u>
Gain or Loss for Month/Year:	\$23,833	\$56,907

**NOTE: Donations to the G.I.F.T. Fund (General Improvement Fund) are used for improvements to the church facility.**



Did you know you can give to the church by linking up your Kroger reward card with Community Rewards? Then Kroger will give us a portion of your spending!  
Use code **HJ264** to find First Lutheran Church!



If you use Amazon, consider using amazon smile! With amazon smile, a portion of what you spend will be giving back to the church. With no extra charge to you! Just use:  
[www.amazon.com/smile](http://www.amazon.com/smile)  
Then go to 'Your AmazonSmile' and search for First Lutheran Church

**Supporting First Lutheran Church's Mission With Online Giving**

As easy as

1-2-3!

With GivePlus Mobile you can express your generosity easily from your phone.



1. Download the app
2. Find First Lutheran Church by typing our Zip Code 26101
3. Choose the amount and how often you would like to give to the church.

**Any questions?**  
**Contact Paul Freeman.**  
**304-488-1841**

# **YOUTH & FAMILY TIME**

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## **February Youth & Family Events**

**\*\*All items (including Lenten items) will be on the parsonage porch in a box for you to pick up starting February 1. Please let Becca know if you need it delivered\*\***

February 7: Photo scavenger hunt: List will posted on Youth Group Facebook page. Take your family on a trip around town and find the items to take a picture! Share your photos with us when you finish your hunt!

February 14: Family Date Night Kits- Pick up a family date night kit at the church this week! We will not be meeting to do any activity, but we want to see pictures of your family enjoying time together!

February 21: Random Acts of Kindness: Take time this week to find simple ways to be God's hands and feet to those around you!

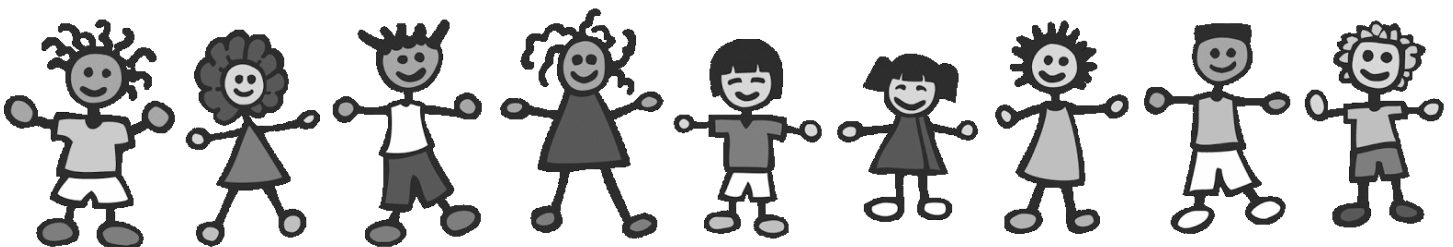
February 28: Polar Bear Hike: We'll meet at McDonough Wildlife Refuge at 2 pm to go for a hike. It is about 1 mile, and you should wear shoes & clothes that can get muddy!

## **PANCAKE SUPPER to benefit VBS**

Since we can't celebrate Shrove Tuesday together, let's do it APART!!

To raise funds for VBS this year, we will be selling pint jars (2 batches) of pancake mix for \$10. Each jar will include simple directions and a jar you can reuse!!

We will have them for sale at the church on February 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. If you'd prefer to just make a donation, we'll take it! All proceeds will help us make another memorable VBS experience for our youth!



## Food Pantry News:

Your food pantry closed out the year with the completion and gifting of 67 Christmas baskets and 71 families served in December. Your last minute donations allowed us to serve clients that were put on a wait list.

I have been surprised and very thankful for the food drop offs that you have brought to the church. I'm always asking, " who donated this?, " or "how did they know we needed this?". I'm beginning to think that there is a secret group of helpers floating around the church. We were getting low on cereal and I walk in and there were cases of cereal inside the back door. Not boxes, but cases. Then we got turkey breasts and boxed food delivered on two different days. Then a friend of a church member has delivered over 40 individual pounds of ground hamburger. The food pantry staff are so thankful to everyone that has donated your time and gifts to make the pantry a success this past year.

We feel truly blessed that you support the pantry financially and with donated food items.

Now we start the Souper Bowl competition. A drop off table has been placed in the narthex to place your cans of soup if you attend Sunday worship. You can also drop your soup donation at the handicapped entrance during food pantry hours of 9:30 and 11:30am on Tuesday or Wednesday.

The competition will be divided by boundaries this year instead of different services. There will be a South Parkersburg that includes Lubeck, Washington, Mineral Wells and North Parkersburg that includes Vienna and Williamstown, and the state of Ohio.

You will need to label your soup donation for the area you live. Write in the memo of your check and offering envelope that it's for food pantry soup and the area you want to get credit. Please write SOUTH, NORTH OR OHIO. May the best neighbors win! Every dollar donated will equal one can of soup in the soup totals. Pastor Ian will keep us informed weekly on the total donated for each week at his discretion. We all know how much he loves this competition. The boundaries were his idea. We don't need cream of mushroom soup, but would love to receive other types of any brand.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, we will run the competition until February the 28th. This should give our members the time they need to make their donations. Enjoy Souper Bowl 2021!!

In Christ, Susie McNemar





## FLC SEXTON IMPORTANT 'COG' IN THE WORK OF KEEPING FIRST LUTHERAN OPEN FOR WORSHIP

When people hear the word 'Sexton' they often ask ... what is a Sexton?? Historically, according to the dictionary, a church Sexton "... is a custodian charged with keeping the church and parish buildings prepared for meetings, caring for church equipment, and performing related minor duties such as ringing the bell and digging graves..."

Our Sexton, Stewart Shaw, has been essentially performing those duties since November, 1989 ... when he assumed the position from Bob and Lila Eagle ... with the exception of ringing the bells and digging graves!

Stewart keeps busy cleaning, dusting, sweeping, polishing the brass handrails in the Sanctuary, re-arranging the set up of various rooms and the Fellowship Hall for a variety of activities, and assisting in other areas when called upon.

He has seen and been involved with a lot of gradual changes and the shifting needs of our Church. He saw the major revise of our classrooms, the Archive room moved to a new home to provide a new residence for the Sr. Choir. And then there were the many, many 'faces' of the "Blue Room" at the foot of the Fellowship Hall stairs – serving as a variety of youth and adult classrooms and other uses – to its present resident ... our Food Pantry!

His current 'office' next to the lift was the original Food Pantry ... and some members will remember that the current Prayer Chapel was once the Church Secretary's office and the Pastor's study was in the parish house.

Stewart has been present for some major changes as well. Some of these he recalled were the addition of handicap restrooms, upgrading of the handicap entrance in the alley, new red carpet in the Sanctuary (which replaced the old green carpet ... and would you believe ... they found green linoleum under the old carpet!?)

More recently, Stewart – always ready to assist – helped Dale Van de Velde install the security cameras.

Then there was the upheaval due to the major update of our electrical system in the Sanctuary, and the wonderful upgrade of the Fellowship Hall restrooms.

All this being said ... who would have ever thought about the major changes that would be required over the past year that we have all experienced. The dreaded Corona Virus-19 made us all review our priorities of cleanliness ... and Stewart was up to the challenge this presented for our Church.



Stewart Shaw, Sexton

He continued with his daily/weekly routines about the Church, with the added necessity of special deep-cleaning and sanitization required for all "touch" surfaces, light switches, faucets, all door handles, etc., etc. Just as all of us have had to assess our homes and their 'new' requirements for safety during the pandemic, so has it been required for our Church home as well. And occasionally the pews have had to be re-sanitized if there have been services, funerals, etc. during the week in addition to regular Sunday services.

All in all, Stewart has been an important 'cog' this past year, helping us have a good and safe place for worship at First Lutheran. We have been fortunate to have worshipped every Sunday – some weeks safely in-person, other Sundays on Facebook LIVE only. This has been possible because of all of us working together ... our Sexton Stewart, in cooperation with Pastor Ian and Becca, and all the members of the "Quaran-Team" worship leaders, the re-opening committee, the Usher team, and our Food Pantry workers who have continued to help those who come to us in need during this difficult time.

**We give praise and thanks to God for all of those who have worked ... and continue to work ... to keep us safe and able to worship together as the people – and community – of First Lutheran Church.**

***SPECIAL NOTE: This is the sixth in a series of articles about the "Quaran-team" and all those who continue to help keep First Lutheran alive and well, serving the needs of its parishioners and community, and successfully maintaining weekly worship services throughout the Covid pandemic.***

### Liberty Street Community Garden in 2021

As amazing as it may seem, I planted seeds today for the community garden! Yes, I know its January, but spring comes fast (sometimes), and it can pay to be prepared. We will start out with these cabbage plants, some onion sets and maybe lettuce in early or mid-March, then quickly follow those plantings in early April with peas and we are off!

We can anticipate that the summer of 2021 will be as important a time as ever to have fresh produce available. The FLC community garden is maintained to provide some fresh veggies to the FLC food pantry, folks who are shut-in, and church attendees as we are able. With the good soil and convenience of the Liberty Street garden next to the church, we should be able to get fresh vegetables to many in the community. Thanks to Rural King this year donating LOTS of seeds and Eli Reid separating and tabulating them, we have a good start on the season. We received a grant last year from Thrivent Financial to help with supplies and equipment, and may qualify again this year. Donations are always welcome!

We will need to do some work to get the garden ready for planting, so many hands are needed between now and April. Especially in the spring weeks, garden work opportunities are often controlled by the weather. For the time being, work days and times will be announced to all those interested using email, text, or phone. If you are one of those who wants to help or just wants to know what's going on, please send us your contact info using your favorite means of communication. Emails can go to the church office (flcsec@yahoo.com) or to Mike Lockney (mlockney@outlook.com). If you'd rather get a text or a call, send your contact number to Pastor Reid or to Mike Lockney at 304-615-3981. We'll let you know when work is planned. There will also be occasional planning meetings, for now using Zoom. All are welcome to be part of this "growing" experience!

Mike Lockney



### LILIE ORDERS:

Easter will be here in two short months! If you would like to preorder your lilies early, now is the time!

.....  
# of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ x \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## November 2020 Hymns and Scriptures

*In effort to ensure that everyone has the information for the services on Sundays, the Hymns for the 10 am service and the Scripture verses for both services, it will now be printed in the First Word!*

### February 7: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Processional	God, Whose Almighty Word	LBW 400	First Reading	Isaiah 40:21-31
Offering	Gather Us In	WOV 718	Psalm	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Communion	Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word	LBW 379	Second Reading	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Recessional	I Love to Tell the Story	LBW 390	Gospel	Mark 1:29-39

### February 14: Transfiguration of Our Lord

Processional	Beautiful Savior	LBW 518	First Reading	2 Kings 2:1-12
Offering	How Good, Lord, to Be Here!	LBW 89	Psalm	Psalm 50:1-6
Communion	Arise, Your Light Has Come	WOV 652	Second Reading	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Recessional	Thy Strong Will	LBW 233	Gospel	Mark 9:2-9

### February 21: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Processional	O Lord, throughout These Forty Days	LBW 99	First Reading	Genesis 9:8-17
Offering	Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word	LBW 230	Psalm	Psalm 25:1-10
Communion	Jesus, Refuge of the Weary	LBW 93	Second Reading	1 Peter 3:18-22
Recessional	A Mighty Fortress	LBW 229	Gospel	Mark 1:9-15

### February 28: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Processional	O Master, Let Me Walk with You	LBW 492	First Reading	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Offering	Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart	LBW 325	Psalm	Psalm 22:23-31
Communion	Lord Jesus, Think On Me	LBW 309	Second Reading	Romans 4:13-25
Recessional	Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	LBW 487	Gospel	Mark 8:31-38

\*Please note: Depending on COVID numbers, communion may not be served and we will not sing a communion hymn.\*

## Lent and Easter Information:

**Wednesday, February 17th - Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, February 24th - March 24th**

(There will be no meals)

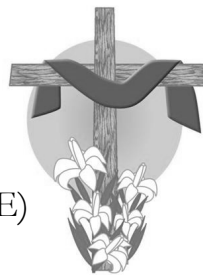
12pm - Spoken Word

7 pm - Holden Evening Prayer

(Also will be on Facebook LIVE)

**March 28 - April 3rd - Holy Week**

**Sunday, April 4 - Easter**



We remember our dear departed sisters in Christ

Grace Browder and  
Blanche Grueser

Please keep their friends  
and family in your prayers  
as they mourn.



## Upcoming Events



### FEBRUARY

*Our Church returned for in-person worship in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 24, 2021. The Church building continues to be closed to meetings and events except for Food Pantry operations. Watch/listen for 'ONE CALL' updates.*

**Strict rules will continue to apply to everyone who enters our Church building. Until further notice -- everyone will wear a face mask and social distance when in the facility, and sit in assigned seats when Sanctuary is open.**

#### **Sundays:**

**8:30-9:30 am – ZOOM Fellowship Hour**  
**9 am – Sunday School online via ZOOM**  
**10 am –worship in Sanctuary with communion, and on Facebook LIVE**

**NOTE: Drive-up Communion on Sunday in Alley - 11:15 am-1:00 pm**

**YOUTH GROUP: Please refer to detailed article in this issue re February events**

#### **Tuesdays:**

**10:00 am – Pastor's Bible Study via Facebook LIVE**

#### **SEASON OF LENT BEGINS:**

**February 16 – Shrove Tuesday – see details Within this article**

**February 17 - Ash Wednesday**  
**Services at Noon and 7:00 pm**

**Weekly Wednesday Lenten Services:**  
**(February 24 through March 24)**  
**12:00 Noon – spoken word**  
**7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer**  
**(this service also on Facebook LIVE)**

**WEEKLY FOOD PANTRY: – 9:30 – 11:30 AM**  
**Tuesdays and Wednesdays**

***Please stay safe and well!***

## NOTE:

You can find the bulletins for Sunday Worship on the website, or in the email that is sent out via OneCall.

If you need Pastoral care, please contact Pastor Ian on his cell phone or call the church office at (304) 428-6174.

These items are completed and ready for you to view! If you have need any of them and have not gotten them, please let us know!

- The Annual Reports are completed and have been sent out via OneCall. If you would prefer a printed copy, contact the office.
- If you need your contribution report printed and mailed to you, please contact the office.
- If you would like a Lent Devotional which is titled “Places of the Passion” mailed to you, please contact the office.

Please contact the office by calling 304.428.6174 or email [flcsec@yahoo.com](mailto:flcsec@yahoo.com)

# FEBRUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Pastor's Bible Study 10am	3	4	5	6
7 ZOOM Fellowship Hour 8:30am Children's Sunday School 9am Worship Service 10am VIA Facebook LIVE Drive thru Communion 11:15am-1pm	8	9 Pastor's Bible Study 10am	10	11	12	13
14 ZOOM Fellowship Hour 8:30am Children's Sunday School 9am Worship Service 10am VIA Facebook LIVE Drive thru Communion 11:15am-1pm	15 Staff Meeting 11am	16 Pastor's Bible Study 10am Council Meeting 6pm  <b>*Shrove Tuesday*</b>	17 Ash Wednesday Service 12pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm  <b>*Ash Wednesday*</b>	18	19	20  First Word Articles DUE
21 ZOOM Fellowship Hour 8:30am Children's Sunday School 9am Worship Service 10am VIA Facebook LIVE Drive thru Communion 11:15am-1pm	22	23 Pastor's Bible Study 10am	24 Lent Service 12pm Lent Service 7pm VIA Facebook LIVE AND In person	25	26	27
28 ZOOM Fellowship Hour 8:30am Children's Sunday School 9am Worship Service 10am VIA Facebook LIVE Drive thru Communion 11:15am-1pm						

**LIST OF INDOOR FACILITY USES APPROVED BY COUNCIL:**

**NOTE:** Sanctuary and Education buildings continue to be closed to meetings and events, except for the following activities approved by Council. Masks and social distancing rules apply.

**SANCTUARY:**

- 1) In-Sanctuary worship - Sunday mornings 10-11:30 am. (also on Facebook Live). Seating limits apply.
- 2) In-Sanctuary funerals - may be held in Sanctuary on Tue, Wed, or Thur. only. Seating limits apply.

**FELLOWSHIP HALL:**

- 1) Weekly Men's Gathering - Tuesday mornings 9 - 10:30 am.
- 2) Monthly Alzheimer's Group (Joe Lantz) - 1st Wed. 1:00 pm.
- 3) Monthly Staff Zoom meeting - Monday before Council meeting, 11 am.
- 4) Monthly Council Zoom meeting - 3rd Wed., 6 pm.

**EDUCATION BUILDING - 1st FLOOR:**

- 1) Church office. Open Mon - Thurs. 9 am - 3 pm.
- 2) Back Hallway. Food Pantry - Tues. & Wed. 9:30 - 11:30 am, plus food truck deliveries.
- 3) Choir Room. Choir practice - Weekly - Wed. 7:30 pm.
- 4) Café. Bereavement Group - Once/week, mid-week.
- 5) Library & Parlor. Women's Bible Study - Tues. 6:30 pm.
- 6) Room next to Nursery. Backpack Ministry.
- 7) Pastor's office - adult Sunday School - Weekly, Sunday mornings

**EDUCATION BUILDING - 2nd FLOOR:**

- 1) Sunday School opening room. Zoom Sunday School - Sunday mornings 9 am.

**NOTE: USE OF WV STATE SCHOOL COLOR CODE CHART -**

The weekly status of this color coded chart is being monitored to help determine our church operations and facility closures. If Wood County moves to ORANGE, all in-person meetings and facility uses would be temporarily cancelled (except Sunday morning worship and food pantry). If Wood County moves to RED, in-person worship would also be temporarily cancelled and replaced with Facebook Live only.



# First Lutheran Church

## PASTOR

**The Rev. Ian Reid**

(email: [pastorianreid@gmail.com](mailto:pastorianreid@gmail.com))

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

AMANDA WHITLATCH

304-428-6174 (email: [flcsec@yahoo.com](mailto:flcsec@yahoo.com))

Open by appointment Monday through Thursday;

Closed Friday

## **YOUTH COORDINATOR**

Becca Reid

304-966-6430 (email: [cup\\_nstu@yahoo.com](mailto:cup_nstu@yahoo.com))

## **NURSERY STAFF**

Our nursery is currently closed

## **WORSHIP TIMES**

Sunday Morning Worship, in Sanctuary when possible - 10:00 am

- First visit? Please call ahead to reserve your seat
- Masks and social distancing required

## **HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED:**

During Sunday Morning Worship in Sanctuary when possible

Drive-through by Rear Alley overhang entrance -

- Sundays 11 am - 1 pm

**WEBSITE:** [firstlutheranparkersburg.com](http://firstlutheranparkersburg.com)

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Doug Woolley**, President, 304-295-9502

**Paul Freeman**, Vice-President, 304-488-1841

**Jared Ice**, Secretary, 304-771-7177

**Tom Curry**, 304-834-4008

**Jim Hamric**, 304-729-0160

**Lisa Hutzler**, 304-295.5040

**Gerry Kohler**, 304-991-5506

**Mary Lewis**, 740-989-2243

**Dr. Ryan Lowers**, 304-834-9777

**Brian Nokleby**, 304-375-2260

**Carol Petersen**, 304-863-6891

**Robyn Rice**, 304-488-6773

**Lisa Martin**, Treasurer Appointed, 304-422-8240

**Elizabeth Martin**, Treasurer Appointed,

304-422-8240

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