

PASTOR

The Rev. Ian Reid

(email: pastorianreid@gmail.com)

CHURCH OFFICE

AMANDA WHITLATCH
304-428-6174 (email: flsec@yahoo.com)
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday;
Closed Friday

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Becca Reid
304-966-6430 (email: cup_nstu@yahoo.com)

NURSERY STAFF

Selena Stover and Heather Lough

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Church School 9:30 a.m.
Invitation to Prayer Sunday Evenings 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship Service 6:30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED:

All Sunday Services

WEBSITE: firstlutheranparkersburg.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

Doug Woolley, President, 304-295-9502

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

Keith Curry, Secretary, 304-482-0147

Tom Curry, 304-834-4008

Gerry Kohler, 304-991-5506

Jared Ice, 304-771-7177

Mary Lewis, 740-989-2243

Dr. Ryan Lowers, 304-834-9777

Brian Nokleby, 304-375-2260

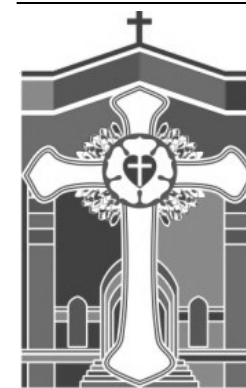
Carol Petersen, 304-863-6891

Robyn Rice, 304-488-6773

Betty Smith, 304-863-5569

Lisa Martin, Treasurer Appointed, 304-422-8240

Elizabeth Martin, Treasurer Appointed,
304-422-8240



THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

FEBRUARY 2020

Walking in the Foot Steps of Jesus

As many of you already know, I will be traveling to the Holy Land this February (3rd-13th) as a participant in the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. On this journey, I look forward to being able to see the places Jesus ministered at and around the Sea of Galilee and experience the Holy city of Jerusalem firsthand. I am blessed to be selected as one of the fifty pastors to be invited to take part in this fully paid for experience that is meant to energize and strengthen pastor's ministries. The ministers that were selected come from a wide variety of denominations and locations throughout the United States. The main requirement was not only serving a church presently, but also see themselves ministering into the future as well.

You might be asking why the trip I am going on is called a "pilgrimage" and not a vacation or an experience. The answer is that a pilgrimage is a spiritual journey that one takes in order to grow deeper with God and gain insights into their life. For over thirty years, The Knights Templar has believed that by sending ministers to the land where the Bible characters roamed and allowing

pastors to experience the Holy sites and to take some days to contemplate their calling to God, it not only improves their ministry, but also the churches they serve. So while I will be visiting many of the historical sites related to Jesus's life and ministry, I will also be reflecting on my service to God and his church.

While I am gone for the ten days, I first of all ask that you keep me in prayers, along with my family, and the church. Because I will be halfway around the world focusing on my spiritual pilgrimage, as needs for pastoral care arise, please contact the church office. The office phone number is (304) 428-6174 and Amanda will relay your need to Pastor Mike Seely or Doug Woolley depending on who can best be of service to you. If the office is closed or if it is on the weekend then you may contact Doug Woolley directly at (304) 482-1035 or Becca Reid (304) 966-6430 and they will take care of getting you the support you need.

As you might imagine, the goal of the trip is for me to experience the Holy Land and not to be on my

computer on a regular basis communicating back home. However, I have created a blog page that I will be writing some thoughts about what I have been seeing and experiencing and posting some photos as well. <https://pastorianholylantravels.blogspot.com/> I am not sure how often or how much I will be posting on it while I am on the trip, but it is where I plan to share the experience while I am gone. Once I come back, I will also be sharing about my trip in person and with pictures during at least one Sunday School hour and also be teaching on the Holy Land during Pastor's Class on Wednesdays during Lent.

As you might expect, I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to being able to fully immerse myself in the history, culture, and land that Jesus walked. It also is my hope that it will help me to be a better preacher, teacher, and witness to the faith for all those who I serve as pastor.

Pastor Ian Reid

Non-Profit Org.
Postage
PAID
Parkersburg, WV
Permit No. 9

First
Lutheran Church
1701 Nineteenth Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Church Council

FROM YOUR COUNCIL
PRESIDENT -

We hope each of you had a very blessed and fulfilling Advent season, and truly felt God's immeasurable blessing as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

At January's Council meeting, we elected our officers for this coming year. All previous officers were re-elected as follows: President - Doug Woolley, Vice President - Paul Freeman, and Council Secretary - Keith Curry. Lisa and Emmie Martin will continue as co-treasurers. Council members and officers were installed during both church services on Sunday January 19. Council will continue to meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday unless conflicts arise.

We hope you have heard our church's great financial news by now! Council wishes to graciously thank the entire congregation for your generous giving in December, in response to our General Fund's deficit of (-\$35,360) going into the month. December's monthly income of \$72,184 not only erased that deficit, it also paid for December's expenses and left us in the black by \$6,290 at year-

end. As you know, it is very important to keep our church's General Fund healthy, so please continue to give regularly to the General Fund throughout the year as you are able. Council will do their part by continuing to monitor and reduce our church's expenses throughout the year.

We wish to take this opportunity to remind you that there are several different ways to financially give to our church. Numbered Offering envelopes are provided for those who wish to regularly place their cash or check in the offering plate. Blank offering envelopes can also be found in the pews for regular and special gifts. You may, however, prefer the convenience of having your gift transferred from your checking account or credit/debit card, either automatically at preset intervals, or else manually. Either way, you are in full control because you can arrange these payments yourself by using an app on your phone or computer called "Give+" by Vanco. You can set up periodic automatic payments if desired, or you can give an amount you specify at the time you specify. This type of online payment is very secure (like a bank). All your Give+ activity is well documented, and is recorded in your church's giving records just like offering

envelopes. Please contact Paul Freeman or Doug Woolley if you have questions.

Also worth mentioning is the recent growth of our church's Endowment Fund. A very generous gift was recently deposited, bringing the Endowment Fund up to a total of \$75,000. When the fund reaches \$100,000, the interest can then be put to use to fund our various planned projects and upgrades. This is very exciting, as it allows the fund to become active that much sooner.

Keep your eye on this newsletter, the weekly bulletins, and the "big screen" for upcoming church events. Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner is Feb. 25, and Ash Wednesday is Feb. 26 this year.

Council invites each and every person reading this newsletter to pray for Pastor Ian as he embarks on his trip to the Holy Land in early February.

Your Council is always open to hearing any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns from the congregation. Please feel free to contact myself, Pastor, or any Council member.

Yours in Christ,
Doug Woolley

FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Youth Group 5 pm Evening Service 6:30 pm	3 *Pastor leaving for the Holy Land*	4 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Al-Anon 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	5 Alzheimer's Group 1:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Praise Team at Worthington 2 pm Youth Group 5 pm Evening Service 6:30 pm *Guest Pastor - Mike Seely*	10 Praise Team at Eagle Pointe 7 pm	11 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Al-Anon 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	12 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	13	14	15 *First Word Articles Due*
16 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Youth Group 5 pm Evening Service 6:30 pm	17 Staff Meeting 10:30 am	18 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Al-Anon 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	19 Pastor's Class 10:00 am Council Meeting 6-8 pm Hand Bells Practice 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	20 Williamstown Bible Study @ The Burton's 1 pm	21	22
23 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Youth Group 5 pm Evening Service 6:30 pm	24	25 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Al-Anon 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pancake Dinner 6:00 pm *FAT Tuesday*	26 Pastor's Class 10:00 am Mid Day Service 12:00 pm Evening Service 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm *Ash Wednesday*	27	28	29

Upcoming Events



FEBRUARY

“SOUPER BOWL” COMPETITION ENDS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
 Help your service win this year and remember to bring in your cans of soup!

February 3-13 – Pastor Ian away on Holy Land trip. Please say a prayer each day for him and safe travels... and for his family who will be missing him!

Pastor’s February 5 and 12 classes cancelled due to his travels.

PASTOR’S CLASSES RESUME starting Wednesday, February 19 at 10 am



FEBRUARY 25th - 6PM

February 25 – FAT Tuesday ANNUAL Pancake dinner at 6:00 pm
 Proceeds will benefit **Camp Luther Scholarship Fund**


February 26 – LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY
 Services at Noon and 7:00 pm

NOTE: Wednesday Lenten Services will begin March 4 and include lunch at 11:30 am followed by service at 12:30; Evening Lenten Services at 7:00 pm will be preceded by light meal at 5:30 pm

Men’s Prayer Breakfast
 Come join the men for a fellowship breakfast and prayer. They meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesdays from 8:30 am - 10:00 am. For more information, please call Pastor Ian!



Alzheimer’s Support Group
 Alzheimer's Support Group meets first Wednesday of each month at 1pm at the First Lutheran Church. For more information contact Joe Lantz MSW/ LCSW at 304 422-9293.



Bereavement Meeting
 Bereavement meetings are on hold at the moment. However, Barbara McDowell is willing to meet with anyone that is in need. Just call the office and let us know!

BIBLE STUDY!
WILLIAMSTOWN BIBLE STUDY -
 February 20th - 1:00 PM
 At Vivian & David Burton’s Home
 29 Painters Crossing, Williamstown, WV 26187
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

A note from your Treasurer -

2019 Financial Information:

	December 2019	2019 YTD
Total Income	\$72,184	\$341,153
Total Expense:	(\$30,532)	(\$334,863)
Gain or Loss for Month/Year:	\$41,652	\$6,290

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!

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.

GIVE+



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

Sundays- 5-6 pm in fellowship hall

February 2: Super Bowl Celebration! We'll play some challenges inspired by the BIG GAME!

February 9: A SWEET TREAT! Allison Ruble will show us how to make different chocolate treats: Lollipops, filled candies, even painted shapes!

February 16: Fleece tied blankets: We will be making blankets to donate to the Project Linus. Anyone who can cut 8 inch lines or tie an overhand knot is welcome to join us!

February 23: Skating at City Park Pavilion- *3-5 pm* Cost is \$2 admission and \$4 an hour for skate rentals. Let's check out what our local skate arena is like! It's synthetic ice, so no need to bundle up. They also have devices that children can use to support themselves as they are learning to skate.

February 25: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner- 6 pm- Proceeds benefit Camp Luther Scholarships! Bring your family and friends and have a yummy BREAKFAST FOR DINNER night! Casseroles, pancakes, sausages- Yum!!

LENT INFORMATION

February 26th is Ash Wednesday! Services will be at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st: Lent Lunch will be held at 11:30 am and service will be at 12:30 pm. Lent Dinner will be held at 5:30 pm and service will be at 7:00 pm.

If your group is interested in preparing a meal, please let Amanda know!

Please remember to pray for Pastor Ian while he is on his trip to the Holy Land! He leaves on February 3rd and will return February 13th! Please also include Becca and the kids in your prayers!



Staying for the Postlude

BY NOBLE L. THOMPSON JR.

My raw and rebellious back, recuperating from spine surgery, balked at being required to travel 45 minutes from the suburbs to downtown Philadelphia for worship at First Presbyterian Church. So, I occasionally attended services at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, ten minutes from my house.

One Sunday, 15 minutes before morning worship at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian, I found an aisle seat in the sanctuary, nodded to the woman seated beside me, and prepared to receive the Word. One hour later, spiritually fed, I sat a bit longer as organist Jeffrey Brillhart began the postlude, Franck's *Pièce héroïque*.

"Excuse me," the woman beside me asked as she stood to leave.

I responded, "Oh. You're not staying for the postlude?"

She returned the strangest look.

Bracing myself for a tongue lashing, I pushed further. "I'm visiting today, but at *my* church, we are encouraged to regard the postlude as an essential part of the service. It's a final opportunity to pray that the message of the day be received in our hearts."

With a glowering look, somewhere between disbelief and contempt, she squinted. Now, certain that I had gone too far, I waited for a verbal backhand. But surprisingly, she said, "Okay. I'll stay."

Together, the two of us sat for the Franck. After the final chord, I waved a salute to Jeff Brillhart in the rear gallery where he sat at the console. He returned the gesture.

The lady next to me then asked, "Oh, you're an organist?"

"Not really. I've played since I was a teenager, but I'm a retired physician. I guess God thought my talents were more suited to medicine than music."

"My late husband was a physician," she replied.

"Really? Where did he practice?"

"Bryn Mawr Hospital. He was a neurosurgeon before he died two years ago."

"What was his name?"

After she told me her late husband's name, I smiled. "I knew your late husband for more than 30 years," I replied. "We worked together at Jefferson University and at Main Line Health. I remember when he left clinical practice to work at the Pennsylvania Medical Society, hoping to help resolve some of the thornier issues in health care. Eventually, he returned to Bryn Mawr where we consulted together on many cases. He was a fine physician. We all miss him."

Tears rose in her eyes. "Oh, thank you for those kind words. It means so much to me."

We chatted a few minutes more as we walked toward the narthex. But just as we were about to say goodbye, I couldn't resist. "See what wonderful things happen when you stay for the postlude?"

Noble L. Thompson Jr., MD, is an award-winning, board-certified neuroradiologist, a medical-legal consultant, a published writer, and a former equestrian-foxhunter who still plays the organ every day. A member of the Philadelphia AGO Chapter, his memoir *Never Give Up: My Struggle to Become a Doctor* was published in 2015.

COOKEEZ SALE

Another successful COOKEEZ Sale. Thanks to all who helped getting the cookies ready, thanks to those who baked cookies, made the pickles and donated crafts. Thank you to all those who supported the sale by coming by and purchasing cookies. There are some green tomato pickles still available in the office. We have over \$2,200 to donate for the church steps restoration. Thank you again for making this fun project a success!!

Linda Dally

THANK YOU!

The family of Lillian Horner wishes to thank our church family for the prayers, fellowship and service on October 26 for the celebration of our mother's life. The music added so much to the service and message by Pastor Reid. Thank you to those who prepared and served the fantastic brunch. Thank you for the cards and caring you have shown to our family.

Linda, Ingrid and David

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
February 2	Tim Archer	Karen Creel
February 9	Adeline Smith	Cheryl Hasbargen
February 16	Sue Lamp	Barbara Petersen
February 23	Barbara McDowell	Betty Smith

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date	10:45 Service
February 2	Sharon Buzzard and Barbara Sampson
February 9	Brian and Penny Green
February 16	Courtney and Abby Ferrell
February 23	Roger and Julie Davis

Door Greeters 10:45 and 8:30 (contact church office to volunteer)

10:45 Service	
February 2	Mary Parrish
February 9	Brian and Penny Green
February 16	Mary Lewis
February 23	Andrea Brock

8:30 Service
Lawrence and Lyndall Hasbargen, Donnie Fosselman and Stan Null

Altar Guild Servers

8:30 AM	Debbie Marks
10:45 AM	Peggy Brunner
6:30 PM	Barbara McDowell
Paraments	Natalie Tumlin

Cantors

February 2	Susan Smith
February 9	Jocelyn Gum
February 16	Doug Farr
February 23	Paul Freeman and Shandra Ice

Communion Assistants

February: Carol Petersen, Andrea Brock, and Karen Creel

Food Pantry News:

Your food pantry has been busy feeding hungry people in need of nutrition. Once again we served over 60 families in November and the same in December. We filled and distributed 65 Christmas baskets to our clients and church member shut-ins. The PHS soccer team were instrumental on distribution day. We look forward to serving more clients in 2020.

Currently we have the Souper Bowl competition. This is a hunger program on the national level. We look forward to seeing who the next champions will be this year. The 6:30pm service members were victorious last year as they beat the 8:30am service by 12 cans of soup and the 10:45am service by over 100 cans of soup. You may donate cans of soup or donate money. Each dollar donated counts for one can of soup. Please mark your check and/or offering envelope that your donation is for Souper bowl and designate which service you attend. All donations stay at our church for our clients. Enjoy the Game.

Your financial support is also very important since we purchase low cost food from the Mountaineer Food Bank and area grocery stores. We can not be successful without your monetary gifts. We appreciate any amount of donation.

We are always in need of oats, spaghetti sauces, green beans and macaroni and cheese dinners.

Please consider joining our group of volunteers for a couple of hours a week. We are open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30-11:30am. We can use young people needing volunteer hours for school requirements.

Thank you to all the people that volunteer on truck days. A special thanks to our truck drivers, Kathy Hamrick, Gary Welch, Lawrence Hasbargen, Lee Peterson and our new recruit, Don Fosselman. These volunteers report monthly to Erickson football field and help unload a semi-truck filled with food. They assist other agencies as well as our pantry to get their food into waiting vehicles. Please continue to keep our food pantry in your prayers and the clients that we serve.

In Christ, Susie McNemar

From Shandra Ice

Choir is back in session! If you enjoy singing, and would like to join us, choir rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:30pm. No prior experience or the ability to read music is necessary.

Cantors: If you are interested in serving as a cantor at the 10:45 service, please let Shandra Ice know and she will get you on the schedule.

