



THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

APRIL, 2015

Jesus Christ the Light of the Word by Pastor Ian Reid

In the Gospel of John Chapter 8 Jesus claims that he is “the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” This dialogue takes place as the Pharisees at the temple want to show Jesus’ followers that He is not powerful and should not be trusted. The question they ask of Jesus is “how do we know that you have authority and your words are valid?” Jesus replies that we should know by His actions, which reflect the actions of God and thus are a source of light to the world. The Pharisees would have understood that by Jesus claiming to be light, He is taking on the claim of being one who speaks for God. In the Old Testament we see God using light as a sign of His presence such as the burning bush in the Moses story, or as a sign of one who is a divine messenger such as the light that accompanies angelic presence.

This light and darkness theme comes back up again in the Gospels during the passion story of Jesus. We hear in the three synoptic gospels that there was darkness over the land from the 6th hour till the 9th hour of the day (noon till 3pm) with the as-

sumption that it was dark while Christ was on the cross. The Gospel writers want to show that while Christ is on the cross, Jesus seems to have been lost to the world. Though we get a small sign of hope by the temple curtain being torn in two, we still are left with an empty feeling of sadness as the lifeless body of Christ is laid in the tomb, and are told it is too late in the day for the women to embalm the body. Therefore the women must return to take care of the preparations of the dead the day after the Sabbath.

We therefore hear that the women return to the tomb early in the morning on the first day of the week and find a glorious appearance of an Angel of the Lord that not only enlightens the tomb, but their minds as well. This dazzling white light that comes from the tomb in contrast to the darkness of the world found on the cross is quite clear. God has triumphed! Christ is Risen! Alleluia! We now therefore understand fully what Christ meant when He said that He is the light of the world, and that we will experience new life through following the light.

Through Christ’s resurrection we no longer walk in the darkness that leads one into danger and eventually to death. Instead, if we follow Christ we will walk with the confidence and knowledge that trust in Christ brings us. This idea of walking in darkness to entering the light can be seen by the ancient traditions of the Passionservices during Holy Week.

On Maundy Thursday we watch as the church is stripped of all things that are celebratory and instead find ourselves in the midst of an empty space lacking all symbols of hope and joy. Then on Good Friday we experience the traditional service which is called *Tenebrae* that in Latin means “service of darkness or shadow”. This solemn service typically focuses on the words of Christ on the cross, as the service progresses and candles are extinguished until at the very end even the Christ candle is no longer lit.

All things change as the congregation gathers outside as the sun begins to set on Holy Saturday and the Jewish Sabbath starts. The pastor begins the Easter Vigil by lighting a new fire and relights the Christ candle with

Jesus Christ the Light of the Word by Pastor Ian Reid (cont'd)

the fire and then proceeds along with the congregation back into the church. The Christ candle is the only candle lit as the stories of God's amazing love are read then, suddenly the Gospel is read. At this time the whole church lights with the blaze of candles. The church is redecorated and we experience the light of Christ coming into our lives with the good news of the Resurrection. Do not worry even if you miss the beauty of experiencing the light of God entering the Sanctuary on Easter Vigil on Saturday. We experience it in small part on Sunday as well.

It is common for me to be in-

formed by the ushers that on Easter the lights are not lit or are dimmed. I then tell them that this is the way it should be because ever since I have arrived at First Lutheran we have implemented the processional of the altar adornments. The idea is that on Easter Sunday the women come into a tomb that they expect to be empty, and not until the angels share the good news of Christ's Resurrection are they filled with the light of God. Thus when the Pastor enters the sanctuary he calls out that Christ is Risen and we respond with He is Risen Indeed! After three times of responding to the Good News, the Christ

candle is carried into the sanctuary followed by the rest of the Altar adornments. Once the Christ Candle is placed next to the baptismal font, the lights and candles are fully lit and we experience the fullness of Christ in worship.

Just as Jesus Christ proclaims that He is the light of the world and all who follow Him will experience the light, we too experience walking in the light through the services of the Passion during Holy Week. My prayer for you is that God may enlighten your life and your ways this Holy Week.

Community Garden

The community garden crew is gearing up for another season. Volunteers are always needed. The Emerson Avenue garden will work on Mondays and Thursdays. If you have a couple hours to give please contact Bob Friend at 304-422-2950. The garden located by the church will work on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Don Ery can be reached at 740-423-9645 if you can help

at that location. Don't like gardening? How about providing a meal for the workers? Contact Pat Harman (304-481-8635) or the church office if you would be able to make a lunch. If you want to just donate snacks or ice cream that would be greatly appreciated. This year we are only considering having lunch on Tuesdays for about seven workers.

We can also use monetary donations. Mark "Other" on your church envelope that you want your donation to go to the "community garden".



EASTER BREAKFAST

9:00 A.M. EASTER MORNING

PROCEEDS GO TO THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY IN JULY

From Your Church Council

Isn't it marvelous that we are moving into the season of spring ... with Easter just around the corner? We have been sharing in the many special Lenten services and meals, and are quickly approaching Holy Week with its unique opportunities for worship and praise. Each service will have its own special message leading to the glorious day of Resurrection when we can say, with appreciation and joy, He Is Risen! He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

We have been experiencing a little 'one-sided' worship with the electrical and lighting upgrades happening in our Sanctuary, but, hasn't it been nice to be in worship close to one another? I believe we have been 'weathering' the upheaval quite well, don't you? Let's all think of someone we have not seen in church lately, give them a call and encourage them to return to worship ... and keep this closeness going and building as we move forward into spring!



April 2

Maundy Thursday

12 Noon and 7:00 pm

April 3

Good Friday

Service at 7:00 pm

The contractors will finish the work on the one side of the church and have everything back in place for Holy Week services. After Easter, they will begin finalizing work on the Gospel side of the Sanctuary, which will take about three weeks. On April 27th testing and 'schooling' for our lighting and sound operators will begin so they are familiar with all of the workings of the new lighting. By May 1st, all work and training are scheduled to be completed. We are all looking forward to that day!

Even though the work will be complete, we still need to continue to build up the fund for payment for all of these upgrades. The lighting 'adoption' program was outlined in last month's *First Word* and is ongoing. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please check with Jill in the office to see what items are still available for 'adoption.'

If you have questions or would like to have more information, please contact me, Pastor, or any Council member.

Any and all contributions toward the electrical upgrade are welcome and appreciated (and tax deductible, of course.)

Many things are happening at First Lutheran. With spring imminent, the Community Garden gang is chomping at the bit to get their seeds and plants in the ground. You will find many upcoming opportunities for worship, fellowship, and volunteering included in this issue. I am sure there are many you will want to add to your calendar.

Let us continue to worship, praise, pray, study and grow together as a community of faith. Your Council will continue to keep you informed, and we welcome your suggestions, questions, comments or concerns.

Andrea Brock
Council President

Calendar of Events

April 5

Easter Breakfast

Starts at 9:00 am

Served by youth to benefit New York Mission trip

Easter Service

Begins at 10:30 am

April 4

Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 at Church

Easter Vigil

Service at 7:00 pm

Scrapping Our Way Through—Pastor Jim and Martha, Part II ... Gerry Kohler

[In the November First Word, a portion of the video/oral history of Pastor Jim Kinsler's memories of his father, Pastor David Kinsler was recounted. Pastor David left First Lutheran in 1942 to join the Army as a Chaplain. After some harrowing experiences, including being surrounded by German soldiers, nearly dying, and helping to liberate a Concentration Camp, he decided the Army was the place for him and he spent the next 21 years serving our country.]

Following the destruction of our first church, only two years old, caused by the Quincy Hill tank disaster of March 9, 1909, our present church was built in 1927. Oil, gas, and money were abundant in the area. It was the roaring 20's! Then, in 1929, the unbelievable happened! The stock market crashed! Pastor J. Leonard Fischer had done a remarkable job of building the congregation up, raising funds for the new church, and all had seemed well. However, now they were overextended, and the church was in deep financial trouble. Some members of the congregation had signed promissory notes, putting up their personal property. It was about to be taken! This, of course, created extreme tension between members of the congregation. Some people left and went back to Avery Street, worshipping in the little chapel that had been mostly built from the ruins of the first church. *[Dr. Dale Brum's dental office is built around this structure on Avery St. - the bright blue building - the vestiges of the church are still visible.]* David Kinsler was

in Seminary at Hamma Divinity School, a department of Wittenberg College, and is now Trinity Seminary in Columbus.

First Lutheran was part of the Pittsburgh Synod at that time. Dr. Lamer was part of the West Virginia Synod and asked David to go to Parkersburg on the week-ends to deliver a sermon to the congregants who had migrated to the Avery St. church. He was told not to get involved in the controversy, but to minister to their needs and try to get them back to the 19th St. church. More people began attending the Avery St. church. Pastor Fischer was obviously under a great deal of pressure and stress. From the pulpit, he referred to the young "whippersnapper" down on Avery St. The Sunday after that was said, the chapel on Avery Street was full! People wanted to see and hear this young "whippersnapper".

[Pastor David wrote a small autobiography, The Young Whipper-snapper, in which he writes about this incident.]

Pastor Fischer resigned, Pastor David began trying to get the church back together, and he received a call to become the First Lutheran Pastor. However, the church was still a part of the Pittsburgh Synod, and the West Virginia Synod had underwritten some of his Seminary expenses. He declined, feeling an obligation to the West Virginia Synod. The next Sunday the congregation voted

to change from the Pittsburgh Synod to the West Virginia Synod, and David accepted the call.

There was still so much distress and tension in the church due to the continued financial disaster, that some parishioners would not go to the Communion rail with others. Over time, they developed healing. I asked Pastor Jim *how* the financial crisis was averted, as it seems to be a part of our history which is sketchy.

Pastor David was a true West Virginian, very straightforward. His father was a German immigrant, and had been given a difficult time, especially during World War I. He spoke with a German brogue until the day he died. David grew up in a railroad town and made it by "scrapping his way through." He grew up with controversy and was a man who would not back down from it. *[Pastor Jim admitted that he differed with his father in this area. He sees himself as more of a pacifier, where his father was a confronter.]* The bank called the loan in! However, during the Depression, most banks didn't want the building, only the cash.

There was a rumor in town that the bank was going to sell our church to another group of faith. David was good friends with the editor of the newspaper, and let the bank know that it would be front page news if the church was taken from the group who had built it and sold

Scrapping Our Way Through—Pastor Jim and Martha, Part II ... Gerry Kohler

to another faith group - not good public relations. The bank backed down, but there was still cash to be raised.

Other incidents occurred which also helped. There were prominent people in the church who held positions of high authority and felt that they ran everything. [*That never happens in churches today, of course!*] However, Pastor David knew something the rest of the congregation didn't know. He published what everyone gave to the church and taped it to the wall! [*Don't get ideas, Pastor Ian! This was a CRISIS!*] Strange thing - the offering plates became much fuller! The bank was happier.

A man from the community also came to our rescue. One of the Crawford brothers, who owned Parkersburg Rig and Reel, had a grandson who attended Boy Scouts who met at First Lutheran. [*The Crawford Brothers, David and John, produced what they believed to be the best manufactured oil field supplies, during the oil and gas boom here, and even offered a guarantee. They also contributed a great deal to St. Joseph's Hospital. Their names are engraved on one of the bricks in the original lobby of the building.*] Although they did not attend our church, the experience had a

very positive effect on the boy. His grandfather wrote a \$10,000 check to First Lutheran - in the 1920's! Can you imagine? All that had to be done before he signed the check was for the church to match it in one month! Pastor David was ecstatic, took it to the Council meeting, enthusiastically explained it, and was met with blank stares, even dead pan. "Pastor, we have given all we can give." Pastor David replied, "We must raise that and we will raise that!" They did! Perhaps the posting of the tithes was put up the next day? The bank note was cleared. The debt had been paid. First Lutheran had considered it a moral obligation. How thankful we should be that our electrical needs were met in this day of prosperity, as compared to the Great Depression.

So what is the purpose of pursuing these stories? Why is history so important? We walk into our lovely church building to celebrate and worship God, surrounded by the symbols of our faith, our family of faith, and an atmosphere that lets us free our mind of worries, so that we might more easily hear the word of God. Is it essential? Of

course, we know it isn't. God is in our heart and everywhere, but where would we be if the right people had not been in the right place at the right time? Find a new church? Stay home and read the Bible? These are good things, but because of the people who came before us - Mrs. Meerwein, who sustained our church with no building, Pastor Fischer who worked tirelessly to build our first church, Pastor David who saved our second church, the people who have donated the beautiful symbols in memory of loved ones, and all the saints who have gone before us who gave of their time, efforts, and gifts, we can enter this holy house and worship our God surrounded by the memories of those who made it happen and our family of faith sitting with us. What can we learn from their dilemmas? From their solutions? What a sorry people we are indeed, if we cannot learn from our past, so that we know how we got here, and can make plans based on what we've learned from others! Thanks be to God!
---Next month - Are all Lutherans pranksters?

HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS

We are looking for a few people who would be willing to serve communion to our home

-bound members. If you feel called to serve in this capacity please contact Pastor Ian Reid

(304-966-6431) or Barbara McDowell (304-483-1010).

D.U.N. Committee Events

The committee provided the first Lenten dinner of the season. We offered baked potatoes, homemade soups, and salad bar along with homemade desserts. About 50 people attended.

The Restaurant Rovers went to the Blennerhassett Hotel for their Sunday Brunch. There were 19 in attendance. It was suggested we go to Jumbo's again, something to plan for a

later date.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, April 15th at 6:30 pm.** We will discuss the upcoming annual church picnic.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Our church picnic will be held on Sunday, June 7th, at the City Park. There will be a combined service that Sunday and the picnic will follow. Bring a covered dish to share and the

DUN committee will do the rest. Join us at shelter #10, located next to the playground. More information to follow in the May First Word.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION ON MOTHER'S DAY

Lori Butler has graciously offered to once again prepare a slide show of our graduates. If you have a student who graduated this past year from high school, please submit 4-5 photos along with the name of the high school. If you have a student who graduated

from college (August 2014, December 2014 or May 2015) then submit one photo along with the name of the college and degree received. You can give the photos to Lori at church or drop the photo(s) at the church office. She will return them to you. You may al-

so email photos to Lori Butler at mibutler@k12.wv.us. Please submit photos to Lori no later than April 30th. Recognition will be on May 10th, at the combined church service for Mother's Day.

Thanks to all for your prayers, love, and support through Van Hall's long illness and death. We are blessed to have First Lutheran as our church family and Jan Reid as our Pastor.

The Family of Van Hall

Bereavement Group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month starting at 6:30 pm. Contact our Care and Concern minister, Barbara McDowell (304-483-1010) if you have any questions.



Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 4th at 10:00 a.m.

Youth Event Calendar

**April 5
Easter Breakfast**
NYC mission trip fundraiser!
Be there between 8:30 & 9
a.m. to serve.

April 12
No youth

**April 19
Mall Scavenger Hunt**
A new twist on an old favorite

April 26
S'more fun than you can im-
agine!

**Easter
Breakfast**
9 am- April 5th

After your Easter fun at
home, join us before church
for a delicious Easter break-
fast! It will be held in the fel-
lowship hall. All proceeds
benefit the mission trip in Ju-
ly.

**Youth Group
Yard Sale**
May 15 & 16

Calling all treasures and

no-longer-needed items!
Once again, the youth
will be gathering items for
a fundraiser yard sale for
the New York City Mission
Trip. You may bring items
and place them in the
basement beginning in
May.

Please place things to
the side of the room so
the space is still usable. If
you need help bringing
items in or getting them
delivered, contact the
office and someone will
assist you.

Kid's Club and Sunday School

Kid's Club will meet again
this summer from July 1st to
July 29th. We will have din-
ner, Bible stories, games,
crafts and songs. If you are
interested in helping please

talk to Lori Butler. (304-481-
4765) Thanks, Lori Butler

Sunday School
The last day of Children's
Sunday school will be June

14th. We will take the sum-
mer off and then meet
again on Rally Day in Sep-
tember. Thanks to all who
attend and teach Sunday
School. You all are the best!

GENERAL FUND

Income (February).....	\$19,223
Expenses (February)	\$27,340
Income (Year To Date)	\$39,453
Expenses (Year To Date).....	\$53,251
Budgeted Year to Date Expenses.....	\$59,912

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
Apr. 5	Julie Davis (one service beginning at 10:30 am)	
Apr. 12	Sandy Davies	Ashley Wiltsey
Apr. 19	Bob Friend	Cheryl Hasbargen
Apr. 26	Barbara McDowell	Tim Archer

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date	
Apr. 5	Ashley Wiltsey and Carole Carter
Apr. 12	Brian and Penny Green
Apr. 19	Chip and Barbara Rodgers
Apr. 26	Lewis and Karen Creel

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

Date	
Apr. 5	Cindy and Michelle Fouse (one service beginning at 10:30 am)
Apr. 12	Brian and Penny Green
Apr. 19	Ruth Johnson and Helen Echard
Apr. 26	Jean Riggs

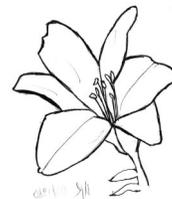
Phyllis Loudon is always looking for door greeters to welcome people as they come to the 10:45 service on Sunday mornings. Please contact the church office if you are interested in greeting.

Altar Guild Servers for April

8:30 a.m.	Jo Ellen Loudon
10:45 a.m.	Judy Ery
6:30 p.m.	Barbara McDowell (February)
Paraments	Marcia VanDeVelde



EASTER SERVICE
APRIL 5TH 10:30 A.M.



APRIL, 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Hand Bells 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30 Bereavement 6:30 p.m.	2 Maundy Thursday Services Noon & 7pm	3 Good Friday 7pm	4 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 Easter Vigil 7 pm
5 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 9:00 Youth by 8:30 am Easter Worship 10:30	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Praise Team at Church 7pm	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	8 Church Council 6 pm Hand Bells 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	9	10 Church Women United Executive Meeting 10 am	11
12 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Worthington 2 pm Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30 NO Youth	13 Praise Team At Eagle Pointe 7p.m.	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	15 Hand Bells 6:30 pm Bereavement 6:30 p.m. D.U.N. Committee 6:30 Senior Choir 7:30	16	17	18 First Word Articles Due
19 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth-Mall Scavenger Hunt 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	20 Praise Team At Church at 7pm	21 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	22 NO Hand Bells Senior Choir 7:30	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth—S'more fun Evening Service 6:30	27 Praise Team At Church at 7pm	28 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	29 NO Hand Bells Senior Choir 7:30	30		



First Lutheran Church

PASTOR

The Rev. Ian Reid

(email: pastorianreid@gmail.com)

CHURCH SECRETARY/CHURCH OFFICE

Jill A. Flinn

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

CARE & COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Barbara McDowell

304-483-1010 (email: bam3042@yahoo.com)

OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
Sunday Church School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 and 10:45 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

President, **Andrea Brock**, 304-485-5162

Vice-President, **Angie Smith**, 681-229-0443

Secretary, **Julie Davis**, 304-863-0084

Youth Representative, **Ethan Farinash**

Lori Butler, 304-863-5156

Barb Carpenter, 304-295-9527

Keith Curry, 304-482-0147

Chris Davis, 304-210-7631

Robert Fluharty, 304-485-3484

Bill Kohler, 304-483-7810

Jean Riggs, 724-961-2096

Betty Smith, 304-863-5569

Dale VanDeVelde, 304-834-1560

Treasurer Appointed, **Kent Hasbargen**, 304-863-3056

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