



THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

FEBRUARY, 2015

The Characters around the Crucifixion by Pastor Ian Reid

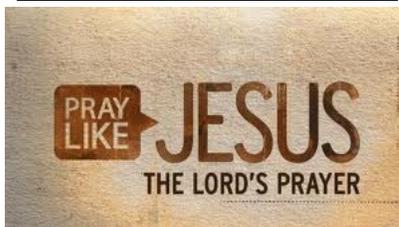
Many times in the Bible we hear of certain people or groups of people who come into Jesus' life and then disappear just as quickly. We might be able to recite their names and recount Jesus' interaction with them, but beyond that our knowledge is minimal. If you have ever wondered what we know historically as well as Biblically about these key figures, then the Pastor's Lenten class is for you. Over the course of five weeks it is my hope to help enlighten you on the Biblical character's importance, as well as their motivations, cares and concerns.

We will take an in-depth look at the key disciples of Jesus and what made them unique and important to His ministry. Another week we will seek to expand upon Jesus' close friendship with Mary, Martha and Lazarus, and how Jesus shows compassion on them while using their home as a guest house. Along the way we will discuss Mary Magdalene and discuss whether she is the Samaritan woman at the well. Not only will we look at individuals, but also take some time to better understand such groups as the story such as Judas and Pontius Pilate, as well as consider the duties of a centurion.

I think you will find my studying these key figures that Jesus does not live in a stagnant world, but one into which many diverse people lived. By studying these figures we notice more clearly these people were able to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and others saw him as an impediment to their destiny. Once we learn more about who was in His life it helps to make the story of His crucifixion more compelling.

The class will start on February 25th with a group meeting at 10a.m. and an evening class that will meet on the following Thursday evenings at 6p.m. Feel free to come to either class and I hope that through learning about the people who surrounded Jesus on His last days you might come closer to God.

Lenten Sermon Series



How should I Pray?
One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples

said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them,

"When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us, and lead us not into temptation." Luke 11:1-4

As we enter into the Lenten Season this year we will once again have our mid week services starting on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 18th. Not only will the Pastor's classes resume on the 25th of February, but also our joint worship services with Christ Lutheran. Each Wednesday at the 12:30 p.m. service will be held at First Lutheran and we will alternate the evening service that starts at 7 p.m. between First Lutheran and Christ Lutheran. The theme for this years message will be the Lord's prayer. Each week we will take a look at one of the petitions that Christ teaches us to pray. Hopefully you will be able to add this time of worship and reflection to your weekly routine so that you might be fed by Jesus as the disciple who asked to learn to pray as well.

FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL ...

Here we are beginning another new year! When we reflect on the past year, it is wonderful to see what God's people at First Lutheran have accomplished. We have had many wonderful fellowship opportunities, we have made strides taking care of the business of the church, and most importantly, we have come together in worship and praise of God, our Father.

2015, like every year, will have its challenges, but we have demonstrated time after time that, with God's hands on our shoulders, we will continue to move in the right direction to do the work He has planned for us.

More and more as we look about our Church and participate in the myriad of worship opportunities and fellowship activities, and community

outreach efforts, we find it does not matter where we come from to worship, our station in life, no matter our ages, if we are students, lay or professionals, retirees, etc., we see how much we truly enjoy our Church and each other. We, hopefully, will continue to increase our willingness to give ourselves as agents of our love of Jesus Christ to carry out His works.

My personal prayer is that we will continue to come together to worship, praise, pray, study and grow as a community of faith. Your Council will continue to keep you informed, and we welcome your suggestions, questions, comments or concerns.

We encourage you to attend the congregational meeting on January 25 following the

combined worship service at 10 am. Immediately following will be another opportunity for fun and fellowship with the Vegetable Soup Cook-off and the Food Pantry Open House. I understand many of our members have never seen the pantry so this will be a great opportunity to take a peek! Be sure to bring the kids because this year there will be a special "Kids' Table" with PB&J, Mac and Cheese, and other kids' favorites! We look forward to seeing you there.

Andrea Brock
Council President

Electrical Upgrade Status by Dale VanDeVelde

Our electrical upgrades are progressing according to schedule. All equipment for our contractor CCI has been received and McHenry Electric is starting to install the control equipment in the balcony of the church. They will then start the overhead conduit runs and begin taking the chandeliers down for cleaning and retrofitting with LED lights. Our plan is to have the chandeliers completed and our new lights installed prior to Easter. As discussed earlier, we will be working on completing one half of the sanctuary at a time so we will continue to worship in our sanctuary during the construction. We ask your patience as this work proceeds and your help when requested.

D.U.N. Committee

The DUN Committee held their meeting on a very cold Wednesday evening, January 7th. We discussed the upcoming congregational meeting to be held on January 25th following the combined service. Our committee will be hosting a "vegetable soup" cook off this year. If you have a great family recipe that you would like to share please contact the church office so the DUN committee can be notified. You can also place your name on an attendance slip and drop in the offering plate. We will be presenting t-shirts to all those who donate soup! In addition to (hopefully) a variety of vegetable soups we will have sandwiches, desserts and a kids' buffet. We will have some other activities. The food pantry will have an

open house and we will be giving an update on which service is ahead in the Souper Bowl competition. Those attending the 8:30 service need to bring tomato soup, 10:45 service is to bring chicken noodle, and 6:30 service is responsible for vegetable. We are asking for donations of soup in place of a love offering for the lunch. Our food pantry will be the ultimate winner. (By the way 10:45 service is winning at this time!)

Lenten season is coming early this year. The DUN committee will provide the dinner on February 25th. The menu will include a baked potato bar, soup, and salad. Please join us at 6:00 pm then attend the Lenten service starting at 7:00 pm.

Restaurant Rovers will be going to the Parkersburg Country Club on March 22nd. We will have more details next month. Please watch the bulletin for updates and our website. Please sign up no later than March 15th. Drop a note in the offering plate or call the church office. Thank you. Next meeting will be February 4th at 6:30 pm in the Holy Grounds Café. Hope to see you there!

Lenten Calendar of Events and Services

Feb. 17th-Pancake Dinner and Trivia Night 6:00 p.m.
All proceeds go to the NYC Youth Mission Trip

Feb 18th
Ash Wednesday Service
12:00 & 7:00 p.m..

Feb 25th
Lenten Service at FLC
11:30-12:30 Lunch at FLC
12:30 Service at FLC
6:00 Dinner at Christ Lutheran
7:00 Service at Christ Lutheran

Feb. 25th
Pastor classes 10:00 a.m.
Held in Library at First Lutheran

Feb. 26th
Pastor classes at 6:00 p.m.
Held in Library at First Lutheran

March 4 -Lenten Service at FLC
11:30-12:30-Lunch at FLC
12:30-Service at FLC
6:00 Dinner at Christ Lutheran
7:00 Service at Christ Lutheran

March 11-Lenten Service at FLC
11:30-12:30-Lunch at FLC
12:30 Service at FLC
6:00 Dinner at Christ Lutheran
7:00 Service at Christ Lutheran

March 18-Lenten Service at FLC
11:30-12:30-Lunch at FLC
12:30 Service at FLC
6:00 Dinner at Christ Lutheran
7:00 Service at Christ Lutheran

March 25-Lenten Service at FLC
11:30-12:30-Lunch at FLC
12:30 Service at FLC
6:00 Turkey Dinner at Christ Lutheran
7:00 Service-Christ Lutheran

Thank You's

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for prayers of healing and the kindness of words and cards. It meant so much to me and God did heal me and continues it more every day. I am so thankful to be a part of a loving congregation that we all call—First Lutheran Church.*

*Your friend in Christ,
Kathy Hamrick*

P.S. I would like to thank Sherry Fosselman and members of the Hand Bell Choir for playing and ringing for me.

*Your friend in Christ,
Kathy Hamrick*

Your kindness is greatly appreciated~

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, concern and kind thoughts for me and my family during my recent hospitalization. I can't tell you how important sharing of faith is in providing a peaceful and confident feeling while approaching and going through a surgical procedure as I did. You are all very special to me and I am truly grateful for all your kindness.

With Love and Gratitude,
Betsy Ehret

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, telephone calls, and visits we received during my Mother's illness and death. Your love and support carried me through these difficult days.

*In Christian Love,
Sharon Buzzard*

I wish to thank my church family for all the wonderful cards and blessings I have received for my retirement! God has blessed me richly with everyone at First Lutheran. By the way, if you want to keep a secret, I think it is safe with everyone here at church. I had no idea until Monday evening, January 5th, that there was a surprise party for me in the fellowship hall! I was shocked! Thank you all.

*In Christ's Love,
Cindy*

Cookeez and Jam Sale Thank You

The first Cookeez and Jam Sale was a huge success. We sold over 100 dozen delicious homemade cookies and 200 half pints of raspberry green tomato jam. We made \$1,300.00. Thanks to the gardeners for growing the tomatoes and to those who made the jam. Thanks to the bakers of the wonderful cookies. Thanks to the group who put together the cookies and helped with the sale! Volunteers are needed for next years' Committee! See Linda Dally for information.

Help Our Youth Make A Difference in the World

First Lutheran Youth along with several other youth groups in our Synod will be participating once again in the 30 Hour Famine, Feb. 27th-28th. We are not doing this to feel hunger, but in-

stead to raise awareness of those who are hungry and money to make a difference. Each youth who is participating is encouraged to raise money for the hungry. If one of our youth asks

you to make a donation please think about helping out the hungry.

GENERAL FUND	
Income (December).....	\$45,193.00
Expenses (December)	\$27,542
Income (January-December)	\$310,350.00
Expenses (January-December).....	\$308,729.00
Budgeted expenses for January-December	\$345,070.00

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
Feb. 1	Bob Friend	Marcia VanDeVelde
Feb. 8	Alec Smith	Bill Kohler
Feb. 15	Jim Hamric	Kent Hasbargen
Feb. 22	Lori Butler	Karen Creel

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date	
Feb. 1	Betsy Ehret and Barbara McDowell
Feb. 8	Brian and Penny Green
Feb. 15	Don and Judy Ery
Feb. 22	Chip and Barbara Rodgers

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

Date	
Feb. 1	Phil Cross
Feb. 8	Jean Riggs
Feb. 15	Mary Parrish
Feb. 22	Brian and Penny Green

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 February

8:30 a.m.	Alicha Farley
10:45 a.m.	Vivian Burton
6:30 p.m.	Barbara McDowell (February)
Paraments-	Marcia VanDeVelde

FEBRUARY, 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer :00 Evening Service 6:30	2	3 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Epiphany service 6:30 Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	4 D.U.N. Committee 6:30 Bereavement 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Praise Team at Worthington 2:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	9 Praise Team At Eagle Pointe 7:00 p.m.	10 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Epiphany service 6:30 Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	11 Handbells 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	12	13	14 First Word Articles Due
15 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	16 Praise Team At Church 7:00 pm	17 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	18 Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 & 7:00 Handbells 6:00 pm Bereavement 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	23 Praise Team At Church @ 7pm	24 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	25 Lenten Service at FLC 11:30-12:30 Lunch 12:30 Service 6:00 Lenten Dinner (potato bar with soup and salad) 7:00 Lenten Service Senior Choir 7:30	26	27	28



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, **Dale VanDeVelde**, 304-834-1560

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

Youth Representative, **Ethan Farinash**

Lori Butler, 304-863-5156

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Angie Smith, 304-422-5935

Betty Smith, 304-863-5569

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

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