



THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

JUNE-AND JULY, 2015

Growing a Lot More than Just Vegetables by Pastor Ian B. Reid

In 2012 when the first tomato plants were planted where the apartment building once stood, no one could have guessed the impact it would have on the community. The original goal was to use a small section of the lot to produce a small amount of fresh vegetables with which we could supplement the food pantry orders with throughout the summer. Over the years we have not only greatly expanded the size of the garden and the amount of food produced, but also the ministry of the garden as well. The fact that the garden is about much more than just producing vegetables became evident a few weeks ago when I decided we should tape different people speaking about their experiences with the garden.

Originally, I thought we would hear mainly stories about how good it felt for people to work at the garden to provide food for others. Though we heard several great stories about people who came and received food from the garden, there were many other notable stories as well. These stories were ones that made it quite clear that God is working in many and different ways through our garden. In this column I wanted to highlight just a few of the stories that made an impression on me from my interviews in the garden.

One of the workers who started to volunteer last year through the correctional facility program stated to me when I asked if he enjoys working in the garden, "I enjoy it so much that I make sure to arrange it so my day off from my regular work on a day that the guys are working in the garden. I do this so that I can come and spend time with the people from the church and to do God's work." This also happens to be one of several of the correctional facility inmates who have said they initially were surprised that they were not only welcomed at a church, but have come to feel deeply loved by the members. When I asked this same person if working at First Lutheran's garden has changed the way he looks at the church as a whole, he said "absolutely". Then he went on to say that he would love to worship at First Lutheran if we could work it out with the correctional facility.

Another great story was told when Paulina Titus shared about how it came to be that she invited First Lutheran to help her husband Paul tend his fields. Paulina talked about passing First Lutheran's garden several times on her way to work, and thought about how many people were being blessed by it. She also thought about the challenges her husband

Paul who faced at age eighty-one struggling to work the fields on their property. This gave her the idea to see if First Lutheran would like to use one of their fields to grow food for the community. This has led to a great relationship. She said "It is a win-win situation for both parties involved. First Lutheran is able to grow a lot more food for the community and my husband, who loves to garden, is able to do what he loves with helpers now."

The stories that I heard over the interviews included not only personal reflections but also tales of children who came to the garden to learn about how their food grows to elderly people trying new vegetables like okra for the first time. It was interesting to learn from the homeless man who rides his bike to the garden to pick up food for the homeless camp down by the river to people who wander over while they wait on the city bus. The one thing that came up over and over again in the interviews though was that God is truly working through His people in the garden. Who would have guessed that a garden started to produce fruits and vegetables for others would produce so many friendships, lifelong experiences and new ways of seeing God work in our lives.

From Your Church Council

... and there was wonderful, beautiful light!! ... and our Sanctuary was back the first Sunday in May as promised ... and now SAFE once again!!

A huge CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to Dale VanDeVelde for his magnificent shepherding and management of this project. Some day he may have to write a book telling of the many ups and downs and sideways of this major electrical upgrade for our church. He certainly has a lot of 'fodder' for such a book!

We are so fortunate that we were able to authorize and continue to offer support for this project that was so badly needed. We are also extremely fortunate that we were able to accomplish it at this time because... time was literally running out on us. Many times during the work the contractors proved the urgency when they removed some of the wiring that was ready to 'let go' – or possibly catch fire – at any moment. HIS hand was on our shoulders guiding us into the proper care and attention to HIS house.

We pray for your continuing support for this project. We are scheduled to finalize our loan with the bank the first week in September. Obviously, the smaller the loan amount, the easier it will be

for us to pay it off more quickly. Please continue to pray for the financial success of this project and regularly contribute to this fund as you are able.

The 'adoption' program is ongoing and several items are still available. If you are interested in being a part of this project to honor or memorialize someone to be included on the plaque, please check with Jill in the office for availability. Full payment does not have to be made at one time. If you prefer to spread out your contributions, that will be fine.

Another successful Youth Yard Sale is history and plans are being finalized for the annual July mission trip to NYC. What a wonderful learning (and fun) experience for our youth! Have you purchased your 'stock' yet? Still time!

The gardens are growing and veggies will be appearing before we know it. The gardeners are always looking for more assistants ... let Bob Friend or Don Ery know if you are interested! You will be welcome.

Golf league has started and new golfers are always welcome, and I reiterate, we don't care how good or bad you are – come out and join in the fun, food and fellowship! Yes, this is another chance for us to get to-

gether and eat!

A very important Synod Meeting is coming June 5/6 – the one during which we will elect a new Bishop. Please pray for this to be a successful meeting and that delegates will hear God's voice leading them. The final retirement service for Bishop Duncan will be held at Wheeling St Marks on August 22. If you would like details, please check with Pastor.

Did someone say July? Can you believe it will again be time to start planning for our annual **German Fest**? We will have our first planning meeting in July – date to be announced. German Fest is scheduled for October 17 – so mark your calendars! Yes, WVU is away. We will, of course, be looking for many volunteers. Don't hesitate to become an integral part of this annual event!

There are always opportunities for participating in worship, fellowship, and volunteering. Take advantage and you will feel rewarded. We all grow as we do the Lord's work at First Lutheran.

Please contact any Council member with your questions, suggestions and concerns. Don't hesitate to let us hear from you.

Andrea Brock
Council President

Lighting Our Pathway Status

The new LED lights in our Sanctuary are now fully functional. They were commissioned on May 3rd after a fifteen month upgrade project. Our wiring upgrades started with new ground rods and new ground wires into our electrical panels and finished with all new electrical feeds to our chandeliers and the new LED lights.

The cloth backed wiring has been taken out of service!

Our new LED lights have really made a difference in our Sanctuary, and our choir can see their music! CCI, with Doug Woolley's guidance, did an excellent job of engineering our LED lighting system. All areas met the

lighting needs except our cross, so one additional light was added. McHenry Electric was able to save some installation costs so this portion of our project is \$4,436.89 under budget.

We are reaching the end of our electrical work. As you remember from our congregational meeting in January of 2014, we projected expenses of \$244,534.46 and requested a loan approval up to \$250,000 to assist us in funding three projects, replacing the bell tower roof, the loop hearing system and the electrical wiring projects. The bell tower roof and the loop system were completed last year

and funded from our donations. As of May 6th, donations total \$103,893.16. From these donations we have paid expenses of \$86,597.31, with \$17,295.85 cash on hand to cover some of the remaining items in the sanctuary and educational building still scheduled for upgrading. We currently have borrowed \$100,813 to fund the balance of work completed thus far. We will continue to need your donations to buy down the loan before it is converted from a construction loan to a standard loan this coming September! Remember every dollar we donate now will reduce our future obligations.

Pastor Ian is considering taking a trip to Germany to visit the Luther sites. This trip would take place in June or July of 2016. If you are interested, please let Pastor know.



CAN YOU SMILE AND SAY WELCOME?

THEN — YOU SHOULD BE A SUNDAY MORNING

DOOR GREETER!

PHYLLIS LOUDEN ALWAYS NEEDS DOOR GREETERS.

Annual Church Picnic

First Lutheran Church will kick off the summer season with the annual picnic. Following the combined service on June 7th, it will be held in Shelter #10 at City Park. The shelter is located near the children's playground and

will be marked with balloons.

Please bring a covered dish to share. The DUN committee will provide hotdogs, drinks, and table service. If dishes need to be kept warm during church service they can

be placed in church ovens. Refrigerated items can be placed in church refrigerators as well. Please come enjoy the fellowship with your church family.

Dun Committee Updates

Our next activity will be the golf outing / restaurant rovers event in September at Woodridge Golf Clubhouse. Plans are still being made. All the information will be in the August First Word. Always lots of fun and great food! The golf league presents awards to its outstanding golfers (with a humorous twist). Last year one golfer who made a "hole in one"! Let's see if Lori

does it again.

Several people have asked if the restaurant rovers could plan another outing to Jumbo's restaurant. It offers both Chinese and American cuisine. It is located across from Wal-Mart on south side. When that is organized we will put the information in weekly church bulletins.

Always looking for new ideas to bring the church family

together for fun and relaxation. If anyone has an idea please drop a note in the offering plate or contact a DUN member. The committee includes Chuck Beach, Ann Boso, David Fosselman, Cindy and Michelle Fouse, Margie Hamric, Sue Lamp, Cindy Lockney, and Mary Parrish. Marilyn Farr recommended the "restaurant rover" idea and it has been a big success!

We are in search of a new Church Treasurer. Please contact the church office or Pastor Ian if you are interested.



JUNE 7TH, 2015
COMBINED SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
CHURCH PICNIC TO FOLLOW—NO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Holy Baptisms in April

Denver McNemar

April 4, 2015



Hannah Grace Davis

April 26, 2015



Holy Baptisms in May

Caleb Stoker Reid

May 10, 2015



Tiana Kailey Tauber and Adrian Jevon Poellot

May 24, 2015



Youth Events for June and July

June 7- last youth event of the year! Sundaes with a Twist. This is for all youth of the church. It WILL get messy, so wear old clothes! There will probably be a slip n slide, too!

June 21-27- Camp Luther- if you are an adult who is interested in riding the bus down with the campers on the 21st, please contact the church office at 304-428-6147.

July 12-17- NYC mission trip- departing after church, ready to feed a few thousand hungry people throughout the week!

July 26- Stockholders Breakfast- 9:30 am. Join us in the fellowship hall between services to hear about the youths trip and experience on the mission trip. Stocks support travel costs for all going on the trip.

THANK YOU!

Another youth group yard sale- in the history books....Scheeew!

Thank you to all who donated time to set up and price, all who came to shop, and most importantly all who donated items that we were able to sell! It was the biggest we've had in recent memory. I'm pretty sure the fellowship hall sighed a breath of relief when the last box exited the building. :) We are so grateful for your support of the youth group. Thank you all!

Kid's Club

“Veggie Kids....Doing God's Work”

1st Corinthians 10:31:

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”

At First Lutheran Church
Wednesdays in July beginning July 1st and ending July 29th, 5:30-7:30
We will eat dinner, hear bible Stories, play games, do crafts and sing
this is for ages 3 years to 5th grade.

If you are interested in helping please contact Lori Butler (304-481-4765)

We Need Volunteers!!!

Help Support Our Youth...Sign Up!



Kroger Community Rewards Program

First Lutheran is now enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Whether you already have a Kroger Plus card, or need to sign up for one, registering your card so that First Lutheran will receive a small portion of purchases is easy. This won't affect any of the points or benefits each individual receives, but are in addition. Just go to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the simple instructions. If you don't already have a card, just stop by the service desk at any Kroger and sign up for

one... it's free! Once you're registered, just use your card for purchases in store and for gas, and while you're earning points, First Lutheran will see benefits, too! If you have any questions, or need help registering, just call or stop by the office and we'll be happy to help you! Remember to have your card handy when registering. To Use the KCRP: Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com & click on Sign in/Register. Most participants are new on-line customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the "New Customer" box.

Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, click on favorite store, enter your email address & create a password, agree to the terms & conditions. You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email. Click on My Account and use your email address and password to

proceed to the next step.

Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number. Update or confirm your information. Enter the name of the organization (First Lutheran), select organization from list and click confirm.

To verify that you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page. REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card (s).

Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 1-800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.

Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is attached to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, FOR THE CHILDREN, WILL BE MAY 31 ST. WE WILL TAKE THE SUMMER OFF AND BEGIN AGAIN ON RALLY DAY ON SEPTEMBER 13TH. LOOK FOR INFORMATION COMING IN THE FIRST WORD IN AUGUST AND THE CHURCH BULLETIN.

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
June 7	Picnic—Combined Service	Barbara McDowell
June 14	Jim Hamric	Miriam Jackson
June 21	Jerry Harman	Kent Hasbargen
June 28	Alec Smith	Angie Smith

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date	10:45 service
June 7	Warren and Carole Carter
June 14	Don and Marie Stanley
June 21	Chip and Barb Rodgers
June 28	Brian and Penny Green

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

Date	
June 7	Dan and Ann Cooper
June 14	Cindy and Michelle Fouse
June 21	Jean Riggs and Tina Schott
June 28	Norma Phillips and Jane Nancarrow

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

8:30	Alicha Farley (June)
10:45	Vivian Burton (June)
6:30	Barbara McDowell (June)
8:30	Jo Ellen Loudon (July)
10:45	Judy Ery (July)
6:30	Barb McDowell (July)
Paraments—Marcia VanDeVelde	

JUNE, 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Bereavement @ 6:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Combined Service 10:00 Church Picnic at City Park after service (Shelter #10) Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30 Last Youth Event-Ice Cream Sundaes	8 Golf League 5:30 Praise Team At Church@ 7:00 pm	9 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Epiphany service 6:30 Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	10 Handbells 6:00 p.m. Bereavement 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Praise Team @ Worthington—2:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	15 Praise Team At Eagle Pointe @ 7:00 pm	16 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	17 Handbells 6:00 pm Bereavement @ 6:30 pm	18	19	20
21 Leave for Camp Luther Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	22 Praise Team At Church @ 7pm	23 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	24 Handbells 6:00 pm	25	26	27 Return from Camp Luther
28 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	29 Praise Team At Church @ 7pm	30 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.				

JULY, 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Veggie Kids 5:30-7:00 Bereavement 7:00 p.m.	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	6 Golf League 5:30 Praise Team At Church @ 7:00 pm	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	8 Veggie Kids 5:30-7:00 Handbells 6:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 NYC Mission Trip Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30 Praise Team at Worthington @ 2:00	13 Praise Team At Eagle Pointe @ 7:00 pm	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	15 Veggie Kids 5:30-7:00 Handbells 6:00 pm Bereavement 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Return NYC Mission Trip	18 Frist Word Articles Due
19 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	20 Praise Team At Church @ 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 Veggie Kids 5:30-7:00 Handbells 6:00 pm	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 Stockholders Breakfast 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	27 Praise Team At Church @ 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 Veggie Kids 5:30-7:00 Handbells 6:00 pm	30	31	



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

Barb Carpenter, 304-295-9527

Keith Curry, 304-482-0147

Chris Davis, 304-210-7931

Robert Fluharty, 304-485-3484

Bill Kohler, 304-483-7810

Jean Riggs, 724-961-2096

Angie Smith, 304-422-5935

Betty Smith, 304-863-5569

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

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Lutheran Church
1701 Nineteenth Street
Parkersburg, WV 26161