



# THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD  
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

MARCH, 2015

## How important is improving one's prayer life? by Pastor Ian Reid

A study that I once saw stated that most struggles which we have between other people and ourselves are not due to actions we dislike but due to our lack of good communication skills with each other. The study stated that far too often we presume to know what another person is thinking, so instead of listening to them we decide what we think they mean. Therefore, instead of finding common ground we place barriers to our understanding of one another. The same can be said for our interacting with God as well. All too often in our lives we get frustrated with God because we expected something to happen and when it does not come to fruition, it is God's fault.

Sometimes our frustration with God might be that He did not heal a loved one or restore a broken relationship with a friend as we thought He should. Other times it might be that we do not feel like God is present and active when we are ready to be close to Him in our lives. We start to say things such as God must not be powerful, uncaring or uninterested in our lives. The sad thing is that these statements are the farthest thing from the truth. In scripture we hear time and time again about God's great concern for each individual and His willingness to go to great lengths to relate to us.

The problem comes down to the fact that we humans, just as in our interactions with others, come to God in prayer with preconceived ideas. Instead of having a dialogue with God all too often we come to Him with a list of concerns and our way we desire Him to fix them. Unfortunately, this is not how God envisioned our communications with Him because He wants us to receive so much more than just answers to our prayers. The disciples noticed that Jesus had a unique way of approaching God, and that is why they asked Him to teach them how to pray.

In Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4, Jesus says that is the way to pray to God our Father, and He teaches them the Lord's Prayer. By teaching them the Lord's Prayer, Jesus was not giving them a hard fast prayer that they must use, but instead a model prayer to use. In the Mid-Week Lenten services we are exploring The Lord's Prayer, but in this article I am encouraging you to strive to develop a deeper praying life.

At First Lutheran we have many resources that can help you along the way that you might use to your advantage at this time. If you did not know, next to the sanctuary is the prayer chapel, a great place to come and pray at any time of day. In the prayer chapel closet there is a great collection of books on

prayer and books with written prayers in them for your use. Also, you can find the prayer journal for the church in which to write prayer requests for weekly intercessions throughout the week. To the left of the altar you will find some tea candles that are there for you to light for people or special prayer requests, as a symbol that God is present in hearing your request. Finally, if you ever desire for me to pray with you feel free to come to me, for I would love to pray with or for you.

Just as in any relationship communication is key and something we must be ever vigilant to improve upon, so is our relationship with God. The disciples noticed that prayer by which Jesus related to God, and it is also the avenue that God desires for us to reach out to Him. During this season of Lent as we strive to grow closer to God let us focus on not only asking Him for things but relating to Him.



## Lenten Calendar of Events and Services

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### 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 First Lutheran  
 7:00: Service at First 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 First Lutheran  
 7:00: Service at First Lutheran

## From Your Church Council

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This year is shaping up to be another busy, busy one! It seems that Christmas was just last week – and here we are heading into Lent! What wonderful opportunities the Lenten season offers for worship and fellowship. The mid-day lunches and worship and the evening dinners and worship make it easy for most of us to find a time when we can participate and share in this moving season. Pastor is again offering study classes which are always enlightening. Watch the weekly bulletin for details of all these opportunities. I encourage you to add these services, classes (and lunches and dinners) to your calendars.

The electrical upgrade is moving into the phase in which we will begin to see a lot of activity in the Sanctuary. We know this will probably get a little ‘messy’, and we will probably need to occasionally adjust our seating situation ... but we all know the end result is going to be worth a little inconvenience. We just need to remember a little spoonful of ‘patience’ may be required. There is a special opportunity to ‘adopt’ a chandelier or some other elements involved in the Sanctuary electrical upgrade. This is detailed in another item in this *First Word*. If you have questions or want additional information, please con-

tact any Council member or Pastor.

Thank all of you for your continued support of your Church Council and our Church. We have so much for which to be thankful.

Andrea Brock  
 Council President

<b>EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH AT 10:00 A.M.</b>
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## D.U.N. Committee Events

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### Vegetable Soup Cook Off

On Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, the DUN committee held the Vegetable Soup Cook Off following the congregational meeting. Eleven vegetable soup sentries came from these folks: Bob Friend, Linda Dally, Andrea Brock, Margie Hamric, Jean Riggs, Betty Smith, Pat Harman, Carma Curry, Rose Poellot, Paul Freeman, and Jill Flinn. Every soup was unique! A t-shirt of participation was given to each person. There were soups with chicken, beef, sausage, and crabmeat. There was a vegetarian vegetable soup and a gluten-free squash soup. The squash soup was prepared from a Hubbard squash grown in our community garden. Sandwiches and desserts were made by DUN members. A children's table was set up with pea-

nut butter, jelly, pudding and Jello cups, and microwavable mac & chesse. There were about 70 people in attendance.

### Lenten Dinner

The Lenten season has begun. On Wednesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, the DUN committee will host dinner before the evening service. Soup, salad, and baked potato bar, along with desserts, and beverages, will be available starting at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$6.00 for adults (ages 12 and up). Children, 3 -11 years, cost \$3.00. Children under 3 years eat free.

### Church Picnic

The Annual Church Picnic will be Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, following church services. Shelter #10 has been reserved. More info will be available

in upcoming First Word newsletters.

Our next DUN meeting will be Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Taxes should be done, so hope to see everyone there. Bring any new ideas for fellowship to the meeting.

## Restaurant Rovers on the Go

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On Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the rovers plan to go the Blennerhassett Hotel for the lunch buffet after the 10:45 service. The cost is 18.95 (\$17.95 for seniors) and does include non-alcoholic beverages.

An 18% gratuity will be added to the cost.

Please notify the church office by dropping a note in the offering plate no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>. You can also contact Cindy Lockney at 304-422-7981 and

leave a message. Seating is limited.

## EASTER BREAKFAST

9:00 A.M. EASTER MORNING

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

## Thank You's

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

In Christian Love,

Helen Echard and Family

## Bereavement Group

There have been a couple of changes with the Bereavement Group. It became necessary for Amy Loudon-Dehmlow to leave the group in December. We would like to thank her for her services for the past four years. There has also been a change in the meeting time. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and we will be starting our meetings at 6:30 p.m. Each meeting will last for about one hour. This group is a small discussion group where anyone who has experienced a loss can come to talk. Our discussions do not always solve the problems

## Easter lilies will be at the church

Saturday, April 4, 2015. There are lily forms in your church bulletin, or call the church office to place your order. The lilies are 9.00 each. Also, there is an Easter Vigil Saturday Evening, April 4th at 7:00 p.m.

The Garden Crew is planning a more productive garden for 2015. We want better crops, healthier produce with less work. We need volunteers. Please get in touch with don Ery, Pat Harman or Bob Friend for information of volunteering!

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Congratulations to three of our youth members for participating at the Wood County Social Studies Fair this past February 6th. Addie Smith and Taina Tauber received top honors (First Place) and Lauren Hasbargen received an honorable mention in their respective categories. The first place winners will go on to the regional level to be held on March 20th at PHS. Good job and good luck to our young girls.

## We Pray No Child Goes Hungry

For several years the Back Pack Ministry of FLC has supplied weekend food for children of Jefferson School. In the beginning of this program there were approximately 8 children designated by the school nurse as being in need. This year the numbers continue to rise and as of last week we packed bags for 45 children. We pray that no child goes hungry and has the nourishment to learn. With the support of the FLC family our program continues to thrive. We are so very grateful for the food and monetary donations. If you have any questions or suggestions about our program, please contact one of the members of the Back Pack Ministry. We welcome any input. We are all working together to make a difference and that no child goes hungry.

# Youth Event Calendar

## March 8

### Lenten Run Around

test your knowledge of the Passion story while (you guessed it) running around!

## March 15

### BIG KID EGG HUNT!!!!

Self explanatory. Come for fun!

## March 22

### Spring Sing

Head out to sing camp songs to homebound church members! Youth will also be getting Good Friday parts this day.

## March 29

### Fill Easter eggs, Practice for Good Friday Service

## April 3

### Good Friday Service

be there at 4:30 to practice. Dinner will be provided before the service.

## April 4 @10:00 a.m.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Fun for the entire family with crafts, cookies and a bouncy house!! Questions please call Lori Butler at 304-481-4765

## April 5

### Easter Breakfast

(9 am on Easter morning )

Proceeds go to the youth mission trip to New York City in July. If you would like to provide something, write it on your attendance slip on Sunday morning, or contact Becca Reid. We can always use breakfast casseroles, muffins, sweet breads, fruit, etc.

On Saturday March 14th there will be a First Communion training class for all children who would like to start participating in the Lord's Supper. First Lutheran's communion policy states that when parents believe their child is ready to take the Lord's supper they should approach the Pastor to discuss their child taking First Communion. Traditionally children that have been baptized and are in third grade have been encouraged to partake in a first communion class. Those who will be attending the first communion class will receive First Communion on April 2nd, 2015 at the 7pm Maundy Thursday Service. Please call the church office or talk to Pastor to sign up or for more details.



## Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

<b>Date</b>	<b>8:30 Service</b>	<b>10:45 Service</b>
March 1	Alicha Farley	Jim Smith
March 8	Wendy Fosselman	Chris Davis
March 15	Don Fosselman	Jessica Davis
March 22	Lawrence Hasbargen	Betty Smith
March 29	Tom Curry	Angie Smith

## Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

<b>Date</b>	
March 1	Don and Marie Stanley
March 8	Dave and Carol Peterson
March 15	Lewis and Karen Creel
March 22	Marcia VanDeVelde and Carole Carter
March 29	Don and Marie Stanley

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

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<b>Date</b>	
March 1	Jean Riggs
March 8	Dan and Ann Cooper
March 15	Lewis and Karen Creel
March 22	Jane Nancarrow
	Norma Phillips
March 29	Tina Schott

**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 March

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

# MARCH, 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth-Pottery Place meet at Mall at 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Epiphany service 6:30 Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	<b>4</b> D.U.N. Committee 6:30 Bereavement 6:30 p.m. 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	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Praise Team at Worthington 2:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth-Lenten Run-Around 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	<b>9</b> Praise Team At Eagle Pointe 7:00 p.m.	<b>10</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Epiphany service 6:30 Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	<b>11</b> Handbells 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30 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	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth-Big Kid Egg Hunt 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	<b>16</b> Praise Team At Church 7:00 pm	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>18</b> Handbells 6:00 pm Bereavement 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30 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	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>First Day of Spring</b>	<b>21</b> First Word Articles Due
<b>22</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Restaurant Rovers at Blennerhassett after 10:45 Service Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth-Spring Sing 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	<b>23</b> Praise Team At Church at 7pm	<b>24</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b> Handbells 6:00 pm Bereavement 6:30 p.m. 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 at Christ Lutheran	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth-Fill Easter Eggs, Good Friday Practice Evening Service 6:30	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## Special Opportunity: Lighting Our Pathway...



There are 16 beautiful chandeliers in our Sanctuary that will be refurbished during our electrical upgrade project. You may 'adopt' one of them and dedicate it in memory, or in honor, of a family member, a friend, a group at the Church, whomever you choose. A memorial plaque will be prepared and placed in the Narthex detailing the donor and dedication information for each of the 16 chandeliers.

Participation in this special project is \$1000 per chandelier. Since there are only 16 up for 'adoption', if you have an interest, don't hesitate. You will be consulted regarding information for the plaque.

### **... other options ...**

There are many other opportunities for special participation in the sanctuary upgrade project as well.

If you prefer to 'adopt' one of the following, information will also be included on the memorial plaque that will be posted in the Narthex:

- 3 Eight-channel Electronic Dimmers @ \$500 each
- 1 Master Lighting Console @ \$1800
- 1 DMX Signal Repeater @ \$1000 each
- 27 LED lights @ \$1200 and \$1400 each

Payment on these 'adoptions' does not have to be made in one payment, but we do request that payment be completed by June 30 if at all possible.

Please contact the office for the special forms being prepared for this project. Every item will be on a first come-first serve basis and the office will record the time and date on each special form to ensure an accurate record.

If you have questions, you may contact Dale, Doug, Andrea or Pastor, or any member of Church Council.

## Help Support Our Youth...



### 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](http://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](http://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 enter 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.



# First Lutheran Church

## **PASTOR**

**The Rev. Ian Reid**

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

## **CHURCH SECRETARY/CHURCH OFFICE**

**Jill A. Flinn**

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

## **CARE & COMMUNITY COORDINATOR**

**Barbara McDowell**

304-483-1010 (email: [bam3042@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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**, 304-210-7631

**Robert Fluharty**, 304-485-3484

**Bill Kohler**, 304-483-7810

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

**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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