



THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

APRIL 2016

Fear not for the Lord your God is
with you

By the time you receive this message most of us will have already celebrated the Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday and have moved on in thought if not in deed, like the box stores we visit on a regular basis to the next major event in our life. However, the church was wise beyond its years by making Easter not just a day to be celebrated, but instead a full season of time in which the believers of the Resurrected Lord come to experience Christ in His resurrected state. The four gospels tell us that the disciples, even after they experienced the risen Christ, were still troubled and terrified by the future. Christ thus comes to His followers over several weeks to reassure them and give them peace so that their hearts might not be troubled.

I believe that we as a church and as individuals would be well served this year as well as every year to step back and think about what it means to cast our cares on Christ. When Christ comes to the disciples after the Resurrection He states to them each time "peace be with you". The church states and I truly believe that Christ's death and Resurrection is not just about giving us peace that we have a place in heaven with God, but also peace on earth as well. This peace on earth is hard to comprehend because it is not seen

nor experienced by those in the world but only by those who trust in the Lord.

Jesus speaks of what this peace is by saying to His disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. How much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" (Luke 12:22-26, NIV). What Jesus is saying in this passage is that to be a follower of God is not about having intellect but it is trusting in the One that you follow to provide.

If you listen to the news and pundits of the day they say people are more anxious, downcast, scared and lacking hope than ever before. By spending time on Facebook or Twitter one can find people not only concerned about their life's situation but willing to go to great extremes to try to find some form of security. The world declares that we find peace in such forms as money, military strength, good governments and insulating ourselves from those we do not know nor trust. However, the history of the world teaches us that none of these things nor

anything of this world can bring total peace except for Christ Himself.

The great news is that as Christians we need not live a life of fear nor be anxious about the troubles in our lives that seem too big to overcome. When we struggle Christ teaches us "Not to be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). The mark of a Christian, Luther states, is one who fears, loves and trusts God above all things. What has impressed me about the great leaders of the faith is not their wisdom, speaking ability or great deeds, but their ability in the face of trouble, turmoil and even death, to turn to God and find peace within Him.

As the church, and hopefully you, personally continue to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord for each of the seven weeks of Easter, I pray that He might become more present in your life each day and that the fears of this life might fade away.

In Humble Service to Christ

Pastor Ian B. Reid

Church Council

FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL ...

We have officially 'sprung forward' and now have more daylight in which to get things done ... at least that is the premise. That is good, because we have much to do!

The Call Committee met with Bishop Riegel in late February. They will meet with him again at the end of April to possibly discuss potential candidates for the additional staff member we are seeking. We are sure God will lead the right person to us – and we must let this happen in His time.

The Accompanist Search Committee is working diligently. The job description is available. If you know of a potential candidate, please contact Mike, Jan or Sherry.

We will be moving into Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday on March 20. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services lead us to the joyous celebration of Easter when we can confidently say "He Is Risen, He Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed!" Each of these unique services is important for all of us and I hope you have them on your schedule to attend with your family members.

Immediately following Easter Sunday we anticipate the start of construction to upgrade our Fellowship Hall restrooms. The contractor estimates 6-8 weeks

until we see the finished product. How exciting, and how needed, these upgrades are and we truly thank the generous donor for making this project possible.

You may notice that there are new plexiglass coverings on the outside of our Fellowship Hall windows. These coverings were added to secure the stained glass windows of the Hall which are 'showing their age' and needed protection from the elements from the outside and to help keep air conditioning and heat on the inside.

Council was invited to attend the March meeting of the Ministerial Association to hear a presentation on security of church facilities given by Rev. Brady Stevens. We are working on developing some plans for our facility as a result of this presentation and you will hear more about these in the coming weeks.

The 'garden gang' is chomping at the bit to get out in the dirt and begin their activities. The gardens continue to be a most rewarding outreach project and volunteers are always welcome to join in the fun!

Work on the church inventory is ongoing. If you have any information on specific items in the church that you would like to share, please let us know. We are trying to get as much detail on our church and its contents as we can in order to have a

really good total 'picture'.

Since we will soon be entering the busy wedding season we recognized that we need to update our Wedding Planners for members and non-members desiring to have their special day held in our church. We have a committee that has begun working diligently on the updates and we anticipate having them for review by those who are interested in the next month or so.

The electrical project will be completed when the weather permits a couple of minor repairs. We do need to make monthly loan payments, so we encourage you to continue to pray for its financial success and regularly contribute to this fund as you are able.

As we come together to do the Lord's work, we grow as a community of faith. Thank you for your involvement and support of our church – and please contact your Council with suggestions, questions, comments or concerns.

Andrea Brock, Council President

Church Women United

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED WILL GATHER FOR INTERNATIONAL MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATION AT WAYSIDE METHODIST CHURCH IN VIENNA ON FRIDAY, MAY 6th.

This regular meeting of the International Church Women United of Parkersburg will celebrate May Friendship Day at the above church and date. Parking available on the property and across the street. The meeting is in the Fellowship Hall where registration begins at 10:00. Coffee, tea, coffee cake, donuts, etc. will be

served until 10:30, when the program begins. NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED. Participants are asked to bring cookies, donuts, coffee cake, etc. to share. Church hostesses for the day are members of United Methodist Church Women, Wayside UMC. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO JOIN US.

JOURNEY OF THE CAREGIVER is the program theme, led by Susie Shawver, Vice President. Speaker of the day is Melissa Ogden, Director of Faith Link. The worship part of the program is being led by the CWU Pastor Advisor, Rev.

Emilie Theobald-Rowlands of Christ Lutheran and Rev. Greg Markin of Wayside United Methodist Church. **CHURCHES ARE ASKED TO BRING THEIR HYGIENE KITS TO THE CHURCH ON MAY 6.**

Recipients of the 2016 donations are (1) Redeemer Church of Parkersburg, who is taking their kits to a school in Rawanda in July; (2) Parkersburg Urban Ministries; and (3) inmate volunteers who work on First Lutheran Church's community garden during the summer.

Effie Ayers
President, CWU

D.U.N. Committee

On Wednesday, March 2, the DUN Committee provided dinner before the evening Lenten service. It included baked potatoes, soups, and salad bar. About 40 people attended. The North End Tavern purchased the soups for us and we were able to obtain them at cost.

RESTAURANT ROVER outings are being planned for April 10th and May 15th. We will go to Sunday brunch at the Spatz Restaurant, in the Blennerhassett Hotel, on April 10th after the 10:45 service. Cost is \$18.95 for adults, Seniors

pay \$17.95, and children's meals are half price. Please let the church know by Sunday, April 3rd, if you plan to attend. We need to let the restaurant know how many will attend. Drop a note in the offering plate on your attendance slip or call the church office. We are planning an outing in May but have not confirmed a location yet.

The ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be Sunday, June 5th, following church services. We have shelters 1A & 1B. After our next meeting we will provide every-

one with the necessary information. Please watch church bulletins and the next newsletter.

The DUN Committee continues to encourage fellowship within our church family. Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 3, at 9:30 in the Holy Grounds Café. If you enjoy the fellowship of our church family please join us at our next meeting.. Always looking for new activities we can share together.

INDOOR YARD SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH FROM 4:00-7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH FROM 8:00 AM TO 12:00 P.M.

COME ONE, COME ALL TO FIND TREASURES LARGE AND SMALL!

Hygiene Kits for Correctional Facility

Church Women United collects "hygiene kits" to help in times of need both nationally and globally.

This year, we at First Lutheran, would like to have our kits donated to the correctional facility workers who have been offering so much of their time to help at our church. We have been receiving help in our community gardens for four years, from three to six men weekly from a local

correctional facility. This winter they have extended their time to help doing a variety of jobs around the church such as polishing the brass for our altar, painting, electrical work, and cleaning. We thought it would be nice to show our appreciation by providing these workers with hygiene kits.

Each kit should contain the following items: **one bath towel and washcloth, wide -tooth comb,**

nail clippers, bath size bar of soap, toothbrush, disposable razors, and six band -aids.

Any questions? Please call Cindy Lockney (304-615-3231) or Effie Ayers (304-428-9841). Laundry baskets will be placed in entrances to the sanctuary and educational building for the collection. Please have kits to church by April 30th. Hope to have them blessed before they are presented to the workers.

Luther Golf League

On Sunday, March 13th, Margie Hamric, Ann Struble, Lori Butler, Andrea Brock, and Cindy Lockney, met to discuss the upcoming golf season.

This year we are moving the league to the Worthington Golf Course. We will start the season with a dinner and organizational meeting at the Worthington Golf Course. It will be held Monday,

April 25th, at 6:00 pm, in the upstairs social room. Drinks, ham, chicken and dinner ware will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share and bring the family. This is a casual meeting and time of fellowship.

The league will start Monday, May 2nd, at 5:30 pm. Cost is \$15 for nine holes plus cart. if you want to walk the cost is \$12. We

will alternate front and back nine each week and there will be weekly "competitive" games.

Please start the season by joining us for the dinner/ organizational meeting on Monday, April 25th, at 6:00 pm.

Financial Update (As of February 29, 2016)

	Budget Year to Date	Actual Year to Date
General Fund Income	\$56,415.00	50,898.20
Expenses	\$61,423.00	\$56,194.17
Profit/(Loss)		(-5,295.97)
Checking Account Balance:		\$91,730.73

From the Kever Family: Thank you for the prayers, food , and thoughts for Nikki Kever. Especially to Pastor Reid for the wonderful service he had. All was greatly appreciated.

Youth Events for April

April 3- Brownie Bake Off- (all ages of kids welcome!) A classic youth activity that is sure to please everyone's taste-buds!

April 10- Around the World in 80 Minutes: We'll race around the world (ok, just Parkersburg) completing tasks from all over the globe. Our meeting will go from 5-6:30.

April 17- Family Bonding (Family night): We have a group of games (relay races, tag, etc.

April 24- Yard sale set up: Let's tackle the mountain of items we've received to sell!

April 29 & 30- Indoor Yard Sale! Plan to be here for both days (4-7 pm on Friday and 8-1 on Saturday to include clean-up). Mission trip folks will receive money for their hours given. Parents can also earn hours for their youth!

30 Hour Famine Update

31 youth and 7 clergy and leaders participated in the 30 Hour Famine at the end of February. We raised \$2,142 to go to World Vision and support children around the globe. THANK YOU for your support for this event. To God be the glory!

NYC Mission Trip Meeting

April 3- 6 pm- Following youth group, all who are interested in the New York City Mission Trip should attend a planning meeting in the fellowship hall. Dates and information will be given out. Please reserve your spot with the \$100 down payment if you are going as well.

INDOOR YARD SALE

Friday, April 29 from 4- 7 pm. Saturday, April 30 from 8 am-12 pm. COME ONE, COME ALL TO FIND TREASURES LARGE AND SMALL!!

We will begin accepting items for the sale beginning in April. Please place items you wish to donate in the fellowship hall (on the stage) so it doesn't interfere with the construction.

If you need items picked up, please call Becca at (304) 966-6430 to schedule. Thank you for all of the great items you'll share with us! Our youth always have such a fruitful experience in New York City. We appreciate the support!



Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
April 3	Barb McDowell	Cheryl Hasbargen
April 10	Alicha Farley	Bill Kohler
April 17	Wendy Fosselman	Marcia VanDeVelde
April 24	Don Fosselman	Jim Smith

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date	10:45 service
April 3	Betsy Ehret and Barb McDowell
April 10	Roger and Julie Davis
April 17	Brian and Penny Green
April 24	Marcia VanDeVelde and Carole Carter

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

Date 10:45

April 3	Ed and Ann Boso
April 10	Phil Cross
April 17	Jean Riggs
April 24	Sherry Dugan and Kit Ruehl

8:30

Lawrence and Lyndall Hasbargen, Donnie Fosselman, and Stan Null

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 a.m.	Jo Ellen Loudon
10:45 a.m.	Judy Ery
6:30 pm	Barbara McDowell
Paraments	Marcia VanDeVelde

APRIL 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 D.U.N. committee 9:30 in Holy Grounds Café Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 Mission Trip meeting after Evening Service 6:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Praise Team At Church 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Handbells 6:00 p.m. Bereavement 6:30pm Senior Choir 7:30</p>	7	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Restaurant Rovers at Spatz after 10:45 service Praise Team at Worthington 2:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 Evening Service 6:30</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Praise Team At Eagle Pointe 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Handbells 6:00 pm Senior Choir 7:30</p>	14	15	<p>16</p> <p>First Word Articles Due</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 Evening Service 6:30</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Praise Team At Church @ 7pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Handbells 6:00 pm Bereavement 6:30 p.m.</p>	21	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 Evening Service 6:30</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Praise Team At Church @ 7pm Golf League 6:00</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Handbells 6:00 pm Bereavement 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>Indoor Yard Sale 4:00-7:00</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Indoor Yard Sale 8:00-12:00</p>



PASTOR

The Rev. Ian Reid

304-966-6431 (email: pastorianreid@gmail.com)

CHURCH SECRETARY/CHURCH OFFICE

Carrie Null

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

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Becca Reid

304-966-6430 (email: cup_nstu@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, **Bill Kohler**, 304-483-7810

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

Youth Representative, **Alec Smith**

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

Rose Poellot, 304-893-9334

Jean Riggs, 724-961-2096

Betty Smith, 304-863-5569

Treasurer Appointed, **Angie Smith**, 681-229-0443

