



THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

FEBRUARY 2016

Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust

Many of us have heard these words from our pastor and others so often that they evoke certain memories. We relate these words to defined moments such as receiving ashes on one's forehead on Ash Wednesday, or the pastor's final casket blessing at the funeral. The statement is a stark reminder that when one's life ends on earth, no matter our status, we return to the earth from which we came. From the earliest Egyptian Pharaohs to today's foolish endeavors to attempt a future effort to avoid death, we are reminded by this saying, "Join the fate of all humanity".

What most people do not know is that the phrase "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" does not appear anywhere in the Bible. This phrase accompanies several other sayings such as "spare the rod, spoil the child", "money is the root of all evil", "pride comes before the fall", and "God moves in mysterious ways" that are linked to messages consistent to Bible teachings but do not appear in the Bible. In fact the earliest place that we can find the phrase "Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust" is from the Church of England's funeral rite found in the Book of Common Prayer.

This does not mean that the Bible does not relate death to dust or ashes, but actually the phrase is made up of many passages that speak of such a theme. The saying is based on Genesis 3:19, Genesis 18:27, Job 30:19, and Ecclesiastes 3:20. Back in Jesus' time, and even for many Jews of today, their belief system stated that life was lived here on earth and there was no life beyond that. Matthew, Mark, Luke and even the book of Acts makes a point to say that the sect of Jews called the Sadducees do not believe in a resurrection or eternal life. For these Jews who did not believe in eternal life such ideas as perceiving death as returning to the place of their beginning made complete sense, and thus inspired them to complete their great tasks here on earth.

However, we as Christians see things in a completely different light. We enter into the season of Lent believing that there is little hope for us. Many of us have been reminded of our human frailty thanks to our bodies aging and aching over time. For many of us we have already given up on the New Years resolutions that we thought just a month ago were going to revolutionize our life. We read about Jesus' temptation forty days and forty nights in the desert and say "I would love not to sin" while at the same time are reminded by the devil that it is impossible.

The great news is that once we reach this bottom point and recognize that we all have no hope in changing the course of our lives, then we can truly embrace God and the work He does through Jesus Christ and in doing so experience new life through God's grace. The season of Lent starts in a bleak fashion and with a stark reminder of our humanness. Its conclusion however, does not leave us without hope but instead it gives a new vision.

The cross which was seen as the most painful way to put someone to death and was used as a deterrent method to keep others from following those on the cross becomes a sign of hope for all. Christ helps us to revision what our ending will look like as we are reminded that we will become ashes and dust once again, but we also will be raised to new life through Him as well.

May you be blessed during your Lent journey and may God open your eyes to His blessings.

Pastor Ian

From Your Church Council

Here we are ... more than half of January is gone already! Are you still having trouble writing 2016 on your correspondence, checks, etc., like I am? Wow ... 2015 was a fast year, wasn't it? And we have jumped right into 2016 with a really special Epiphany service on January 6th. If you missed that service, you should add that to your 'to do' list for next year. You have probably heard about the BIG bonfire after the service ... it was the best yet! The Fire Dept. had a truck on-lot ... probably a good idea ... because the 'burning of the greens' bonfire was spectacular!

Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10. We will again alternate evening services (and dinners) with our sister Church, Christ Lutheran in Vienna. The mid-week services begin February 17. There will be mid-day services at 12:30 pm each Wednesday at First, preceded by a light lunch at 11:30 am. Evening services will be at 7 pm at First on February 17, March 2 and March 16. Services on February 24 and March 9 will be at 7 pm at Christ. A light supper will precede each of these services at 6 pm. Be sure to add these services to your calendar as they lead us to the

glorious celebration of Easter.

Work on the church inventory continues. It is a big undertaking but will be well worth the overall effort when we finally bring it to completion.

The Ministry Site Profile has been prepared and sent to the Bishop. We are sure he will have some comments (and probably suggestions for some revisions for clarification) –then we will post the search for the Associate Pastor/Rostered Leader. Council has appointed the Call Committee headed by Tom Curry. Serving with Tom will be Dave Burton, Ann Abele, Barbara McDowell, Chris Davis and Rose Poellot.

We are still in the process of finalizing plans for the Fellowship Hall restrooms update with the contractor and you will hear more about that at our Congregational Meeting on January 31.

The 'punch list' for the electrical project is being worked on (those items which still need some attention before the project is declared complete) and the end of work is in sight. Please continue to pray for the financial success of our electrical upgrade project and regularly contribute to this fund as you are able.

At our meeting on January 31 we will take an in-depth look at 2015 through our annual reports. Watch your mail for the announcement letter. The meeting will follow the combined service at 10 am – with the DUN committee providing a light lunch following the meeting.

2015 was a very successful year for First Lutheran and the services, programs and projects in which we were involved. We believe that God will continue to lead us in 2016, bringing us to new ways to do His will in our church and in our community.

We are a wonderful family of God's people, sharing in His love and extending it to all. In addition to our regular Sunday services, 2016 will provide many opportunities to participate in educational classes, fellowship activities, outreach programs, etc. If you would like to speak with a council member or Pastor about a special interest you have – please don't hesitate to share your thoughts.

Your Council makes every effort to keep you informed, and we welcome your suggestions, questions, comments or concerns.

Andrea Brock,
Council President

Bury The Alleluia

Why?

Because of the penitential character of the season of Lent, the word "alleluia" is historically suspended. The omission of the alleluia during Lent goes back at least to the 5th century in the western church. The custom of actually bidding it farewell, however, developed in the Middle Ages. This is the last Sunday when 'alleluia' is spoken until Easter.

Taken from "Worship Formation & Litur-

gical Resources: Frequently Asked Questions"

What do I do?

Decorate the bottem of this page with crayons, markers, paint, fabric, magazine collage, ANYTHING! Don't worry about your artistic skills- no one will know who made them. Make them bright and colorful!

When?

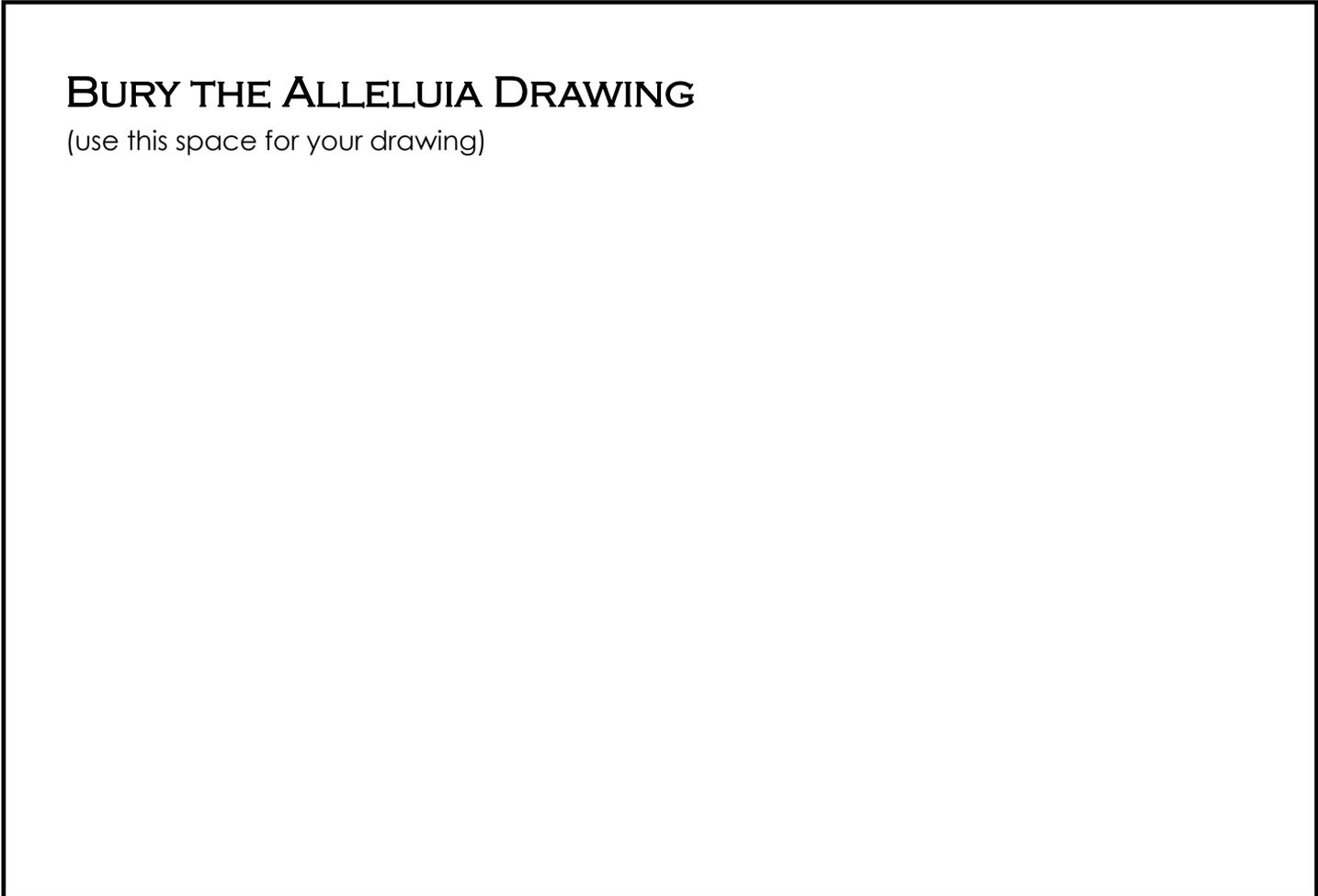
Bring it to church on Sunday, February 7th. We will bury them (put them in a box) at both services. If you don't live near or can't make it that Sunday, mail it or bring it another week and it will be added to the box.

Then what?

On Easter, you will find all of the alleluias displayed in the church. It will brighten our celebration!

BURY THE ALLELUIA DRAWING

(use this space for your drawing)



Lenten Calendar of Events and Services

Feb. 10

Ash Wednesday Service
12:00 & 7:00

Feb. 17

11:30-12:30 Lunch at FLC
12:30 Service at FLC
6:00 Dinner at FLC (Lasagna
and salad)
7:00 Service at FLC

Feb. 24

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 2

11:30-12:30 Lunch at FLC
12:30 Service at FLC
6:00 Dinner at FLC
(DUN committee)
7:00 Service at FLC

March 9

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 16

11:30-12:30 Lunch at FLC
12:30 Service at FLC
6:00 Dinner at FLC
7:00 Service at FLC

March 24

Maundy Thursday
12:00 Service
7:00 Service

March 25

Good Friday
Service 7:00

March 26

Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.

March 27

Easter Day
Combined Service 10:00
a.m.

D.U.N. Committee

Sunday, January 31st, is a combined service and congregational meeting. Following the service and meeting join us for sandwiches, soups, and desserts in the fellowship hall. There will be a kids table with microwavable mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, and jello/pudding. Great time for fellowship!

During Lent, there will be din-

ners before evening services. On Wednesday, March 2nd, the DUN committee will have a baked potato bar along with soups, salads, and desserts. Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm. Please join us for some great fellowship before the Lenten service.

As always the DUN committee will continue to provide activities that our church family can enjoy gathering together.

Our team works on each event by sharing the various jobs. We are also looking for new ideas. Our next meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 24th at 9:30 am between morning church services. Come to the Holy Grounds Café and we will have a short meeting to discuss the Lenten dinner and plan our next meeting. We would love for you to join us!

Gifts at Work Through the Backpack Ministry

The school year for 2016 started in August 2015. Since that time you have provided healthy food and snacks for the weekends for approximately 43 children who attend Jefferson Elementary. Because of your gifts of food and funds these children take home enough food for breakfast and lunch for the week-

end. The food is easy to prepare so they can even cook it themselves in the microwave.

Our goal is to continue this ministry of providing food to these children at risk. This goal becomes possible with your ongoing support through your food and financial gifts. As you think about your support plan in the near

future please do not forget the needs of Your Backpack Ministry. Through your ongoing support you will help fulfill our prayer that NO CHILD GOES HUNGRY FOR THE WEEKEND.

Thank you for your gifts so far this year. You have done so very much good for the children of our community.

Cookeez Sale Update

The Cookeez sale was a huge success! It was a busy morning on December 12, with many people purchasing armloads of cookies, and our now famous raspberry green tomato jam.

Special thanks go to the

cookeez committee volunteers who placed the cookies in bags and decorated the room. A huge thank you goes to the cookie bakers and candy makers! We sold nearly all the cookies and many half pints of jam.

All proceeds are to benefit the two community gardens. We raised over \$1,600! Jam is still available in the church office at \$4.00 for a half pint.

Thanks,
Linda Dally

We want our church family to share our joy in the marriage of Elizabeth Lamp Corbitt to James Evan Wright on 2/13/16 at 1:30pm. An open reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Your presence is gift enough for all you did during the time of our grief from Randy's death. Please join us in this time of celebration.

Sue Lamp and Elizabeth Corbitt

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

On Jan. 2, 2016, First Lutheran Church hosted the Southeast Ohio Chapter of the American Guild of Organists "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza" event. The presenter was Dr. Paul Barte, professor of organ and music history at Ohio University.

The event was open to an-

yone interested in learning more about the "King of Instruments". Dr. Barte "quizzed" participants on their knowledge of the organ as he shared his expertise and experiences. A highlight of the event was the opportunity piano students were given to play the or-

gan. Dr. Barte guided and directed them as they played and then accompanied them. Dr. Barte also WOW'ed the audience as he played a variety of organ music.

Many thanks to Dr. Barte for a most enlightening and enjoyable presentation.



Thank Yous

FLC,

A word of thanks to the congregation for your thoughts and prayers.

Terry Hundley

Thank You,

The son and grandchildren of Helen Echard wish to express to the congregation their sincere appreciation for the concerns and condolences extended in our sudden loss.

The Echard family

Youth News

January 31- Building Challenges- How tall can you go?? How do we build each other up? How does God strengthen us to serve?
February 7- In honor of the Super Bowl, we'll be having our TOILET BOWL! Games that make use of CLEAN bathroom items.

February 14- We LOVE youth! We'll have SWEET games and decorate mugs

February 21- WE BE WEAVIN'- We'll make a circle carpet out of shirts and a hula hoop. Whaaaat???? You know you want to see THIS one...



February 26 & 27- 30 HOUR FAMINE: Starting after your lunch-time meal on Friday, you will stop eating until Saturday at 6 pm! YOU CAN DO IT! We'll be raising funds to send to World Vision,

which gives 85% of funds raised directly to people in need. Sign up for online giving or check with Becca for a student packet. EVERY \$50 YOU RAISE, YOU GET TO THROW A PIE IN THE PASTOR'S FACE!

Youth will participate in a poverty simulation, community service, and activities to make us aware of the pressures and situations that those in need around the world face.

We will break the fast at 6 pm on Saturday. Families and church members are welcome to join us and hear about the youth's experience!

February 28- NO YOUTH We love you guys... but you need a break from us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We are in need of volunteers to help with a poverty simulation on Saturday, February 27th from 7-9 pm. You will be given directions there, but it will be something easy. (For example, you will talk to kids about paying monthly bills, then take their money) If you are able to do this, please contact the church or Becca Reid at 304-966-6430.

COOKS NEEDED:

To break our fast from the famine, we are planning to have a pot-luck dinner. If you would be able to provide bread, salad, sides, or casserole, please contact Becca Reid or the church office. Be sure to let them know what you will be bringing. Also, items can be dropped off earlier in the week or on Saturday. THANK YOU!

GO TO OUR WEBSITE:

FIRSTLUTHER-ANPARKERSBURG.COM

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
Feb 7	Alicha Farley	Jessica Davis
Feb 14	Wendy Fosselman	Julie Davis
Feb 21	Don Fosselman	Tim Archer
Feb 28	Lawrence Hasbargen	Cheryl Hasbargen

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date	10:45 service
Feb 7	Don and Judy Ery
Feb 10	TBA (Ash Wednesday)
Feb 14	Lewis and Karen Creel
Feb 21	Chris and Jessica Davis
Feb 28	Mike and Ann Struble

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

Date 10:45	
Feb 7	Kit Ruehl and Sherry Dugan
Feb 14	Mary Parrish
Feb 21	Jean Riggs
Feb 28	Phil Cross

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.	Debbie Marks
10:45 a.m.	Carole Carter
6:30 pm	Barbara McDowell
Paraments—	Marcia VanDeVelde

FEBRUARY 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Praise Team At Church 7:00 pm .	2 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	3 Alzheimer Group meeting 12:30 D.U.N. Committee 6:30 Bereavement 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	8 Praise Team At Eagle Pointe 7:00 p.m.	9 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Pancake Breakfast 6:00-8:00 pm	10 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 & 7:00 Handbells 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Praise team at Worthington 2:00 p.m. Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	15 Praise Team At Church 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 Pastor's Class 10:00 a.m. Lenten Service at FLC 11:30-12:30 Lunch at FLC 12:30 service at FLC 6:00 Dinner & 7:00 service at FLC Handbells 6:30 pm Bereavement 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	18	19 Confirmation Retreat at Cedar Lakes	20 First Word Articles Due Confirmation Retreat at Cedar Lakes
21 Sunday School 9:30 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 DUN Committee 9:30 Lenten Service at FLC 11:30-12:30 Lunch at FLC 12:30 service at FLC 6:00 Dinner & 7:00 service at Christ Lutheran Handbells 6:30 pm	25	26 30 Hour Famine	27 30 Hour Famine
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					



First Lutheran Church

PASTOR

The Rev. Ian Reid

(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

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