



# THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD  
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

MARCH 2016

Why do we proclaim in the Apostles Creed that Christ descended into Hell?

Over the past nine years of ministry I have been asked on many occasions Why does the Apostles Creed state that Christ descended into Hell. What I have learned is that many of these people did not like the idea of their Savior going to such a horrible place. It did not seem logical that a person who was sinless would go to a place filled with sinners. However, when you consider what Christ's mission on earth is, it not only makes sense that He would journey there but it becomes necessary.

Christ's goal for coming into this world and also for going through the agony of the Passion was not so that He could say that He could do it, but to free us from our sins. Scripture tells us that "Jesus Himself bore our sins" in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by His wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24 This passage tells us very eloquently that not only does Jesus die for our sins, but also that He takes on the punishment that comes

from them. This means that Christ must die a death like ours since "the wages of sin is death" Romans 6:23.

"So what does it mean to truly die," then one must ask. For a person who is not righteous before God the church states that person goes to the place of the dead, also known by many as hell. This place has no life because God is absent from it. This is where Christ goes from the time of His last breath until His resurrection. It is on the day of the resurrection (Easter Sunday) that we as Christians acknowledge that Christ has conquered death. No longer does death and hell have power over us because Christ has conquered it.

The mere fact that Christ went to the most horrible place we can think of and has returned in glory should bring hope to us as Christians. I remember as a child singing a vacation Bible school song about the love of Christ being deep and wide and so forth. The fact of the matter is that when we proclaim that Christ went to hell it means God has traveled everywhere and by His love he has set us all free. If Christ does not descend to hell,

then it leaves a place God has not conquered and therefore not broken the bonds of sin.

Paul explains this concept in his second letter to the Corinthians by saying that "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." What this means is that Jesus' action does not stop at merely dying on the cross, but it follows through all the way until we ascend to the Father at His return. God's desire is that no one be left behind and that no place be untouched by God's love. We experience this through the fact that Jesus went to the place of death and rose again just as He promises to do the same for us.

I tell the people who do not like the thought of Jesus going to hell that we should not act as if this is an embarrassing thing, but instead treat it as a sign of Jesus' glory. For the very next thing we say about Jesus in the Apostle's Creed is that on the third day He rose again and ascended into heaven. We ardently thus believe that just as Christ was not bound to the place of the dead for eternity, neither are we, for in Christ we have new life. Thanks be to God.

**FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL ...**

The year 2015 is officially ‘in the books’ as we concluded the year with our congregation meeting on January 31. We had a very positive and successful year – as reported by various leaders of our church in the Annual Report that was distributed to members. (If you did not receive a copy, stop by the office as there are still a few copies available.)

The services and activities of 2016 are well underway. The season of Lent is leading us to the triumph of Easter. There are still wonderful Wednesday 12:30 services preceded by lunch, and evening services at 7 pm preceded by dinner. Hopefully, you have these on your calendar and are participating in these meaningful services. Pastor is teaching classes on Martin Luther – Wednesdays at 10 am and Thursdays at 6 pm. You know Pastor’s classes are always very worthwhile!

Our Bishop, Matthew Riegel, will be here during the 30 hour famine the youth will be experiencing at the end of February. He will also be meeting with the Call Committee regarding our search for an Assistant Pastor/Rostered Leader and the Ministry Site Profile we have prepared for this search.

Council has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Jan Smith as our resident accompanist. She and Jim are excitedly planning their much-anticipated move to South Carolina on June 1. A committee has been formed and is looking for someone to assume the accompanist position – which will definitely be a challenge! Jan is a hard act to follow!

The contract for the Fellowship Hall restrooms update has been finalized and the tentative start date is the week immediately following Easter. It is estimated that this project will take 6-8 weeks. The area will be blocked off with dust barriers and we will not be using the front stairways to access the Fellowship Hall. This should be a minor inconvenience since that time is generally pretty ‘quiet’ and relatively free of activities in the Hall.

The electrical project is anticipated to be completed by the end of February. The loan payments go on, however, so please continue to pray for its financial success and regularly contribute to this fund as you are able.

Christ Lutheran will join us in presenting an exciting organ concert on March 20. We are fortunate to have Dr. Paul Barte, a member of the music faculty at Ohio University – portraying Johann Sebastian Bach and presenting a concert of Bach’s organ music at 3 pm. Coincidentally, Bach’s birthday is March 21 – so we are going to have a birthday celebration for Bach following the concert. This promises to be an exceptional afternoon of music and celebration. Be sure to add this to your calendar and also invite your friends.

We continue to be a vibrant and active community of faith at First Lutheran. Please join in and grow with us as we do the Lord’s work here. 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

## Start of Community Garden Season

As spring enters, we anticipate eagerly the start of a new First Lutheran Community Garden season! Your hands would be a great help for the garden- here are a few ways you can help!

- Sign up to bring a meal some Monday or Tuesday (can be brought early and placed in the fridge)
- Donate 24 pack of water bottles
- Donate money to have a meal for workers purchased
- Sign up to help during a weekday in one of the gardens
- Bring work shoes to church and do some weeding, planting, or tying up tomatoes after the service
- Show up at 3 pm and

greet those who are benefiting from our produce

From now until September, each week will be available for you to volunteer. We look forward to seeing you in the garden!

There is a calendar near the education entrance on which you can sign up, or contact the church office to see which weeks are open!

## Youth Events for March

**March 6-** Games and a devotion, that's what youth is made of!

**March 13-** Art project- We'll be making banners and stained glass windows for Easter.

**March 20-** EGG-cellent Youth Group! Hundreds of eggs to be filled, maybe a few pieces of candy to eat.... We'll have a fun twist on an egg hunt, too!

**March 25-** GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: Youth participants should arrive at 4 pm to practice for the service. Dinner will be provided. Service is at 7 pm.

**March 27-** EASTER BREAKFAST: 8:30- Youth will organize a breakfast for the congregation to enjoy! Donations will be collected to benefit those attending the NYC mission trip in July.

Easter Breakfast: Anyone who would like to donate items to the breakfast, contact the office or Becca Reid at 304-966-6430. We are in need of:

Casseroles  
Coffee cake  
Muffins  
Donuts  
Orange juice  
Milk  
Cut up fruit  
Vanilla yogurt

GO TO OUR  
WEBSITE:  
[FIRSTLUTHERANPARKERSBURG.COM](http://FIRSTLUTHERANPARKERSBURG.COM)

## D.U.N. Committee

The DUN Committee continues to encourage fellowship within our church family. Following the congregational meeting in January, lunch was provided by the committee in the fellowship hall. There was soup, homemade sandwiches, and desserts. A table of foods ideal for our younger members was available as well.

On Wednesday, March 2, the DUN will offer the baked potato, soup, and salad bar

for the Lenten supper beginning at 6:00 pm. Cost is \$5 per person. Children, ages 6-12, will be \$3. We will have the children's table with microwaveable mac & cheese, pudding, and PB & J. Hope you will join us before attending the evening service.

Restaurant Rovers is planning a couple outings. We will check with the Blennerhassett and DaVinci's for availability. Mark your calendars for April 10<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will let

everyone know as soon as we learn who can accommodate us. If anyone has a suggestion of a place to try please let us know. Drop a note in the offering plate for the DUN Committee.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 3, at 9:30 in Holy Ground 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.

## First Lutheran Golf Season

Yes, we are planning our golf season already. These few warm days start us thinking of getting outside and back to the greens. This year we are

moving the league to the Worthington Golf Course. It is more centrally located for people trying to get to the course after work. We will

meet on Monday evenings starting May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:30 pm. Cost will be \$15 which includes sharing a golf cart. If you want to walk the cost is \$12.

## Easter Calendar of Events and Services

### March 20

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES  
8:30 and 10:45

### March 24

Maundy Thursday  
12:00 and 7:00

### March 25

Good Friday Service  
7:00 p.m.

### March 26

EASTER EGG HUNT  
10:00 at church. Will be held outside if weather permitting  
Easter Vigil Service 7:00 p.m.

### March 27

EASTER BREAKFAST  
8:30- Youth will organize a breakfast for the congregation to enjoy! Donations will be collected to benefit those attending the NYC mission trip in July.  
Combined Service at 10:00 am

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

January 2016 started with 21 prayer shawls. Two were given during the first month. This ministry hopes to comfort those dealing with health issues, life situations, or spiritual concerns. It is a reminder that we are never alone. If you have a friend or family member in need of reassurance

please take one of the shawls. They are located in the closet in the prayer chapel. By signing the clipboard we have a record of those who have received a shawl. We don't want to miss someone who may be in need.

Church members create these shawls to provide sup-

port in time of someone's need. We have had fleece, quilted, and crocheted / knitted shawls donated. Regardless of what is used, the shawl lets the recipient know whatever the concern God is ever present. Thank you to those who give of their time to keep this ministry alive.

## An Afternoon with Johann Sebastian Bach

Come and celebrate Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday with First Lutheran and Christ Lutheran!

On March 20th at 3:00pm, the sister churches will be co-hosting a Bach organ recital at First Lutheran. Dr. Paul Barte will be dressed as Bach and perform the organ music of J.S.Bach.

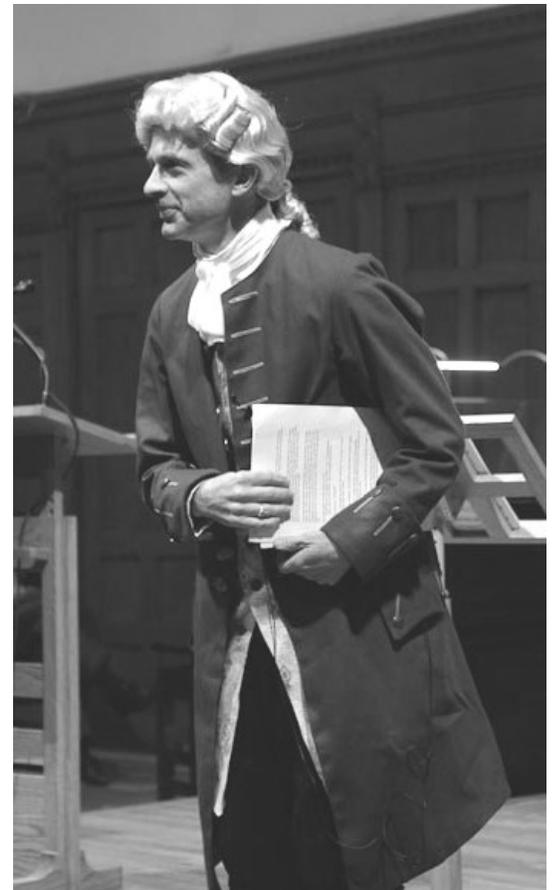
Dr. Barte has been a member of the music faculty at Ohio University School of Music since 1997. As a tenured and Associate Professor at OU, he teaches organ and harpsichord, organ literature and pedagogy and music history classes. In 2005, he was the recipient of the

School of Music's Distinguished Teaching Award. In addition to his academic responsibilities, he also serves as University Organist.

We are honored to have Dr. Barte portray and share his extensive knowledge and expertise on the music and life of Bach.

As March 20th is the day before Bach's birthday, we will celebrate with a birthday cake reception following the recital.

Come and enjoy the music of Bach!



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## Easter Egg Hunt

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Saturday March 26th

10:00 am

Come join the fun of hunting eggs, cookies, activities and an obstacle course.



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## The Walk To Jerusalem

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The Walk to Jerusalem forms, prayer concern sheets, and books are located on the front wall bulletin board by the office. Please take one and take The Walk to Jerusalem with us. (Don't forget to let us know how many miles you walk with us each week).



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## Single's Dinner

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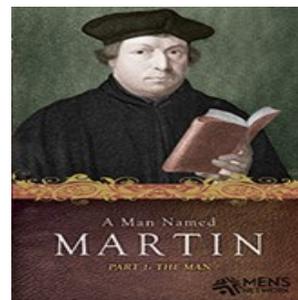
Do you like to dine out—have good conversation and a good time? Do many of you know there is a group of people at First who enjoy eating out on the second Saturday of every month? The only requirement is that you are single. It doesn't matter if you are male or female. Come and join us. Just call Barbara Grant at 304-295-7282 or Barbara McDowell, and we would be happy to have you and I will call you for our next outing and date.

**Graduate Pictures are due by May 1st.**

## Pastor's Class

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During the Season of Lent, starting on February 17-March 20, Pastor Ian will be using the Luther Hour Ministries study on "Martin Luther: The Man" to teach and discuss his life and the issues with which he was dealing. It is a five week course and will be taught on Wednesday at 10 a.m. and Thursday at 6:00 p.m.



## Faith Link Pancake Breakfast

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Faith Link will be having a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's in Vienna on Saturday, March 5th from 7:30-9:30 a.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person, and all proceeds will go to benefit Faith Link. You can purchase your ticket in the church office.

## Prayer Stations

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Holy Week can sometimes become a time overshadowed by the prep for Easter. Make this a time that you reflect upon God, and what Jesus endured those days, and how our lives mirror God to a broken world.

## Rummage Sale

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Start setting aside your treasures you find that you'd like to donate to the youth rummage sale in May! We'll start collecting the first Sunday in April. We appreciate your donations!

## First Communion Training

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Saturday, March 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This is a class to children who want to take first communion, or for adults who want to learn more. Ask Pastor Ian for more details if you are interested.

## Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

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<b>Date</b>	<b>8:30 service</b>	<b>10:45 Service</b>
March 6	Keith Curry	Bill Kohler
March 13	Tom Curry	Ashley Wiltsey
March 20	Keith Curry, Barbara McDowell, Jim Hamric, Bob Friend, Tom Curry, Alec Smith, Sue Lamp, Adeline Smith	Marcia VanDeVelde, Barbara McDowell, Betty Smith, Jim Smith, Angie Smith, Julie Davis, Chris Davis, Jessica Davis
March 27	Combined service at 10:00 am: Lori Butler	

## Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

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<b>Date</b>	<b>10:45 service</b>
March 6	Carol Petersen and Courtney Ferrell
March 13	Andrea Brock and Mary Parrish
March 20	Gerry Kohler and Sharon Buzzard
March 24 (Maundy Thursday)	TBA
March 27 (Easter)	Chip and Barb Rodgers

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

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### **Date 10:45**

March 6	Dan and Ann Cooper
March 13	Kit Ruehl and Sherry Dugan
March 20	Brian and Penny Green
March 27	Ruth Johnson

### **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

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8:30 a.m.	Alicha Farley
10:45 a.m.	Vivian Burton
6:30 pm	Barbara McDowell
Paraments—	Marcia VanDeVelde

# MARCH 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	<b>2</b> Pastor's Class 10 a.m. 11:20 Lunch at FLC 12:30 Service at FLC Handbells 6:00 p.m. 6:00 Dinner at FLC 7:00 Service at FLC D.U.N. Committee 6:30 Bereavement 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	<b>3</b> Pastor's Class 6:00 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	<b>7</b> Praise Team At Church 7:00 p.m.	<b>8</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	<b>9</b> 11:30 Lunch at FLC 12:30 Service Pastor's Class 10:00 Handbells 6:00 p.m. 6:00 Dinner at Christ Lutheran 7:00 Service at Christ Lutheran Senior Choir 7:30	<b>10</b> Pastor's Class 6:00 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> First Communion Training 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  First Word Articles Due
<b>13</b> Daylight Savings Begins Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Praise Team at Worthington 2:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	<b>14</b> Praise Team At Eagle Pointe 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>16</b> Pastor's Class 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Lunch at FLC 12:30 Service at FLC Handbells 6:00 pm 6:00 Dinner at FLC 7:00 Service at FLC Bereavement 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day Pastor's Class 6:00 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> First Word Articles Due
<b>20</b> Palm Sunday Spring Begins Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Back Concert 3:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	<b>21</b> Praise Team At Church @ 7pm	<b>22</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>23</b> DUN Committee 9:30 Handbells 6:00 pm	<b>24</b> Maundy Thursday Service at 12:00 and 7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b> Good Friday Service at 7:00	<b>26</b> Easter Egg Hunt 10:00  Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.
<b>27</b> Easter Sunday Breakfast 8:30 Combined Worship 10:00 a.m. Invitation to Prayer 5:00	<b>28</b> Praise Team At Church @ 7pm	<b>29</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>30</b> Handbells 6:00 pm Senior Choir 7:30	<b>31</b>		



# First Lutheran Church

## **PASTOR**

**The Rev. Ian Reid**

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

## **CHURCH SECRETARY/CHURCH OFFICE**

**Carrie Null**

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

## **YOUTH COORDINATOR**

**Becca Reid**

304-966-6430 (email: [cup\\_nstu@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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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