

THE FIRST WORD

May, 2014

Followers to Apostles by Pastor Ian Reid

We have just wrapped up the penitential season of Lent and once again as a church experienced the highs and lows of Holy Week to now find ourselves in the middle of the season of Easter. For those who do not know, the church celebrates not just one week of Easter but seven of them. During this time we will hear of how Jesus came back to reveal Himself to His disciples and others as well as celebrate His Ascension to heaven, which we will celebrate on Thursday, May 29th with a service and ice cream floats as usual. It is not til Sunday, June 8th that we as God's children will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, so the question could be asked, why the church takes seven weeks to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord that happened, as some might, say overnight.

The simple reason is that what the disciples experienced was not a onetime occurrence at the tomb, but instead a Jesus who revealed Himself to His people over several weeks. In reality most of His disciples actually never made it to the tomb. According to the Gospel writers, the only people who saw the empty tomb were the women,

Peter and the beloved disciple of Christ. All the others who saw Christ saw Him as He appeared to them over the course of forty days. What is unique is that in these appearances Christ is not recognized at first but only after He does something that reveals Himself. Afterwards Jesus makes a point to remind His disciples of their mission now that He will be leaving them to be with tGod the Father.

Therefore, if the season of Easter is not just about the Resurrection of our Lord but also includes experiencing the resurrected Jesus, what should we learn from the Easter season? I think the answer is that we need to be transformed like the disciples from mere followers of Jesus to Disciples of Jesus. A disciple is one who adheres completely to the teachings of another, making them his rule of life and conduct. The word disciple comes from the greek word "mathetes", which means more than just a "student" or "learner" but one who strictly follows the teaching of another.

Jesus shared with us and His disciples several times preceding His death what it means to be a follower of Christ. "Any of you

who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). "Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me'" (Matthew 16:24). However, now that Christ has died and resurrected He is visiting His followers and asking them if they are ready to take the step from a mere follower of Christ to a disciple. For you see, the people who were only willing to follow Christ, the story ends when He ascends to heaven because Christ is no longer with us physically on this earth. However, as Christ points out through His appearances after the resurrection, His disciples will find Him in the actions of baptism, breaking of the bread and fellowship of the believers. These also happen to be the actions to which Christ calls His followers which will lead us to become His disciples.

THURSDAY, MAY 29TH

ASCENSION

OF OUR LORD

SERVICE AT 6:00 PM

Following Pastor's Class
there will be floats
in celebration.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



The prayer shawl ministry continues to offer comfort to those in need of spiritual support during difficult times. So far we have given shawls. They are stored in the closet in the prayer chapel. If there is a person in need of a shawl

please feel free to take one. Be sure to record the name of the recipient on the clipboard so we do not duplicate.

We can always use more shawls. There are instructions for both knitting and crocheting in the office.

We also are collecting a bin of yarn that has been donated to create more shawls. Recently, we a shawl was donated that was made on a loom and we have had shawls that were quilted. All bring God's love and comfort.

**MEN'S RETREAT AT BALD HEAD ISLAND
JUNE 1ST-JUNE 5TH
CONTACT PASTOR IAN FOR DETAILS**

Annual Picnic



On Sunday, June 1st, the DUN committee will hold the annual church picnic at the City Park. It will be held following the

morning services in Shelters 1A and 1B. The DUN committee will supply hotdogs, condiments, drinks, and paper prod-

ucts. Please bring a covered dish to share and come join in the fun. There will be games and lots of fellowship!

PASTOR'S CLASS "JESUS TO CHRIST"

STARTING WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH AT 10 AM

OR

THURSDAY, MAY 8TH AT 6:30 PM

This class will feature the PBS series "Jesus to Christ".

Blennerhasset Brunch With the Restaurant Rovers

On Sunday, May 18th, the Restaurant Rovers are going to the Blenner-

hasset Hotel for brunch. Please drop a note in the offering plate or call the

church office by Thursday, May 14th if you wish to attend.

Thank You!

Dear Church & Sunday School,
Thank you for giving the

gold cross. Thank you for the cake.
Love, Kellie Bever

Please see Kellie's "Thank You" note on the bulletin board outside church office.

Luther Golf League

The league begins on Monday, May 5th, at 5:30 pm. The league is very informal and the skill levels vary

so all are welcome. The cost is \$13. We have a couple friendly competitions each week and the cost is

\$2.00. Clubhouse will also have dinner menu if the patronage is large enough.

Music For Easter

It took the efforts of many people to bring the music of Easter to life at First Lutheran. During Lent, Holy Week, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, musicians from the church worked overtime to make sure all of the

music was fitting and inspirational. The combined service on Easter Sunday made it possible to also combine resources for the service, and this meant all of the folks attending Easter worship got to experience the efforts of

the choir, brass, percussionists, organist and piano accompanist. Thanks to all of those who gave of their time and talents to make the music special and bring the meaning of Easter to everyone at First Lutheran.

Check Out the New Website
FIRSTLUTHERANPARKERSBURG.COM

Combined Service on Mother's Day—10:00 am

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2014
AT 10:00 a.m. will be a special service with our youth partici-

pating as worship leaders. Special presentation of our graduates will be shown.

Sunday School will start at 9:00 am.

Women's Bible Study

Do you feel burdened by life? Are you carrying around excess baggage? Isn't it time to get rid of some of those bags? With

the twenty-third Psalm as our guide, Max Lucado will help us learn that. "Traveling Light" is what God wants for His children.

We will learn how to release the burdens we were never intended to bear. This new study will begin on April 29 with chapter one:

MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS
FRIDAY, MAY 9TH AT 8:00 PM
BRING A LAWN CHAIR AND A SNACK
WEATHER PERMITTING

GENERAL FUND

MARCH INCOME	\$30,266
MARCH EXPENSES.....	\$26,381
JAN-MARCH INCOME	\$70,272
JAN-MARCH EXPENSES.....	\$79,757

ELECTRICAL UPGRADE DRIVE

WE HAVE RECEIVED \$33,281 AS OF APRIL 20TH. THIS IS A TREMENDOUS START! AS WE DISCUSSED, THE PROJECT WILL COST UP TO \$250,00 AND EVERY DOLLAR DONATED BY SEPTEMBER 6TH WE WILL NOT HAVE TO BORROW. LET'S ALL PITCH IN AND HELP!

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date

May 4
May 11
May 18
May 25

8:30 service

Jim Hamric
10:00 Combined Service (Mother's Day)
Lori Butler
Alicha Farley

10:45 Service

Bill Kohler
Youth Lay Readers
Marcia VanDeVelde
Karen Creel

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date

May 4 Betsy Ehret and Barbara McDowell
May 11 Combined Service at 10:00 Emilie and Kellie Bever
May 18 Don and Judy Ery
May 25 Roger and Julie Davis

Door Greeters for Sunday Worship

Date

May 4
May 11
May 18
May 25

Cindy and Michelle Fouse
Lewis and Karen Creel with granddaughters, Emilie and Kellie Bever
Mary Lee Armentrout and Andrea Brock
Ruth Johnson and Helen Echard



**PIANO RECITAL
FEATURING STUDENTS OF JAN SMITH
MAY 4TH AT 1:30 PM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

**MATINEE MONDAY/GAME DAY
ON HOLD**

FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL ...

*Lent has passed and we have celebrated the joy of Easter!
He is Risen!!
Hallelujah!!*

The hearing assistance 'Loop' has been installed in the sanctuary and some anticipated 'bugs' are being worked out. Soon the system will also be installed in the library. A representative from 'Get Looped' will be here to explain the system further, answer questions, and provide assistance to anyone needing help in order to take advantage of the system. We want to be certain that everyone who can benefit from this unique hearing assistance will be able to do so. We will let you know details of this meeting soon.

Spring has truly sprung and

so have the activities at our church. Have you noticed all of the activity in the garden? Soon the veggies will be showing up in Bernie's specially-made cart!

Electrical upgrade work is underway – even though there is not much in evidence yet. There is a lot of 'behind the scenes' work that has to be done before the activity will begin making its presence known.

The two new columbariums have arrived and will be installed soon. First Lutheran is very blessed that we are able to offer this option for our members and loved ones.

Our new website is 'live' – you may sign on at: www.firstlutheranparkersburg.com and we hope you will enjoy

and benefit from the information it currently includes. We are still transferring "First Word", music and sermons from our old site, and adding new information in all of the areas – but as we have said – this website is a 'work in progress' and we welcome your suggestions for additions anytime. Feel free to contact Pastor Ian, me, or anyone on council with your ideas.

Let us all commit to continuing to make our church an active community of faith, coming together to worship, praise, pray, study and grow in our Lord's service.

Andrea Brock,
Council President

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES IN MAY

May 4th Top Chef Cooking Challenge

May 11th No Youth Group Happy Mother's Day!

May 16th -17th Yard Sale
See this article

May 18th Mall Manhunt

May 25th No Youth Memorial Day

RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, May 16

4-7 pm

Saturday, May 17

8 am-12 pm

Come Shop!

Rummage Sale Info

We will have a rummage sale on May 16th and 17th. Bring your used treasures to the fellowship hall starting May 5th. Need all items by WEDNESDAY, May 14th, so we can get everything set up! If you need things picked up, contact the church office and we can arrange it.

MAY, 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Piano Recital 1:30 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5 pm Evening Service 6:30	5 Praise Team At Church 7:00 p.m. Golf League 5:30	6 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	7 Pastor's Class 10:00 am. Hand Bells 6:30 p.m. DUN Meeting 6:30 p.m. Bereavement 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	8 Pastor's Class 6:30 pm	9	10
11 Mother's Day Sunday School 9:00 Worship Combined Service 10:00 Praise Team at Worthington 2:00 p.m. Invitation to Prayer 5:00 NO Youth Evening Service 6:30	12 Praise Team Eagle Pointe 7:00 pm Golf League 5:30	13 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	14 Pastor's Class 10:00 am. Council Meeting 6:00 pm Hand Bells 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30	15 Pastor's Class 6:30 pm	16 Yard Sale 4-7 pm	17 Yard Sale 8-12 noon
18 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Blennerhassett Brunch after service Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5 pm Evening Service 6:30	19 Praise Team At Church @ 7pm Golf League 5:30	20 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	21 Pastor's Class 10:00 am. Hand Bells 6:30 pm Bereavement 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	22 Pastor's Class 6:30 pm	23 Wedding Rehearsal	24 First Word Articles Due Wedding 12:30
25 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 NO youth Evening Service 6:30	26 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY NO Golf League NO Praise Team	27 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	28 Pastor's Class 10:00 am. Hand Bells 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30	29 Ascension of Our Lord Service 6 pm Pastor's Class 6:30 pm Floats following class in celebration of Ascension of Our Lord	30	31



First Lutheran Church

PASTOR

The Rev. Ian Reid

(email: pastorianreid@gmail.com)

CHURCH SECRETARY/CHURCH OFFICE

Cindy Lockney

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, **Mackenzie Rice**

Lori Butler, 304-863-5156

Barb Carpenter, 304-295-9527

Dan Cooper, 304-485-4031

Chris Davis, 304-210-7631

Robert Fluharty, 304-485-3484

Robert Friend, 304-422-2950

Bill Kohler, 304-483-7810

Carol Petersen, 304-863-6891

Angie Smith, 304-422-5935

Gary Welch, 304-863-8084

