



# THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD  
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

SEPTEMBER 2019

## What Sets Lutherans Apart?

This is a question that I am asked on a regular basis not only from strangers but also from many who regularly attend Lutheran churches. Most people are shocked when I start off by saying that we in no way worship or revere the 16<sup>th</sup> century theologian Martin Luther more than any other person. The only documents that Martin Luther wrote that we hold to be authoritative for Lutherans would be his small and large catechisms and the Smalcald Articles which are found in the Lutheran Confessions. Not only do we not worship him, but Martin Luther would be upset that we took his surname for the reformation movement he started. Luther would much rather us call ourselves Evangelicals which in Greek means “bearers of good news” because that is what the Lutheran movement is about.

So what is this good news that we are to be sharing? The answer is that *we are saved by God's grace through faith and not by our own*

*actions.* This means that we do not have to earn God's love and praise by our own works but that we freely receive God's love through the actions of his son Jesus Christ. So therefore you might be asking: is this some Lutheran concept that was explained in one of Luther's 95 Theses that he nailed to the Wittenberg Church door?

Actually, the concept comes not from Luther but from the writings of the Apostle Paul as he explains the gospel message to the Romans and Ephesians. The Apostle Paul in these two letters is explaining to the churches why Jesus' death and resurrection is good news for them and for everyone in the world. The problem though is that our human nature loves the idea of God's grace but struggles to understand the implication it has on our lives. The concept that God would in His great love give us the blessings of forgiveness, salvation and eternal life for free is hard for us to

grasp. We always are looking for what strings are attached to the gift because we must owe something. Over the centuries and even in the present day the church and its people easily fall into the trap of saying God's grace is free but we owe God this or that.

In 1517 Martin Luther did not come up with the concept of the message of Good News but he was the one who reminded the people of the life giving peace that God gives out of his great love for us. It is through the lens of God's graciousness that we as Lutherans strive to see God and God's people. This means that we shape our lives our worship and our relations with one another out of grace. If you want to know what this looks like from a practical stand point join me in my office during the Sunday School hour 9:45 am -10:30 am for a study on what it means to be Lutheran.

Pastor Ian Reid

## Church Council

### FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT -

We have kicked off the fall calendar of events, so be sure to investigate the many ways you can participate with your fellow parishioners here at FLC. A few ideas include new Sunday School classes at 9:30 am for both youth and adults, Sunday evening youth activities, Pastor's Wednesday morning and Thursday evening classes (check the bulletin for updated schedule), Choir, Hand Bells, Women's Bible Study, and Men's Prayer Breakfast. These are fun, informative, and personally enriching opportunities, and I invite each of you to ask whether God is calling you to take the next step in your faith walk by joining in these and other activities. How will you know God is calling you? Pray for God's direction, and then listen patiently and quietly for His response.

Your church Finance Committee is ramping up the process of finalizing a budget proposal for 2020, which will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. This task will be very challenging this year. Even though the congregation approved this year's budget with a \$16,800 deficit, our

monthly General Fund expenses have been greater than our monthly income for most months of this year, with our year-to-date expenses currently around \$30,000 higher than our year-to-date income. Since we are not seeing an increasing trend in our average monthly offering, we will be looking closely at how to reduce expenses next year in order to present a balanced budget reflecting these lower income amounts. The cuts will be difficult, but we can only budget our expenses based on our history of actual income received. We pray and trust that each of you are contributing what you can to your monthly offering, and that is all we ask.

We have already been diligently searching for cost cutting measures, and will continue to implement changes that reduce unnecessary expenses. One example is adjusting the Sanctuary thermostats so the building's old air conditioning units aren't cooling the empty Sanctuary during the week (don't worry - no changes were made to the temperature on Sunday mornings). Keeping the Sanctuary at a constant 80 degrees Monday thru Saturday should provide a savings of \$300 per month during the hot summer months, and will reduce wear and tear on the old A/C

units. I'm sure more examples of cost saving opportunities will present themselves as we continue searching for them.

I am now going to ask each and every one of you to actively participate in our discernment process for creating next year's budget and finding ways to cut costs. How? I invite you to please pray about this. Pray for God's guidance for our Finance Committee and Council to see what He has planned for us, and how we can be good and faithful stewards of His gifts of time, talent, and money. We have been richly blessed with beautiful worship facilities, an absolutely wonderful Pastor (and family!), and a loving congregation. Pray that we can honor Him with our stewardship of these blessings. **Please pray.**

Your Council is always open to hearing any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns from the congregation. Please feel free to contact myself, Pastor, or any Council member.

Yours in Christ,

Doug Woolley

## Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

<b>Date</b>	<b>8:30 service</b>	<b>10:45 Service</b>
September 1	Keith Curry	Betty Smith
September 8	Tom Curry	Julia Davis
September 15	Lori Butler	Ashley Carter
September 22	Denver McNemar	Emilie Beever
September 29	Sue Camp	Kellie Beever

## Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

<b>Date</b>	<b>10:45 Service</b>
September 1	Brian and Penny Green
September 8	Mary and Marie Stanley
September 15	Roger Davis and Julie Davis
September 22	Carole Carter and Gerri Kohler
September 29	Tim and Robin Rice

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

### 10:45 Service

September 1	Sherry Dugan
September 8	Dan & Ann Cooper
September 15	Andrea Brock
September 22	Mary Parrish
September 29	Mary Lewis

### 8:30 Service

Lawrence and Lyndall Hasbargen, Donnie Fosselman and Stan Null

## Altar Guild Servers

8:30 AM Susie McNemar  
 10:45 AM Vivian Burton  
 6:30 PM Barbara McDowell  
 Paraments—Natalie James

## Cantors

September 1	Shandra Ice
September 8	Paul Freeman
September 15	Doug Farr
September 22	Susan Smith
September 29	Scott Fauley

## Communion Assistants

September: Julie Davies, Chris Davies, and Carol Petersen

# September Youth Events

- 1-No Youth (Labor Day)
- 8- Lego Party! We'll be building and stacking and making with Legos. Don't worry - we can make this competitive and more than making a tower.
- 15- Kindness Counts- Bring your drawing and writing skills! We will be making cards and letters for our shut ins! There will most likely be a game or 2 as well!
- 22- Fall Festivities- Come and make a pumpkin canvas painting, and some other cool, crisp activities!
- 29- No Youth at church - we will attend the Pirates Ballgame (see info in First Word so your family can attend)

## UPCOMING EVENT FOR WOMEN:

COMING IN SEPTEMBER! A new opportunity to get involved with other women at First Lutheran!

**"KATIE'S LADIES"** (Looking to Katie Luther for Inspiration)

September 4th, 6-8 pm

Clubhouse at the Fields, Williamstown, WV

Contact: Becca Reid (304) 966-6430

As we desire to grow our faith and outreach, we will look to Katie Luther, wife of Martin Luther (yes, THAT Martin) as a role model. For our first gathering, we will get to know each other and discuss a direction for this group. We will look at some Katie Luther basics while talking about what a women's group would do at FLC.

The vision is to have a group that will meet the first Wednesday of the month, and give women from our church an opportunity to connect with each other, to share faith stories, while ultimately looking to a figure who has been integral in the Lutheran Church for centuries for vision.

Does this sound like your cup of tea?? Well, plan on coming and seeing what happens!

*Looking ahead: On October 2, Pastor Jacq Campbell from Clarksburg will come and share about Katie Luther and how our life can relate to what she lived during the Middle Ages.*

# Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the picture and the well wishes! Miss you all very much! I hope to get down there one of these days.

Mark Muetaff

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawls and your prayers. They are very much appreciated.

God Bless,  
Vic & Judy Rue

Dear Congregation,

We want to thank Effie Ayers, one of your parishioners and your church fellowship for the wonderful prayer blankets. Our patients will benefit from your kindness and prayers! Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Sara Smith, Director of Nurses/ Behavioral Health Unit / Marietta Memorial Hospital

### Food Pantry News:

We are still feeding 54-55 families a month. This has been an increase from 35 families back in January. Our food needs for the month of September are Jelly, Pancake mix and pancake syrup. Any size or flavors are welcome. Boxed cereal or flavored oatmeal would also be welcome additions.

Thank you for your generous donations of peanut butter this past month. If you would prefer us to do the shopping for you, your financial donations are appreciated.

Our clients have enjoyed the fresh produce from the church garden and from gardens of church members, Don Ery and Sharon Buzzard.

It has been a very busy summer and now we look forward to the fall and then Christmas baskets.

Thank you all for your continued support of this much needed ministry.

In Christ, Susie McNemar.

**Food Pantry is OPEN:**  
Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday  
9:30 am - 11:30 am

### From Shandra Ice

If you have ever thought about singing in the Senior Choir, the beginning of the season would be a great time to get started! Choir rehearsals resume on August 28th and will continue on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. No prior experience or the ability to read music is necessary.



### Summer Worthington Golf League

**Mondays @ 5pm**  
**\$15.00 for 9 holes**  
**plus a cart.**  
**\$2.00 for games.**

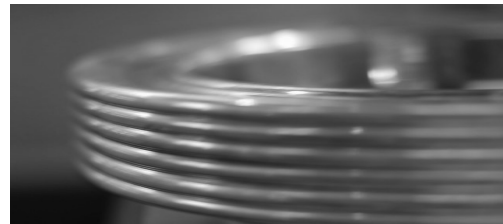


*A note from your Treasurer -*

2019 Financial Information:

	<u>June 2019</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
Total Income	\$25,010	\$167,027
Total Expense:	(\$24,859)	(\$196,938)
Gain or Loss for Month/Year:	\$150	(\$29,911)

**NOTE:** Donations to the G.I.F.T. Fund (General Improvement Fund) are used for improvements to the church facility.



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1. Download the app
2. Find First Lutheran Church by typing our Zip Code 26101
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**Any questions?  
Contact Paul Freeman.  
304-488-1841**

# Upcoming Events



### SEPTEMBER 2

Labor Day - Church Office Closed

### SEPTEMBER 4

"Katie's Ladies" 6 - 8pm (see pg. 4)

### SEPTEMBER 8

Sr. Choir is back! We miss them!

### SEPTEMBER 15 - 19

Men's Retreat at Bald Head

### SEPTEMBER 29 - 5th SUNDAY

"Noisy Offering"

Donations will go to  
Latrobe Street Mission

### SEPTEMBER 29 - PITTSBURGH TRIP

Baseball game at 3pm  
Pirates vs Cincinnati

8:00 PM - Compline Service  
At Heinz Memorial Chapel  
(ref: pghcompline.com)

Let Pastor know if you are  
Interested in going

### PASTOR'S CLASSES

Every Wednesday 10 am, Thursday 6 pm  
(no classes 9/18 and 9/19)

### LUTHER GOLF EVERY MONDAY

At Worthington - 5 pm - all welcome!

### GARDEN WORK DAYS

Tuesdays and Saturdays - 9-11 am  
Mike says MUCH help needed - please come  
if you can!

**\*POST THIS MONTHLY ACTIVITIES  
REMINDER ON YOUR FRIDGE\***

## Bereavement Meeting

Bereavement meetings are held  
at First Lutheran Church at 6:30  
pm on the first and third



## Alzheimer's Support Group

Alzheimer's Support Group meets first  
Wednesday of each month at 1pm at the  
First Lutheran Church. For more



information  
contact Joe  
Lantz MSW/  
LCSW at 304  
422-9293.

## Liberty Street Garden Workday

Tuesdays and Saturdays

9 am - 11 am

Weather Permitting

Bring some gloves.

Bottled water available.



### Men's Retreat September 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>

If you love the beach and need a getaway come join the men of First Lutheran as we fellowship at Bald Head Island. We will leave right after worship on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> and return early evening on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be staying at Pastor Ian's dad's beach house. Talk to Pastor Ian if you are interested in the trip.



### Pirates vs Reds Game at PNC Park Pittsburgh and Compline at Heinz Chapel

**Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> 3pm Game 8pm Compline**

On Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> you are invited to join a group from First Lutheran that will be traveling to Pittsburgh for a Pirates vs. Reds game. We plan on ordering tickets together so that we can sit together and enjoy fellowship as well as the game. Some of the group also plans to attend the praying of Compline at Heinz Chapel at 8pm. If you want more information or will need a ride to the game or both feel free to contact Pastor Ian. Sign up date for the game is Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>

### Coming in October:

October 13<sup>th</sup> - Pet Blessings

October 19<sup>th</sup> - German Festival from 10 am - 3 pm

October 27<sup>th</sup> - Combines Service & Annual Meeting



# SEPTEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Evening Service 6:30 pm</p> <p>~No Youth Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>~Labor Day~</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Garden Work Day 9-11 am Al-Anon 6:00 pm Woman's Bible Study 6:30 pm Finance Meeting 7:30 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pastor's Class 10:00 am Alzheimer's 1:00 pm Bereavement 6:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Garden Work Day 9-11 am</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Youth Group 5pm Evening Service 6:30 pm Praise Team at Worthington 2 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Praise Team at Eagle Pointe 7 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Garden Work Day 9-11 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Al-Anon 6:00 pm Woman's Bible Study 6:30 pm Finance Meeting 7:30 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pastor's Class 10:00 am Finance Meeting 6:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Garden Work Day 9-11 am</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Youth Group 5pm Evening Service 6:30 pm</p> <p>Men's Retreat after Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Men's Retreat</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Garden Work Day 9-11 am Al-Anon 6 pm Woman's Bible Study 6:30 pm</p> <p>Men's Retreat</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pastor's Class 10:00 am Bereavement 6:30 pm</p> <p>Men's Retreat</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Men's Retreat comes home</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Garden Work Day 9-11 am</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Youth Group 5pm Evening Service 6:30 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Garden Work Day 9-11 am Al-Anon 6:00 pm Woman's Bible Study 6:30 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pastor's Class 10:00 am *Council Meeting* 6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Garden Work Day 9-11 am</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Evening Service 6:30 pm Baseball in Pittsburg 3 pm Compline @ Heinz Chapel 8 pm</p> <p>~No Youth Group</p>	<p>30</p>					



# First Lutheran Church

## PASTOR

**The Rev. Ian Reid**

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

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

AMANDA WHITLATCH

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

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday;

Closed Friday

## **YOUTH COORDINATOR**

Becca Reid

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

## **NURSERY STAFF**

Selena Ankrom and Heather Lough

## **WORSHIP TIMES**

Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Church School 9:30 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**

**Doug Woolley**, President, 304-295-9502

**Paul Freeman**, Vice-President, 304-488-1841

**Keith Curry**, Secretary, 304-482-0147

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

**Robyn Rice**, 304-488-6773

**Chris Davis**, 304-210-7931

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

**Mary Lewis**, 740-989-2243

**Betty Smith**, 304-863-5569

**Tom Curry**, 304-834-4008

**Gerry Kohler**, 304-991-5506

**Brian Nokleby**, 304-375-2260

**Lisa Martin**, Treasurer Appointed, 304-422-8240

**Elizabeth Martin**, Treasurer Appointed,

304-422-8240

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