



THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

FEBRUARY, 2017

The Church Experience

One of the things that I find so interesting is that most people today when asked about their church describe only the worship life. They usually respond by telling me what kind of music is played at the service or if their pastor is a good preacher. They might discuss whether there are young families present, or more likely, the lack of attendance by young people. The one thing that I have noted in my conversations with others is that those who are actively involved in the life of the church tend to speak most highly of it.

Now this leads to the proverbial question of which came first—the chicken or the egg? Many people would argue that those who have invested their time and energy into the church will rate their satisfaction higher, because their commitment level is higher. I would argue that the opposite is the truth. That is because by definition both worship and the church are not meant to be things, but instead actions in which the faithful partake.

Both the writer of Acts and Paul make it quite clear that the followers of Christ are not meant to be inanimate objects that God works upon, but instead are to be God's hands and feet. Our worship is the belief that we take part in giving

thanks and praise to a God who is worthy to be praised. Martin Luther 500 years ago worked hard to change the service from one in which the clergy led it completely to one in which the people of God jointly worshiped Him. This led to such reforms as the congregation singing, lay people reading the lessons and even the prayers of the people being lifted up to God. At First Lutheran we already provide a wide variety of ways in which one can participate in the service and not all mean standing up before the congregation. I am always willing to sit down with anyone and discuss where their gifts, talents and or desires to serve merge with the work of the church.

Speaking of the church it is not something that functions only on Sunday mornings. The Greek word that is translated into church actually means fellowship of believers. In Acts we find that the early church gathered together on a regular basis not only for worship but also to eat together, to care for the poor amongst them and to spend time with one another. The reason that gathering together was so important to the early church was because that is the way they came to know each other and form strong bonds. It is hard to feel like a family if you do not know the other people around you, and

by working together and fellowship they developed deep connections

At First Lutheran there are many tasks in which you can easily partake for the good of the church that do not take vast amounts of time, which I promise you will not have to do endlessly. While you are assisting the church and the people in the community you will find not only joy in helping but also in getting to know the people with whom you worship on Sunday. As Luther states, God does not need us to do His work in the world, but He allows us to be a part of it so that we might find joy in the experience.

My hope for you is that you will think about ways you can be a part of the work of the church either on Sunday or throughout the week. If you need help to discern how you may best use your gifts and talents to the glory of God, feel free to speak with me. On the other hand, if you have been doing a task at the church and feel that it is time to move on let me know as well. I completely understand and would want you to assess what God is calling you to do even if that means giving up something.

May God Bless us as we work together as a community and love one another.

Pastor Ian B. Reid

From Your Church Council

Our new year is well underway and promises to be another eventful one!! With one month already about gone, we have to make certain we are on our toes and ready to keep up with all of the services and activities that will be taking place.

All members, of course, are invited to the congregation meeting on Sunday, January 29, following the combined service that starts at 10. Following the meeting the DUN committee is serving lunch, including a 'kid's bar' which is quickly becoming a favorite of our little ones.

We need to quickly get into the swing of planning for the Annual Synod Meeting June 2-3. First Lutheran is the host congregation. The meetings and meals will be held at Grand Pointe Conference Center, but all attendees will be invited to an evening worship service at our church on Friday evening, June 2, followed by a reception in our Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help with the planning, see Pastor, Andrea, or any member of council. There are some exciting ideas already being considered and we will keep you up-

dated on plans as they are developed.

There will be some 'sprucing up' taking place before we receive our guests in June. In addition to the beautiful worship service and special music that will be a part of the evening, we obviously want to have our beautiful facility wearing its 'prettiest face' for our guests, so, if you are asked to lend a hand or provide some assistance – please don't hesitate to say yes!

Pastor will be leaving on an important mission February 9 – a visit with our sister synod in Madagascar – traveling with Bishop Riegel who is making his first visit there. They will be making a side trip to Finland to deliver the Sister Church Relationship Covenant to our sister church Rekolan Seurakunta in Vantaa, Finland.

Pastor will return from abroad just in time to catch his breath and get us moving right into the Lenten season. "Fat Tuesday" is February 28 and we will celebrate with the usual fabulous pancake supper. The season of Lent begins the next day with the celebration of Ash Wednesday, March 1, with services at noon and 7 pm. We will

have our traditional Wednesday Lenten services at 12:30 and 7 pm, each preceded by lunch at 11:30 am, or light evening meal at 6 pm. All mid-day services will be at First Lutheran, and we will continue to share evening services with Christ Lutheran: 7pm at *First* on March 8, 22 and April 5, and at *Christ* on March 15 and 29. We encourage you to come and enjoy the food and fellowship, and to participate in these special Lenten services.

Maintenance of our (I hate to say it) aging facility is ongoing. You have been hearing hints about what is, or may be, on the horizon ... and we will continue to advise you of our efforts to keep our entire facility perking along in good order.

The electrical upgrade project is complete and we are making strides in paying down the loan. Please continue to contribute to this project as you are able.

We are going to be making every effort for this year to be a year of involvement ... no matter who you are, how long (or how briefly) you have been a member, no matter your age, your sex, your stage of
(Continued on next page)

From Your Church Council (Continued)

accomplishment ... we are sure there is a place or activity that is especially right for you to become more involved in your church. Again that song comes to mind and rings true ... "The more we get together, the

happier we'll be" ... the more we come together in various ways, the happier we'll be. It is in the relationships that we are strong ... especially our relationship with God and with our church family. We all want

to be happy ... so, this year let's all get together ...more ...!

Andrea Brock, Council President

D.U.N. Committee

On Sunday, January 29th, the DUN committee will provide lunch following the congregational meeting. Please join us in the fellowship hall. There will be a variety of soups,

sandwiches, and desserts. At the children's table will be peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, microwaveable macaroni & cheese, jello, and desserts.

We will have our meeting on Sunday, February 26th, at 9:30. Come join us in the Holy Grounds Cafe. We will discuss previous events and what plans we have for future events.

Baptisms

Luke Nelson Davis

And

Benjamin Bradley Davis



Council is happy to welcome Carol Petersen, Ann Abele, and Katie Farinash.

GO TO OUR WEBSITE:

FIRSTLUTHERANPARKERSBURG.COM

Lunch on Tuesdays

Each Tuesday, we provide a lunch for the men from the correctional facility who receive community service hours by volunteering at our church. They do odd jobs around the church through the winter and help in the gardens in the other seasons. (Thursday is also a work day in seasons beyond winter) The men from the church who volunteer also eat with the men. They break for lunch at 12:30 pm.

Will you share your cooking with these men for a meal?

It could simply be dropping off a casserole or lasagna on Sunday or Monday with reheating directions. Someone else can take care of setting the meal up!

OR

You could bring lunch over (or even prepare it in the kitchen!) and set up the buffet for the men to go through when it's time to eat. There is usually ice cream in the large freezer that the men enjoy as an easy dessert.

This is a very interesting ministry. It gives these men, some of whom have been

incarcerated for years, an opportunity to talk to you about their lives, about their families, to sit without fear of others. They are people, like you and me, who have made poor choices. However, they also can see that we care for them by the time we spend eating and talking over this meal. I think your eyes would be opened and your heart blessed if you would provide a meal.

There is a sign up on the bulletin board outside of the office. Contact Don Ery, Linda Dally or Becca Reid if you have any questions!

Cookeez Sale-2016

Thanks to everyone for making our annual Cookeez Sale a success. Thanks to the bakers, baggers, and those who purchased the yummy cookies, candies, and crafts. Our total was around \$1,300. All the proceeds will go to providing

nutritional lunches to our two community garden workers. We served approximately 200 lunches during the 2016 garden season. What a wonderful mission our gardens are, giving a great opportunity to aid in

the rehabilitation of the correction center young men.

Our lunches were anywhere from hot dogs to complete turkey dinners! The young men love the lunches. Hopefully, this year we'd like to have more "guest chefs"!

Please Return!

Missing two volumes of Luther's Works from the church library, 24 and

29. If you have finished with them, please return. If still reading,

please let the church know you have them. Thank you!

What Are You Doing??????

What is the goal of your Backpack Ministry? We are fulfilling the Gospel of "Go out and do what Jesus would do by taking care of others". Some of the students at Jefferson Elementary identified as "at risk" require temporary intervention to succeed academically. The school nurse working with the class room teachers have identified more than 70 children they report as "at risk". It is by your Backpack Ministry that weekend food is supplied to those identified children

who have no way on their own to obtain needed weekend food that their families either cannot or do not provide. God has opened our hearts and eyes to this situation in our community. Through your efforts your ministry is doing its small share to feed the hungry and provide to the children "at risk". This has been possible through your contributions of time, food, and financial support. Our challenge has been greater this school year than

any other year in our history of serving Jefferson Elementary. We ask that you consider contributing time, food or money to our ongoing efforts to do the work of the Gospel as you decide on your 2017 giving. We want to continue God's charge to us to do all possible to make sure we contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger in our community. Please help.

Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner

February 28th at 6 pm
Come out and eat pancakes and other breakfast foods as we look to the start of Lent. We will take dona-

tions for those affected by the flooding in West Virginia last June. All money raised at this event will go to Community Lutheran Partners

Disaster Response Fund. Contact Becca Reid at 304-966-6430 if you would like to provide a breakfast item!

Looking Ahead

Looking Ahead: Ash Wednesday is March 1st! Services will be held at 12

pm and 7 pm. No meals will be served this day at the church. Make this service

the beginning of your Lenten journey to simplify and focus on Christ

February Youth Events

February 5

String Art Heart- A 'lovely' craft that will pull at your heart-STRINGS!

Bring a hammer if you have one!



February 12- Pottery Place-FAMILY EVENT: meet at 5 pm in the mall to paint a piece! Each child will receive an item up to \$15 to paint, so bring the whole family! All ages are welcome to join in the fun!

February 17-18- 6 pm Friday until 6 pm Saturday begin fasting after lunch on Friday (around noon), then come to the church just in time to miss dinner! We'll be doing activities to teach us about hunger others face, community service projects and raising funds for World Vision.

February 19- NO YOUTH (recuperate from the famine!)

February 26- Mardi Gras! Let's do some colorful activities and get ready for the Shrove Tuesday dinner!

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER

On Tuesday, February 28th at 6 pm, we will have a breakfast for dinner at the church! It's our Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday... whatever you'd like to call it! Just don't miss it!! This year, your donation will go to support Community Lutheran Partners as they continue to assist in the flood relief from June 2016.

We'll have breakfast casseroles, a make your own waffle bar, and King Cake! Mark your calendar and bring your appetite and donation to CLP!

WORLD VISION'S 30 HOUR FAMINE

30 Hour Famine

Each year, as the season is almost ready to burst into spring, our youth take a stand- they stop eating to bring awareness to those who can't help going without. World Vision's 30 Hour Famine provides many educational activities and connections to God's call for us to help those in need. We raise funds that go around the globe to provide food and basic needs to those they can help.

\$40 feeds a child for a

month. Make a contribution to one of our youth by writing a check made out to WORLD VISION and giving it to one of them. **We hope to raise \$2,500 this year!**

If you are free, join us on Saturday, February 18th for a Communion service at 5:45 pm to break our fast, and dinner at 6 pm!

BLESSING BOX

"Take what you need for today, leave what you can for others. Above all, be blessed."

As part of our 30 Hour Famine, the youth will be placing a Blessing Box near the garden. It will contain items for those in our community to take as they need, or leave as they are able. The News & Sentinel has graciously donated a newspaper box for us to use as our container. We will stock it with items such as hats, gloves, socks, chapstick, tissues- things that will help those who may be out in the cool air. The hope is that the community (and you as you see fit) will help supply the items that will help others. Watch the Facebook page for updates on supplies needed or that you can find in the box!

Door Greeters

Please be at front door by 10:15 a.m. and remain until service begins at 10:45 a.m.

The schedule for each month will be in the First Word.

Your service is an important opportunity to serve

the church in this way-and especially for visitors and newcomers to feel welcome and comfortable.

As I start this new venture as Greeter Coordinator I will appreciate all your help and if I don't contact you,

please give me a call at 1-740-423-7794 if you would like to serve or have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mary Parrish

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Marilyn and I would like to express our deep appreciation for the cards and prayers during my nine week stay in St. Paul, Mn. Hospitals. We have often talked about the love and affection we have received from the congregation over the years that we have been members.

The doctors who treated me told me that I was lucky to survive. They also told me that my recovery went very well. We believe that the prayers on our behalf played an important role.

For those of you not familiar with Myasthenia Gravis (I had never heard of it before) it is an autoimmune disorder in which the signal to the nerves is blocked preventing muscles from functioning properly and becoming weaker. The effects of the disease combined with nine weeks in bed have left me very weak. I am getting stronger every day and am getting around well using a walker.

I am continuing to be treated for my immune system disorder and for my weakened swallowing muscles. As soon as my immune system has recovered to the point where we feel safe in a crowd we will be back in church.

Your friends in Christ,
Marilyn and Doug Farr

Just a note to say thank you to my church for all the thoughtful cards I received. They all were opened at once when I got home from the hospital. I felt God's love! Also, thank you for the prayer shawl, and all the prayers.

Feeling God's Grace of Healing & Love,
Julie Stroehman

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
Feb. 5	Jerry Harman	Kent Hasbargen
Feb. 12	Lawrence Hasbargen	Marcia VanDeVelde
Feb. 19	Alec Smith	Betty Smith
Feb. 26	Adeline Smith	Karen Creel

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date	10:45 service
Feb. 5	Lewis and Karen Creel
Feb. 12	Lee and Barb Peterson
Feb. 19	Mike and Ann Struble
Feb. 26	Marcia VanDeVelde and Carole Carter

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

Date	10:45 service
Feb. 5	Dan and Ann Cooper
Feb. 12	Roger and Julie Davis
Feb. 19	Don and Judy Ery
Feb. 26	Brian and Penny Green

	8:30 service
	Lawrence and Lyndall Hasbargen, Donnie Fosselman, and Stan Null

Mary Parrish is always looking for door greeters to welcome people as they come to the 10:45 service on Sunday mornings. Please contact Mary Parrish 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 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Pastor's Class 10:00 a.m. Handbells 6:30 p.m. Bereavement 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30 p.m.	2 Groundhog Day Pastor's Class 6:00 p.m.	3	4
5 Souper Bowl of Giving Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Youth 5:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	6 Praise Team At Church 7:00 p.m.	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	8 Handbells 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30 p.m. Church Council 6:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Praise Team at Worthington 2:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	13 Praise Team At Eagle Pointe 7:00 pm	14 St. Valentine's Day Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	15 Handbells 6:30 pm Bereavement 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30 p.m.	16	17 30 Hour Famine Starts at 6:00 p.m.	18 First Word Articles Due 30 hour Famine Ends at 6:00 p.m.
19 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	20 President's Day Praise Team At Church 7:00 pm	21 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	22 Handbells 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 DUN meeting 9:30 am Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 Evening Service 6:30 Transfiguration of Our Lord	27 Praise Team At Church 7:00 pm	28 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m. Mardi Gras Dinner 6:00 p.m.	1 Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes at Noon and 7:00 p.m.			



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)

304-428-2867 (Fax)

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, **Katie Farinash**

Ann Abele, 304-850-4318

Carol Petersen, 304-863-6891

Keith Curry, 304-482-0147

Chris Davis, 304-210-7931

Robert Fluharty, 304-485-3484

Mary Lewis, 740-989-2243

Betty Smith, 304-863-5569

Rose Poellot, 304-893-9334

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

Non-Profit Org.
Postage
PAID
Parkersburg, WV
Permit No. 9

First Lutheran Church



1701 Nineteenth Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101