

THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

APRIL 2021

And now, what are we to do?

After Jesus ascended into heaven, my guess is the disciples looked at each other and said, "Where do we go from here?" As long as Jesus was alive, the disciples had one singular purpose, which was to follow Jesus. Now that Jesus was no longer leading the movement from a human standpoint, it meant things had to change. The followers of Jesus had to discern for themselves and the body of Christ what Jesus meant by "going and making disciples of all nations." Matthew 28:19 Imagine all the excitement the disciples must have felt about the possibilities of this movement, especially after experiencing the Holy Spirit work on Pentecost and yet the fear of failure, persecution, and the movement becoming irrelevant without Christ being physically present.

Something tells me that when the disciples gathered, they did not just talk about their fears after Christ's death on the Cross, but also about how they envision the work of God moving forward. I am sure some thought it would be prudent to stay in Jerusalem and concentrate on developing a strong base before branching out, while others felt that

the urgency to share the Gospel meant they had to learn on the goliterally. We know from several of the New Testament letters that the disciples and even church communities did not always agree on the best course of action. What kept the early church together and even to this day is not unity of thought, but instead love for God and the desire to be in fellowship with one another.

We, as a church body, have similarly experienced a lot of anxiety over this past year as not only our normal lives but also the traditional church experiences we value so much were thrown into chaos by the Covid pandemic. At times, it has been easy to be united as the body of Christ because when the disease was hitting close to home, we had a common concern for ourselves and our neighbors' well-being. However, now as the present covid danger seems to be somewhat mitigated by vaccines and better covid chart numbers, we find ourselves in different places on our comfort level in returning to our daily tasks.

We are truly blessed here at First Lutheran to have people with such varied backgrounds that bring about a vast array of wisdom. Some of our sisters and brothers see this as a great time to boldly reach out to the community and gather new people into our fellowship, while others still feel we should be more methodical and cautious in our approach to gathering. Both of these perspectives are valid and faithful. First Lutheran's church council and I are trying to do our best to prayerfully lead this congregation as we strive to seek what God would have us to do at this present moment.

What I ask from you is that you might continue to keep First Lutheran and its leaders in prayer and that you continue to be understanding of the challenges we have ahead of us just as you have been doing for the past year. Though we might not always agree wholeheartedly with the process, let us remind ourselves we are united in the common goal of striving to love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor Ian B. Reid

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FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT -

As described in last month's newsletter, your church council is transitioning to a new committee structure to become more efficient in addressing the needs of our church. During our March council meeting we finalized the following council member committee assignments for this year:

Mutual Ministry – Jim Hamric and Ryan Lowers,

Worship & Music – Jarad Ice and Mary Lewis,

Property – Tom Curry and Brian Nokleby,

Outreach – Gerry Kohler and Carol Petersen,

Education – Robyn Rice and Lisa Hutzler,

Finance – Lisa Martin, Emmie Martin, and Doug Woolley (adhoc).

During this next month, the committee leaders will be working on their charters and identifying members of the congregation who can assist in each area. Some committees already have dedicated people performing the needed tasks, while other committees may need to ask the congregation for some help. We have lots of work to do, and we will need VOLUNTEERS to assist. If you are asked to volunteer, please pray about joining together with several others to help out. I will continue to provide updates on council's progress as we get these committees up and running.

In reviewing our February financial report, council found that our monthly expenses were higher than

predicted while monthly income from offerings was down, putting us about \$9,661 in the red for February. Please continue to faithfully support the work of your church with your offerings as you are able. Council reviewed the current COVID numbers, which show Wood County has currently returned to green status (the lowest category of spread). We will continue to follow CDC guidelines of masks and social distancing while inside our facilities, but we are also restarting in-person group activities such as adult and children's Sunday School, Women's Bible Study, Tuesday morning Men's gathering, and inperson council meetings. Hymnals have been returned to the pews, and the choir is singing. It certainly feels great to be safely worshipping and fellowshipping inperson once again! Council has decided to postpone reopening the nursery, and has not yet given the OK for any event where food is served (i.e. - Lent dinners and Easter breakfast). In Property Committee news, we are excited to announce that refurbishment of our front Sanctuary steps and sidewalks will begin soon. A contract for \$9,900 was signed with a local company, Plumb Level Services, to do Phase 1 of a 4phase project. Phase 1 involves complete replacement of the steps and sidewalks for the Parsonage side entrance. This is where one step has already caved in, creating a safety issue. Work will begin the week after Easter, at which time this side entrance to the Narthex will be blocked off. Once this first phase is completed, we will need to kick off a fund raiser for the

remaining phases of the project, and a special congregation meeting will be needed to approve the \$27,000 additional cost. In other council business, we heard a report from the Music staff and Pastor on ideas for re-starting two services for the summer. Two services are planned for Easter Sunday due to social distancing, after which we will continue with one Sunday service during month of April. In May we plan on returning to two Sunday morning services and will also have a celebratory reopening of the Holy Grounds Café outside, weather permitting! Stay tuned for more details. Council hopes each of you has been able to participate in the meaningful Lent activities and services being offered by your church. Have you had the opportunity to follow Pastor Ian's stories of his journey to the Holy Land which he has been giving weekly on Facebook Live? Speaking of our beloved Pastor, don't forget that April 6th is his birthday (and the number "40" pops into my head for some reason)! How many of you have tried the weekly soup recipes that have been shared in lieu of our Lent dinners? I think we are blessed with some excellent cooks in our congregation!

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

Yours in Christ,
Doug Woolley

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A note from your Treasurer -

2021 Financial Information:

	February 2021	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Total Income	\$19,603	\$43,197
Total Expense:	(\$29,264)	(\$52,552)
Gain or Loss for Month/Year:	(\$9,661)	(\$9,325)

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



Did you know you can give to the church by linking up your Kroger reward card with Community Rewards? Then Kroger will give us a portion of your spending!

Use code **HJ264** to find First Lutheran Church!



If you use Amazon, consider using amazon smile! With amazon smile, a portion of what you spend will be giving back to the church. With no extra charge to you! Just use:

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With GivePlus Mobile you can express your generosity easily from your phone.







- 1. Download the app
- Find First Lutheran Church by typing our Zip Code 26101
- 3. Choose the amount and how often you would like to give to the church.

Any questions?
Contact Paul Freeman.
304-488-1841

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April Youth & Family Events

All events start at 5 pm unless noted otherwise

April 3 (SATURDAY) - Easter Egg Hunt - 10 am - Youth from our church are invited to hunt some eggs and enjoy time on the church lawn. Please RSVP to Becca Reid or Lori Butler if you plan to have your children/grandchildren attend. This event is only for our church family and friends. We will not be advertising to the public.

April 4 (EASTER) - NO YOUTH

April 11 - City Park play date: Let those kids run around and play! We'll get pizza for dinner to eat in the pavilion.

April 18 - Outside games: Get outside and get creative with how we play. Come and have some fun!

<u>April 25- Planting flowers:</u> We will be planting flowers in the flower beds and pots around the church. Wear some clothes that can get dirty and let's get to work making the church grounds look great!



Vacation Bible School is coming!!!

Mark your calendar! July 5-9 will be our Vacation Bible School for this year!

We will once again be partnering with Trinity Episcopal Church as we share stories from the Word of God. If you would like to volunteer to lead an area or help out in some way, we would love that! Find a buddy and join in the fun together!! Let Lori Butler or Becca Reid know you are willing to lend a hand.

From Shandra Ice

Choir has started back up!!

Practice is Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

If you are interested in joining,

please contact Shandra.

Sunday School is back in person!

Join us for in person Sunday School
at 9 am!

Julie Davis is teaching Beyond the Basics adult class.

Becca Reid and Lori Butler are teaching the children's Sunday school class.

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Food Pantry News:

We thank you for your support of the "souper bowl" competition. You surpassed any goals that I could have imagined. Congratulations to the North End side of town on your victory! The church food pantry is doing well. We appreciate the response of our members in stepping up to help in the pantry. Thank you to Mrs. Nenow and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Peterson. Many thanks to all that volunteer on truck day.

We do expect our client numbers to temporarily be reduced due to income tax returns and government stimulus funds. I believe our numbers could be reduced by 20% for about 4-5 weeks. That is what we experienced last March and April. But, I could be wrong. We never know how many people will need our help weekly. Most of our clients are low in the poverty levels and do not file federal taxes and some do not receive stimulus checks due to many reasons.

If you have any thoughts of wanting to volunteer, this would be a great time for orientation and meeting the other volunteers during the slow days. Come to the pantry on Tuesday or Wednesday from 9:30-11:30am .

I will continue to manage remotely for awhile. The pantry staff is doing a terrific job of taking care of our clients and their needs. Their love and concern for others is amazing. I saw a client at the grocery store and she told me she referred two families to our pantry and wanted to know if that was ok. I told her that it was fine and the staff would take good care of them. She said that she told them to go to First Lutheran Church, because, "They Care!"

In Christ, Susie McNemar Food Truck Day April 22nd Volunteers always welcome!

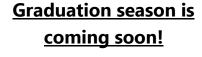




Changes are coming to our Sunday Service!



- * Have two services again! One at 8:30 am following the contemporary style and the other at 10:45 am for the traditional service.
- * The Holy Grounds Cafè will be up and running between services, HOWEVER, it will only be outside, weather permitting!



Be sure to give the name of your graduate (High School or College) to Lori Butler for recognition! You can email her at mlbutler@k12.wv.us.



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Community Garden April 2021

If you have looked around the church grounds lately you may have noticed some signs of life at the community garden beside the parking lot. Yes, March weather has been finicky, as usual, but work is getting done. The main tasks so far are to clean up some of the area and get a jump on weeds here and there. Much of the planting area has been tilled, and we are in the process of getting beds ready for seeds and plants. The garden date for Becca's MOPS group was postponed to Friday, March 26 at 10AM, and we plan to have a work party Saturday, March 27th from 10-12N.

In addition to continuing the clean-up and organization effort over the next few weeks, we need to get some things planted. Right now we can plant onions, carrots, lettuce, peas and cabbage. We have some "home-grown" cabbage plants to put out, and will be using seeds for peas and carrots. There is always work to be done in a garden, but it can be cathartic after a year of quarantine. Extra hands also make the tasks easier (and more fun)! Feel free to come join the effort on any work day listed below, or any other day you feel so inclined. See you there!

Scheduled garden work days:

March: 26 (MOPS), 27th, both 10 am -12 N

April: 17th, 24th, both 10-12 May: 8th, 22nd, both 10-12

For the time being, additional work days and times will be announced to all those interested using email, text, or phone. If you are one of those who wants to help or just wants to know what's going on, please send us your contact info using your favorite means of communication. Emails can go to the church office (flcsec@yahoo.com) or to Mike Lockney (mlockney@outlook.com). If you'd rather get a text or a call, send your contact number to Pastor Reid or to Mike Lockney at 304-615-3981. We'll let you know when work is planned. There will also be occasional planning meetings, for now using Zoom. All are welcome to be part of this "growing" experience!

Mike Lockney



<u>Updated Addresses</u> <u>for your Directory:</u>

Barbara McDowell 517 Shelden Ave. Apt #402 Houghton, MI 49931

> Mark Mehlbaum 1393 Murphytown Rd Davisville, WV 26142

Mary Parrish 1519 Bel Del Court Belpre, OH 45714

The Bread of Life Scholarship Fund Supported these Community Organizations for Spring 2021

FLC Community Garden \$500
FLC Food Pantry \$500
WV-WMD Camp Luther \$500
Community Lutheran Partners \$1,000
WVU Campus Ministry \$1,000
Faith Link \$1,000
Hope Recovery Manor \$1,000
Mothers of Preschoolers at EBC \$1,000
Young Life of the Mid Ohio Valley \$1,000

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LUTHER GOLF LEAGUE

The Luther Golf League will once again be held at the Worthington Golf Course located on 3414 Roseland Avenue in Parkersburg. We plan to start the 2021 season on Monday, May 3rd, at 5:00 pm. The fee is \$14 and that includes half a cart.

We are not sure about having designated games each week. If we do, every player would need to put \$2.00 in the pot to be included. Each week we would have two holes with skill competitions. Winners would split the pot for that day. If anyone is willing to organize the skills competitions please contact Cindy Lockney (304-615-3231), Andrea Brock (304-485-5162), or Lori Butler (304-481-4765) before May 3rd.

The potluck dinner we normally have to kick off the season will not be held this year. If the COVID situation improves we may organize an end of season event. We need contact info from all wishing to play in the league. Be sure to fill out the form and return to church either by dropping it in the offering plate or bringing it on Monday, May 3rd. The season will end September 27th. There will be no league play on Memorial Day or Labor Day. July 4th is to be decided. Contact info is needed to inform everyone if golf is canceled due to inclement weather.

Skill level is not important! This is time for fun and fellowship! Bring a friend! Looking forward to a great season!

Interested in joining the league? Fill out the form below and get it back to Cindy, Andrea, or Lori!

NAME
CONTACT NUMBER
EMAIL
CONTACT (PICK ONE) TEXT VOICE MESSAGE EMAIL
SHOULD WE HAVE SKILL COMPETITIONS? YES OR NO

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April 2021 Hymns and Scriptures

In effort to ensure that everyone has the information for the services on Sundays, the Hymns for the 10 am service and the Scripture verses for both services, it will now be printed in the First Word!

April 4: Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Processional	Jesus Christ is Risen Today	LBW 151	First Reading	Acts 10:34-43
Offering	Empty Now	Choir	Psalm Reading	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Communion	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!	LBW 144	Second Reading	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Recessional	Christ is Risen! Alleluia!	LBW 131	Gospel Reading	Mark 16:1-8

April 11: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Processional	Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds	LBW 143	First Reading	Acts 4:32-35
Offering	TBD	Choir	Psalm Reading	Psalm 133
Communion	We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight	WOV 675	Second Reading	1 John 1:12:2
Recessional	Thine Is the Glory	LBW 145	Gospel Reading	John 20:19-31

April 18: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Processional	The Joyful Eastertide	WOV 676	First Reading	Acts 3:12-19
Offering	TBD	Choir	Psalm Reading	Psalm 4
Communion	Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bonds	LBW 134	Second Reading	1 John 3:1-7
Recessional	Lord, You Give the Great Commission	WOV 756	Gospel Reading	Luke 24:36b-48

April 25: 4th Sunday of Easter

Processional	The Lord's My Shepherd	LBW 451	First Reading	Acts 4:5-12
Offering	TBD	Choir Psalm Reading		Psalm 23
Communion	At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing	LBW 210	Second Reading	1 John 3:16-24
Recessional	The King of Love My Shepherd Is	LBW 456	Gospel Reading	John 10:11-18

Please note: Depending on COVID numbers, communion may not be served and we will not sing a communion hymn.



Holy Week & Easter Worship:

Stations of the Cross will be in the parking lot all week starting Sunday, March 28th

Sunday, March 28th - Palm Sunday - 10 am in person and Facebook LIVE.

The Service will be entirely inside this year.

Thursday, April 1st - Maundy Thursday - 12 pm and 7:00 pm

Both services in person with Communion and will include First Communicants 7 pm service will be on Facebook LIVE.

Friday, April 2nd - Good Friday - 7:00 pm in person and Facebook LIVE.

Saturday, April 3rd - Saturday Vigil - 7:00 pm in person

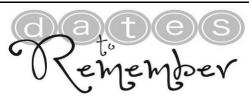
Will include a baptism

Sunday, April 4th - Easter - 8:30 am and 10:00 am in person and Facebook LIVE.

Two services to ensure social distancing.

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Upcoming Events



APRIL

Our Church is currently open for in-person worship in the Sanctuary. The Church building is gradually opening to meetings. Watch/listen for 'ONE CALL' updates. Strict rules will continue to apply to everyone who enters our Church building. Until further notice --everyone will wear a face mask and social distance when in the facility, and sit in assigned seats when Sanctuary is open.

Sundays:

8:30-9:30 am – ZOOM Fellowship Hour 9 am – Sunday School in person 10 am –worship in Sanctuary with communion, and on *Facebook LIVE*

NOTE: Drive-up Communion on Sundays during April in Alley - 11:15 am-1:00 pm (Please enter alley from parking lot side)

YOUTH GROUP: Please refer to details in this issue for April events

Tuesdays:

9 am - Men's Gathering 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study

Stations of the Cross will be in the parking lot all of Holy Week starting Sunday, March 28th

PALM SUNDAY – March 28 – 10:00 am (in-person and Facebook LIVE)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: April 1, 2, 3

- * Maundy Thursday Noon in person and 7:00 pm in person and on LIVE with Communion at both services and First Communicants at evening service
- * Good Friday 7:00 pm service in person and on LIVE
- <u>Saturday Vigil</u> 7:00 pm service in person only with baptism

EASTER EGG HUNT - April 3 - 10:00 am outside

EASTER SUNDAY - April 4 8:30 and 10:45 am in person and on LIVE

Sunday services in April - 11,18,25 - 10:00 am

Garden Work Days April 17th and 24th 10a - 12p

Plans are to return to two Sunday services on May 2 – 8:30 and 10:45 am – to be confirmed

Please stay safe and well!

NOTE

Sunday bulletins are emailed with the OneCall Now system. There are 2 styles now, since the hymnals are now back in the pews. One bulletin attachment says "IN PERSON" and the other says "AT HOME". The "AT HOME" has the liturgy for you to follow if you are watching via Facebook Live. If you come in person, you can print the "IN PERSON" bulletin and bring it with you or there will be some printed you can have.

If you need Pastoral care, please contact Pastor Ian on his cell phone or call the church office at (304) 428-6174.

The church office is still not open normal business hours, however, Amanda still has access to the email and phone Monday - Thursday from 9am - 3pm.

If you need assistance for anything, please call the church office (304)428-6174 or email the church at flcsec@yahoo.com and she will be able to answer..

The voicemail is monitored as well, so you can also leave a message and she will reply as soon as possible.

Alzheimer's Support Group has started meeting again the first Wednesday of each month at 1pm. For more information contact

Joe Lantz MSW/LCSW at 304 422-9293.

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APRIL 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Stations of the Cross will be in the parking lot starting Sunday, March 28th for Holy Week				1 Worship Service 12pm Worship Service 7pm First Communicants *Maunday Thursday*	2 Good Friday Service 7pm *Good Friday*	3 Easter Vigil Service 7pm *Easter Vigil*
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship Service 8:30am Worship Service 10:45am In person & Facebook LIVE Drive thru Communion 11:15am-1pm		Men's Gathering 9am Food Pantry 9:30am - 11:30am Woman's Bible Study 6:30pm	Food Pantry 9:30am - 11:30am Alzheimer's Group 1pm			
EASTER						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ZOOM Fellowship Hour 8:30am Sunday School 9am Worship Service 10am In person & Facebook LIVE Drive thru Communion 11:15am-1pm	Staff Meeting 11am	Men's Gathering 9am Food Pantry 9:30am - 11:30am Woman's Bible Study 6:30pm	Food Pantry 9:30am - 11:30am Finance Committee 7pm			First Word Articles DUE
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
ZOOM Fellowship Hour 8:30am Sunday School 9am Worship Service 10am VIA Facebook LIVE Drive thru Communion 11:15am-1pm		Men's Gathering 9am Food Pantry 9:30am - 11:30am Woman's Bible Study 6:30pm	Food Pantry 9:30am - 11:30am Council Meeting 6pm	Food Truck Day		Garden Work Day 10a- 12p
25	26	27	28	29	30	
ZOOM Fellowship Hour 8:30am Sunday School 9am Worship Service 10am VIA Facebook LIVE Drive thru Communion 11:15am-1pm		Men's Gathering 9am Food Pantry 9:30am - 11:30am Woman's Bible Study 6:30pm	Food Pantry 9:30am - 11:30am			

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LIST OF INDOOR FACILITY USES APPROVED BY COUNCIL:

SANCTUARY:

- 1) In-Sanctuary worship Sunday mornings 10-11:30 am. (also on Facebook Live). Seating limits apply.
- 2) In-Sanctuary Lent services Wednesdays 12 noon and 7 pm. Also scheduled services during Holy week. Seating limits apply.
- 3) In-Sanctuary funerals may be held in Sanctuary on Tue, Wed, or Thur. only. Seating limits apply.

FELLOWSHIP HALL:

- 1) Weekly Men's Gathering Tuesday mornings 9 10:30 am.
- 2) Monthly Alzheimer's Group (Joe Lantz) 1st Wed. 1:00 pm (when they resume meeting).
- 3) Monthly Staff meeting. Monday before Council meeting, 11 am.
- 4) Monthly Council meeting. 3rd Wednesday evening, 6 pm.

EDUCATION BUILDING - 1st FLOOR:

- 1) Church office and Financial office. Hours vary.
- 2) Back Hallway. Food Pantry Tues. & Wed. 9:30 11:30 am, plus food truck deliveries.
- 3) Choir Room. Choir practice Wednesdays 7:30 pm (as scheduled).
- 4) Library & Parlor. Adult Sunday school Sunday mornings 9:00 am.
- 5) Library & Parlor. Women's Bible Study Tuesday evenings 6:30 pm.
- 6) Room next to Nursery. Backpack Ministry (as needed).
- 7) Pastor's office.

EDUCATION BUILDING - 2nd FLOOR:

1) Sunday School opening room. Children's in-person Sunday School - Sunday mornings 9 am.

NOTES: 1) Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and Education buildings have been reopened to pre-scheduled meetings and events which have been approved by Council. Masks and social distancing rules apply.

2) The status of the WV State's color coded chart for Wood County is being monitored to help determine our church operations and facility closures. If Wood County moves to ORANGE, all in-person meetings and facility uses would be temporarily cancelled (except worship services, food pantry, and individual office use). If Wood County moves to RED, in-person worship would also be temporarily cancelled and replaced with Facebook Live only.



PASTOR

The Rev. Ian Reid

(email: pastorianreid@gmail.com)

CHURCH OFFICE

Amanda Whitlatch 304-428-6174 (email: flcsec@yahoo.com) Open by appointment Monday through Thursday; Closed Friday

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Becca Reid

304-966-6430 (email: cup_nstu@yahoo.com)

NURSERY STAFF

Our nursery is currently closed

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Morning Worship, in Sanctuary when possible - 10:00 am

• First visit? Please call ahead to reserve your seat

- Masks and social distancing required

HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED:

During Sunday Morning Worship in Sanctuary when possible Drive-through by Rear Alley overhang entrance -

Sundays 11 am - 1 pm

WEBSITE: firstlutheranparkersburg.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

Doug Woolley, President, 304-295-9502

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

Jared Ice, Secretary, 304-771-7177

Tom Curry, 304-834-4008

Jim Hamric, 304-483-2727

Lisa Hutzler, 304-295.5040

Gerry Kohler, 304-991-5506

Mary Lewis, 740-989-2243

Dr. Ryan Lowers, 304-834-9777

Brian Nokleby, 304-375-2260

Carol Petersen, 304-863-6891

Robyn Rice, 304-488-6773

Lisa Martin, Treasurer Appointed, 304-422-8240

Elizabeth Martin, Treasurer Appointed,

304-422-8240

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