



# THE TREE OF LIFE

*"Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, be for all the noblest tree; none in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit your equal be; symbol of the world's redemption, for your burden makes us free."*

## THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE [OF GOOD AND EVIL] - March 1,4

Text: Genesis 2: 8-9, 15-18; 3: 22-24

<sup>15</sup>The Lord GOD took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord GOD commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

## THE BURNING BUSH - March 8, 11

Text: Exodus 3: 1-16

<sup>2</sup>There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ... God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

## JONAH AND THE BUSH - March 15, 18

Text: Jonah 4

Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

## THE MUSTARD SHRUB - March 22,25

Text: Mark 4: 30-32

The kingdom of God "is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

## THE TREE OF THE CROSS - March 29, April 1

Text: Galatians 3: 10-14 [also Rev. 21: 22—22:5]

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" — <sup>14</sup>in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.



## Wednesday Lenten Services

Joyous Light  
Wednesdays during Lent,  
7:00

March 4, 11, 18, 25  
April 1

(Soup Suppers at 5:45)

A setting of evening prayer, offered in thanksgiving as daylight gives way to the night. Ray Makeever gives new shape to the song and psalms of an order of worship that has long brought a holy rest to the people of God. Join us at 7:00 on Wednesdays of lent as we reflect and prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection.



From March 1 to April 5, Pastor Bob's Sunday School class will experience best-selling author/pastor Max Lucado's series, "How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations."

Our culture tries to convince us there is one way to happiness. Happiness depends on what we hang in our closet, park in our garage, and deposit in our bank account. Yet, it's a path that always fails to deliver. In this video Bible study, Lucado looks at several "one another" statements in the Bible that are pathways to lasting joy...

- 😊 Accept one another
- 😊 Bear with one another
- 😊 Serve one another
- 😊 Forgive one another
- 😊 Carry one another's burdens
- 😊 Love one another



# From Our Librarian



Hello to all of you up north. We will be home soon. Fresh fish. Sun. Sand. I truly feel so thankful that Paul and I have this chance to spend time together doing what we enjoy...fishing and boating and relaxing.

In the meantime, I suppose you wonder about the plethora of Reader's Digest Fiction and non-Fiction books on the book cart while we are gone. Well, today, the topic is "Yes, You Can Find Time to Read." (based on an article in [Real Simple](#)). Now, I have always loved to read. I am appalled when I hear someone say "I don't like to read" or I don't have time to read." I feel that reading condensed books is just as grand as reading the whole book if that is what you have time for. I read the condensed version of *The Glory and the Dream* by William Manchester and learned more than I could process at the time; it still made me want to read the full version of the book. So, help yourself to Paul's and my library of Condensed Books; enjoy and return to the library when you are finished.

Try some or all of the following strategies to make time to read:

**Drop Misconceptions.** You do not **have** to finish a book – if you don't look forward to continue reading a book, that's probably a sign that you should move on. Skip around. Read the ending. Also, reading isn't a race and there's nothing wrong with going slowly. Nor **must** you read a "big" book. Read a short story collection. Look for innovative new things to discover. Read a comic book, essays, parts of books.

**Break things up.** Read in short bursts - standing in line - for that matter waiting anywhere, keep a book handy.

**Eliminate distractions.** Turn off your devices if you can. When you are reading, you are reading. Or **Use your tech to advantage.** Use the e-reader on your phone. How about audio books while cleaning, driving, walking the dog, exercising? Download books from the library and try them. If you don't enjoy the read, it will soon disappear.

**Tweak your habits.** Our habits are cued. So, create a cue for reading. Leave a book by your bedside. Then, reward yourself when you finish ten pages of reading. Leave little stacks of books in places where you can see them to remind you that you **WANT** to read. (Now I, on the other hand, reward myself for doing something I don't like to do by allowing myself time to read a chapter or ten pages.)

**Organize and track your progress.** Pledge to complete a reading challenge on the website Goodreads (I shared the challenge several months ago in this newsletter). Check out the "Read Harder Challenge" from the website Book Riot. Or sign up for Book Bub to get ideas from authors you love. Keep a list of your thoughts or quotations from certain books.

**Make it interactive.** Join a book club. It is really enjoyable to get together and discuss a book. Join our church book club. The Findlay-Hancock County Public Library also has several book discussion groups. Talk with your friends about what you are reading. (It beats talking about politics.) Do parallel reading - this summer, while visiting my nephew and his family, I watched parallel reading in action. Every afternoon, instead of demanding the kids take naps and then putting up with the crying and whining, etc., we all celebrated "quiet time". Each went to his or her room with a book and read. Sometimes one or more would fall asleep anyway.

**Remember to have fun.** Don't let all these ideas take out the enjoyment of reading. Just do it. God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

## WELCA Calendar of Events for March

**Mar 10** - Martha Circle  
9:00 am  
Church Library  
Hostess: Sue DeMoss  
Leader: Jane Ebersole

**Mar 10** - Rachel Circle  
9:30 am  
Church Lounge  
Hostess: Carolyn Bryant  
Leader: Barb Larick

**Mar 16** - Hannah Circle  
7:00 pm  
Church Lounge  
Hostess: Arlene Schriener  
Leader: Nina Dukes

**Mar 29** - Cookie Sunday  
Martha Circle

Once a woman was asked, "What did you gain by regularly praying to God? The woman replied, ***"nothing...but let me tell you what I lost: Anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death."*** Sometimes the answer to our prayers is not gaining, but losing; which ultimately is the gain.



## What Does Our Logo Mean?

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—

identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).



Our Spring Rummage Sale is April 17 & 18. Donations are being accepted and may be placed in the rummage sale room. We cannot accept TV's!

This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Any questions, contact Mary Lou McCann at 419-423-2226.





# Snowflake Social

From the giant snowflakes on the tables to the real ones on our cars as we adjourned on February 5, our Snowflake Social was a festive event with lots of girl time, including talk, good eats, a lovely heart-shaped box for each to decorate, and did I say TALK?!

Thanks to Thrivent for feeding us, Rachel Circle for keeping us healthy, Martha Circle for keeping us hydrated, and Hannah for spoiling us with oh so many delightful desserts! Thanks to Elaine and Kylee Timbrook for lovely table decorations and a HUGE thank you to Beth Maurer and her helpers for sharing their talents as well as the delightful and organized presentation of such a lovely craft. Diverse themes for the boxes included music, memories, prayers, and whimsy. What a special way to gather together and dash away those winter blues!



## Social Ministry

### Happy Spring from the Social Ministry Committee!

In support of the Synod's *Year of Mission*, the Social Ministry Committee would like to draw you attention to the Community billboard in the entrance hallway. Be sure to check out the opportunities the First body has in ministering to our community throughout the year. If you have ideas or know of happenings that need a little limelight, please reach out to any of the Social Ministry members.

We'd also like to take a moment to remind you that First Lutheran is a designated pick up location for Riehm Farms Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Veggie Boxes. You can sign up to receive boxes at [FunAcres.net/csa](https://FunAcres.net/csa). CSA day is February 28, 2020. Thanks, Rob

There are three things you are invited to do for this year's Habitat for Humanity's "Apostle Build":

1. Pray for this year's new house construction, the family receiving the home and all who make it happen.
2. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 23 and then plan to volunteer for morning or afternoon or both shifts. We will be doing trim and cabinetry work.
3. Make a donation to help with the cost of materials.

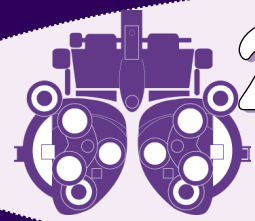
Our congregation, along with other area churches are committing to this project. We will be contacting other area Lutheran churches to assist with crew members and the financial component. Simply mark your donation "Apostle Build" and we will pass it along to Habitat folks. In the near future, we will have a 2x4 available for you to sign along with your financial contribution. It will then be used in the construction of the home. A sign-up sheet will soon appear on our bulletin board. For more information, contact Mike Thompson at 419-422-2832

## Endowment

Scholarship applications are now available on the bulletin board and in the church office for two scholarship funds from the Endowment Fund, the Endowment General Scholarship and the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship. The deadline for submitting applications and letters of recommendation is March 31st. The recipient(s) will be selected and notified on or before June 1st. A total of \$12,327.34 for the General Scholarship and \$1,228.64 for the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship is available to be awarded. Any questions, please contact any Endowment committee member or the church office.







# 2020 VISION for Stewardship

Improving our sight into

## PRACTICING GENEROSITY

Christians know a secret about generosity. It is not the fruit of success or happiness or security. It is, instead, the source of all these things. Actually, it's not only Christians who know this. Author Seth Godin, one of my favorite thinkers, puts it this way: "Here's conventional wisdom: Success makes you happy. Happiness permits you to be generous. In fact, it actually works like this: Generosity makes you happy. Happy people are more likely to be successful." Christians sometimes name this "worldly wisdom," as opposed to "kingdom logic" that Jesus announced during his earthly ministry.

Truth be told, however, it's easy for us to forget the path to success and happiness through generosity. Conventional, worldly messages tell us we must be wealthy before we can put Jesus' teachings of generosity into practice. Indeed, the primary message of the world is one of scarcity: there is not enough time, money, love, security, etc. Therefore, we need to look out for ourselves first, making sure we have enough before we tend to the needs of others. Jesus saw things differently. Addressing his disciples, Jesus told them not to be concerned about anything because God loved them and would provide for them (see Matthew 6:25.).

Similarly, the Apostle Paul, caught up in Jesus' kingdom logic, argues against such anxious living by urging his friends in the community of Philippi to, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). He goes on to tell them the following: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). Paul makes this injunction while in prison. That's right, while he's sitting in prison with no sure guarantee of what his future may hold, Paul — trusting that God will provide — instructs his friends to rejoice rather than to worry, urging them to share with each other and those in need. It's easy to assume Paul was some kind of spiritual giant to offer such counsel, but the truth is more complex. Paul says, "I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need" (Philippians 4:11-12).

Paul's secret, like Jesus' counsel to his disciples, is to trust God — whether he is well-fed or hungry. Paul didn't start out content; He learned to be content through practice. We, also, can learn to be more trusting and generous through practice. As we practice generosity, we'll move more confidently from constraining conventional wisdom of the world to the freeing, generous kingdom logic Jesus taught.

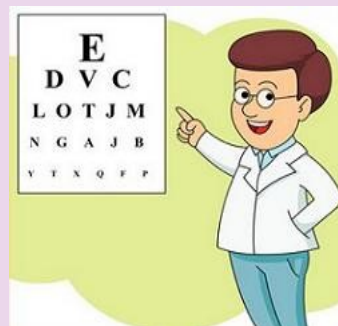
—David Lose *Stewardship 101*

**What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?**

- Psalm 116:12



*"Generosity with gifts is the way to spiritual maturity. Sacred and secular history and literature are replete with examples of the crippling effects of gifts hoarded and unshared. People are not naturally disposed to giving, yet, the life we all prize, filled with joy and spiritual depth, is closely tied to giving generously and with thankful hearts." - Donald W. Hinze To Give and Give Again*



### March

1- Congregation & EPiC Bowling  
2:00 @ AMF Sportsman Lanes

8- Guessing Game Fundraiser @ Church

15- Bible Study Discussion, Games, 6:00

22 - Bible Study, Discussion, Games, 6:00

29 - Service Project



### April

5- Congregation & EPiC Easter Egg Hunt TBA

12- No EPiC Happy Easter

19-Group Time, Games 6:00

26-No EPiC Confirmation



Confirmation - Lenten Worship 8 March 4, 11, 18, 25, @7:00 pm





**March 3rd 11:30  
@ Scramblers**

**NewsLetter  
DEADLine**

**Monday  
March 23rd @ noon**

### Food Cart Requests



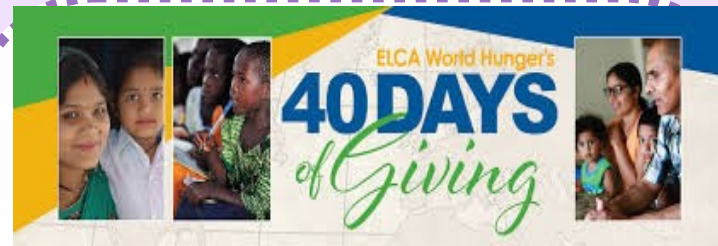
**Shampoo,  
Deodorant,  
Bath soap,  
Canned Fruit.**

**All donations benefit  
Lutheran Social Services**

**March's  
Noisy Offering will benefit**

**Capital University**

**"... a comprehensive, independent  
university grounded in the  
Lutheran tradition".**



Lent is a time of reflection and repentance, of sacrifice and self-examination. But Lent is also a season of hope — hope in the work God is doing in the world, even in the most challenging times.

Safety and stability for refugees and migrants. The renewal of the earth. Sufficient livelihood for all. These are just a few of the things of which we dream, fueled by the Holy Spirit. This Lent, you're invited to join together with fellow supporters to study, pray and give during ELCA World Hunger's **40 Days of Giving**. Accompany us as we journey with our neighbors in hope for a just world where all are fed.

### Hunger Facts

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.

**Give HOPE.** Make your donation to First Lutheran Church and mark the memo World Hunger.

# March Volunteers

**Newsletter Deadline  
Monday, March 23rd  
Bulletin Deadline  
Wednesdays by noon**

### LECTORS

**Mar 1**  
8:15- Jenny Welte  
10:45- Arlene Powell  
**Mar. 8**  
8:15- Acolytes  
10:45 -Acolytes  
**Mar. 15**  
8:15- Marilyn Dunn  
10:45- Carolyn Wilde  
**Mar. 22**  
8:15- Carol Bridinger  
10:45- Toni Poling  
**Mar. 29**  
8:15- Shirley Gerber  
10:45- Elaine Timbrook

### GREETERS

**Mar 1**  
8:15- Bart & Jenny Welte  
10:45- Beth & Craig Meier  
**Mar. 8**  
8:15- M. Dunn, C. Wittenberg  
10:45- Kids of the Kingdom  
**Mar. 15**  
8:15- Dave & Janet Wobser  
10:45- Carolyn & Jerry Bryant  
**Mar. 22**  
8:15- ML McCann, C. Bridinger  
10:45- Toni Poling  
**Mar. 29**  
8:15- Dave & Shirley Gerber

### ACOLYTES

**Mar 1**  
8:15- Grant Welte  
10:45- G. Masterlasco, P. Treece  
**Mar. 8**  
8:15- Margaret Meyer  
10:45- Ali Cox, Gabby Roberts  
**Mar. 15**  
8:15  
10:45  
**Mar. 22**  
8:15  
10:45  
**Mar. 29**  
8:15

**Contact**

**Pastor**

**Bob**

### SOUND ROOM

**Mar 1**  
8:15- Sam Ried  
10:45- Jerry Bryant  
**Mar. 8**  
8:15- Dave Gerber  
10:45- Steve Roth  
**Mar. 15**  
8:15- Tim Roth  
10:45- Todd Thompson  
**Mar. 22**  
8:15- Sam Ried  
10:45- Steve Roth  
**Mar. 29**  
8:15- Tim Roth  
10:45- Jerry Bryant

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**Mar 1- Carolyn & Jerry Bryant**  
**Mar. 8- Barb & Dick Larick**  
**Mar. 15- Maria & Tad Schell**  
**Mar. 22-**  
**Mar. 29- Cyndy & Daryl Rotman**  
Forms for your bulletin announcement are available on the bulletin board and at [1stLutheranChurch.org](http://1stLutheranChurch.org).  
Flowers need to be delivered to the church by noon on Friday.

### ALTAR GUILD

**Linda Mitchell, Pat Needles**

### COUNTERS

**Tom & Pam Basinger**

### LSS DELIVERY

**Jennifer Kamm**

### FLOWER DELIVERY

**Joan Swisher**

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Mar 1-/ 8- Karen Rose**  
**Mar. 15/22- Steve & Sheryl Seibert**  
**Mar. 29- Tad & Maria Schell**

### COOKIE SUNDAY

**Mar 1- Community Dinner**  
**Mar. 8- Property**  
**Mar. 15- Social Minstry**  
**Mar. 22- Worship & Music**  
**Mar. 29- Martha Circle**

### DRIVERS

**Mar 1- Jerry Bryant**  
**Mar. 8- Mike Zawisza**  
**Mar. 15- Aaron Ried**  
**Mar. 22- Pam Cochran**  
**Mar. 29- Jerry Bryant**

### DEACONS

**8:15- Marilyn Dunn, Tad Schell**  
**10:45- Joe Spoon, Steve Leopold, Dean Bowser**

### 8:15 USHERS

# MARCH Celebrations

## Birthdays

Sue Baxter	3/1
Sandra Burnside	3/2
Audrey Leopold	3/4
Robert Mitchell	3/4
Angela Nunn	3/4
Linda Ried	3/5
Hannah Roth	3/5
Jon Wilkins	3/5
Lee Hardesty	3/6
Mylie Mitchell	3/7
Drew Short	3/9
Richard Larick	3/10
Jeanne Bartolomeo	3/11
Clyde Mason	3/13
Adelyn Tabler	3/13
Leslie Dudics	3/15
Dianne Beekman	3/16
Audrey Hicks	3/16
Jaden Tabler	3/18
Steve Roth	3/21
Jonathon Bonnoront	3/22
Thomas Basinger	3/23
David Wobser	3/23
Beth Bonnoront	3/24
Pamela Cochran	3/24
Cynthia Napier	3/24
Robin Wilkins	3/24
Lori Cox	3/25
Jon Jones	3/25
Erin Rodabaugh-Gallegos	3/26
Robert Rodman	3/26
Aaron Clark	3/27
Dawn Franks	3/29
Carol Bridinger	3/30
Evelyn Napier	3/31
Cam Taylor	3/31

## Baptisms

Kurt Ebersole	3/1
Judy Kipker	3/1
Jerry Luth	3/2
Nancy Bahler	3/6
Emily Meier	3/7
Beulah Bishop	3/8
Janann Lishawa	3/8
Matt Morehart	3/8
Jeanne Bartolomeo	3/11
Cynthia Habegger	3/11
Brandon Maas	3/11
Elizabeth Brossia	3/13
Ryan Buck	3/14
Lesley Betts	3/16
Brent Fruchey	3/17
Brynlee Johnson	3/17
Michael Leonard	3/17
Thomas Leonard	3/17
Zachary Thompson	3/18
Phillip Bash	3/19
Susan Waltermeyer	3/20
Cloyce Baker	3/22
Kim Blunk	3/22
Brian Fruchey	3/22
Andrew Mains	3/23
Pamela Basinger	3/25
Pamela Cochran	3/27
Madison Kirk	3/29
Tad Schell	3/30
Jason Polder	3/31



Michael & Tracy August  
3/1/1997  
23 Years

Matthew & Carol Meyer  
3/7/1998  
22 Years

Mark & Kim Blunk  
3/13/1992  
26 Years

Phil & Denise Burson  
3/22/1975  
45 Years

Wayne & Nina Dukes  
3/24/1979  
41 Years

James & Merrill Maurer  
3/26/1977  
43 Years

Daryl & Cynthia Rotman  
3/26/1983  
37 Years

Todd & Cindy Thompson  
3/28/1987  
33 Years

*first* Lutheran  
109 E. Lincoln Street  
Findlay, OH 45840

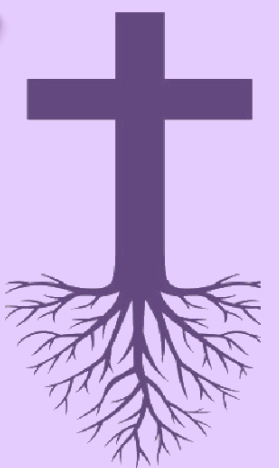
NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
FINDLAY, OH  
PERMIT NO. 338

Return Service Requested:



Mailed around  
February 26, 2020

# THE TREE OF LIFE



## Lenten Series

## Joyous Light

Wednesdays during Lent, 7:00

March 4, 11, 18, 25

April 1

Join us at  
5:45 for  
**SOUP**  
*Suppers*

Sunday Morning worship 8:15 & 10:45

Sunday School at 9:30