

Garden Faith

For me, the most moving moments of our recent trip to the Holy Lands were my first glimpses of

- 1) The Garden of Gethsemane and
- 2) The Sea of Galilee.

As we approach the season of Lent, we might ask ourselves how Jesus prepared himself for his season of betrayal, arrest, prosecution, torture, and murder. The answer is that he went to the garden to pray.

Many of the sites in the Holy Land are traditional rather than necessarily historic. But the Garden of Gethsemane is right where it was for Jesus. In fact, some of the trees are over 2,000 years old. Jesus may have leaned against them.

Jesus went to the garden to pray and be alone with his heavenly Father. He needed reassurance, comfort, support, love. This is exactly what I need this Lent. How about you?

This Lent, we as a church are going to meditate each week on the corporate elements of Martin Luther's Small Catechism: the Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Communion. But let us never neglect the essential private nature of our faith during our Lenten preparations. Lent is also a time to retire to our personal "gardens" and seek a private audience with our Lord.

As the old hymn put it, "I come to the garden alone... And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own." The only objection I have with the lyrics to "The Garden" is in the last line of the chorus: "And the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known." Others most certainly have known that joy, Jesus Christ foremost among them.

Pastor Bob





With Awe and Love

LENT 2017

The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther

In Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation



It might be time for all of us to dust off our Small Catechisms (or find it in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 1160) and take another look at the basics of the faith... My guess is that places like Microsoft or McDonald's take great care in immersing their people into their corporate culture. We are Lutheran Christians. With great humility we can be unapologetic about being Lutheran. It would be wonderful if we as the ELCA prepared for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 by studying the Small Catechism together. We have a common language with which to talk about faith, engage Scripture and make sense of our world. Catechism is not just for the young. This is most certainly true.—Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop ELCA, from The Lutheran, 2016

Sunday Worship: With Awe and Love



Preaching Series on Luther's *Small Catechism*:

Sunday, March 5: Ten Commandments—In Exodus God gives Moses the Law so that the people of Israel would know how to fulfill their part of God's covenant as God's people.

Sunday, March 12: Creed—How do we express belief? How do we share our faith? The Creed, crafted in the early days of the church, gives us a simple but firm foundation for sharing and professing.

Sunday, March 19: Lord's Prayer—Lent and Lenten worship call us to repent, to make a new beginning. One of the best ways to begin again with God is through conversation, also known as prayer. And what better prayer than the one that Jesus taught?

Sunday, March 26: Baptism—Dying to our old, sinful self in baptism, we rise from the waters as beloved children of God. We are walking wet throughout the forty days of Lent, reminded daily that we are dead to sin.

Sunday, March 5: Holy Communion—As we approach Holy Week, we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us. We gather around the table to remind ourselves and one another of that sacrifice and how it shapes our lives.



Wednesdays in Lent (7 PM)

We continue the conversation on Luther's *Small Catechism* with an emphasis on reflection and daily living. Our worship format will again be *Holden Evening Prayer*.

Sunday School During Lent

Pastor Chris continues the theme "Luther and the Lutherans" in the Good News classroom (upstairs). During Lent we will study the five parts of the *Small Catechism*, with an opportunity to reflect on the sermon and ask questions.

How profound was Luther's achievement in writing the Small Catechism? A mark of it can be seen in the simple fact that nearly five hundred years after its first publication in 1529...it is still one of the most effective tools for learning and teaching what the Christian faith is all about." - Augsburg Fortress

Stewardship 2017

ABUNDANTLY BLESSED + ABUNDANTLY THANKFUL

**What should parents teach their children about stewardship
(giving to God and his Church)?**



We should teach our children from a young age the many aspects of stewardship and that it involves more than our money, but also our time, talents, and sharing the love of God with others. Just like we teach our children to read or write, we should also teach them the responsibility of being a good steward. We think the most effective way for parents to teach about stewardship is through example. Although children should be taught what being a steward means, there is no substitute for demonstrating what a good steward does each day.—Tracy and Mike August



An idea planted by Pastor Bob from a sermon a number of years ago is a repeated lesson that we strive to share with our children. That “stewardship” is not just about “giving money to the church.” We go to church, not necessarily for ourselves, but for others. We never know the impact of a listening ear or a simple smile and “hello” to someone else in the congregation.—Crystal and Jay Clark



Parents should teach their children to give back to God because of all that he does for us. Even kids can help usher, greet, sing, read, acolyte, donate to causes of the church, etc.—Jenny and Bart Welte



Stewardship involves our responsibility to use God's gifts wisely. Parents best teach stewardship by setting a good example and sharing their time and money with the church.—Aaron and Linda Ried



"We feel that our family has been blessed in so many ways and that it's our responsibility to help the community, to help those less fortunate and to support our church. We want our daughters to know that just taking care of themselves and living their own lives is not enough. Stewardship can come in many forms like giving of our time, financial help, being a friend to someone in need, etc... We want them to think beyond themselves and act on the opportunities to help others." - Mike and Chris Zawisza

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. – Proverbs 22:6

“Many of today’s stewardship leaders remember watching their parents write out checks to the church even when money was tight, delivering meals to sick or elderly neighbors with their siblings, or setting aside 10% of their babysitting money to give to people in need. We learn much from our families of origin, and churches have a profound opportunity to engage entire families in conversations around stewardship.” - Alex Benson Stewardship Marathon



Social Ministry

Social Ministry has a mission to keep First Lutheran's congregation aware of social issues in our community and the world; such as human trafficking, hunger, abuse etc. Please watch for articles placed on the main bulletin board to read and be aware. If you have any comments or concerns you would like highlighted, please address a member of social ministry or contact Carolyn Bryant at 419-422-0015.

Food Cart Requests

**Shampoo, deodorant,
bath soap, fruit.**



All donations will benefit

**Lutheran
Social
Services.**



What is more welcoming than a homemade bread and mug for coffee, tea, or cocoa (or lemonade with the recent warm temps!?) A few years back, the Evangelism Committee had a program for welcoming visitors/prospective new members by delivering a mug, bread, a welcome note and brochure from First to folks who had worshipped with us. We are reinstating this ministry again and are calling for members to help, hoping that you will volunteer for 2 consecutive Sundays.

Volunteers with this ministry would check the Footprints sheets after 2nd service, put together a welcome gift (supplies provided), and deliver it to visitors on their way home from church. No lengthy visit required, just a friendly drop off to let the visitor(s) know they were noticed, and to ask them to consider First as a possible new church home. We are in the process of making a calendar for the entire year and hope you will prayerfully consider helping if called. If you REALLY want to help, call Jane Ebersole ([419-422-9640](tel:419-422-9640)) or Pr. Chris ([419-348-9290](tel:419-348-9290)) to ensure your spot!

**The March Noisy Offering
will benefit:**



Capital University

*A comprehensive independent
university grounded in Lutheran tradition.*

Located in the Columbus, Ohio, neighborhood of Bexley, Capital University is a private, four-year undergraduate institution and graduate school that transforms lives through higher education.

**Bridge Home Health & Hospice Offers
Volunteer Training Courses**

Bridge Home Health & Hospice, a non-profit organization providing home health care and hospice services, will offer training courses for prospective volunteers beginning on Tuesday, March 21st. Courses will cover topics such as basic principals of hospice, understanding the special needs of patients and their families, effective communication, patient care, pain and symptom management, spiritual care giving, and understanding grief and loss. No previous experience is required.

Please pre-register by calling 419-423-5351 or by emailing jtelli@bvhealthsystem.org.

Ash Wednesday

Worship Services

March 1st,
4:00 & 7:00

*Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion*

WHEN LIFE ISN'T
A BED OF
Roses
REMEMBER
WHO WORE THE
thorns

Wednesday Lenten SERVICES

Holden
Evening Prayer
7:00 pm

March 8

March 15

March 22

March 29

April 5



Endowment Scholarships

Scholarship applications are now available on the bulletin board and in the church office for two scholarships from the Endowment Fund; the Endowment General Scholarship and the Jeffrey 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 \$4,316.74 for the General Scholarship and \$367.93 for the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship is available to be awarded. Any questions, please contact any Endowment committee member or the church office.

Library News

Good day, Church members. This year's camping/fishing trip to Florida is bittersweet. The campground, as of April 1, will be demolished for the building of up-scale condos and rental cottages. We spent much time this year with the friends we have made in the past eight years as we soon all make arrangements at various other campgrounds for next year. Also have been doing lots of reading here in Florida, when we are not fishing. I will update you in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, we all need a good laugh, at least once a day.



Try these headlines
on for size:

- If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile.
- Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
- Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- Man Struck by Lightning; Faces Battery Charge
- Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
- Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
- Miners Refuse to Work after Death
- Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
- War Dims Hope for Peace
- Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
- Hospitals Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
- Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead.

Or how about these announcements in Church Bulletins?

Church Bulletin
Bloopers



The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

- Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.
- Miss Carlene Smith sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM – prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Until next month, God bless and keep reading. Spring is just around the corner.
Kathy Brooks (Kbrooks@Lrbcg.com)

Editor's Note: I don't think any of these have appeared in our bulletin. However, I am sure I have had "creative" announcements of my own:) Nina

The EPIC Messenger

MARCH 2017



Sunday Nights: EPIC 6 -7:30pm
(stay until 8pm for additional fellowship!)

Sunday March 12th:
Generation 4:12 4:30-6pm

Wednesday Nights: Confirmation 7-8pm
(No Confirmation during Lent please attend Wednesday night service)

Thursday Nights: Coffee Shop
Hours @ Panera 5-7pm



**FLC EPIC Youth Ministry is proud to
have Samantha as the Culture
Keeper this month!**

Hi my name is Samantha and I am so glad to be a part of our youth group because I enjoy our Bible study and discussions. I attend youth group because I want my faith to grow. At youth group I enjoy painting and the games that we play.

E.P.I.C. MONTHLY

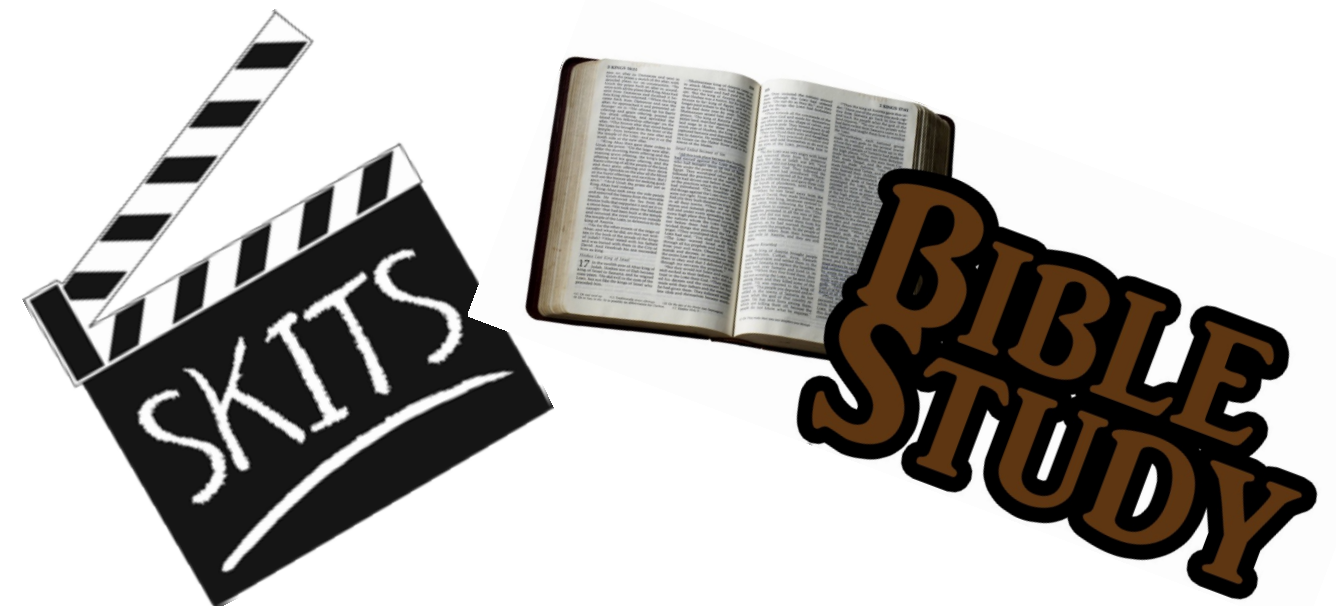
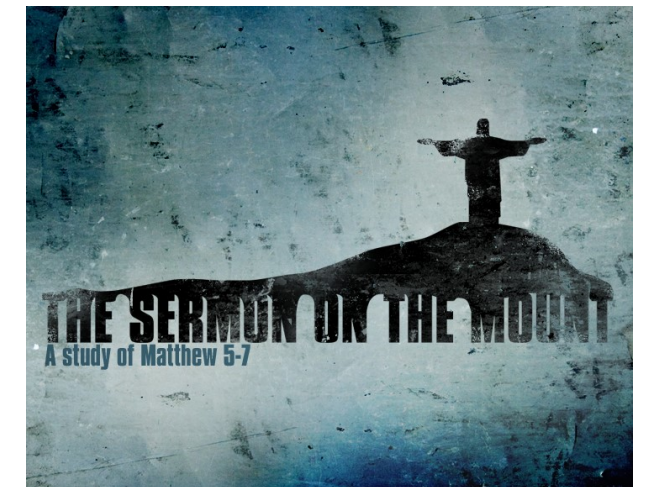


Topic of the Month

THE
STORY
OF JESUS

Bible Verse of the Month

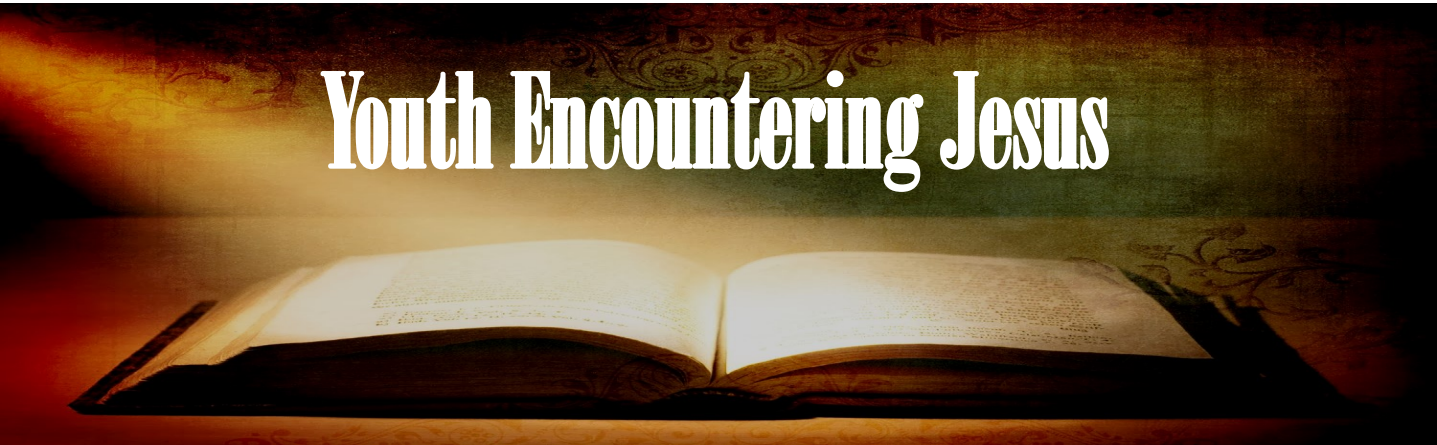
“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



The Parables of Jesus

earthly stories with a heavenly meaning





March 24th, 2017

6-7:30pm

Come and join us for a fun filled Family Game Night!

Tickets are \$2 per adult
\$1 per youth ages 5 and over.

All proceeds will assist in the growth of our Youth PEP Fund.



Want to stay and watch a movie? Immediately following Family Game Night we will be showing the film Inside Out beginning at 7:30pm. Concessions filled with Popcorn, Candy and Drinks will be available.



3rd Annual Chili Cook-off

3rd Annual Chili Cook-off Results

1st—Lesley Betts

2nd—Dawn Franks

3rd—Kris Napier and John Biggs



Women of the ELCA

March 14—Martha Circle, 9:00 am, library
Rachel Circle, 9:30 am, lounge
March 20—Hannah Circle, 7:00 pm, lounge
March 26—Cookie Sunday, Martha Circle

Don't forget the Rummage Sale!

April 28, 9—5

April 29, 9—Noon

You may bring your gently used items in and place them in the Rummage Sale Room.



The 2017 Altar Flower

Chart is posted on the hall bulletin board. Please feel free to reserve your special date.



Hall Renovation

Construction plans are on track for the hall renovation to begin June 12th. Remember, the church building will be closed on June 12, 13 & 14 for asbestos abatement. We will keep you posted as plans progress.

The finances for the Hall Renovation project shows a project shortfall of about \$6,000. We are asking for a congregational investment to complete the financial portion of the project. Total donations to date are \$1,055. You may mark your donation "**Hall Renovation**".



Tuesday, March 7th.

11:30 at Café Marie's.

All are invited to join the fun!



2017 Church Council



John Adler: adlerjd@tds.net
Casey Cox: caseycox72@yahoo.com
Paul DeMoss: pdem@aol.com
Cindy Fitzpatrick: cbrenfitz@aol.com
Greg Johnson: gregjohnson05@yahoo.com
Traci Roth: troth@bvhealthsystem.org

Pastor Bob:

Eric Timbrook: elimbroy@yahoo.com
Tim Franks: tfranks75@hotmail.com
Wendy Short: jshort@bright.net
Renee Smith: rsmith0709@att.net
Aaron Ried: ried1024@aol.com
Alex Treece: alextreece@yahoo.com

flcpastor@hotmail.com

Older, Wiser Lutherans



SPORTCASTER TO BE MARCH OWLS SPEAKER

On Tuesday, March 28th, the OWLS program will be presented by Dr. Dwight Allen, radio broadcaster of "A Second Look at Sports" and "Racing World". Dr. Allen says he tries to connect the dots between sports and scripture. Now 85, he has been an author, youth minister, and professor of education at Stanford Graduate School of Education. He has been a youth pastor for 25 years and on the radio for 15 years. Allen will speak on "GRANDPARENTS AND SPORTS" at the OWLS gathering.

All adults are invited to the 6:00 potluck supper and the 7:00 program. Just bring a covered dish and your own table service. If you need transportation, call Carol Bridinger (419-425-9104) by noon on the 28th.



Become Part of Our Church Family

Baptisms

April 23 & May 7 at the 10:45 Service

New Member Class

May 14 & 21 at 9:30

If you or someone you know would like to become a member through Baptism or the New Member Class, please contact the church office or Pastor Bob.

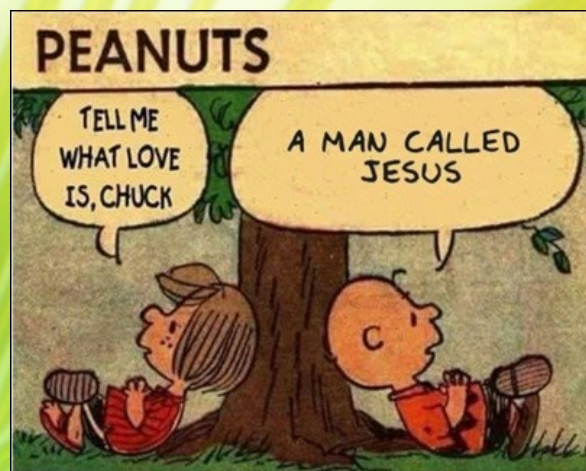
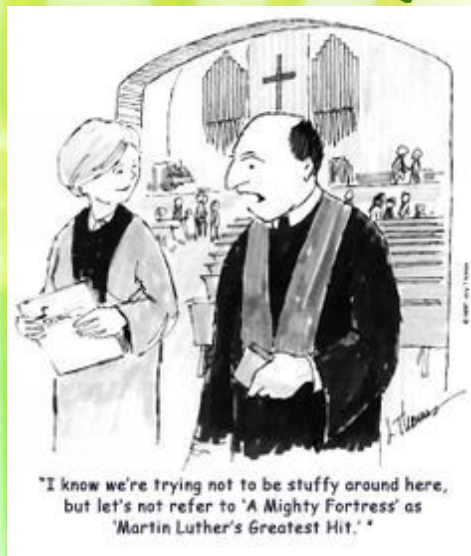


Serving Our Congregation

Senior Pastor: Bob Cochran (567-525-4795) flcpastor@hotmail.com
Assisting Minister: Chris Dittmar (419-425-5453) cdit668995@aol.com
Organist: Miriam Gibson
Sr. Choir Director: Jane Eakin
Brass Choir Director: Diane Adler
Kids Kingdom Directors: Sally Rice, Heather Nielsen, Jenny Welte
Administrative Assistant: Nina Dukes — flcFindlay@gmail.com
Youth Coordinator: Amy Gibson (419-348-1653) 1stlcyouth@gmail.com
Building Manager: Wayne Dukes (419-306-3358 *emergency only*) waynedukes@hotmail.com
Assistant Building Manager: Ryan Buck
Christian Education Director: Tricia Cox (419-966-4777) flcchristed@hotmail.com
Financial Secretary: Ken Otte
Treasurer: Tom Basinger

Church Office Hours: Monday -Thursday, 8:30-3:00; Friday -8:30-12:00
419-422-2638 www.1stLutheranChurch.org





Seriously



Scheduling an event or meeting at First Lutheran?
Have you checked the online church calendar?
Have you filled out a Building Use Form?

Our building gets used a lot!!!! What a great problem to have!!! However, conflicts can arise if you have not scheduled your meeting through the church office. Before scheduling your event, please call the church office to make sure your desired space is available (you may check the online calendar at www.1stlutheranchurch.org.) Then complete a Building Use Form (available in the office or on line under "Forms"). Until a completed Building Use Form is on file in the church office, your meeting is **not officially on the calendar** and your room is not reserved.



March Newsletter Deadline
Monday, March 20th
Weekly Bulletin Deadline
Wednesday Mornings

LECTORS

Mar. 5
 8:15—Carol Bridinger
 10:45—Dave Rossman

Mar. 12
 8:15—Acolytes
 10:45—Acolytes

Mar. 19
 8:15—Kathy Kapostasy
 10:45—Dee Rossman

Mar. 26
 8:15—Kathy Kapostasy
 10:45—Barb Larick

GREETERS

Mar. 5
 8:15—Carol Bridinger,
 Carol Wittenberg
 10:45—Dave & Dee Rossman

Mar. 12
 8:15—Cloyce & Janet Baker
 10:45—Kids Kingdom

Mar. 19
 8:15—Mike & Chris Meyer
 10:45—Carie Eakin

Mar. 26
 8:15—Jon & Marilyn Jones
 10:45—Barb & Dick Larick

ACOLYTES

Mar. 5
 8:15—Sam Ried
 10:45—Evelyn Napier, Emily Meier

Mar. 12
 8:15—
 10:45—Nathan Leipheimer, Evan Clark

Mar. 19
 8:15—Karissa Welte
 10:45—Samantha Franks, Lily Cox

Mar. 26
 8:15—Karissa Welte
 10:45—Samantha Franks, Jeremiah Tatum

SOUND ROOM

Mar. 5
 8:15—Tim Roth
 10:45—Todd Thompson

Mar. 12
 8:15—Dave Gerber
 10:45—Jerry Bryant

Mar. 19
 8:15—Tim Roth
 10:45—Alex Treece

Mar. 26
 8:15—Tim Roth
 10:45—Steve Roth



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Mar. 5
 8:15—Tim Franks
 10:45—Tim Franks

Mar. 12
 8:15—Daryl Rotman
 10:45—Daryl Rotman

Mar. 19
 8:15—Tim Cochran
 10:45—Pam Cochran

Mar. 26
 8:15—Pastor Chris Dittmar
 10:45—Pastor Chris Dittmar

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell, Pat Needles

COUNTERS

Dave & Dee Rossman

LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

FLOWER DELIVERY

Jeff & Angela Nunn

COOKIE SUNDAY

Mar. 5—Community Dinner
 Mar. 12—Christian Education
 Mar. 19—Church Council
 Mar. 26—Martha Circle

ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar. 5—Bob and Nancy Mullahy
 Mar. 12
 Mar. 19—Wobser
 Mar. 26—Dick & Marilyn Schweitzer

Forms for your bulletin announcement are available on the bulletin board and at 1stLutheranChurch.org

Flowers need to be delivered to the church by noon on Friday.

DEACONS

8:15—Sue DeMoss,
 Tad Schell
 10:45—Jerry Bryant,
 Steve Leopold, Joe Spoon



MARCH Celebrations

Anniversaries

Michael & Tracy August	3/1/1997	20
Mark & Kim Blunk	3/13/1993	24
Phil & Denise Burson	3/22/1975	42
Wayne & Nina Dukes	3/24/1979	38
James & Merrill Maurer	3/26/1977	40
Daryl & Cynthia Rotman	3/26/1983	34
Todd & Cindy Thompson	3/28/1987	30

Baptisms

Kurt Ebersole	3/1	Carol Bottoms	3/20
Leo Benedetti	3/2	John Kapostasy	3/20
Jerry Luth	3/2	Patricia Taylor	3/20
Nancy Bahler	3/6	Susan Waltermeyer	3/20
Emily Meier	3/7	Cloyce Baker	3/22
Brandon Maas	3/11	Kim Blunk	3/22
Elizabeth Brossia	3/13	Brian Fruchey	3/22
Ryan Buck	3/14	Andrew Mains	3/23
Lesley Betts	3/16	Barbara Mills	3/23
Sarah Kidd	3/16	Pamela Basinger	3/25
Brent Fruchey	3/17	Mary Clayton	3/27
Brynlee Johnson	3/17	Pamela Cochran	3/27
Michael Leonard	3/17	Beth Schmidt	3/28
Thomas Leonard	3/17	Madison Kirk	3/29
Zachary Thompson	3/18	Tad Schell	3/30
Phillip Bash	3/19	Jason Polder	3/31

Sue Baxter	3/1		
Sandra Burnside	3/2		
Audrey Leopold	3/4		
Robert Mitchell	3/4		
Angela Nunn	3/4		
Robin Wilkins	3/4		
Linda Ried	3/5		
Hannah Roth	3/5		
Jon Wilkins	3/5		
Lee Hardesty	3/6		
Mylie Mitchell	3/7		
Lindsey Staschiak	3/7		
Cameron Roth	3/9		
Drew Short	3/9		
John Thomas	3/9		
Richard Larick	3/10		
Jeanne Bartolomeo	3/11		
John Huff	3/11		
Clyde Mason	3/13		
Caleb Miller-Rinker	3/13		
Adelyn Tabler	3/13		
Dee Rossman	3/14		
Leslie Dudics	3/15		
Dianne Beekman	3/16		
Audrey Hicks	3/16		
Angela Baker	3/18		
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		
Amanda Barrientos	3/25		
Lori Cox	3/25		
Jon Jones	3/25		
Kathy Kapostasy	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		

first Lutheran
First Lutheran Church
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-2638

"Moving one step closer to God."

Current Resident or:

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



This newsletter was mailed:
February 28th
Give or take a day:)

RETURN
to the
LORD
YOUR
GOD

THE
FORTY
DAYS
of LENT

Sunday Morning Worship
8:15 & 10:45 Sunday

Holden Evening Prayer 7:00
Wednesdays during Lent (March 8—April 12)