



Pastor's Pen

"I'M A REDEEMED SINNER" By Pastor Paul DeMoss

What a way to start an article, especially an article for the church newsletter. No, this is not going to be some kind of confession, but I do hope it is going to be earth shattering and life changing.

What do I mean when I say, I'm a redeemed sinner? The truth is that I am a forgiven sinner. I'm forgiven because Jesus died for me and takes all my sins. I remember the movie, *The Passion* and how difficult it was to watch Jesus being beaten by the soldiers and trying to walk the streets to Calvary carrying the cross until He could carry it no longer. I cringed as I watched the nails being pounded in, tearing the flesh on His hands and feet. This movie is in the church library if you'd like to view it.

In the congregation I served in Trotwood, there was a lady who had some old iron spikes. They were kept in an air-proof box and were approximately 10 to 12 inches long. Legend had it that these were the kind of spikes used on Jesus. They were driven through His hands and through His feet. I can't imagine the pain He must have experienced. While in this pain He said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." [Lk.23.34] Jesus was hanging on the cross with blood flowing from His back, His hands and His feet. And words of forgiveness are heard, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Do you hear what Jesus is saying to you? Do you hear these words when you look at The Cross? Do you hear these words when you receive Holy Communion: "The Body of Christ given for you; the Blood of Christ shed for you?" The sacrament of the altar washes away our sins, and we are free of all our past sins. The hard part is forgiving ourselves, and this we must do in order to complete what Jesus has done for us.

Many of us have our secrets from the past that we don't talk about and want to forget. We can forget our sins when we give them to Jesus. I remember preaching a sermon describing Jesus as our garbage collector. We put all our sins, trash, and garbage in a nice neat confession and set them down at the altar rail, and then Jesus comes and takes them away. He takes all of our sins away, no matter what we've done. Do you hear that? You are a redeemed, forgiven sinner. In all the churches I've served, I have not met one person who was not a redeemed sinner, and that includes those at seminary worship.

A young lady telephoned me one day in tears and very upset. I knew the phone was not the way to talk with her. I arrived at her home at the agreed upon time, and we started talking. After a few sentences, the tears were flowing again. After many tears, she finally told me why she was so upset. She had had an abortion in another state when she was 16 years old. Now ten years later, she was feeling the sin and deep pain of that action like never before. She said she didn't think she could ever take communion again. She felt that she was unforgiveable. She said, "I can't take communion again after what I did." Now I could understand how deep this pain was for this young lady.

I explained to her that Jesus died for her, and He took away her sin, yes even this deep sin and pain that she was feeling. I told her that nothing we've done is unforgivable. Look how He forgave His disciples who turned and ran and denied knowing Him. Do you hear Jesus from the cross? "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Those words are said to and for us, even today.

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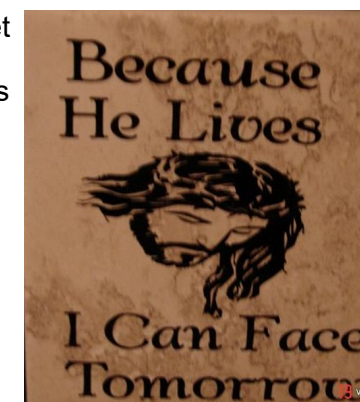
Yes, the young lady heard the words from the cross but felt ever so bad. The next Sunday we celebrated Holy Communion. She sat between her mother-in-law and a cousin, and they knew something was wrong, for she was in tears. We read the words of confession, followed by the words of absolution spoken by the pastor. The words of confession had deep meaning for her as did the words of absolution. "As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, † and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN". She was in tears when she came for communion; we offered communion by groups of people coming forward. She received communion with her mother-in-law on one side and her cousin on the other holding her up and not knowing why she was having so much difficulty. She heard and saw me look at her, and she had a new understanding, a deeper understanding of the words: "The body of Christ given for you," then with the cup, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." Then the blessing followed: "The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious Blood strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life." Yes, my friends, we are redeemed sinners.

During the season of Easter, look at the cross and remember what Jesus has done for you. When you receive His Body and His Blood, remember that this is you, that you are a redeemed sinner. You are a forgiven sinner set free to live in hope and joy for the Lord.

I like Bill Gaither's hymn "BECAUSE HE LIVES!" The chorus is especially meaningful.

*Because He Lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!*

Pastor Paul DeMoss



Church Council

Thanks You

Church Council would like to thank EVERYONE for a wonder Easter Celebration! The music was fabulous, the message was uplifting, and seeing our church family was the best. Thank you to the devoted Community Dinner team who provided yet another grab and go lunch to our community. Thank you all for your continued support of our church and our mission. Blessings to everyone!!
Cindy Fitzpatrick, Council President



.... is extended to the families who have had loved ones pass into the Church Triumphant recently.

....The family of Paul F. Brockman (wife Donna and daughter Nancy Haffelder)

....The family of Sandra Dale (Chris & Mike Zawisza, Ella & Abbie). May God comfort all who mourn the loss of loved ones.



WELCA Calendar of Events for May

Martha Circle is in-service for the month of May

- May 5 WELCA Board Meeting, 10:00 am in the Church Lounge
May 11 Martha Circle, 9:30 am in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Pat Stacy; Leader: Carolyn Wilde
May 11 Rachel Circle, Noon Picnic in the Pavillion
Bring your own sack lunch; A rose bush will be planted in memory of Eileen Mains
May 17 Hannah Circle, Dinner Out - TBD

History of Women of the ELCA

Lutheran women in the United States have been gathering in mission since the 1800s, and we owe much to our foremothers who responded to God's call, created a place and lived out a purpose when women had no voice in the church.

Three groups came together in 1987 to form Women of the ELCA. These groups were the American Lutheran Church Women (of the American Lutheran Church), the Lutheran Church Women (of the Lutheran Church in America) and Women in Action for Mission (of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches). The constituting convention was held June 13-14, 1987, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with the theme "Embrace God's World." The organization was officially constituted Jan. 1, 1988, with the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#).

Communication tools would soon follow. The magazine *Lutheran Woman Today* began publishing in January 1988 and *Newsletter* (the predecessor to [Interchange](#)) followed in June of that year. The organization's first website was inaugurated in 1995. [Café](#), our electronic magazine for young women launched in 2006, with podcasts soon to follow. In 2011, *Lutheran Woman Today* changed its name to [Gather](#), and continued providing award-winning content (Bible studies and articles) to more than 45,000 readers, with a pass-along rate of 3 additional people per subscriber.

The organization's first smart phone app, [Daily Grace](#), was unveiled in 2011 (available for IOS and Android), the same year that the magazine took on a new name, [Gather](#).

Various program initiatives were launched in 1988, some of which continue today such as a [scholarship program](#). Initiatives came and went, meeting the needs of the women at the time. [Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls](#), the organization's health initiative, began in 2005. [Bold Women's Day](#), an annual celebration of our mission and the women who accomplish it, launched in 2007.

Today the organization is active in approximately 7,000 of the 9,200 ELCA congregations and in 64 of the 65 synods (the only synod without a synodical organization is the Slovak Zion Synod, the ELCA's only non-geographical synod).

WELCA's purpose hasn't wavered since it created its first constitution. "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world."

Since constituting in 1988, Women of the ELCA has belonged to the women; it is self-incorporated. No money from the ELCA budget is given to Women of the ELCA; [all monetary support comes from the women themselves](#).

Information taken from www.womenoftheelca.org.



First Lutheran to Celebrate 175th Anniversary!

This year we have much to celebrate as First Lutheran has been around for 175 years. The church will celebrate with four Sundays in October. We hope to be back to "normal" by then, so church council has designated four Sundays, each with a special emphasis, as we usher in our anniversary celebration.

- **Sunday, October 10th** we will return to our roots and worship as they did in 1846.

- **Sunday, October 17th** we will celebrate with Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, and then have a celebration dinner at the Elks Banquet Hall. Mark your calendars!!!

- **Sunday, October 24th** we will celebrate the building of our new building. There will be tours of the church!

- **Sunday, October 31st** we will celebrate Reformation and all the First Lutheran "Saints"

There will be service projects for the community—one each Sunday

We will sing the "Old, old songs"

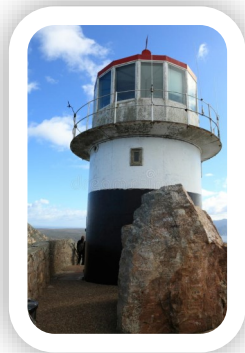
Displays will be set up with pictures and memorabilia

Tours of the "old" church will be given

And more surprises!!

Mark your calendars now!!





Allemaal aan Boord! the STEWARDSHIP



CAPE TOWN is fondly known as the Mother City—but Mother of All Cities might be a more accurate description. From jaw-dropping scenery to centuries-old architecture mingling with minimalist modern design, this scenic South African beauty encompasses it all. Its buzzing harbor and streets house nightlife and storefronts, and its beaches and mountainous surroundings are bursting with flora and fauna. The city is set against the backdrop of the iconic Table Mountain plateau and sapphire blue Table Bay, famous for its seal population and great white sharks. Cape Town's rich history, modern culture, and incredible attractions make it a true metropolis on the coast.

The Cape of Good Hope

The first European to reach the cape was the Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias on March 12, 1488, who named it the "Cape of Storms". It was later renamed by John II of Portugal as "Cape of Good Hope" (*Cabo da Boa Esperança*) because its discovery was a good omen that India could be reached by sea from Europe. St. Paul said, "so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints." [Eph. 1:18]



The Young Adults in Global Mission



The Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) invites young adults (21-29) to embark on a life-changing journey. Participants serve in a variety of fields in one of 10 country programs and experience the transformation that comes with one year of international mission service. Volunteers serve in the spirit of accompaniment — walking together with global companions in mutuality, solidarity and interdependence. In recent years, the YAGM

program has sent around 80 volunteers into service annually. Volunteers are placed according to skill and experience in alignment with requests from our global companions. Just off the eastern coast of South Africa is the island of Madagascar, one of the places where YAGM works. The Malagasy Lutheran Church was established by Norwegians in 1863. Today there are some four million members doing ministry in Madagascar.

Books, Books, from he Brooks!!!

Well, good day everyone. Today I begin my newsletter with a "Bible Trivia" task. What follows are **Everyday Phrases from the Bible**. Your task is to identify the book and, if possible, the chapter and verse where these commonly used phrases originated.

The answers will be found on the library bulletin board.

1. The skin of our teeth
2. Wolf in sheep's clothing
3. Salt of the earth
4. Holier than thou
5. Woe is me!
6. Can a leopard change his spots?
7. A drop in the bucket
8. Eat, drink, and be merry
9. Pride goeth before the fall
10. Give up the ghost
11. Spare the rod and spoil the child
12. My brother's keeper
13. Fat of the land
14. A lamb for the slaughter
15. The blind leading the blind

One of the many books I read while in Florida was The Neil Gaiman Reader, which included some of his short stories as well as excerpts from his novels. I quote the following narrative from one short story entitled "The Man Who Forgot Ray Bradbury:"

"A poor man found himself in a forest as night fell, and he had no prayer book to say his evening prayers. So he said, 'God who knows all things, I have no prayer book and I do not know any prayers by heart. But you know all the prayers. You are God. So this is what I am going to do. I am going to say the alphabet, and I will let you put the words together.'"

(Think about that one, Folks!)

On the way home from Florida, a three-and-a-half-day trip if we take it easy, I read Someone Knows my Name, by Lawrence Hill, a story surrounding the Atlantic Slave trade from 1518 – 1865 and the Black Loyalists who supported England in the Revolution and were promised land first in Nova Scotia and then in Sierra Leone, where Liberia will be founded by former American slaves. The writing includes the early history of Beaufort County, South Carolina (where Paul and I took a bus tour two years ago) and details about indigo. It was a fascinating read.

Currently, I am reading **Love In the Time of Cholera** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, copyright 1988 and, by the way, a translation. I read it once a few years ago and totally missed the point. Now my Toledo-Defiance-Findlay book club members chose it for the end of April, so I struggle through it again. As I begin again, I am aware of how many different meanings of the word love are used. I will keep you posted on how well goes the read.

It is good to be home, back with Brook West, and all of us attending our church in person. See some of you on Sundays. God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

First News



Congratulations
to our
2021 Confirmands

Alexandria Breann Cox
Gabriella Michelle Cox
Abbygayle Rose Cox
Phoebe Jane Treece

Blessings to each of you!!!



Bible Study
"The Jerusalem
Collection"

(Acts and Paul's letters)

A 6-week course led by Pastor Art Wilde will be offered Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. or Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning May 5/6. There is still time to sign up on the bulletin board or by contacting the church office, at flcfindlay@gmail.com or 419-422-2638.

Food Cart Requests



Dish soap,
paper towels, &
vegetables

All donations benefit LSS
The cart is in the coat room.

We Need Your Help



The 2021 Flower Chart is up in the hallway across from the church office. Please consider signing up for flowers that honor or remember special people or events in your life. Not only are you sharing God's beauty of nature on Sundays of a home-bound member or friend, but maybe brightening your home. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.



The Finance Committee is looking for volunteers to be counters after the second Sunday service. Training will be provided to prepare the weekly deposit and make the after-hours deposit at our bank. Counters should be able to commit to one month per year or at least two-week intervals consecutively. Please contact Daryl or Cyndy Rotman at rotman4@aol.com or 419-425-0838.

The Riehm Farm vegetable sign-up is now on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please volunteer as many times as you'd like. It is not a long-term commitment, but as often as you are able to help. Each Tuesday during the summer months, vegetables are brought to our parking lot by Riehm Farm as they serve their local customers. And they leave extras for us to give away as needed. I am always available for questions about this ministry. Carolyn Bryant, 419-7422-0015, please leave a message.



Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.org

Birthdays

Maria Schell	5/1
Susie Polder	5/3
Caleb Short	5/4
Patricia Stacy	5/4
Marsha Granath	5/5
Nicole Needles	5/5
Julie Dittmar	5/7
Jane Wise	5/8
Avery Johnson	5/9
Joshua Short	5/9
Arthur Wilde	5/9
Christian Nielsen	5/11
Judith Luth	5/15
Aaron Needles	5/15
Reed Needles	5/15
Laurie Scott	5/15
Chloe Nielsen	5/17
Abigail Zawisza	5/17
Raelyn Sherman	5/18
Paul Brockman	5/22
Joshua Leopold	5/22
Randy Waller	5/22
Heather Betts	5/25
Jessica Betts	5/27
Parker Haudenschild	5/27
Karen Breen	5/28
Michael Leonard	5/28
Todd Thompson	5/28
Kahle Thorbahn	5/28
Mark Rose	5/29
Lawson Gerdeman	5/30
Madison Kutschbach	5/31

Anniversaries

Philip & Rianne Roos	5/7/1975	45
Rick & Leslie Dudics	5/19/1984	36
Paul & Sue DeMoss	5/23/1959	61
Joshua & Elizabeth Kutschbach	5/31/2014	6
Jeffrey & Angela Nunn	5/31/1997	23

May Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

May 2—Rotmans
May 9—Cunningham/Schwartzkopf
May 16
May 23
May 30

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.

ALTAR GUILD

Elaine Timbrook, Joan Swisher

COUNTERS

Rotman's, Bucks, Basingers

LSS DELIVERY

Marty Schmidt

FLOWER DELIVERY

Jane Ebersole


WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 2—Kylee Timbrook
May 9—Daryl Rotman
May 16—Kylee Timbrook
May 23—Rob Leipheimer
May 30—

Newsletter
DEADLine

Monday, May 24th

May
Corporation

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot 11:30am Community Dinner	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 6pm Stewardship/ Evangelism 6:30pm Worship & Music	7pm *Book Club	10am WELCA Board 7pm Jerusalem Bible Study	10am Jerusalem Bible Study 4:30pm Organ 6:30pm Diakonia	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship - Noisy Offering 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	9am Martha Circle 12pm Rachel Circle 7:30pm Finance	7pm Endowment 7pm Jerusalem Bible Study 8pm Theology Pub	10am Jerusalem Bible Study 4:30pm Organ 5:45pm Girl Scouts	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 7pm Hannah Circle	1:30pm Staff Meeting	12pm Almost Home 7pm Jerusalem Bible Study	10am Jerusalem Bible Study 4:30pm Organ 6pm BSA	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot	Newsletter Deadline 10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 7pm Council		7pm Jerusalem Bible Study	10am Jerusalem Bible Study 5:45pm Girl Scouts	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
30	31	1-Jun	Hello Spring!			
Worship 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot	Office Closed 10:30am *Ladies Bible Study	9:30 am Newsletter Mailing				



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ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
FINDLAY, OH
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Mailed around
April 28, 2021



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