

"Psalms for Today" continues during Lent

April 3 & 6

The Lord has heard my supplication;

The Lord accepts my prayer. Psalm 6:9

Grief



Holy Week



"Song of the Shadows"

Easter Sunday HE IS RISEN

Worship

8:15 and 10:45

Easter Breakfast 9:00

Relaxation, Poetry, and Prayer

Hey Folks. I write to you from the sandy shores of the Atlantic Ocean. It is 80 degrees and, darn it, we will be on the road home as you read this passage. Aah, but it is always good to head "home again, home again, jiggety jig."

I do quite a bit of reading while in Florida. That's how I relax when we are not fishing. I have worked my way through Louise Penny's Chief Inspector Armand Gamache mystery series. What fun those have been! I highly recommend them.

I read a collection of Seamus Heaney's poetry, an Irish Nobel Prize for Literature winner. I read some of his work years ago, but chose to read some again for my three-city book club who celebrated Irish writers at the meeting on March 15. Heaney writes about everything—fiddlehead ferns, glacier melting, peat fires, the doctor in his small village who delivered every baby, encountering soldiers on the way to Normandy, cutting grass with scythes. Not every one of the poems touched me but, then, they each don't have to. According to research I did, Heaney's most famous poem is "Digging." The speaker observes his father digging on the farm and muses it is probably some of the same spots where the speaker's grandfather once dug. And now the speaker digs, but for information of the past.

And then there is the daily readings. Lately, they all seem to have the same theme. The center on my

relationship with others. Every time I encounter another person, a question is being put to me - what is the Lord asking of me at this moment?



Our fingerprints don't fade from the lives we've touched.

If I see every one as an emissary of the Lord, and some benefit is intended for me, then it is my chance to offer others a relationship with God. I believe that people come into my life for a reason: some are messengers; some are teachers; some are healers; some are coaches and counselors; and some people come into my life for only a brief encounter but their

"fingerprints" remain all over my life until the end. Whether I like or am irritated by people, I can only focus on God through them; see God in them.

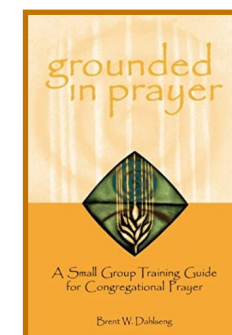
Let my light shine. My friendships with others are not to be taken lightly. My brief encounters are not to be taken lightly. I am possibly changing the direction of others' lives, for better or for worse. Sooner or later I will rise or fall to the level of my friendships. I must get outside myself by finding ways to make a difference in the lives of others. Every thing I do every day leads me closer to or further from the-very-best-version- of myself and the holy life God wants for me.

How do I stay on the path? Continue my daily habit of prayer. Offer every hour of my life to God as a prayer. Jesus walks with me. Talk with Jesus. Ask Him for help.

As always, God bless and keep reading. Send me your thoughts. Kathy Brooks - kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com.

Are You Grounded in Prayer?

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary." Luke 18:1



The fact that Jesus directly tells his followers to "pray always" pretty much answers the question about whether prayer should be part of my life. The expectation that I pray isn't something that Church leaders made up. It comes directly from Jesus. Pray always.* But many people say they don't really know how to pray. If you're in that boat, you are NOT

ALONE! Grounded in Prayer by Brent Dahlseng is a 7-week small group training guide for congregational prayer. It explores the Parable of the Sower and how prayer can be focused like a plow of the Holy Spirit. It involves about a 15 minute daily commitment for reading and prayer, but for those of us who went through the initial session, we found an incredibly enriching and spiritual addition to our prayer lives. Beginning May 1st (I know this is the April Newsletter, but we need to know how many booklets to order, and we want to finish by early June), our study will explore ways to pray individually and as a congregation. We hope you will join us. We will meet in the God Sightings classroom during the Sunday School time. If you have any questions, please ask Sue DeMoss, Jane Ebersole, Robin Bowman, or Miriam Gibson. Look for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board and announcements in the bulletin.

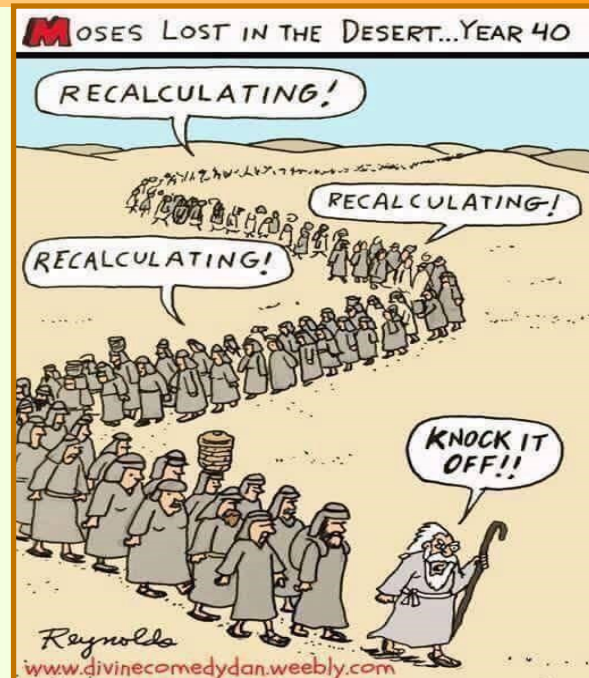
*Excerpt from The Little Black Book—Six Minute Meditations on the Parables of Jesus



Join Us For Breakfast

Easter Morning
at 9:00

An Easter breakfast will be provided so we may gather together and celebrate our Risen Lord. All are welcome to enjoy breakfast, beginning at 9:15 after the early church service and end before the late service. All will have the opportunity to enjoy the Easter service with their families. The Christian Education Committee will provide activities for our youth. A goodwill offering will be collected during breakfast. Please join us in Fellowship Hall Easter morning!



Creative Opportunity for Women of the Church!

If you'd like to learn the basics of weaving, join us on Tuesday April 19 from 6:30-8:30pm to create a mug rug (coaster) using simple techniques. One evening will be sufficient to learn the skills, but assistance and ideas for additional projects will be available at the same time on both Tuesday April 26 and Tuesday May 3, for anyone interested.

No experience is needed, and supplies will be provided. Hope you can join us! Please email Beth Maurer at bmaurer4@peoplepc.com to sign up, or if you have any questions.



Social Ministry Soup Supper and Crew



Women of the ELCA

WELCA Calendar of Events for April 2022

Martha Circle is in-service for the month of April

April 12 Rachel Circle – 1:30 PM in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Carrie Howe
Leader: Cindy Fitzpatrick

April 12 Martha Circle – 9:00 AM in the Church Library
Hostess: Lynda Brancalone
Leader: Mary Ann Chubb

April 18 Hannah Circle – 7:00 PM in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Nina Dukes
Leader: Julie Buck

April 27 Cookie Sunday – Martha



Living in Faith and Trust

L.I.F.T. - will meet for a brown bag lunch on Tuesday, April 19th at 11:30.

Come celebrate and relax after getting your taxes done! We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall of First Lutheran. If you plan on attending, please contact

Sue DeMoss at
419-306-9994 or

Marilynn Dunn at
419-722-8543.



The best portrayal of Katie Luther is a modern statue in the central courtyard in front of the Augustinian monastery in Wittenberg, where she and Martin lived.

Katie's Fund

Raising Up Bold Women of Faith

Katie's Fund is an endowment that supports ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology. Katie's Fund is now more than \$1 million. Women of the ELCA established Katie's Fund in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the churchwide women's organization, and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come. Your gifts to "Katie's Fund" go to the endowment, generating income each year to support ministry. You can also give to "Katie's Fund Current," to support current ministry projects. Your generosity makes a real difference in women's lives.

At our most recent Evangelism/Stewardship team meeting, we had a long discussion about how many members we've not seen for a while. Here are some thoughts from the Ebersoles.

CH__CH:
Are you
missing?

Way back in the late 1970's, almost before time began (ha!), Jane and I were living in Columbus while I was going to optometry school at Ohio State. We drove to and from Findlay for visits with parents and friends on a fairly regular basis. On the way down route 23 somewhere near the Vanlue exit there was a sign that always caught our eyes. It read Ch__ch, what's missing? We often commented that it was clever, but was it needed? Our churches were full and active, often on special Sundays like Easter being so full that chairs had to be put in the aisles. Fast forward to today. What has changed? Has God changed? Is He giving us a pass from gathering on Sundays and offering up praise and thanksgiving to Him as only we can do as a group?

In his book *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis points out that our world is really "enemy-occupied territory" meaning that Satan has overtaken it. "Christianity is the story of how the rightful king [Jesus] has landed and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage. When you go to church you are really listening to the secret wireless from our friends: that is why the enemy (Satan) is so anxious to prevent us from going. He does it by playing on our conceit and laziness and intellectual snobbery."

Is it important to gather with our church family and reach up in praise to God? Is it appropriate to use a liturgical service completely bible based? Are we really, when gathered as a group, joining in with the heavenly host, altogether singing praises to God? Of course, the answer to all of this is yes! We need to gather, to worship, and fight together for God's purposes.



Grades 6 -12

For the past 8 weeks we have been on a freedom ride and have learned about our relationship with God including:

1. How to Talk with God
2. How to Hear God
3. Three Reasons We Don't Hear God
4. Following God's Lead



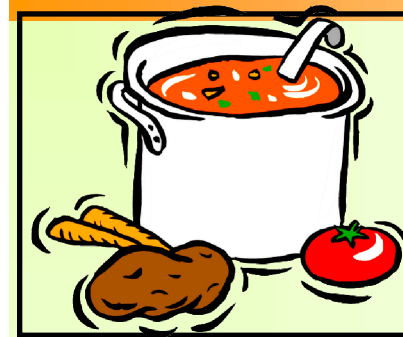
We have also looked at behaviors that may impact us everyday:

5. Dealing with those who smoke, drink or take drugs
6. Gossips and Other Trumpet Mouths
7. Peer Pressure 1
8. Peer Pressure 2

We also watch videos from the skit guys and review their message in sometimes comedic ways
Here are the upcoming topics – please join us for some great discussion

- April 3rd - Facebook Fights and Texting Wars (and how not to get your face blown off)
- April 10th - Finding Your Gifts from God (and therefore some meaning in life)
- April 24th - Putting Yourself in the Other Guy's Shoes (and not catching his foot fungus)
- May 1st - Loving Your Brothers 'n' Sisters (even when you feel like clobbering each other)

We meet in the Open Tomb Youth Room downstairs, Sunday mornings at 9:30



Stewardship Stew

The "secret" ingredients of good stewardship

Happy Husband Brownies

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 sticks of butter, melted
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup cocoa
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup or less nuts

Beat eggs; add sugar, butter. Add flour, cocoa, vanilla and nuts. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes, Lasagne size pan.

FROSTING—in a saucepan melt:

- 1 stick butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 6 tablespoons milk
- 1 lb. powdered sugar

Beat well. Spread while warm on brownies. I use **marshmallow cream** spread over brownies first, then frosting. Cool, slice. Great! *Ruthie Meyer*



What is the secret ingredient?

ELCA OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. For many, outdoor ministry is a life-changing experience. In partnership with congregations, outdoor ministries strive to strengthen, support and lift up the body of Christ by encouraging spiritual growth in outdoor settings.

There are 121 ELCA-affiliated camp, retreat and conference center sites in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Outdoor ministries offer a wide variety of programs that provide growth experiences for people of all ages, many of whom become leaders in the church and their communities. Youth, in particular, can benefit through camp, which helps growth in areas such as spirituality, self-confidence, independence, making friends, exploring and learning new activities.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio [LOMO] has entered into a rebranding process which includes broadening the organization and camp names from LOMO to HopeWood Outdoors, Lutheran Memorial Camp at HopeWood Pines, Camp Luther at HopeWood Shores, and LOMO Outreach through HopeWood Connect. **Your donations every Sunday support these ministries of the ELCA.**



***Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.—1 Peter 4:10***

The Secret Ingredient of Good Stewardship: Compassion

One of our members responded to the question: "What is the essential ingredient for being a good steward?" with the word COMPASSION. Our giving is always first to God but our giving is also motivated by the needs of our neighbor. This person said that "caring for others' needs is *central*".

The current crisis in Ukraine reminds us that around the world needs are great and our giving can help meet the needs of those whose very lives are in jeopardy. We are so fortunate to be part of a Church that has a world-wide ministry, and that when we give to Lutheran World Relief we can be assured that 100% of our donations will go to those in crisis and that we have the ability to get help quickly to these people of war-ravaged Ukraine. Please send a donation today! LWR has set a goal of \$200,000 to provide food, shelter, and other crucially needed items for children, women and seniors who are displaced. LWR says, "The people of Ukraine need your compassion and generosity more than ever." This is the essential ingredient of Stewardship!

**Give right away at lwr.org/HelpUkraine
Or make your check out to: First Lutheran Church and mark the memo line "Ukraine"**



To me the essential ingredient for being a good steward is ...
"Supporting the community." - First Lutheran Church Member
"To emulate Christ in your life." - Mary Lou McCann
"Helping anyone in need." - Church Member
"Sharing with others my blessings to love God and love each other." - Sue DeMoss



Happy Easter from Your Social Ministry Committee!

As is customary, the Social Ministry Committee is responsible for designation of various funds to our ministry partners both locally and globally.

A few updates the group wanted to share with the congregation this spring are the distribution of the Opal and Tell Thompson benevolence funds and the free will collection received during the Lenten Soup Suppers.

After much discussion, the committee decided that our Soup Supper collections would go to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), a Hancock County grassroots mental health initiative.

For the distribution of the Opal Thompson funds (\$10,317) generously entrusted to us by the Community Foundation, Ukraine was heavy on our hearts. The committee, who usually debates on beneficiaries for several months, decided they we must act quickly and nominated the **ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, Ukrainian Fund** as the majority recipient of the gift. \$8,815 of the Opal and Tell Thompson benevolence was distributed to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Keeping with tradition, the committee will also disperse some of the funds locally, to the **Fostoria Sharing Kitchen** and the **Findlay City Mission**. \$750 of the Opal and Tell Thompson benevolence was distributed to the City Mission and the Fostoria Kitchen respectively.

On another note, the committee along with help from our Sunday schools, packed up 75 bags of taxable necessities (soaps and hygiene items) to distribute at upcoming Community Dinners.

As always we thank you, our congregation at First, for supporting our committee and our mission of





YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

At our Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 23, a recommendation from the Finance Committee was presented for First Lutheran Church to send \$10,000 in financial assistance to an ELCA Lutheran Church in the western part of Kentucky affected by the devastating tornados in December 2021. A motion for the recommendation was moved and seconded. Following a time for discussion, the members present at the meeting approved the motion to send \$10,000 in financial aid from our Surplus Dedicated Fund.

From the discussions, our wishes for these funds are to be used to help with repairs on their church facility and/or to help any members of their congregation, with financial assistance for such things as repairs to house/property, transportation, medical expenses, etc.

The Finance Committee identified two ELCA churches in western Kentucky from a listing of congregations from the Indiana/Kentucky Synod website. A phone call was made to the IN/KY Synod office, and we discussed our commitment to send financial aid to an ELCA congregation with Rev Heather Apel, Assistant to the Synod Bishop. Rev Apel acknowledged the two congregations we identified, St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Paducah, KY and St. Matthew by the Lake Lutheran Church in Benton, KY. She said St. Matthew in Paducah was not affected by the tornados, but St. Matthew by the Lake was affected. It was decided to send our financial support to St. Matthew by the Lake Lutheran Church.

Rev Colleen Winkler, pastor of St. Matthew by the Lake Lutheran Church, was called and told of the commitment by First Lutheran Church to send financial assistance to their congregation and our wishes for how the funds are to be used. She was very thankful and appreciative of the generous contribution from our congregation. A letter and check were sent to St. Matthew by the Lake Lutheran Church. We continue to keep their congregation along with many other affected by the December tornado event in our thoughts and prayers for continued healing. —Finance Committee



April

Newsletter DEADLINE

Monday, April 18

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

LECTORS

Apr. 3

8:15 – Marilyn Dunn
10:45 – Barb Larick

Apr. 10

8:15 – Elaine Timbrook
10:45 – Emily & Elyse Clark

Apr. 17

8:15 – Paul Brooks
10:45 – Traci Roth

Apr. 24

8:15 – Kathy Brooks
10:45 – Kristin Johnson

SOUND ROOM

Apr. 3

8:15 – Tim Roth
10:45 – Falkyn Roth

Apr. 10

8:15 – Dave Gerber
10:45 – Jerry Bryant

Apr. 17

8:15 – Tim Roth
10:45 – Steve Roth

Apr. 24

8:15 – Tim Roth
10:45 – Falkyn Roth

ACOLYTES

Apr. 3

10:45 –

Apr. 10

10:45 – Elyse & Emily Clark

Apr. 17

10:45 – Elyse & Emily Clark

Apr. 24

10:45 –

ALTAR FLOWERS

Apr. 3 – Jerry & Carolyn Bryant

Apr. 10 – Marilyn Dunn

Apr. 17 – Cunningham & Schwartzkopf

Apr. 24 – Ted & Joanne Stombaugh

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

Apr. 3 – Tad Schell, ____

Apr. 10 – Paul Brooks, ____

Apr. 17 – Paul Brooks, ____

Apr. 24 – Paul Brooks, ____

10:45

April – Evan Pitt,
Mike Zawisza

ALTAR GUILD

Gerbers and Schriners

COUNTERS

Bob & Arlene Schriener

LSS DELIVERY

FLOWER DELIVERY

Maria Schell

COOKIE SUNDAY

Apr. 3 – Community Dinner

Apr. 10 – Endowment/
Finance

Apr. 17 – Worship & Music

Apr. 24 – Martha Circle

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15/10:45

Apr. 3 – Pastor Chris

Apr. 10 – Daryl Rotman

Apr. 17 – Tim Cochran/
Traci Roth

Apr. 24 – Daryl Rotman

DRIVERS

Apr. 3 – Jerry Bryant

Apr. 10 – Mike Zawisza

Apr. 17 – Aaron Ried

Apr. 24 – Pam Cochran

Food Cart Requests



Laundry Detergent,
Toilet Paper, Soup

All donations will benefit

Lutheran Social Services

APRIL Celebrations Birthdays

Avarie Needles	4/1
Nick Thorbahn	4/2
Doug Bonnoront	4/3
Charles Crates	4/3
Jerry Bryant	4/4
Nick Muntzing	4/4
Harry Fifolt	4/6
Rhonda May	4/11
Wayne Dukes	4/12
Edwin Dunn	4/12
Doris Brand	4/15
Beth Meier	4/15
Caitlin Mathias	4/17
Ken Bahler	4/18
Jack Haffelder	4/18
Janette Treece	4/18
Cynthia Fitzpatrick	4/20
Robert Rodman	4/20
Patricia Needles	4/21
Robert Schriner	4/23
Maurine Denney	4/24
Harper Cleary	4/25
Oliver Cleary	4/25
Daniel Eakin	4/25
Cecilia Maag	4/26
Judith Mains	4/28
Gary Schultz	4/29
Gavin Haudenschild	4/30
Jack Meek	4/30

Anniversaries

James & Maurine Denney	4/3/1971	51
Clyde & Donna Mason	4/7/1980	42
Randy & Julie Buck	4/15/1989	33
Dean & Amy Bowser	4/26/1986	36
Alex & Jennifer Treece	4/27/2002	20



first
Lutheran
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Current Resident or:

Mailed around
March 30, 2022

Maundy Thursday
Worship @ 7:00

Good Friday Worship
Readings and Music 7:30

Easter Worship

8:15 and 10:45

Easter breakfast 9:00