



First Hand May 2023

First Lutheran Church
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Mission Statement:
*Sharing God's grace
through prayer,
witness, and service.*



MAY 14



MAY 21



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I love watching the Olympics-both the winter games and the summer games. My favorite events are the swimming and the track and field events in the summer, and the ice skating and skiing events in the winter. If I were an Olympic athlete, I think the most agonizing time would be the few seconds of waiting after the time you step on to the swimming platform, or the starting blocks on the track, or the starting gate at the top of the mountain you are ready to ski down or waiting on the skating rink on the center of the ice. It's only a few seconds of waiting, but I imagine that it seems like forever; the athlete's heart is racing as he or she waits for the starting gun or the music to begin; to get the show on the road, as it were.

For the secular world Easter is over. The candy has been consumed, the Easter flowers have died, and the Easter decorations have been put away.

But for Christians, the season of Easter continues. In the church year, Easter is a 50-day season that begins on Easter Sunday (which this year was April 9) and concludes on Pentecost Sunday, (which this year is May 28). It marks the 40 days that Jesus was with his disciples after the resurrection, followed by the 10 days the disciples had to wait in Jerusalem before the Holy Spirit arrived on Pentecost. And I am willing to bet that the most agonizing time was the 10-day wait between Jesus' ascension into heaven and the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

I imagine the disciples staring up in the sky, watching Jesus ascend, and hearing the voice of the angel admonishing them: "What are you looking at? What are you waiting for? You heard what he said. Go to Jerusalem and wait. Now get out of here!" (I paraphrase). Ten days is but the blink of any eye compared to an average life span of 80 years, but like those few seconds an Olympic athlete waits before the start of an event, I would bet it seemed like forever.

Jesus is gone. The Spirit has not arrived yet. They were not told how many days they would have to wait.

When would it happen? How would it happen? THEN what were they supposed to do? After the Spirit arrives, how will they know what to do, where to go, or what to say? I had that “10 day” waiting period moment after I graduated seminary, and before I was called to First Lutheran. The five months between my graduation and my accepting a call here-those months seem fleeting now, but at the time, it seemed like forever. Where would the Spirit lead me? How long would it take to find a call? And after I got a call, THEN what was I supposed to do? No doubt we ALL have those anxious “10-day” waiting periods-the time between graduating college and finding a job, the time between the engagement and the wedding, the time between planning a new ministry and the start of it. It seems like forever, and after we land the job or say our wedding vows or start the new ministry, THEN what are we supposed to do?

The disciples need not have worried. With the arrival of the Holy Spirit, the disciples received the Spirit of God. They knew exactly what to say, where to go, and what to do, just as Jesus had promised. Did they make mistakes? Of course. And so will we. But the Spirit of Wisdom, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Love, the Spirit of God, is with us. It comes to us in Word and in Sacrament; in our Baptism, at the meal of bread and wine that we share, and in the preaching of God’s Holy Word.

May the Spirit of God always guide your path in your walk with Jesus.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will send you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, because He abides with you, and He will be in you.

John 14: 15-17

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,
Pastor Larry



Report of Director of Music



Just as a mother's love speaks to us.

May music programs include music from the chancel and bell choir through Holy Trinity Sunday. Summer music schedule begins in the Park June 11. Favorite hymn picks begin June 18. Get your ballot turned in please.

I LEARNED FROM YOU

I LEARNED ABOUT LOVE FROM YOU,
WATCHING YOUR CARING WAYS.
I LEARNED ABOUT JOY FROM YOU
IN FUN-FILLED YESTERDAYS.

FROM YOU I LEARNED FORGIVING
OF FAULTS BOTH BIG AND SMALL.
I LEARNED WHAT I KNOW ABOUT LIVING
FROM YOU, AS YOU GAVE LIFE YOUR ALL.

THE EXAMPLE YOU SET IS STILL WITH ME
I'D NEVER WANT ANY OTHER.
I'M THANKFUL FOR ALL THAT YOU TAUGHT ME,
AND I'M BLESSED TO CALL YOU "MOTHER."

Financial Secretary Newsletter

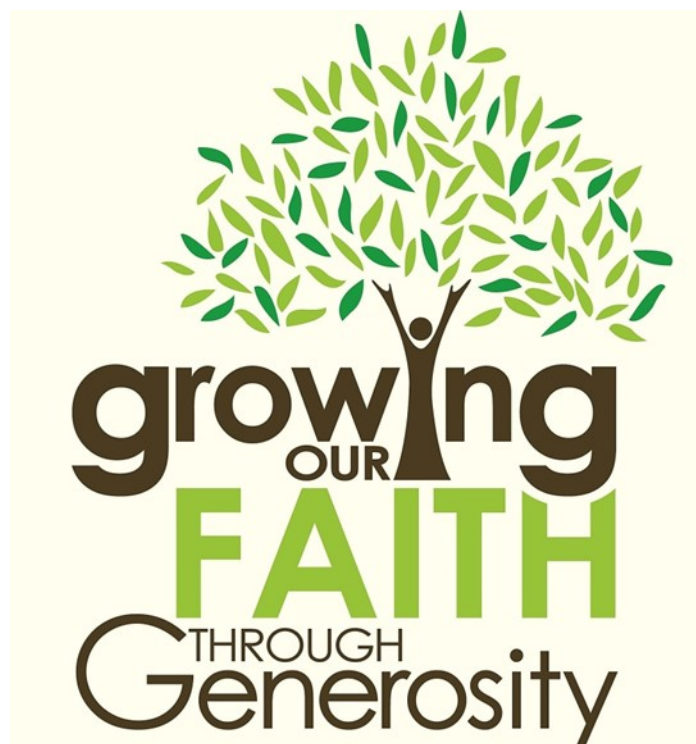
May 2023

Judy Vassar

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. ⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. (2nd Corinthians 8:1-7; NRSV)

In his letter to the Corinthian Christians, Paul references how the Macedonians responded to his effort to collect funds for the Christians in Jerusalem. Paul describes the Macedonians as people who had given themselves as well as their resources to Christ.

As we work toward the realization of the church's goal's, let us mimic the “Macedonian Mindset” in steadfastly giving our resources and ourselves to Christ. For how we give, serve and live not only helps to accomplish our objectives, but also serves as evidence of the resurrection. Our commitment to stewardship, like that of the Macedonians, is a testimony of the empty tomb.



TUESDAY LUNCH

May 9th and 23rd

Bring your lunch and a lawn chair and enjoy the fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

If the weather isn't cooperating the meeting will be in the courtyard.



LUNCH AT THE LAKE!



Faith Circle will enjoy lunch at Cranberry Resort on Beautiful Indian Lake, Tuesday, May 16th at Noon.

Come Join Us! Bring a Friend!

For those who wish to carpool or follow to Cranberry, we will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 am.

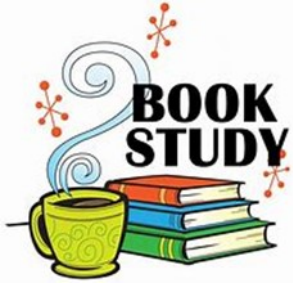
CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND MISSION

will again be supporting the

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



First Lutheran Church, along with other Logan County Churches, is again supporting a New Path Pregnancy Center Fundraiser. Bottles will be distributed after the service on May 14th (Mother's Day) for you to fill with your donations of loose change. This will run through June 18th (Father's Day) when the bottles will be collected. Feel free to direct any questions to Cheri Comstock. (937) 597-4263



THE BOOKS FOR THE “UNCLOBBER” BOOK STUDY ARE IN AND MAY BE PICKED UP IN THE OFFICE.

WATCH FOR INFORMATION ON DATES AND TIMES.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 13TH IN THE LOUNGE @ 9:00 AM.

Oakland Square PARK CLEAN UP

Saturday, May 13th @ 11:00 am.

Preparing for upcoming park services beginning in June.



Our turn to help with Our Daily Bread for May is Monday, May 15th at 4:15 pm. Desserts of cookies, cupcakes and brownies are needed.

Thanks for helping.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION DAY May 21st



COLLEGE

Samantha Starkey will graduate from Baldwin Wallace with a degree in Criminal Justice. She will be working at a law firm this summer in Akron, studying for her LSAT's and plans to go to law school in the fall of 2024.

Shelby Starkey will receive her bachelor's degree in May at Ohio Northern and then will continue there for 2 years in pharmacy school to complete her PharmD degree.

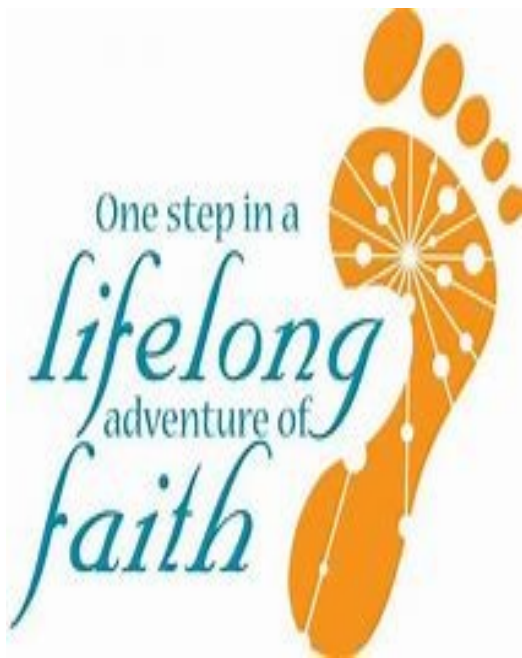
HIGH SCHOOL

Lucas McKenrick will graduate from Benjamin Logan High School on 5/26. He will be attending Ohio University and studying Environmental Science and Sustainability.

Declan Shannon will graduate from Bellefontaine High School on 5/26. He is looking into the plumbers union and the trade school associated with that field.

Emma Swisher will be graduating from West Liberty Salem High School on 5/28. She will be attending Wright State University and working toward a Nursing Degree.

Reception following the service in the courtyard.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
MAY 28, 2023

SOPHIA BRILYNN PORTER

WILL BE
CONFIRMED

*Reception following the service in the
courtyard.*

PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 28, 2023

ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH WILL
GATHER TO CELEBRATE THE
ONGOING LIFE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
WHO IS ITS BREATH, VITALITY, AND
INSPIRATION.

WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE TO WEAR
SOMETHING **RED** TO CHURCH.





GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

ORDERS FOR THE GERANIUMS WILL NEED BE
TURNED IN TO THE FLORIST BY MAY 10TH.
ENVELOPES ARE ON THE PEW BY THE
BULLETINS.

THE COST WILL BE \$5.00 EACH.



Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

Favorite hymn(s) ballots are available on the pew
by the bulletins.



*Pastor Larry and Carolyn will be gone from May 29th
through June 3rd.*



The church office will be closed on Monday, May 29th,
in the observance of Memorial Day.

The deadline for the June
newsletter articles is May 22nd

May Ministry Team Meeting Date:

- 05/13—Property Committee
- 05/16—7:00pm FLIRT Meeting
- 05/22 —7:00pm Worship Team



Highlights

Faith Formation Ministry Team

Christian Service and Mission Ministry Team

- Baby Bottle campaign

Faith Circle

-
- Lunches in the Park

Finance Ministry Team

- Monitor church finances

Flirt

- Continue to refine safety measures

Outreach Ministry Team

- Continue program to reach “shut ins”

Property Ministry Team

- Continued renovations
- Outside landscaping

Worship Ministry Team

- Summer services
- Park services

2023 Church Council

President- Chris Hildreth Blair

Vice-President- John Bodin

Secretary- Carolyn Novak

Treasurer – John Belser

Financial Secretary – Judy Vassar

Members- Ray Kramer, Judy Lunz, Brittany Porter, Liz Rose, Kris Shannon, Brenda Shively, Ray Swisher



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Copies of reports from the meetings of each ministry team is available for you to view in the Partners In Ministry Book located in the lower narthex.

Sunday Attendance for March

	On site	Online
March 5	55	79
March 12	70	40
March 19	70	32
March 26	70	63
AVERAGE	67	54



During the past month we have remembered many in prayer. We remember in prayer all who are in need of God's presence and care ... especially:

Health Issues:

Emily Bauer
Brenda Shively
Randy Neer

Surgery:

Entered the Church Triumphant

Clarabell Heath
Jeannette Hostetler
Jon Hubbard

Altar flower vases available for the following dates thru August:

May 7—1 vase
June 4—1 vase
July 9 & 16—1 vase each date
July 30—2 vases
August 6—2 vases
August 20—1 vase





- 5/01 Mason Swisher
- 5/04 Megan Bingaman
- 5/04 Marley Shields
- 5/06 Cheri Comstock
- 5/12 Chris Gamble
- 5/13 Margaret Barger
- 5/13 Dick Griffith
- 5/15 Lowell Huber
- 5/15 Krista Belser
- 5/15 Cody Allen
- 5/19 Madison Jones
- 5/19 Garrett Dixon
- 5/21 Judy Lunz
- 5/22 Betty Fultz
- 5/24 Stacie Jones
- 5/25 Garrett Comstock
- 5/26 Walter Smola
- 5/29 John Marshall
- 5/31 Tom Jameson



- 05/10/1990 Chuck & Rhonda Bingaman
- 05/03/1986 Dave & Peggy Dishop
- 05/20/2000 Perry & Sherri Hodies
- 05/24/1986 Jim & Carol Simpson
- 05/26/1986 Walter & Carol Smola
- 05/20/2000 Mike & Nancee Starkey



Thanks for the coloring books, pencils and movies. I really enjoyed them!

Michael Myers

Thanks to everyone for prayers when my brother, Ernie was so sick and then passed away. Sure appreciated cards, notes, and comments from you too. So glad for great friends! Bless all of you.

Jan VanHoose

Worship Assistant:

May 7 Chris Tillman
May 14 Chris Hildreth Blair
May 21 Cindy Weikart
May 28 Dave Vassar

Communion Assistant:

May 7 Kris Swisher
May 14 Barb Triplett
May 21 Gail Keck
May 28 Cindy Weikart

Usher for May:

Kevin Miller

Altar Guild for May:

Cheri & Dave Comstock

Communion Bread for May:

Confirmation Class

Reader:

May 7 Beth Harman
May 14 Dave Vassar
May 21 Jean Wright
May 28 Chris Hildreth Blair

Greeter (s):

May 7 Chris & Marshall Blair
May 14 Beth Harman
May 21 Betty Vondenhuevel
May 28 Jean Wright

Acolyte:

May 7 Declan Shannon
May 14 Sophia Porter
May 21 Lottie Bodin
May 28 Kris Swisher

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 CHEF Sunday Noisy Money Sunday 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	1 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Council RIC 7:00pm Dulcimers	2 9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	3 10:00am Emergency Food & Shelter Board 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice	4 12:00pm NA (RH) 12:00pm National Day of Prayer 6:00pm Holland Practice 7:00pm Choir 8:00pm Bells	5 Office Closed	6 Office Closed
7 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	8 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study	9 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm CORE Meeting 12:00pm Lunch in the Courtyard or Lounge 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	10 9:30am Cluster 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice	11 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 11:00am Hunger Network Luncheon 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	12 Office Closed 11:00am Chaplain (MRH)	13 Office Closed 9:00am Property Meeting [Lounge] 10:00am Mother's Day Preparation 11:00am Park Cleanup
14 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	15 12:00pm AA (RH) 4:15pm Our Daily Bread	16 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm FLIRT Meeting [Lounge]	17 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice	18 12:00pm Homeless Shelter Board Meeting 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	19 Office Closed	20 Office Closed 7:00pm Dulcimers
21 Graduate Recognition & Reception 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	22 Deadline for Newsletter Articles 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	23 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Courtyard or Lounge 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	24 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice	25 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed
28 Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	29 Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day 12:00pm AA (RH)	30 9:00am Quilters	31 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice	1 6:00pm Holland Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	2 Office Closed	3 Office Closed Synod Assembly