

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*First Hand*



2023

## MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing God's grace  
through prayer, witness,  
and service.

First Lutheran Church  
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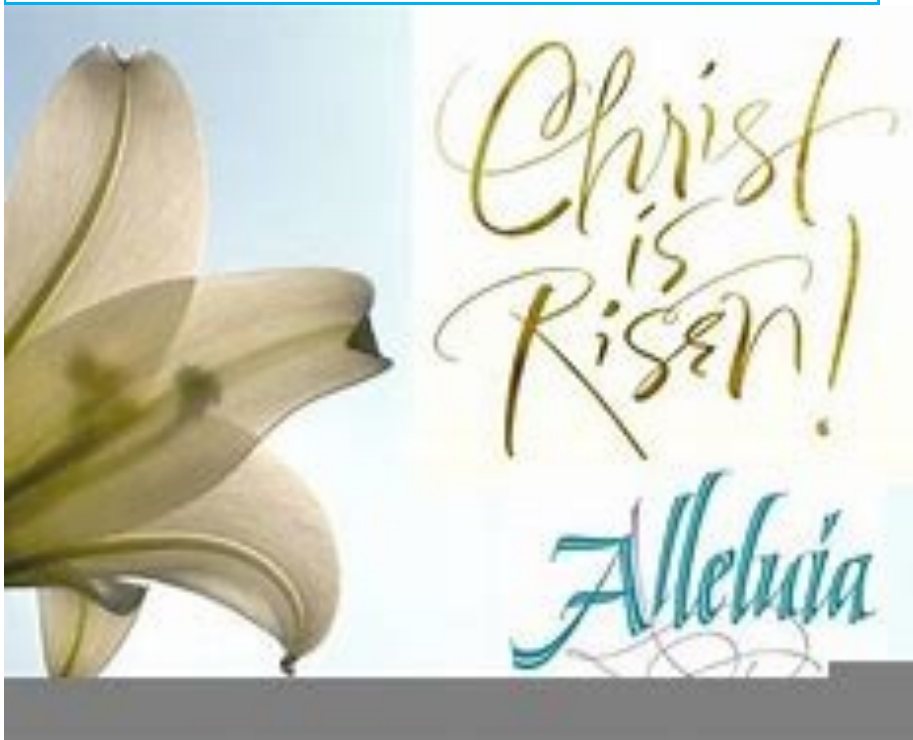
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*The Resurrection of Our Lord*

*Easter Day Service*

*April 9, 2023*

*10:00am*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What is happening to the church? Numbers are shrinking. The people in the pews are getting older. Where are the young families? Where are the youth? Every year, more and more people are identifying as “non-religious”. Congregations worry that they will need to close their doors.

***After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.***

The country is falling apart. Political divisions are tearing apart families and communities. Each side accuses the other of ruining America.

***And suddenly, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.***

There is war between Ukraine and Russia. China is threatening to invade Taiwan, and the United States might be dragged into World War III.

***His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him, the guards shook and became like dead men.***

The climate crisis is getting more severe every year. There are droughts and wildfires and floods. Creation itself is plagued by sin.

***But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here: for he has been raised as he said. Come see the place where he lay”.***

Refugees are streaming across our southern border. Most are poor families escaping drug cartels and crushing poverty. Some are drug couriers and human traffickers. There are not enough border patrol agents or immigration courts to process everyone in a timely manner. And America is not the only country facing an immigration issue, as refugees are also flooding into Europe from Syria and Ukraine.

***“Then quickly go and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you”.***

There is not a sufficient stock of safe, decent, affordable housing, and as a result, more and more people are homeless; living in a shelter, or in their car, or under a bridge, even in rural areas.

***So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.***

Methamphetamines, heroin, and other opiates plague our streets and ruin lives.

Pain killers meant to heal are now being abused and causing harm.

It all seems so hopeless. To whom can we turn? In whom can we put our trust?

***Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”. And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then, Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”***

When all seems lost, when it looks as though evil has prevailed and good has been defeated, remember that Jesus has given us a glimpse into the future—a future where God’s justice reigns. A future where righteousness and peace prevail. A future where the forces of Sin, Death, and the Devil have no power. God’s future breaks into our present. This is the kingdom of heaven. And even in the darkest times, God calls the church to help build a kingdom where God’s will is done. Amidst all the evil in the world, when we look for Jesus, we remember the words of the angel: “Do not be afraid. The tomb is empty. He is risen”.

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Larry



## Report of Director of Music



April 2, 2023, our church will be celebrating Palm Sunday with the glorious waving of the palms.

April 9, 2023, Easter Sunday will be celebrating our risen Lord. Breakfast at 9:00 AM and Worship at 10:00 AM.

Also in April we will enjoy some special music.

### **He Lives**

Happy Easter! Allelujah!  
Jesus Christ, He lives!  
Serve Him to receive salvation;  
Eternal life he gives!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' 30 Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the Innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' 37 He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.' (Luke 10:29-37; NRSV)

In this passage, Jesus describes a Samaritan who was an outcast in the eyes of the Jewish community, but a neighbor in the eyes of God. Christ called him a neighbor because he showed mercy; the Samaritan gave his resources, time and energy to heal a broken life. Please remember your personal commitment to give your resources and yourselves to Christ; there are still people that need to experience the mercy of God through us.



**Stewardship**



## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**Maundy Thursday: United Methodist Church, Seder Meal @ 6:00 pm. The Seder Meal is samples of lamb, matza & herbs. The regular dinner will be chicken, potatoes & green beans (need to sign up @ FLC and get a ticket from FLC church office to attend)**

**Worship Service (following Seder Meal) @ 7:00 pm—Methodist Church**

**Good Friday Service      First Christian Church      8:00 pm**

**This will be a Stations of the Cross Service.**



## **EASTER SUNDAY**

**FLC EASTER BREAKFAST @ 9:00 AM IN RICE HALL**

**COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:00 IN THE SANCTUARY**

**(SIGN –UP SHEETS IN THE LOWER NARTHEX FOR DONATIONS OF FOOD  
AND FOR HELPERS)**



**TUESDAY LUNCH**

***Tuesday In the Park/Courtyard/Lounge***

***Tuesday April 4th an Tuesday April 18th at noon.***

***Bring you lunch and enjoy good fellowship. Everyone is welcome!***

***FAITH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, April 18th at noon in conjunction with the Tuesday Lunch. Bring your lunch and join in the mission with the women of First Lutheran.***



***FAITH CIRCLE MISSION PROJECT FOR APRIL IS TO COLLECT NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR THE LCS FOOD PANTRY.***

***A CONTAINER FOR DONATIONS WILL BE IN THE LOWER NARTHEX BEGINNING APRIL 2ND.***

***FELLOWSHIP and CHRISTIAN SERVICE and MISSION MINISTRY TEAMS***

***Will meet Monday April 10th at 7:00 pm in the lounge.***

***Come Join Us in our ministries!***



Thanks to all who help out at Our Daily Bread. We will be serving on April 17th at 4:15 pm. Helpers are always needed. Also desserts, such as cookies, brownies or cupcakes. Please let the church office know if you plan to help.



For students enrolling in college or current college students, Christian Higher Education Fund (CHEF) grant applications are available in the church office. The deadline to turn them in is April 15th.



**We are collecting books to put in the Little Library in Oakland Square Park. The books can be used or new and for ages pre-school through elementary age. In April a container will be in the lower narthex for the books.**



**Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Northwest Conference  
of the Southern Ohio Synod  
present their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Gathering**



**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 15, 2023**

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
248 Wood Street  
Piqua, Ohio**

**“Easter’s Over – Now What?”**

**Tomb Dweller or Resurrected Christian?  
John 3:16, Acts 1:3-4, Psalm 51**

**Offering to be shared with WELCA & where great needs exist!**

**Hospitality Brunch, Exhibits and Registration from 8:30-10:00 a.m.  
Opening assembly in sanctuary 10 a.m. with presentation at 10:30 a.m.  
A brief business meeting will follow.  
Gathering closes at approximately Noon.**



**April Ministry Team Meeting Dates:**

04/03—7:00pm Council Meeting

04/10—7:00pm Christian Fellowship

04/24—7:00pm Worship Team

**2021 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

**Sunday Attendance for February**

	On site	Online
Feb. 5	67	17
Feb. 12	63	37
Feb. 19	57	21
Feb. 26	55	18
Average	61	84



**Ministry Team Highlights**

**Faith Formation Ministry Team**

- Discussing VBS

**Fellowship and Christian Service Ministry Team**

- Lenten Dinners
- Easter Breakfast

**Finance Ministry Team**

- Monitor church finances

**FLIRT**

- Security

**Outreach Ministry Team**

- Visitor follow up

**Property Ministry Team**

- Continued renovations

**Worship Ministry Team**

- Spring/Summer Services

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



*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*

Jordan Banks

Reid Chamberlain

Gloria Kipker

Sandy Levan

Larry Novak (Pastor's father)

Sally Stephan

Bob Taylor

*Surgery*

Garis Pugh

Brenda Shively

*Entered the Church Triumphant*

Ernie Hoffman

Todd Detrick

Altar flower vases available for the following dates thru July 2023:

April 9 & 23—1 vase each date

May 7 & 28—1 vase each date

June 4 & 11—1 vase each date

July 9 & 16—1 vase each date

July 30—2 vases





**I want to say thank you to everyone for all of the prayers, cards, food cards and meals during my recovery from my recent surgery. Also, thank you to Rachel Gillespie for bringing me the altar flowers. I enjoy watching the online service but will be glad when I can actually attend again. We are so blessed to have such a caring church family.**

**Brenda Shively and Dan**



**THANK YOU FOR ANNOUNCING THE PRAYER REQUEST. WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE THAT SALLY CONTACTED YOU. REID GOT TO GO HOME TODAY FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL . HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL FIVE DAYS WITH EXTREMELY HIGH BP. HE CELEBRATED HIS 7TH BIRTHDAY.**

**BLESSINGS,**

**CHERYL & SCOTT CHAMBERLAIN**

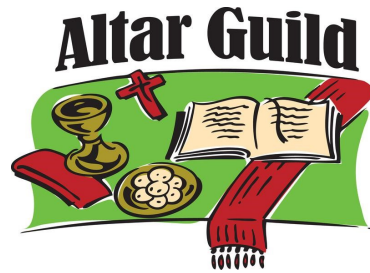




- 04/01 Marshall Blair-Hildreth
- 04/02 Morgan Badenhop
- 04/03 Misty Kipker
- 04/04 Brianna Jameson
- 04/04 Josalyn Porter
- 04/05 Max Bixler
- 04/05 Gary Kauffman
- 04/06 James Dwight Simpson
- 04/08 Chris Badenhop
- 04/12 Elaine Latimer
- 04/14 Dave Vassar
- 04/15 Jim Simpson
- 04/19 Mary Contner
- 04/22 Cathie Hubbard
- 04/25 Dave Dishop
- 04/25 Dave Anderson
- 04/25 Susan Allen
- 04/25 Mariana Swartz
- 04/29 Carolyn Hoy
- 04/29 Janet Donnelly
- 04/29 Ben Zoldak

*Happy Anniversary*

04/25/1981 Gene & Margaret Barger



**Volunteers needed for the following months: Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.**

This does not have to be a month commitment. If you would like to help and can only do a week or two during a month that would be very helpful.

Contact Cindy Weikart through the church office.

The deadline for newsletter articles for **May** is April 21st



**Worship Assistant:**

April 2      Luke Mckenrick  
April 9      Beth Harman  
April 16     Winnie Bodin  
April 23     Dick Griffith  
April 30     Luke Mckenrick

**Communion Assistant:**

April 2      Dave Comstock  
April 9      Dan Shively  
April 16     Tina Keckler  
April 23     Jinny Fergus  
April 30     Jan VanHoose

**Usher for April:**

Kevin Miller

**Reader:**

April 2      John Gensemer  
April 9      Chris Tillman  
April 16     Carl Gillespie  
April 23     Cindy Weikart  
April 30     Susan Wyckoff

**Greeter(s):**

April 2      Ted & Carolyn Hoy  
April 9      Ray & Cheryl Kramer  
April 16     Paul & Joann Karn  
April 23     Tom & Liz Rose  
April 30     Brittany Porter &  
                 Diane Anderson

**Acolyte:**

April 2      Misty Kipker  
April 9      Misty Kipker  
April 16     Lottie Bodin  
April 23     Lottie Bodin  
April 30

**Altar Guild for April:**

April 2      Cheri Comstock  
April 9      Cindy Weikart  
April 16     Rachel Gillespie  
April 23     Cindy Weikart  
April 30     Cindy Weikart

**Communion Bread for April:**

Rita liams



## Easter

Z J H A Q  
S E R F Q  
I P Z S H  
V V I S F  
Q C P C Z  
H T A E D M O R F E S I R E M P T Y T O M B A  
N O I T C E R R U S E R D I S C I P L E S O S  
G L O R I F I E D S E P U L C H R E T S A E L  
Y R O T C I V F C B G J E T H I R D D A Y B C  
N A D Y O E N E L A D G A M Y R A M E A W C A  
S O N R S  
H X I T U  
T I N H N  
O C R Q D  
L S O U A  
C D M A Y  
L R S K W  
A A W E N  
I U G T A  
R G J N S  
U X G Y T  
B E J I O  
L E N O N  
O D R N E  
Y R C G X

Angel  
Burial Cloths  
Disciples  
Earthquake  
Easter  
Empty Tomb  
Glorified  
Guards  
Mary Magdalene  
Morning

Resurrection  
Rise from Death  
Sepulchre  
Spices  
Stone  
Sunday  
Third Day  
Victory

## April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	<b>27</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	<b>28</b> 9:00am Quilters	<b>29</b> 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Lenten Dinner 7:00pm Lenten Service	<b>30</b> 12:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	<b>31</b> Office Closed	<b>1</b> Office Closed
<b>2</b> PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	<b>3</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm AA (RH) 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Dulcimers	<b>4</b> 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm Lunch in the Courtyard or Lounge 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	<b>5</b> 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir 8:00pm Bells	<b>6</b> 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Seder Meal (Methodist Church) 8:00pm Maundy Thursday Service (Methodist Church)	<b>7</b> 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 8:00pm Joint Good Friday Service (Methodist Church)	<b>8</b> Office Closed
<b>9</b> EASTER SUNDAY 9:00am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Communion Worship Service	<b>10</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Fellowship & Christian Service & Mission Ministry Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:30am Cluster Meeting 12:00pm NA (RH)	<b>13</b> 8:30am Continuum of Care Housing Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>14</b> Office Closed	<b>15</b> Office Closed
<b>16</b> 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	<b>17</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 4:15pm Our Daily Bread	<b>18</b> 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Courtyard or Lounge 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	<b>19</b> 12:00pm NA (RH)	<b>20</b> 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Outreach Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b> Office Closed
<b>23</b> 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	<b>24</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	<b>25</b> 9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	<b>26</b> 12:00pm NA (RH)	<b>27</b> 12:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> Office Closed
<b>30</b> CHEF Sunday Noisy Money Sunday 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	<b>1</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>