



APRIL

THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

2026

417 E. Broadway, Lou, KY, 40202 • thewelcomeplace.com • (502) 584-4926 • fstluth@bellsouth.net

WELCOME TO

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Whether you're new to the area or seeking a spiritual home, we're glad you're here. Nestled in a beautiful historic building in downtown Louisville, we are a vibrant community committed to worship, service, and growth in faith.

At First Lutheran, we strive to create a welcoming environment where love, grace, and peace guide our shared journey. Our mission is to help all people connect with God, grow in faith, and contribute to the work of Christ.

As a Reconciling In Christ congregation, we celebrate and affirm the dignity of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

We look forward to serving you and walking together in faith.

In this newsletter:

Latest news, projects, workshops, and more. Keep Reading!

Add to your calendar:

- 04/05: 10:30 AM Easter Service
- 04/12: 9:30 AM Breakfast before Service
- 04/15: Deadline for Synod Assembly Registration (we still need two people!)
- 04/19: 12:00 PM Council Meeting

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Updates from the Office Manager

- You've probably noticed the new doors at the front of the church! We are so excited to have completed this project!
- **NOW HIRING:** We are currently in search of a part-time Custodial/Property Management employee. If you, or anyone you know are interested, please reach out to me at "FLCFinance417@gmail.com"



SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 39th Annual Assembly of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be held virtually on Saturday, June 6, 2026. The Assembly will be called to order on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 9:30 am Eastern/8:30 am Central, ending at 1:00 pm Eastern/Noon Central.

We need two individuals, one male and one female, to represent First. It is online, so there is no travel involved. The deadline for the early bird registration is April 15, and the final deadline is May 15. If you are interested in this, please contact the church office.

Music Ministry

Seasons of the Church Year

April begins with the days of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday brings the remembrance of the Last Supper of the Lord and of our forgiveness. The word "maundy" is taken from the Latin mandatum (English "mandate"), where Jesus commands his followers to love one another (John 13:34). Good Friday brings the story of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. Easter Sunday brings the celebration of the resurrection. After the more somber reflective mood of Lent, we now proclaim "Alleluia" and celebrate our redemption and eternal life through Christ's victory over death and the grave. You might notice changes in our worship space. The paschal candle stands near the baptismal font as usual, but it will also be lit each Sunday of the Easter season. Its light represents the risen Christ, the light of the world, who leads us out of darkness. During the Easter season the paraments on the altar and the vestments worn by the worship leaders are gold and white, symbolizing the joy of the Resurrection. The Alleluia that was put away at the beginning of Lent returns to our worship. We have returned to singing the Alleluia in the Cantic of Praise (This is the feast...) at the beginning of our worship service. Even the Gospel Acclamation includes an opportunity to proclaim Alleluia once again. All of this combines with the earth's glorious spring renewal to celebrate Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life.

David McNease

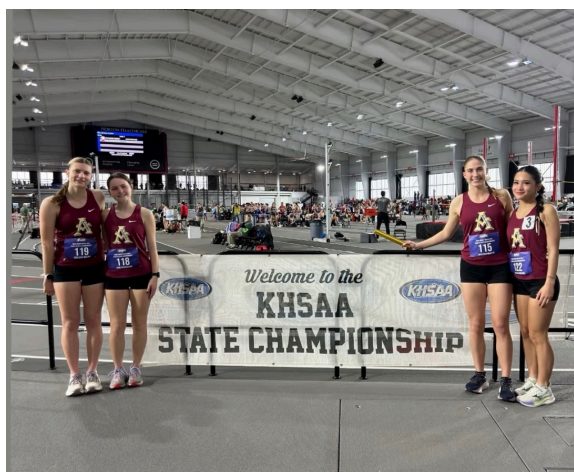


Wedding Bells!



We extend heartfelt congratulations to Bethany Lille and Mac Schapler who will be married April 19th here at First Lutheran! Blessings upon you both!

Well Done!



Congratulations to Elise France and her team at Atherton who placed 12th place in the the State Indoor School KHSAA Championship!



Some crafts for your inspiration - Melody Sterling

Well Done!



Congratulations to Macy Frank on receiving the Viking Virtue Foregiveness Award! Keep up the good work!

Food Pantry



The Food Pantry is beyond estatic to have recieved the gift of a new Deep Freezer from our partner GE Appliances!

Letter from the Council President

Hi Church Members,

April showers bring May flowers. A new spiritual beginning for us. If you haven't heard from a church member lately, send them a card. It brightens my day. Jesus says to love our neighbors as ourselves. Love is universal. We need to communicate with our neighbors and church members to show them they haven't been forgotten.

If anyone has ideas for a church outing, please let me know. We have been to Louisville Bats Baseball games in the past. We could go see the new football team, or even a men's or women's soccer game. We could go bowling or even play put-put golf.

Please support our church members participating in the derby festivities this year.

Hope to see you Sunday.



Vicky Frank
Council President

Altar Guild



The Easter Lily (*Lilium longiflorum*)

Did you know...

Surprisingly, the specific “Easter Lily” we have today isn’t native to the West. It originated in Japan. Louis Houghton, a World War I soldier, brought the bulbs from Japan to the U.S. (Oregon) in 1919. When World War II cut off the supply of bulbs from Japan, the Pacific Northwest became the primary producer of Easter lilies.

The symbolism of the bloom.

- Resurrection and Hope: The way a lily grows from a plain dormant bulb into a striking white flower is often used as a symbol for the resurrection of Jesus. The bulb buried underground sits in the dark, unseen and still, until one day it breaks through and blooms, just like Jesus Christ buried, then rising from the dead bringing new life, new hope, and a new beginning.
- Purity and Innocence: The snow-white petals represent a state of grace and purity, often representing the Virgin Mary.
- The “Trumpet” Shape: Their physical shape resembles a trumpet, which symbolizes a “herald” or an announcement of rebirth.



Larry Askins
Chair, Altar Guild



Scripture Interpreters

Where to scriptures agree, inviting us into the joy of holy clarity?

Where to scriptures *disagree*, inviting us into the blessing of holy conflict?

Three "I am" statements:

"I am the Bread of Life"

Matthew 6: 19-20

Psalms 78: 21-29

John 4: 1-42

"I am the Light of the World"

Matthew 5: 14-16

1 John 5: 6-12

Deuteronomy 19: 15-21

"I am the True Vine"

Psalms 80

Ezekiel 17: 1-10

John 13: 31-35

Verses for reflection

Exodus 3: 1- 4:17

John 6: 30-59

Exodus 16: 1-36



Lori Caron
Member

Church Mouse has been busy hunting down history in the vault of our building. Here is a full page from the April edition of:

Look at how busy the people of First were in April of 1906. Worship Services every single night in Holy Week!

EASTER NOTES.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at both Sunday morning and evening services in order that all our people may have an opportunity to commune.

* * *

If informed, the pastor will be glad to administer the Lord's Supper on Easter afternoon to all who because of serious sickness or age are prevented from coming to the church.

* * *

Little children will be presented for baptism at the Easter morning service.

* * *

It is earnestly requested that all who commune will leave their name and address on the card found in all the pews.

* * *

There will be simple and appropriate decorations in the church for Palm Sunday. We would like flowers to beautify the altar on Easter Sunday. Would it not be appropriate for those who wish to decorate the graves of loved ones to first bring these flowers to the church on Easter morning?

* * *

Quite a number of young people, not in the regular Catechetical Class, have attended special instruction by the pastor. These will be received into the church by the rite of Confirmation on Easter Sunday.

* * *

We make our service on Easter Sunday evening of a memorial character; intended especially to comfort those whose hearts are sad because of loved ones taken from the family here to the homeland yonder. The subject will be, "Heavenly Recognition."

JOINING THE CHURCH.

The present is always God's time for confessing His name by uniting with the church. Never postpone a duty so tremendously important as this; other things can wait, not this. Again we are at the threshold of an Eastertide, the call of God seems louder at this season than any other. Now is Christ risen from the dead.

Is not that a reason why I should rise up and serve Him and by uniting with His church?

Following every service of Holy Week, at any other time, during the week, in his home or study the pastor will be glad to meet and counsel with those who are thinking of uniting with the church on Easter Sunday.

HOLY WEEK.

Let nothing but a preventing providence keep you from our Holy Week services. Bring others with you. Pray for God's blessing on the services. The theme of each evening will follow, as nearly as possible in the footsteps of Jesus on the last week of His earthly life. It will be a great aid to your meditations to read during the week the Passion History, written in the closing chapters of the four Gospels.

The topics of the evening sermons will be as follows. The services will begin at 7 o'clock:

- Monday—"Jesus Love for the Church."
- Tuesday—"Desiring to See Jesus."
- Wednesday—"The Warnings of Jesus."
- Thursday—"The Betrayal of Jesus."
- Friday—"The Crucifixion of Jesus."

The preparatory service for the Easter Communion will be held in connection with the Good Friday night worship.

LUELLE DOWNS.

Luella Downs, one of the truly lovely girls of our church, a faithful Sunday School teacher and a member of our Luther Union, died on Wednesday evening, March 28th, after but a few days' illness. She had been in her accustomed place with us on Sunday and taught her class as usual. The suddenness, while shocking to her family and to us all, did not find her unprepared. A life of love and duty and of faith was the preparation for death, come when it might. She was a Christian. That means everything. It is usefulness, beauty and happiness while living. It is comfort, peace, eternal hope in death. To the loved ones of her home we extend affectionate, prayerful sympathy.



THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

Find the underlined words amongst the letter grid at the bottom.
The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Matthew 28: 1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for 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. Then go quickly 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." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. 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 and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Judeans to this day.

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A R D I R E C T E D E S I V E D D S



At First Lutheran Church we believe that God delights in the diversity of all creation. As a Reconciling in Christ community, we welcome all into fellowship; recognizing the dignity of every human being regardless of gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, race, or any other identifier. You are accepted and welcome here, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

If you need to contact one of the church's committee chairs, here is a list of all the committees and their chairs. Please let them know if you have any problems, suggestions for improvements, or compliments.

Building Users	Vicky Frank
Christian Education	Lori Caron
Endowment Funds Subcommittee	Harley Butler
Finance	Drew Wartschlager
Food Pantry	Sharon Lillie
Membership	Vicky Frank
Property	Paul Nellis
Social Ministry	Stephanie McCoy
Vision and Outreach	Paul Nellis
Worship and Music	Nancy Brian