



MARCH

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:

- 03/08: 9:00 AM Breakfast before service
- 03/15: 12:00 PM Council Meeting
- 03/29: 12:00 PM Potluck luncheon

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Updates from the Office Manager

- I want to remind everyone of our most convenient way to give, Tithely! It is a great way to setup automatic recurring or one-time donations! Scan our QR Code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/4v9n236j> to get started!



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.

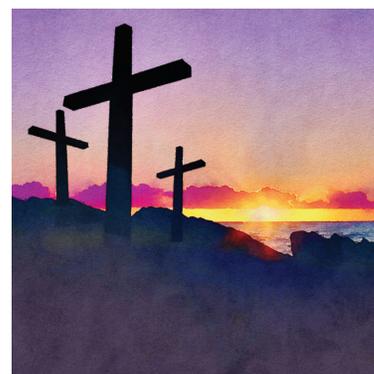
We need two individuals, one male and one female, to represent First. It is online, so there is no travel involved. The deadline for the early bird registration is April 15, and the final deadline is May 15. If you are interested in this, please contact the church office.

Music Ministry

Seasons of the Church

We are currently in the season of Lent. On Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday we sang alleluia for the last time before the beginning of Lent. The word "Lent" comes from an Old English word for spring, and the purpose of repentance is the renewal of our lives just as spring renews the Earth. Our liturgy during Lent becomes simpler as we set aside our alleluias and embrace a plainer, more contemplative tone in our gatherings. The organ registrations will feature less bright, high, sparkly upper pitches. You will notice a change in the paraments and the chancel and altar will look different. The altar and baptismal font feature rough, dusty adornments. There are no flowers on the altar. The color purple will be featured, as it is the color for Lent. March closes with Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Palm Sunday begins the holiest of weeks in the church's liturgical life, with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday brings the remembrance of the Last Supper of the Lord and of our forgiveness. Good Friday brings the story of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. Our worship journey this month prepares us for the grand drama of the celebration to come, Easter. We also can take this opportunity to change the trappings of our lives and meditate on what can make us look different as individuals. Take the opportunity to worship in a more contemplative and introspective way as the music helps you move beyond your outer self and look inward.

David McNease



Letter from the Council President

Hi Church Members,

As we approach Easter this year, let us seek a spiritual renewal to our faith. Lent is 40 days of prayer, fasting, and repentance symbolizing the time of testing, judgement, and purification of ourselves and our faith in Jesus Christ. There are many organizations in our city that assist the poor with food, clothing, and shelter that could benefit our assistance. Our own Food Bank can always use canned goods (except applesauce) and toiletries.

I would like to let everyone know that we will be having a potluck luncheon on Palm Sunday, March 29th, after the church service. Also, if anyone would like to help me make Palm crosses this year, we will be making them at Patsy Heck's house on Saturday, March 28th. Please let me know if anyone would like to help.

Pastor Poisel is conducting a Bible Study every Tuesday at 7:00 PM. Please let me or Sharon Lillie know if you need the Zoom link to join the Bible Study.

Faith and Love be with you,



Vicky Frank
Council President

In Loving Memory of Bill Schaffrick

Bill Schaffrick, 100, passed away Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Baptist Health Hardin. Bill was born August 23, 1925 in Plainville, Connecticut to Carl and Emma Schaffrick.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Emma Schaffrick, a brother, Robert Schaffrick, and a sister, Dorothy Booth.

Bill is survived by his wife Wanda, children Clinton (Kathy) Schaffrick, Peter (Kelly) Schaffrick, Jay (Karen) Schaffrick, John Schaffrick, Robert (Jennie) Walters, Cheryl (Alberto) Franco, and Sandra Patrick, six grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.



In Loving Memory of Karen Wartschlager

Born to the late Charles and Laverne Miller, Karen is also preceded in death by her sister, Debra Kay Scorse.

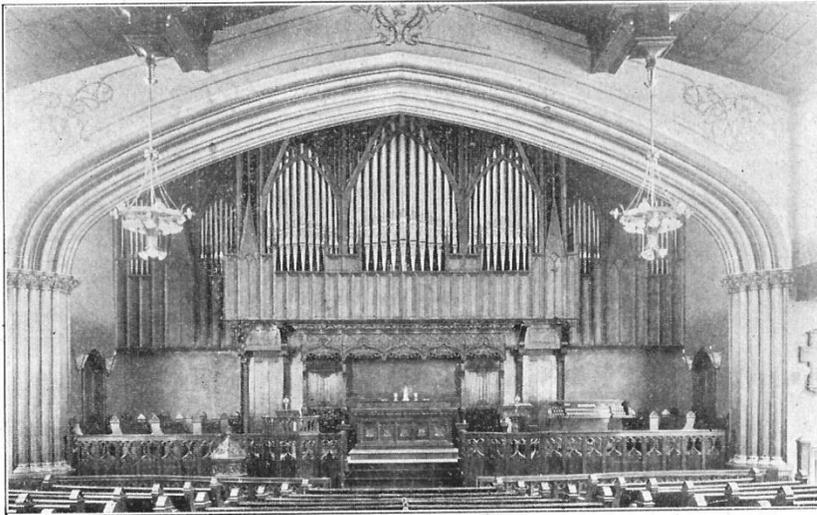
Here to carry on her memory is her husband of 50 years, Robert "Bob" Wartschlager; her children Chris Wartschlager (Linda) and Drew Wartschlager (Allison); her grandchildren, Alexis, Chase, and Emmie; her siblings Mark Miller (Pattibeth), Cheryl Jones (Mike), and Amy Miller; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.



From the First Lutheran Church Newsletter, 1906, as found by our Churchmouse.



THE CHURCH VISITOR.



OUR ALTAR.

A BEAUTIFUL MEMORIAL.

Recently the altar of our church has been made a memorial to Albert Vogt as the affectionate offering of his parents and sister. He was worthy their love while living and well deserves this tribute of affection in his death. In no better way could the family perpetuate the good influence of this devoted son and brother than by putting in the church of which he was a member this living memorial. No altar in a church could be more beautiful than ours. It is so churchly, so chaste, so sacredly beautiful as to speak continually to the eye and the heart. Church memorials serve a most worthy purpose. They are a monument to our loved ones whom God has taken to Himself. At the same time they help the church do its great work, and thus bless the living.

OUR EASTER OFFERING.

Let us all express the gratitude of our hearts for the triumph of Christ in His glorious resurrection by making to His cause a liberal Easter offering. Three objects are before us, each needing

asking and deserving an offering from us at Easter:

First—Our mission work. We are expected to give to missions this year \$7000. A large part of this ought to be as our Easter offering. Use the missionary envelope in your Lord's Treasury; or put it in a special envelope and mark "missions."

Second.—Our organ fund. It is necessary at this time that we make a payment on our organ. Something over \$2,000 was paid on it by the Mrs. Skidmore estate. This was a great help but leaves considerably more than half to be paid by our people. All enjoy and appreciate our organ—certainly one of the best in the city. Let us all give liberally toward paying for it. Use the special Organ Fund Easter Offering Envelope.

Third.—Our own church. The current expenses and interest fund of our church require a sum far greater than any previous year of our church history. This has not yet been provided for. Our people desire that the work of our church be conducted without deficit. In aid in this let us all make a special Easter offering. Use either the regular envelope or a special one, and mark it for Our Holy Church.

Look at what I found! It was in the vault downstairs.

Does the altar area, called the chancel, look the same today?

THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

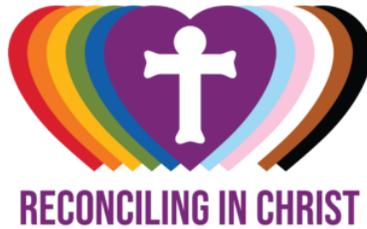
Find the underlined words amongst the letter grid at the bottom.
The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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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