

The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church

April 2024



Easter Blessings

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Message from the Pastor

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The Gospel of John declares that Jesus came into the world to save it (John 3:17). John clarifies that those who are saved are the ones who follow the light. The salvation given to us through Christ's resurrection is about following the light to everlasting life. We are saved by grace through faith, as Luther declared, so that we might enjoy the riches of heaven. It is victory over death. The faith that we develop and nurture through worship, prayer and Bible study spurs us on to live out our new life in Christ.

A young woman had a motorcycle accident. It shattered bones and the recovery was long and difficult. A member of the church I served organized a meal train and daily visits to the hospital for her injured friend. The first time I met this young woman was in her hospital room. She was so compelled by the generous friendship of this congregation that she became a Christian. After having a full recovery, with the congregation surrounding us, I baptized her in a swimming pool. Alleluia!

While salvation seems to be something we hope for "somewhere down the road", We are also saved in the here and now. The transformation power of the Holy Spirit, unleashed as a wild wind upon the world, can save us from the darkness of addictions, oppression, depression and hopelessness.

I sat across the kitchen table with a young man, his wife by his side. The business that he owned was collapsing right before his eyes. His addiction was making it difficult for him to make important decisions. He sat frozen across the table from me. Failure. That was the word he kept repeating to me. He couldn't see a way forward. Love was the word I kept using. As the three of us held hands and prayed together, he made the decision to get help for his addiction. God intervened at the moment and literally saved his life. Alleluia!

This is salvation. It is our inheritance as children of God. It is also lifesaving in the here and now. Jesus cared deeply about this world and how we live in community with one another in the present. We are called to take care of each other and to meet the needs of our siblings today.

This Easter, let us make a commitment, together, to live out the Good News of Easter. Let us recommit ourselves to living lives worthy of our heavenly calling. And let us recommit ourselves to saving lives every day. Whether it is helping the hungry, the homeless, those who are depressed, hopeless, addicted or scared, let us find ways to provide life-saving care to those in need.

May God be blessed! Because of God's vast mercy, God has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Alleluia!

Happy Easter!

John

Message from the President

May God send His love like sunshine in His warm and gentle way, to fill each corner of your heart each moment of today.

As we start the new year of 2024, let us be thankful for each other. May God bless us in our lives to do his work throughout the community. Let us remember Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 23 and 1 Corinthians 13 as we follow our faith in Jesus Christ.

I have some activities that I would like to partake in in the next few months and would like to see if anyone in the congregation would consider coming to some of these activities also. They are:

The musical, "Westward Ho!" April 4-7, 2024

A Spring Community-wide clean-up April 13, 2024

A Bats minor league baseball game during their season, which runs from March 29, 2024, at 7:15 p.m. through September 22, 2024, 1:05 p.m.

Alternatively, a UofL baseball game playing now until May 18, 2024.

Please let me know which activity you would like to attend or if you have any other suggestions.

Thank you, Cassie Smith, for being one of our church's Synod representatives at this year's assembly. We are still looking for a male representative for this year's assembly. You can let any council member know of your willingness to be the church's representative this year. The Synod Assembly for Indiana-Kentucky is June 7-9, 2024, at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Hotel located at 830 Phillips Lane Louisville, KY 40209. Deadline for early registration is April 5, 2024, which will include guaranteed meals, refreshment breaks and all materials. Afterwards, one can still register for the Assembly, but there will be no guarantee of meals.

I will close for this month silently saying the Lord's Prayer. See everyone at church service.

Vicky Frank, President, Church Council

News

First Lutheran hosted Green Street Baptist Church for a chili luncheon on March 11. Greg Ecklund from the Coalition for the Homeless discussed their advocacy and education work in the city and how we might participate in and support the work of ending homelessness in Louisville. (J.B.)



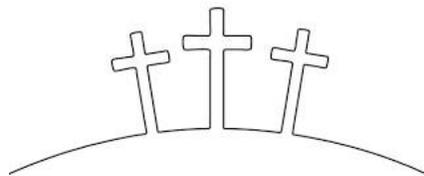
If any church member is also a member of the Thrivent network, you can lead an application for a Thrivent Action Team Activity. Thrivent will donate \$250 seed money for materials and volunteer swag, such as T-shirts and pins. Projects they have donated seed money for in the past include cooking meals to deliver to homebound members, purchasing supplies to create blankets or other items for the unhoused, and covering online fees for launching websites.

Thrivent is the descendent of Aid Association for Lutherans and is a non-profit organization offering life, disability, and other types of insurance. The Thrivent rep for the Louisville area is Ms. Kathleen Higgins.

Sharon Lillie



Catholic Charities, which moved next door, is having their grand opening Monday, April 15 at 1:00 p.m. They will be giving tours from 11:00 – 12:00. (S.L.)



Some of our folks attended the St. Raphael Fish Fry on March 22. The food looks delicious!



THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

Find the underlined words amongst the letter grid at the bottom.

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

John 20: 19-29

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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First Lutheran Church

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:30am Worship Service	1 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	2 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	3 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	4 4:00pm Food Pantry	5 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	6 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
7 10:30am Worship Service	8 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	9 Food Pantry closed 10:00am Food Pantry	10 10:00am Food Pantry 12:30pm Craft Day 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	11 4:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	12 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	13 9:45am NAMI meeting 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
14 9:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	15 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	16 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	17 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	18 4:00pm Food Pantry	19 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
21 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Council Meeting	22 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	23 10:00am Food Pantry	24 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	25 4:00pm Food Pantry	26 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	27 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
28 10:30am Worship Service	29 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	30 10:00am Food Pantry	1 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	2 4:00pm Food Pantry	3 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	4 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire