



FEBRUARY

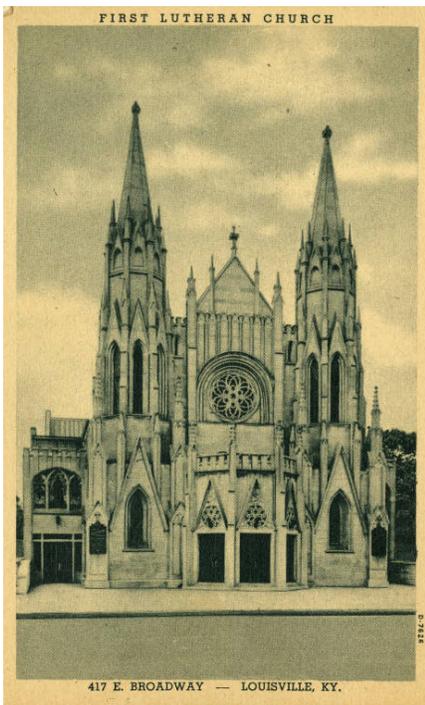
THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

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:

02/01: 1:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck Lunch

02/10: 12:00 PM Craft Meeting & Bible Study

02/15: 12:00 PM Council Meeting

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Updates from the Office Manager

- We are anticipating the installation of the new Front Office doors this month. With this, we expect all keys/locks to be returned to normal!
- Anyone who has not received their 2025 Giving statement for whatever reason, should reach out to me in the office ASAP.
- We encourage any members who know of someone with downtown parking needs to contact us. We offer monthly weekday parking for \$20.00/month

LYG Blood Drive

Feeling like giving back? LYG is hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, February 13th in the Luther Hall Sanctuary!

The event is open to all, ages 16 and older.

If interested, please contact Em Joy of LYG at (em.joy@louisvilleyouthgroup.org) or reach out to Tim in the office.

All donors will receive a gift card for their participation, so be sure and tell your family/friends!



Music Ministry

Liturgical Seasons

This year Sunday, February 15 is the last Sunday in the season after Epiphany. On this Sunday we celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord, and we sing the Alleluia for the last time before the beginning of Lent. Transfiguration Sunday is the feast day that celebrates one of the miracles of Jesus. Jesus is praying on a mountain with his disciples and begins to shine with bright rays of light. This miracle is unique in that it happens to Jesus himself, not to other people or things. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the day we will receive the sign of ashes, which is a sign of our human frailty. 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 simpler, more contemplative tone in our gatherings. The liturgy setting changes to a chant-like setting, in a free and flowing style. You will notice that the color of the paraments changes from green to purple, the color for Lent, and the chancel and altar will look different. We can also 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



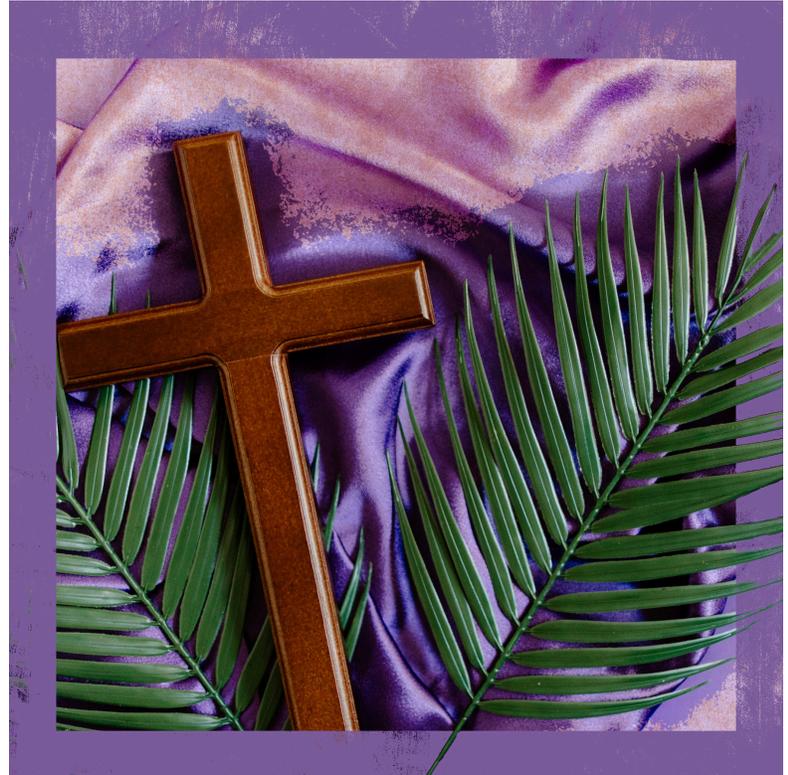
Altar Guild

Our Worship Environment

The Lenten season marks our walk from winter into spring and from barrenness into growth. As we come to God in all our rawness, the altar adornments reflect this - the rough, dusty ashen color of raw burlap, the dry tree branches, thorny stalks, and dry grasses. Stones represent stumbling blocks along our path through the wilderness. Purple cloth flows onto the altar. Purple is the color for Lent, and represents somberness, repentance, solemnity, and prayer. It was worn by the rich and royalty. Jesus, the “King of the Jews”, wore a purple robe only once as soldiers mocked and tormented him. You are encouraged to visit the baptismal font often during this season. Here you’ll find sand, dry tree branches and stones surrounding a bowl full of water, a sign of God’s baptismal promise that never fades. Our journey along the Lenten path leads through the wilderness and toward the cross, toward the font, and finally toward the light of Easter.

Larry Askins

Chair, Altar Guild



What Are “Rubrics”?

The word “rubric” comes from the Latin word “rubrica”, meaning red chalk. In medieval manuscripts instruction for priests were written in red. You may have noticed in our worship bulletin that there are sentences in italics, sometimes printed in red, to differentiate them from the text of the service. These are rubrics, or instructions on how worship is to be done. They provide guidance and direction on the flow of the service, often indicating what the participants are to do, or what is to happen next. They often also teach about the meaning or intent of an action. For example, at the Gospel Acclamation the rubric indicates that “The assembly stands in body or in spirit to welcome the gospel.” They are wonderful tools to help us with our participation in worship.

David McNease

Food Pantry

Thanks to a grant from General Electric, the Dare to Care Food Pantry at First is going to receive a new Freezer! It should arrive sometime in the next month. This does mean we will have an older freezer to get rid of. They all work but whichever one we shall be saying goodbye to will be at least 10 years old. Please contact Sharon or Jay Lillie if you are interested. No cost to the taker, but you will have to arrange for transportation.



GE APPLIANCES
a Haier company

Check it Out!



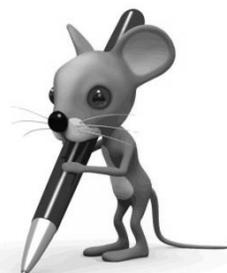
"The carpet in Luther Hall was cleaned!!"

Vicky Frank



The Church Visitor

LOUISVILLE, KY., FEBRUARY, 1906.



SUNDAY EVENING.

It is not the first time, nor will it be the last, for the Luther Union to rally to the support of the church and the pastor in a special work for the Master. We were anxiously asking and praying for special help in making the music of our Sunday evening services a greater power for good. At the Young Men's meeting February 11, our good brother, Henry Formhals, who can always be counted on to do the right thing, asked the boys to throw the strength of their enthusiasm and manhood in this place most in need of strengthening. Like one man they rose up and said: "We'll do it." And they meant it. Then he went into the meeting of the Young Woman's Luther Union and made the same request. The same hearty response was made; and they meant it too. No church and no pastor's heart was ever blessed with a nobler lot of young people. They like fun and we are glad they do. But when it is time for serious work for God and the church, they can be counted on.

The first practical result appeared on the following Sunday evening, February 18, when the entire choir space was filled by young men to lead the music; and the pews filled with an unusually large congregation of earnest worshipers. The effect was inspiring.

On Sunday evening, the 25th, we have asked the Young Woman's Luther Union to become the choir. They will do it as heartily as did the young men.

The following Sunday evening, the beginning of our Sunday evening Lenten services, we desire and expect to see the young men filling the choir space to its utmost capacity and leading the congregation in worship of song.

And now let all our people rally to the call of the young people and make our Sunday evening services a mighty power for God.

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LOUISVILLE.

Here I am again, your faithful church mouse, bringing you some interesting bits from your 1906 Church Visitor. That's 120 years ago!

This month I decided to add some of the advertizing that appeared in every issue.

Pastor Waltz was a practical man who knew that "spreading the Good News" often had to be funded.

Letter from the Council President

Greetings to all

At the time of my writing we are just at the end of our weekend of snowfall. I spent the weekend with my Dad, cooking and listening to football from the next room. I hope everyone of you was able to ride through the "Snowpacolypse" in a comfortable way.

We will be holding our Annual meeting next week, if there are no other weather emergencies, and I won't be president after that. I have enjoyed my time this past year as President of the Council and I look forward to working with whomever the Council elects as President.

On February 15th we will be taking up a special offering to support the Reconciled in Christ program of the ELCA. The program was started to help congregations recognize the historical mistake of excluding the LGBT community from fully participating in worship. I was President when the congregation voted to become an RIC congregation and I will be giving a Temple Talk about that soon. We have proven ourselves to be an accepting congregation. The program deserves our financial support as well. Donations to the special offering will be matched to a predetermined amount by the Council.



Sharon Lillie
Council President

THE PSALMS OF FEBRUARY:

A short at-home study of the this month's Psalms for Sunday Worship

Psalm 15 for Feb. 1, the 4th Sunday after Epiphany

- ¹ O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
- ² Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;
- ³ who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;
- ⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
- ⁵ who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Type of Psalm: A liturgy for entering the temple in Jerusalem. In verse 1, “tent” and “hill” are terms for temple. Christians today would say “church.” *Check out 1 Kings chapters 6 and 7 to read a description of Solomon’s temple.* The Psalm writer was a poet and a writer of liturgy for worship. He had the people who were gathered outside recite the first two lines of the psalm asking who may enter. (See verse 1). A priest on duty would respond by reciting the rest of the psalm to assure them that they were all welcome in God’s magnificent house if they spoke the truth, did what was right, did not shame others, did not speak evil of them or hurt them in any way. God expects this of us. Can you see how this same assurance is present in the Gospel for today Matt. 5:1-11?

Our loving God welcomes all.

Psalm 112 for Feb. 8, the 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Praise the LORD!

1. Happy are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
- ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- ⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.
- ⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.
- ⁸ Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
- ⁹ They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.

Type of Psalm: A hymn of praise for community worship. It is also an acrostic poem in which each line or section begins with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This hymn is about relationship between God and the people. Verses 4-9 again point out the positive and loving behavior that God expects of us towards those around us. Notice the terms used for those who follow the Lord in v.5-9

Compare verse 4 with Jesus’ teachings in this Sunday’s Gospel, especially Matt. 5: 14

Psalm 2 for Feb 15, The Transfiguration

- ¹ Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?
- ² The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and his anointed, saying,
- ³ “Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast their cords from us.”
- ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the LORD has them in derision.
- ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- ⁶ “I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.”
- ⁷ I will tell of the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, “You are my son;
today I have begotten you.
- ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage
and the ends of the earth your possession.
- ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
- ¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear;
with trembling ¹² kiss his feet,^[a]
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
who take refuge in him.

Psalm 32 for Feb. 22, the First Sunday in Lent

- ¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up^[a] as by the heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

I hope you find this useful,

Nola Lillie

Type of Psalm: A royal psalm written for a specific king’s coronation. It is also a liturgy which means that more than one person would be singing or reciting it.

Psalm 2 declares God’s promise to **the anointed one**. The Hebrew word for **anointed one** is “*Meshiach*” pronounced mu- SHEE-ack. Those chosen to be crowned king were anointed with oil to designate their position. Many of the kings written about in the books of Kings and Chronicles were total failures, so the people looked for a new *Meshiach* or Messiah to rule as God intended.

Note the words in V. 7 and compare it to the words God spoke about Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. See Matt. 17:5

It is not hard to understand how the Gospel writers looked to the writings of their prophets to find assurances and signs that Jesus, whose teachings they followed, was indeed God’s anointed one.

Type of Psalm: Song of Thanksgiving and a Penitential Psalm. Confession and Forgiveness are necessary gifts in our close relationship with God.

I am concentrating on the first 5 verses of Psalm 32. “Happy” in vs. 1 & 2 does not match up with our definition of “happy” as used today. It has to do more with seeing yourself as a person of God who follows the teachings and is content. The psalmist was a person who had, in the past, allowed guilt and shame to eat him up, but now feels the comfort and thankfulness that forgiveness brings. There are 6 more verses not printed here but this psalm ends with :

¹⁰ “Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.”

THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

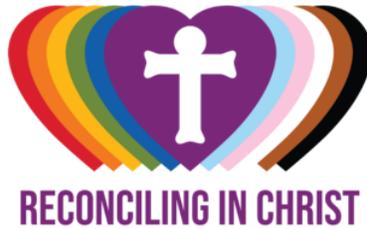
Find the underlined words amongst the letter grid at the bottom.
The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The **LORD** God **took** the man and put him in the garden of **Eden** to **till** it and **keep** it. And the LORD God **commanded** the man, "You may **freely** eat of every **tree** of the garden, but of the tree of the **knowledge** of good and **evil** you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you **shall** die."

Now the serpent was more **crafty** than any **other** wild **animal** that the LORD God had **made**. He said to the **woman**, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the **serpent**, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the **garden**, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the **fruit** of the tree that is in the **middle** of the garden, nor shall you **touch** it, or you shall die.' " But the serpent **said** to the woman, "You **will** not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your **eyes** will be opened, and you will be **like** God, knowing **good** and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for **food** and that it was a **delight** to the eyes and that the tree was to be **desired** to make one **wise**, she took of its fruit and **ate**, and she also **gave** some to her **husband**, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of **both** were **opened**, and they **knew** that they were **naked**, and they **sewed** fig **leaves** together and made **loincloths** for **themselves**.

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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 |
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| Worship and Music | Nancy Brian |