

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church



**April 2025**

**Rev. Dr. Mark Rich**

601 North Sandusky Avenue Upper Sandusky Ohio 43351 419-294-3544  
Worship Sundays at 10 a.m.

*First Evangelical wishes to acknowledge and give our gratitude to the Wyandotte Nation, who once called the land our church sits on their home*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship 10 a.m.	7 AA 7-9	8 COUNCIL MEETING 6	9	10	11	12
13 Worship 10 a.m.	14 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	15	16	17 Maundy Thursday 5:30	18 Good Friday 7p.m.	19
20 Breakfast 830 Worship 10 Egg Hunt	21 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	22	23	24	25 Family Fun Night @ Wyandot Lanes 6p.m.	26
27 Worship 10 a.m.	28 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	29	30			

## A message from Pastor Mark



Which future? Down or up, good or bad?

At the time of Jesus, pagans thought badly of the future. They believed that the Golden Age was in the past – men were stronger, wiser, and more heroic; women were more submissive and, well, feminine. Times were just better then. This made them look at the present in two almost opposite ways. On the one hand, life now was worse than before: human virtue was declining, society was poorer, politicians were nastier and less capable. On the other hand, they looked ever more for a powerful savior: a strong, virile, manly, virtuous man who could simultaneously kick all of Rome’s enemies (foreign and domestic) in their *posteriora* and rule all of the sprawling provinces and the Senate wisely. This is apocalyptic thinking. It makes people accept someone as ruler who is ready to break important things such as laws and morality in order to save... laws and morality.

As you can imagine, there weren’t a lot of men who filled that savior bill, not even halfway. So this in turn contributed even more to the same wish for saviors while sighing wistfully for an imaginary better past. (Btw, ‘Savior’ was one of the imperial titles!) But these saviors always kept popping up, always promising to return Rome to the glorious past, destroying both the Roman Republic and morality itself while publicly pretending to be saving it and returning the world to it.

Jesus has a saying about the past and the future and us. He says “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). God’s good future is always ahead of us, greater than the past and even better than the present. But it’s also up to us to plow for it – to prepare for it.

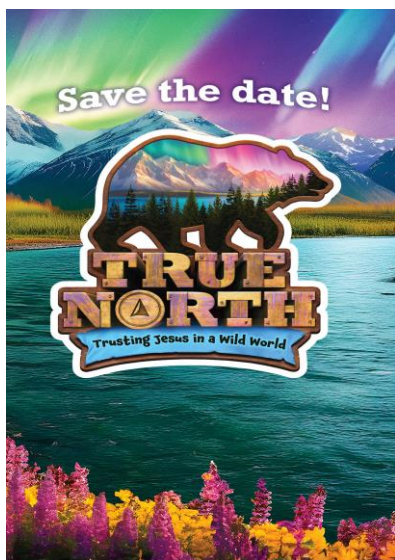
We can waste a lot of God's gifts of time and spirit thinking about how great the past was. It's much wiser and more faithful to look toward God's good future while doing the hard work of plowing now.

This wisdom came from a man who didn't look like much of a manly man. No money, no woman, no weapons. His family wasn't much. He was not a priest, just a son of a stone mason. But he also suffered immensely and willingly, and through him God has begun to conquer death. Now that's a future worth plowing toward!

Please join us in worship this upcoming Holy Week as we re-live the great struggle of Jesus against the powers of death, disbelief, despair, and hatred. He is able to help us in all our struggles, so that the resurrection will be ours. Paul tells the Philippians in chapter 3: "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of [the resurrection], but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

See you all in church!     Pastor Mark

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June 23-27 9-11:30 a.m.  
Registration begins in  
May!

# Council Meeting

March 11, 2025 6 p.m.

Members present: Dan Altvater, Marty Denney, Skip Glover, Janine McMillan, Chad Stoneburner, Mary Wright Pastor Mark Rich and Kristin Ealy, secretary

Excused: Renee Nieset and Jesse Weir

## Pastor Notes

-will be having a group at the Temple Israel Columbus this coming Friday (March 14<sup>th</sup>) will report back at the Sunday Lenten Series following worship about the evening.

## Kristin Reports

--family fun night scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 this time a potluck of snacks/appetizers

-met with Insurance last month, have not received the requirements to fulfill as of yet.

-would like to schedule a bowling fun night for the congregation. Will be asking for fee to participate but is asking the church to utilize LYO fund for the remaining balance to the bowling alley that night. Chad Stoneburner motioned to use fund, Janine McMillan second, MC.

## Unfinished Business:

1. Amendment to Constitution- March 9<sup>th</sup> Congregational Vote- motion by Tom Martin to accept the Proposed Amendment, Marty Denney, second. No Discussion, Motion Carried.

## New Business:

1. Call Committee Suggestions were given by the council and Kristin directed to begin the search to fulfill the committee.
2. Janine brought up the outdoor property sign and was given blessing to research again and bring to council.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Christian Ed-no meeting**

**Facilities-** Harris completed the required Fuse Box upgrade on all 3 boxes!

**Finance-** looks okay, giving was up in February, especially in the Empty Nest and Family categories!

**Outreach-** meeting following council to discuss Eucharistic Teams.

**Worship & Music Committee-**sending out emails to local colleges/universities to see if any interest at that level. Chose mother and father's day gifts.

**Transition Team:** presented the Ministry Site Profile and asked members of council to look over and get any thoughts back by Sunday. Council thanked Transition Team as their task is now completed.

**Next Meeting: April 8 6 p.m.**

**April Council Person of the month Marty Denney**

**Adjourn with Lord's Prayer**



## April Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> – Jon Zimmerman &  
Mike Huntley

9<sup>th</sup> – Randy Sorg, Rhonda Kuenzli,  
Lisa Rife

11<sup>th</sup> – Rachel Sigler

15<sup>th</sup> – Mindy Bowman

16<sup>th</sup> – Sherri Sorg

17<sup>th</sup> – Andy Ealy and Nora Newell

18<sup>th</sup> – Jacob Rife

28<sup>th</sup> – Mia Howard

30<sup>th</sup> – Mindy Newell

## April Anniversaries

Korey and Kerri Newell - 5th

Jim and Pam Karg - 16th

Al and Jan Stoneburner - 29<sup>th</sup>

### HOW TO CONTACT & STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHURCH

Church Phone: 419.294.3544    Pastor Mark: 614.381.4520    Kristin: 419.310.0107



<http://www.upperfirstlutheran.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/FELCUpperSandusky>

# Opportunities to Serve



## Your Church

Sign up board is located in Cross Hall for various duties. Please consider helping in some way. Many Hands, Make Light Work!

☺Altar Flowers, Greeters and Readers are all needed ☺

	Acolyte	Greet	Flowers	Read	Communion	Council
April 6	Bryson	Dorothy	Sally Kirian	Mary Wright		Marty Denney
April 13	Kloe	Martin/McMillan	Pam Karg	Joyce Kuenzli	Tom & Betty	Marty Denney
April 20	Jake	Youth	Maggie Bower	Youth	Kristin Ealy	Marty Denney
April 27	Kloe	John & Theresa	John & Theresa	Pat Denney		Marty Denney
May 4	Nick	Michele		Dan Altvater		Jesse Weir
May 11	Kloe	Weir		Marty Denney		Jesse Weir
May 18	Bryson	Youth		Youth		Jesse Weir
May 25	Jake	Nieset	Martins	Pat Denney		Jesse Weir

Do you or a close friend or family member require any help financially, remember we do have the CARE fund here at the church that was created for that very reason. It is strictly confidential between Pastor, Council President and head of Outreach Committee as they are the "board" for this fund. If you are in need, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Mark for help.

# Care and Prayers

**Our Prayer List is everchanging, if you or someone (with their permission) would like added to our weekly prayers, please let Pastor or Kristin know.**

**If you feel like you or someone you know within the congregation is in need of some visits, we have a few different ways to help:**

**Eucharistic Team - Trained individuals that will go out and administer Holy Communion to those that are possibly homebound or that find it difficult to make it to church.**

**And of course....our own minister, Pr. Mark will provide needed visits, when requested.**

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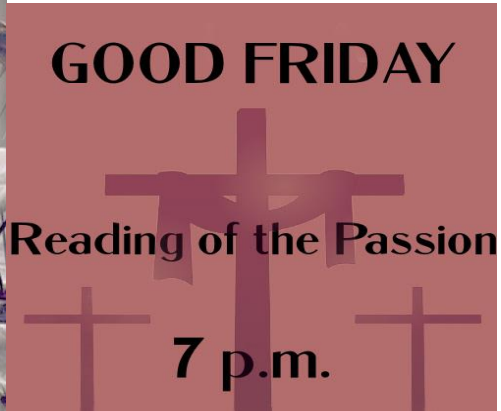
**To reach out to those that are in area care facilities, please use the addresses below. Please remember that we do not know if you or a loved one is hospitalized or now living somewhere else, unless we are told.**

**Wyandot County Home- 7830 OH-199 Upper Sandusky Ohio 43351  
Phil Walton, Lisa Reinschell, Michael Huntley**

**Westbrook- 101 Westbrook Blvd. Upper Sandusky Ohio 43351  
Jean Factor and Dorothy Sammet**

**Sandusky Veterans Home- 3416 Columbus Avenue Sandusky OH 44870  
Francis Ronald Wright (make sure you use full name)**

If you or some one you know would benefit from Home Communion Visits or would like to have routine visits, please let the office know. We are trying to get a calendar of visitation going and would love to add all those that would like to be added.





**We're going  
Bowling!**

**all ages!**

RSVP is appreciated  
sign up in Cross Hall!

**April 25th  
6-9p.m.**

**Wyandot Lanes**

**adults:\$4 each**

**kids:\$2 each**

## REACHING OUT FOR THIS UPCOMING LENTEN SEASON!

Care Packages will be assembled and  
delivered to some of our family and friends  
just before Holy Week!

How you can help!!

DONATE ITEMS THROUGH April 11th

Individually Wrapped Snacks  
Cheese Crackers  
Granola Bars  
Fruit, Cutie or Halo Oranges, Apples, Bananas  
Peppermint Candies Sugar Free Candy  
Candy (avoid peanuts) Cookies  
Little Debbie snacks Lip Balm  
Tissue Packs Hand Sanitizers  
Hand Cream/Moisturizer Travel Size Toiletries  
Large Print Puzzle Books  
(Search-a-word, crossword, etc)  
Coloring Pages Colored Pencils

### ASSEMBLE & DELIVER

we will be assembling & delivering these out after service on  
April 13.

Help will be needed to get this done!

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601 North Sandusky Avenue  
Upper Sandusky OH 43351

## MISSION STATEMENT

*as a congregation we are*

**called to be disciples of Christ:**

*Going where God leads.*

**Focusing on all people as the family of God through**

**WORSHIP...EDUCATION...OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP;**

**seeking grace through**

**faith for salvation.**