

# FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN



## March 2024

**Rev. Dr. Mark Rich**

601 North Sandusky Avenue Upper Sandusky Ohio 43351 419-294-3544

Worship Sundays at 10 a.m. on Facebook until Easter

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

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Worship 10 What the Gospel Says... 1115 church 6 online	4 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	5 NA 7-9	6 Lenten Luncheons Noon @ St Paul	7	8	9
10 Worship 10 What the Gospel Says... 1115 church 6 online	11 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	12 4H Mtg 615 NA 7-9	13 Lenten Luncheons Noon @ St Paul	14	15	16
17 Children's Worship 10 What the Gospel Says... 1115 church 6 online	18 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	19 NA 7-9	20 Lenten Luncheons Noon @ St Paul	21 Council 7	22	23
24 Worship 10 What the Gospel Says... 1115 church 6 online	25 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	26 NA 7-9	27	28 Maundy Thursday Dinner w/ Jesus 6 pm	29 Good Friday 7 p.m.	30
31 Breakfast 830 Worship 10 Egg Hunt to follow						

HALF WAY THROUGH the LENTEN LUNCHEON SCHEDULE!

# Community Lenten Luncheons

HELD AT ST PAUL LUTHERAN - 120 NORTH 8TH STREET - @ NOON

FEBRUARY 14 - HOST: TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD  
MEATLESS SPAGHETTI - SPEAKER: KEITH KOEHLER

FEBRUARY 21 - HOST: COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CENTER  
JOHNNY MARZETTI - SPEAKER: ALLENE NORTH

FEBRUARY 28 - HOST: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHICKEN SALAD CROISSANTS - SPEAKER: JENNI & FINN LAURSEN

MARCH 6 - HOST: TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
SOUP/SALAD - SPEAKER: STEVE STURGEON

MARCH 13 - JOHN STEWART METHODIST  
CHICKEN & NOODLES - SPEAKER: JAN STONEBURNER

MARCH 20 - LUTHERAN CHURCHES  
CHICKEN CASSEROLE - SPEAKER: DAVID & LAURA BACON

FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED - IF NO SCHOOL, LUNCHEON WILL BE CANCELLED

## A message from Pastor Mark



We're going to do Maundy Thursday a lot differently this year, and I think you'll find it very interesting.

The actual Last Supper (the *first* Last Supper) was almost certainly not a Passover meal. How can I say this? Three of the four gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – say it was, but John's gospel says it wasn't. However, there is a much better historical source than the gospels for this meal – 1 Corinthians 11. The reason it's better is that it contains **Jesus'** own story of that meal. We have to admit that a) Jesus was there himself at that meal, and b) his own story of the meal was best. We know this is Jesus' story of that meal because Paul tells us so: "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that..." The Lord here is unquestionably Jesus, and Paul is telling us that this is what Jesus told him, word for word, about that meal.

So here's Jesus' story of that meal: "the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

This is not a Passover meal – this is a Chavurah, or fellowship or friendship meal (*chaber* means friend).

This meal can be eaten all year around, except for the night of Passover. The early Christians were eating meals together EVERY SINGLE NIGHT! So of course, it made sense that this would be their meal.

The Chavurah or Friendship meal starts with a one-sentence blessing over bread: "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who brings forth bread from the earth." Then the leader breaks it and shares it with everyone. That's the beginning of the meal. The

leader then says a blessing for each food or dish brought. Each person is responsible for saying the blessing over their own cup, "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who gives us this good [water, wine, grape juice, Kool-Aid...] to drink."

At the end of the meal the leader holds up a cup of wine/grape juice and says a long blessing, then shares it with the whole group. So you see then how this pattern fits exactly into the pattern of the story from Jesus in 1 Corinthians 11: the bread blessed and shared, then the meal, then the cup blessed and shared. This is the friendship meal of Jesus and the earliest churches, but with Jesus adding in the haunting words both at the beginning and the end of the meal: "Do this in remembrance of me."

On Maundy Thursday this year – March 28, gathering at 5:30 and eating at 6pm – we'll do this meal as our worship. After the meal we'll sing "Go to Dark Gethsemane" as we go upstairs to the sanctuary. Then we'll watch the stripping of the chancel while we hear Psalm 22 read. Then we'll leave in silence.

Our Good Friday service will be our usual service at 7pm, with an Easter morning breakfast at 8:30 and service at 10am.

May our Lord Jesus be with us this coming Holy Week, and I'll see you all in church!

In the peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark



Our Meal together will be a carry in, potluck style. More information on that will be shared closer to Holy Week.

# Church Council News



Council met on February 15<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Mark, Kristin Ealy, Maureen Hawkins, Karen Magers, Tom Martin, Mary Wright, Brenda Zeigler in attendance. Dan Altvater, Dorothy Blackburn and Chad Stoneburner were excused.

Pastor Mark opened with Prayer and his report. He is preparing for his Lenten Series: "What Does the Gospel Say About..." which will begin February 18. Met with and presided over funeral for the family of Paul Boucher. Reported he will be out of town March 6-9, in support of his wife being a delegate for the UN in New York City in regards to Women's Studies.

Kristin Ealy, secretary reported that she (with past leadership input) had been looking into a monitor for the sanctuary. Sound Solutions gave her a quote and council would like to explore other options, if possible.

Old Business: Eclipse April 8<sup>th</sup>: Much discussion on whether we should be in person or online for this date. Pastor Mark is requesting April 7<sup>th</sup> off and with the possible thousands showing up in the area we need to think of the safety and accessibility of our people. Karen Magers motioned and Tom Martin second that we should only be ONLINE and not in person on April 7<sup>th</sup>. MC.

## Committee Reports:

- Finance- doing okay, contributions in line with the normal.
- Facilities- Retention Wall is being bricked as time allows.
- Outreach- Goodie Bags collection has begun and will run through Palm Sunday.
- Worship&Music- held meeting and discussed new settings to be used, particularly using the WOV hymnal for a time. Maundy Thursday will be a carry in dinner this year and Good Friday will be the reading of the Passion.
- Christian Ed- discussed the upcoming series by Pastor Mark, spoke about 1<sup>st</sup> Communion classes and Firsts@First. VBS meeting will be the 22<sup>nd</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>  
601 North Sandusky Avenue- Upper Sandusky OH 43351

# CARE FUND

@First Evangelical

First Evangelical created a fund for its members to share love during a difficult time. If you or someone you know within our congregation has a hardship and would benefit from some financial help, please reach out to the Council President, Outreach Chairperson or the Minister for assistance. This is confidential and only the above mentioned members know who benefits from this fund.

**Interested in a Baptism for your little one...**



**or any age?**

**Contact the office today!**



A LUTHERAN WELCOME TO HOLY BAPTISM

## Christian Food Center

**STOCK THE SHELVES!**

CEREAL, SOUPS, CANNED FRUITS, CANNED VEGGIES, PANCAKE MIX/SYRUP, ALL PASTAS and SAUCE, PEANUT BUTTER, MACnCHEESE, DISH SOAP, TOILET PAPER

please leave in baskets in South Room

# 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 MARCH 17th

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 March 24.

Help will be needed to get this done!



**Children's Sunday**

*come assist in worship and  
ring the bells!*

**March 17**





## March Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Dean Clausing & Ruth Reier  
4<sup>th</sup> – Nicky Bowen  
5<sup>th</sup> – Donna Kimmel & Melanie Shock  
12<sup>th</sup> – Logan Nye  
13<sup>th</sup> – Terry Walter  
16<sup>th</sup> – Leah Newell  
17<sup>th</sup> – Debbie Harbour & Lynn Mack  
18<sup>th</sup> – Nora Weir  
19<sup>th</sup> – Tom Zeigler, Lorraine Brown & Ross Swinehart  
21<sup>st</sup> – Ryan Rife  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Jodi Kimmel  
30<sup>th</sup> – Mike Gillen

## March Anniversaries

- 23<sup>rd</sup>- Jill & Scott Stansbery  
29<sup>th</sup> – Matt and Jessica Weir  
31<sup>st</sup>- Fred & Connie Gillen

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**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN REPRESENTING FIRST AT THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW ☺**

2024 NWOS Assembly  
June 1, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bowling Green

## MARCH *Communion Prep*

3- \_\_\_\_\_  
10- Kristin Ealy  
17- \_\_\_\_\_  
24- Kristin Ealy  
31- \_\_\_\_\_

## MARCH *Readers*

3- Dan Altvater  
10- Kristin Ealy  
17- YOUTH  
24- Dorothy Blackburn  
31- Marty Denney

## MARCH *Greeters*

3- Nieset Family  
10- Nieset Family  
17- YOUTH  
24- \_\_\_\_\_  
31- Nieset Family

## MARCH *Acolytes*

3- Kloe Ealy  
10- Jake Nieset  
17- Dalton Shock  
24- Bryson Stoneburner  
31- Nick Nieset

## *Funeral Luncheons*

**Michele Walton and Jean Gottfried will be stepping down from heading up the kitchen on Funeral Luncheon days.**

**We thank them for all the wonderful ways they have helped over the years and appreciate their dedication!**

**We are in need of a few people that would be interested in filling this role. The more people that are interested, the more people we would have to call upon to do this, when needed.  
Even if not available EVERY TIME.**

**We have been so very fortunate to be able to provide for our Church Family in their time of sorrow with a fellowship meal, we really need to continue this for years to come.**

**For more information on what this would entail, please contact Kristin.**

# HOLY WEEK



Maundy Thursday 5:30 p.m. fellowship  
6 p.m. begin meal/service  
Good Friday 7 p.m. Reading of the Passion  
Easter Morning Breakfast 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
Easter Worship 10 a.m.  
Egg Hunt to follow worship

## PALM SUNDAY



Parade of Palms  
Singing 'The Palms'  
Worship @ 10 a.m.

## GOOD FRIDAY



Reading of the Passion  
7 p.m.

## Easter Sunday



Breakfast 8:30-9:30 a.m.

10 a.m.  
Worship

Easter Egg Hunt  
following service

# Monthly Mission Focus

Our focus for the month of March will be on the Christian Food Center. Housed in St. Paul we have been in support of this wonderful Community Outreach for years. We support them with monthly food drives as well as monetary donations when we can. We most recently collected \$80 during the Souper Bowl promotion in February!

All loose offerings and designated line items on envelopes will be sent to them in April. Thank you for your continued support of our monthly missions.



SAVE THE  
DATE

JUNE 24-28  
9-11:30 A.M.

LUTHERAN CHURCHES OF UPPER SANDUSKY VBS

# Monthly Scriptures



## MARCH 3 *scriptures*

EXODUS 20:1-17

PSALM 19

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

JOHN 2:13-22

## MARCH 10 *scriptures*

NUMBERS 21:4-9

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

JOHN 3:14-21

## MARCH 17 *scriptures*

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

PSALM 51:1-12

HEBREWS 5:5-10

JOHN 12:20-33

## MARCH 24 *scriptures*

ISAIAH 50:4-9A

PSALM 31:9-16

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

MARK 14:1-15:47

## MARCH 31 *scriptures*

ACTS 10:34-43

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

MARK 16:1-8

# 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.



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

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)

# CAMP and RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

"After my first summer camp I knew this was more than just a place."

"She goes back each summer. Looks forward to it every year. She must experience God in a special way there....just like I did as a kid!"

"It is difficult not to experience Christ at camp through God's creation with the lake, eagles and amazing sunsets and sunrises."


**"The youth are the future and camp gives them experiences that will help them grow into a future I would like to be a part of."**

"She spent more time reading the Bible and seeing Jesus in people other than family and church family."

"Camp is my summer home."

"Camp is always a good week to escape from whatever is happening in the rest of the world and focus on God and nature."

"She was super nervous about sleep over camp, but the experience not only helped her grow in faith, but gave her more self confidence."



HopeWood  
Outdoors

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMMING at HopeWood Outdoors (LOMO) see bulletin boards in Cross Hall or go to <http://www.hopewoodoutdoors.org>

**ECLIPSE SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 7**



**ONLINE  
WORSHIP  
ONLY**

First Evangelical Lutheran  
601 North Sandusky Avenue  
Upper Sandusky OH 43351