

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church



**May 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 Worship 10 a.m.	5 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship 10 a.m.	12 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	13 COUNCIL MEETING 6p.m.	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 10 a.m. Graduate Recognition Call Committee Installation Children's Sunday	19 Rotary 11-2 AA 7-9	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship 10 a.m.	26 AA 7-9	27	28	29	30	31

## A message from Pastor Mark



As I've mentioned in church, this year is the 1700th anniversary of the first version of the Nicene Creed. Our Southeastern Conference of the Northwestern Ohio Synod started discussing the creed back in February at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Marion. That discussion focused on believing, as in "We believe in..."

On Sunday May 18, from 3-5pm, First will host our conference in discussing the next two big concepts of the Creed: ONE and GOD, as in "We believe in **one God**, the Father, the Almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

Please make a point of joining with our neighbor Lutherans in our exploration of these most fundamental concepts and teachings of the church!

Also, I extend my own warmest welcome to Krista Kenner as our new organist! I look forward to working with her in leading our church in the worship of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will install both Krista and the members of our Call Committee during worship on Sunday May 18. Please keep them all in your daily prayers.

See you in church!

Pastor Mark Rich

# *Hey Lutherans!*

The Nicene Creed discussion you've been waiting for is back!!

*What are we going to discuss?*

**ONE** and **GOD** (as in, "We believe in one God")

Sample questions:

- ONE is obviously important in the creed – one God, one Lord, of one being with the Father, one church, one baptism. So do we really see this oneness in life, in society, in the church? If so, how so? If not, how not?
- What do we mean by the word GOD? Is God male, female, both, neither? If this one God is real, then what are the fake gods? How is Jesus **also** God from God and true God from true God? Why is this idea of one God so powerful?
- Bring your own questions and answers too!

Sunday May 18, 3-5pm

*First Lutheran Church*

601 North Sandusky Avenue

in beautiful Upper Sandusky

(park in the upper parking lot, on the Church Street side)

*See you there!!*

Council Meeting

April 8, 2025 6 p.m.

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

Pastor Mark opened in prayer and then shared his upcoming schedule. He will be on a trip and missing Sunday May 11, being away from the 9<sup>th</sup>-the 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a baptism on Easter Sunday for Raylie Brown. Maundy Thursday will be a potluck Dinner with Jesus, similar to last year. Short discussion about welcoming the stranger and how that isn't always meaning a stranger, but possibly estranged from the church family.

### Kristin Reports

1. Family fun night scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> at Wyandot Lanes 6-9p.m.
2. Still on hunt for anyone to play Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Met with an interested candidate for full time player, Krista Kenner. She has expressed interest to become our new organist. Council discussed and after hearing her past experience, Dan Altvater motioned to accept and hire Krista Kenner as our new organist, beginning May 4. Skip Glover, second. MC.
3. Easter breakfast 8:30 a.m.
4. Rotarey has requested use of the lower level in August for a one-day back to school event. They have received permission to do so.

### Unfinished/New Business:

1. Call Committee: Joyce Kuenzli, Sherri Sorg, Lisa Welker, Laura Wines, Lisa Rife, Ellie Stoneburner and MacKenzie Kidwell are those that accepted the positions for Call Committee. Dan Altvater motioned to appoint them, Skip Glover, second. MC  
They are awaiting possible dates from Sherry Kreiger at NWOSynod for orientation.
2. Property Sign- Janine McMillan has done some research on a new Church Property Sign. The council discussed that this would be a great fundraising opportunity, rather than using Church funds. Marty Denney motioned to bring forth a presentation to the congregation to get feedback and blessing to begin fundraising for this endeavor. Skip Glover, second. MC There will be a presentation on May 4<sup>th</sup> to the congregation.

## New Business:

1. Organist Compensation Proposal-Kristin Ealy
  - Non-salary at \$7800 a year potential (\$150 per week-Practices, Sundays, special services)
  - No insurance/retirement benefits
  - W2 employee of church

Current: \$6,570.48 (no increase was given for 2025) = \$126.35 per week before taxes

Council discussed that the expectation of paying a little more was there when we began our search. After a bit of talk it was motioned by Janine McMillan to restructure the organist wages with the proposed amount. Marty Denney, second. MC

## Committee Reports:

Christian Ed-no meeting, but busy bags for children will be made and in place prior to Easter.

Facilities- no report

Finance- giving continued to be good for March.

Outreach- Eucharist Teams in play-Goodie Bags for family/friends this Sunday April 13

Worship & Music Committee- sent letters to area universities music departments for interest in playing for our services. One replied no interest, but they would share with other organizations. But with finding Krista, no longer necessary to follow up.

Next Meeting: May 13 @6 p.m.

May Council Person of the month Jesse Weir

Adjourn with Lord's Prayer



## May Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup>- Kenzie Kidwell & Theresa Stoneburner

3<sup>rd</sup>- Renee Nieset & Lisa Welker

4<sup>th</sup> – Gabriel Tipping

5<sup>th</sup> – Jean Gottfried

12<sup>th</sup> – Emma Rife

25<sup>th</sup> – James Whitmore

27<sup>th</sup> – Margie Kimmel

31<sup>st</sup>- Janine McMillan

## May Anniversaries

Justin & Ellie Stoneburner- 20<sup>th</sup>

Tom & Betty Martin – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Phil & Michele Walton – 29<sup>th</sup>

Duane & Melanie Shock – 31<sup>st</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

	Acolyte	Greet	Flowers	Read	Communion	Council
May 4	Nick		Church	Dan Altvater	Renee Nieset	Jesse Weir
May 11	Kloe	Weir		Marty Denney		Kristin Ealy
May 18	Bryson	Youth		Youth		Jesse Weir
May 25	Jake	Nieset	Martins	Pat Denney	Renee Nieset	Jesse Weir

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 ☺

## 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.

# 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, Lisa Reinschell, Michael Huntley, Jon Zimmerman (temp)**

**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)**

**Vancrest- 850 Marseilles Avenue Upper Sandusky OH 43351  
Dean Clausing(temp)**

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 have people ready to come for a visit!

# MEET KRISTA, the new organist!

Krista Kenner has been a church organist for 32 years, serving congregations at St. Nicholas Frenchtown, Holy Trinity Catholic and most recently Woodlawn Methodist. She has led youth and adult choirs and played for countless weddings, funerals and special events.

Living outside of Upper Sandusky, Krista is married with three adult children and two grandchildren. She balances her full-time career with her passion of sacred music. She looks forward to serving First Evangelical Lutheran and sharing her love for music with the community.

## Monthly Mission Focus

In May, we will be supporting the Northwest Ohio Synod's Global Ministry and Missions! Helping where it's needed most!



**THE  
NICENE  
CREED**  
discussion  
**MAY 18**  
3-5p.m.

### 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

# Monthly Scriptures



## Scriptures

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

**May 4**

## Scriptures

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

**May 11**

## Scriptures

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

**May 18**

## Scriptures

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John 14:23-29

**May 25**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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.**