



Dear Friends,

Grace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome to Lent! Wednesday, March 1, 2017 is Ash Wednesday.

This year, our keeping of Lent will culminate over the last three Sundays of the season as we hear three special stories from the Gospel of John; “The Woman at the Well” (John 4:5-42) “The Healing of the Man Born Blind” (John 9:1-41), and “The Raising of Lazarus” (John 11:1-45). The use of these three stories in Lent dates back to the earliest keeping of this 40 day season as a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism (mostly adults) at Easter. The three texts, taken together, provide an explanation of what will happen to the new Christian in the sacrament of baptism. In our own time, they are used every year in churches where adults will be baptized at Easter. For us, they provide an every three-year opportunity to more deeply explore the meaning of our own baptism. They are longer than the gospel texts we are used to hearing on Sundays. It might be wise to spend some time looking them over on your own.

The season of Lent, of course, makes no sense apart from our baptism. It is a season of repentance, that is, of turning around. We turn around, just as we do in church on Sundays, to remember who we are and what God has done for us in making us his beloved children through baptism. It is a time to put aside forgetfulness and preoccupation, focusing especially on the cross of Christ as the center point of our lives. Throughout the centuries, Christians have found the discipline of prayer, fasting, and generous giving to be key to the keeping of a good Lent. We are encouraged to take up these disciplines as well, not to somehow make up for our sins, but as tools that help us focus and remember.

May Christ lead us on this forty-day journey and bring us to the joy of Holy Easter.

Pax,  
P. Austin



We are currently in the season of Lent. On Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday we sang alleluia for the last time before the beginning of Lent. 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 plainer, contemplative tone in our gatherings. The organ registrations will feature less bright, high, sparkly upper pitches. You will notice a change in the paraments and the chancel and altar will look different. There are no flowers on the altar. The opening and closing processions of our service don’t include the choir, making them simpler. The color purple will be featured, as it is the color for Lent. We also can 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

The 30th annual synod assembly will meet this year at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, Ky. Registration begins at 11:00 AM on Thursday, Jun 1st. We need two representatives, One male and one female. Pastor Austin is also attending. The cost will be covered by the congregation. We can also send a youth if she wants to attend. If you can represent First Lutheran Church those three days, call Ron at 251-5041 or let the office know.



## Council Notes from February 2017

**God Bless us Everyone!** Well we got the Arch repainted and it looks like new. Now we will work on the carpet in the dining hall. We have a bid to redo the carpet for \$2700.00. I think we will accept it and move on to installation. We are addressing the continual problem with the water running in bathrooms because the faucet is not properly shut off. The solution is to put auto turn off faucets on the problem units. They are, the sink on the second floor and the sinks in the bathroom beside the kitchen! If anybody knows of more problems, tell me. I received a Quote from Drexler Plumbing to fix these faucets, change the toilet tanks in a number of units, and change two commodes, \$2600.00. It costs every time we do something. These charges are covered by endowments from past members. We try to husband these monies as best we can.

There is going to be a lunch with Martin once a month led by Jim and Nola Lillie. This is going to be a pleasant meeting after church . Plan on attending. The after church lunch group will start meeting again in April. **NO ONE** gave me any recommendations for a place to eat as a group; so I will try to pick a place to accommodate a group of 12. We continue to limp along and if there is something any of you think would elevate our church life,

LET'S HEAR IT. GOOD DAY.

*Ron*



It's been 500 years since Luther posted the 95 theses, or discussion points, on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, and all Lutherans, plus quite a few others, are celebrating. This past June, Jim and I travelled to Luther country, guided by two professors who have dedicated their academic lives to all things Luther. We are anxious to share our experiences and knowledge with all of you.

On the first Sundays of each month, immediately after the worship service, you are invited to gather in the dining room for Lunch with Luther. We will enjoy a travelogue and a discussion of important places and events in Luther's life and ministry, and share a lunch together.

Session 1 – March 5: “What We Did on our Summer Vacation. "Overview of our Germany tour.

Session 2 – April 2: Martin Luther's Early Years, including his education and years as a monk

Session 3 – May 7: The Teaching Years in Wittenberg

Session 4 – June 4: The Fat Hits the Fire, Luther vs. Pope and Emperor

Session 5 – July 2: Luther's Time in the Wartburg translating the New Testament

Session 6 – August 6: Luther's Home Life and Family

Session 7 – September 3: Luther, the Theologian and Teacher, Catechism, preaching and music

Session 8 – October 1: The Luthers in Death, yet still very much with us

Martin Luther held many mealtime discussions with his students, even allowing his wife, Katharina to sit in and make a comment or two, so we are following in his footsteps, still learning from him.

*Auf Wiedersehen,  
Nola Lillie*



We will have Wednesday Lenten Services here in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Be sure to come in the door on Broadway, because another group is meeting in Luther Hall. The theme for these services will be "Humility."



- 3 Karen Feldmanis
- 5 Joseph Gegzna
- 6 Thelma West, Earl Claypool, James Blincoe
- 10 Bethany Lillie
- 13 Joshua McCoy
- 14 Adrian France
- 17 Virginia Kelley
- 22 Paul Nellis
- 29 Roberta Peavey, Evert T. Vaughn




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Date	Worship Asst	Acolyte	Greeters
3/5	Jay Lillie	Renee Wiser	Vaira Otvars
3/12	Jackie Rosky	Jay Lillie	Stephanie McCoy
3/19	Jim Lillie	Amelia Lillie & Monica Claypool	Vicky Frank
3/26	Vicky Frank	Paul Nellis	Elsie Nellis

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**Lunch With Luther**  
**Luther's Early Years April 2, 2017**

While we eat lunch on Sunday, April 2, right after worship, we'll see on the big screen, photos of places where Luther lived, studied and worshipped during his pre-Reformation years. We will try to give you a picture of life in the late medieval period, as well as a peak into the spiritual mindset of the great reformer, Martin Luther.

The following questions will be addressed, plus much more:

- Who were his parents and what did they look like?
- Where and when was he born?
- Where did he go to school?
- What about his rash promise to Saint Anne to become a monk?
- What was it like to live in a monastery?
- What on earth is the *anfechtung* that Luther experienced?

Jim and Nola Lillie will lead the session, but you are all invited to jump right in with your questions and your thoughts.



Remember Our Shut ins

They would love to have you call them or send them a card. Let them know that you are thinking about them!

**Bill Erdman**  
**Thelma West**  
**Debbie Scorse**  
**(Karen Wartschlager's sister)**  
**Mike Noll (Chris Wartschlager's father-in-law)**  
**Evert Vaughn**  
**Virginia Kelley**  
**Barbara Denham**

**Thelma West's New Address:**  
**Episcopal Church Home**  
**7504 Westport Road, A35**  
**Louisville, KY 40222**



**The III Group will not be meeting until after Easter!**



**Children's Sunday school will meet on the following dates:**

**March 5 & 19**  
**April 2 & 16 (Easter Egg Hunt on 16th)**  
**May 7 & 21 (Last Day)**

**Bring a friend to Sunday School!**



Do you find something that was omitted from the Newsletter?  
Do you have any ideas to put in the newsletter?  
Please call Carol (584-4926) and give her your ideas!