

MISSION STATEMENT: To connect ourselves and others to Christ through acts of faith and love.

VISION STATEMENT: First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lexington shall be a Christ-centered community participating in Spirit-led worship, challenging learning and loving outreach; willing to be transformed by the Gospel and eagerly using our gifts to transform the world around us.

Pastor's Message

The Rev. Matthew L. Miller



Dealing with grief, especially during the Lenten season with the loss of Ronnie, has made me *hear* the advice that I often give to others in times of loss. It also reminds me that these steps *are easier said than done* but here they are:

Acknowledge the Grief: It's important to acknowledge and accept the grief you're feeling. It's a natural response to loss, and it's okay to feel sad, angry, or confused.

Seek Support: Don't try to go through this alone. Reach out to friends, other FLC members and, in my case, fellow pastors who can offer support and understanding. You might also consider seeking pastoral or professional counseling.

Turn to Scripture and Prayer: During Lent, focus on the biblical passages that speak to the themes of suffering, hope, and resurrection. Find solace in

prayer and meditation, allowing yourself to be comforted by God's presence.

Lean on Your Faith: Remember the central message of Easter: the promise of resurrection and new life. While grief may feel overwhelming now, hold onto the hope that comes from your faith in Christ. We don't get over our grief—but we will get through it. Our pain is for now, but not forever. Easter is coming and our hope will be restored!

Care for Yourself: In the midst of all the plans and arrangements for others, don't forget to take care of yourself. Make sure you're getting enough rest, eating well, and engaging in activities that bring you joy and relaxation...for me — reading comic books!

Encourage Open Dialogue: Foster an atmosphere of openness within our homes and congregation where people feel comfortable sharing their feelings of grief and loss. Pastoral care and support is offered to those who are struggling even when it is the pastor.

Look Ahead with Hope: While grief may feel all-consuming now, remind yourself, as I remind the congregation, that *Easter is a time of renewed hope and joy*. Trust in the promise of resurrection and the healing power of God's love.

Remember, grieving takes time. It's okay to take things one day at a time. Allow yourself the space to mourn, but also hold onto the hope that comes from your faith in Christ with us.

God's Peace,
Pastor Matt

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We Pray for Each Other



CHURCH FAMILY:

Christopher Bartholomew
Lorraine Carlson
Jean Conrad Darstein
Craven Ford
Phil Foster
Norma Heath
Matt Hogrefe
Dan Huber
Steve Ketner
Debra Kitzman
Katie Lemly
Lewis McMillan
Tracy Miller
Frank Mills
Willie Ruth Pless
Bob Redwine
Barbara Carlson Romaine
Joe Romaine
Carolyn Scott
Ron Sink
Gracie Shepherd
Jody Shepherd
Dan Smith
Debbie and Terry Triplett
Laura Turlington
Deborah Wertman
Pr. Bob Young

LOVED ONES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:

Tonya Adams (*Friend of David Smith*)
Larry and Donna B. (*friends of John and Sabrina Conrad*)
Richard and Toni Berish (*Brother and sister-in-law of the Wertman family*)
Brad, Melody, and Erick Bizzell (*Son and family of Susan Bizzell*)
Mary Brink (*Niece of Pauletta Conrad*)
Anne Burkhart (*friend of Pam Mabry*)
Mike Byrd (*Friend of Bob Sink*)
Eula Carroll (*Joe Carroll's mother*)
Paul and Dawn Cohen (*friends of the Wertmans*)
Paul and Carolina Conrad (*Larry Conrad's aunt and uncle*)
Don and Jackie Craft (*parents of Rebecca Moretz*)
Margie Coggins (*friend of Kelly Newsome and FLC*)
Amy and Wes Cups
Greg D'Ambrosio (*friend of John Conrad*)
Robert Dasch (*Father of Keith Dasch*)
Connie Dillard (*friend of the Wertman family*)
Marina Dunaway & family (*friends of Karen Riggs*)
Juan Escobedo (*cousin of Amanda Hathcock*)
Danny Fine (*Lynn Smith's brother*)
John Fisher (*Bleasha Carroll's uncle*)

Abby Fobes (*friend of Bing Grubb*)
Ray Franks (*friend of Pr. Matt*)
Marc Frye (*friend of Craig and Robin Deal*)
The Greer Family (*friends of Karen Riggs*)
Mike and Sharon Heffner (*friends of John and Sabrina Conrad*)
Marion Hibbett (*Rebecca Moretz's aunt*)
Kenny Hirsch (*friend of Rick Grubb*)
Capt. Matthew Honeycutt (*friend of the Carroll and Scott Family*)
Scott Hummel (*friend of the Turlingtons*)
Betty Jordan (*friend of the Carlsons*)
Larry Kerns (*Tim Welther's husband*)
Bob and Karen Kernstine (*friends of Sabrina Conrad*)
Thomas and Toni L. (*friends of John and Sabrina Conrad*)
Larry Leonard (*John Leonard's brother*)
Betty Lopp (*friend of John and Sabrina Conrad*)
Franklin Mabry
Mandy Marshall (*Debbie Triplett's daughter*)
Mary Jane Marshall (*friend of Pr. Matt and Tracy Miller*)
Billy McGuinn (*friend of Lewis and Connie McMillan*)
Donna Miller (*friend of Kelsey Lambert*)
Sarah Montross (*friend of the Turlingtons*)
Matthew and Faith Moretz (*nephew and wife of Rebecca Moretz*)
Dermont Morris (*friend of Ken Clodfelter*)
Todd Morris (*father of Michael Gauldin*)
Becky Osborne (*friend of Karen Riggs*)
Linda Owings (*friend of John and Sabrina Conrad*)
Hap Palmer (*Pauletta Conrad's brother-in-law*)
Mickey Persinger (*Tracy Miller's cousin*)
Julie Proctor (*friend of John and Sabrina Conrad*)
Brenda Safrit (*Beth Huber's cousin*)
Kim Schlueter (*Trisha Reichard's mother*)
Robin Schuster (*friend of FLC*)
Doug Sink (*Bob Sink's brother*)
Peggy Sipe (*mother of Pr. Ray Sipe*)
Mark Sives (*Bleasha Carroll's cousin*)
Aubrey Smith (*Dan Smith's dad*)
David Smith (*Nephew of Bob Sink*)
Marilee Strasser (*friend of Bill and Patsie Baker*)
Johnny and Pat Straughn (*friends of Sylvia Sink*)
Denny Swimley (*brother-in-law of Scott and Deborah Wertman*)
Jackie Taylor (*Lorraine Carlson's sister*)
Juliet Teachey (*great-granddaughter of Jon and Celie Lough*)
Stephen Thompson (*Danny Thompson's father*)
Mary and Doug Walsler (*friends of Sylvia Sink*)
Charlie Ward (*friend of Kim Odum*)
Jennifer Way (*Sylvia Sink's niece*)
Mary Louise Wilkerson (*Friend of FLC*)
Devone Wohl (*Dalane Kitzman's sister*)
Nathaniel Wohl (*Dalane Kitzman's nephew*)
Ken Woisin (*Lorraine Carlson's brother*)

The families of those who have passed to life eternal:

Ronnie Moretz
Lacy Belcher (*friend of the Wertmans*)

Expectant Parents:

Kathleen Lockwood and Munashe Magarira
Jeb and Hailee (Moretz) Smith

March Ministry Schedule

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Assisting Minister	Aaron Barr	Darrell Parks	Darrell Parks	Darrell Parks	Darrell Parks
Crucifer	Tim Conrad	Tim Conrad	Tim Conrad	Tim Conrad	Tim Conrad
Acolyte	Sydney England	Sydney England	Sydney England	Sydney England	Sydney England
Lector	Sabrina Conrad	Carol Leonard	Carol Leonard	Carol Leonard	Carol Leonard
Ushers	Allen Mabry Patti Grant	Allen Mabry Patti Grant	Allen Mabry Patti Grant	Allen Mabry Patti Grant	Allen Mabry Patti Grant
Communion Steward	Amy Whalen Pat Richardson	Amy Whalen Pat Richardson	Amy Whalen Debra Kitzman	Amy Whalen Debra Kitzman	Amy Whalen Debra Kitzman
Communion Preparation	Don and Debi Henderson	Don and Debi Henderson	Don and Debi Henderson	Don and Debi Henderson	Debra Kitzman
Sound System	John Leonard	Lee Conrad	John Conrad	John Leonard	Lee Conrad

Easter Project

Available in the Narthex



We, as a congregation, will be making an Easter Project for the nursing home again this year. Our children will deliver these gifts on Palm Sunday. You will find these kits in the Narthex. We invite you to help us assemble the projects.

Join us for Lenten and Easter Opportunities

Lenten Worship	Holy Week	Easter Egg Hunt	Resurrection of Our Lord
<p>Wednesday Evenings</p> <p>Supper served at 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall</p> <p>7:00 PM — Nave Holden Evening Prayer</p> <p>March 6 March 13 March 20</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday March 28 7:00 PM — Nave</p> <p>Good Friday March 29</p> <p>Stations of the Cross 7:15 PM — Columbarium</p> <p>Tenebrae 8:00 PM — Nave</p>	<p>Holy Saturday March 30</p> <p>BECKS LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p>441 Becks Church Road Lexington, NC</p> <p>10:00 AM</p>	<p>Easter Sunday March 31</p> <p>8:30 AM Early Worship 9:00 AM Breakfast</p> <p>9:45 AM Flower the Cross Narthex</p> <p>Service 10:30 AM</p>

Worship and Fellowship Opportunities



March 4 — 7:00 PM

The Property Team will meet in the 1st floor meeting room.
If you would like to know more or be a part of the Property Team,
please see John Conrad.



March 4 — 7:00 PM

Agape Circle

*Many thanks to the ladies who assisted with the
WELCA State Leaders Gathering on January 20, 2024.*



March 12 — 11:30 AM

Mary Circle will meet in the first room on the left in the Family Life Center.

All women are invited to this time of fellowship and study.
Please see Pat Mills for more information.



March 14 and March 28 — 7:00 PM

Beer & Bible at Goose & The Monkey

All ages are welcome to this time of Bible study and fellowship.
Please see Pastor Matt for more information.



March 10 — 8:30 AM

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council will meet in the council meeting room.

As a reminder, any member of the congregation may bring an idea or concern before council at any time. You may choose to share this idea through a team liaison, if you are on a team. You may also contact any council member directly to be added to the agenda.

Council members can be found on page 8 of this newsletter. Contact the church office if you need a directory or an individuals contact information.

All incoming and outgoing council members are encouraged to come together for this meeting.



March 14 and March 28 , — 7:00 PM

Prayer Shawls will meet in the first room on the left in the Family Life Center.

All folks interested in the ministry of creating prayer shawls are invited to attend.
We welcome novice and experienced crochet and knitters.



Mid-week Lenten Services with Holden Evening Prayer

March 6, 13, 20 at 7:00 PM (Supper served at 6:00 PM)

Worship & Fellowship Opportunities



Pericope Study

Each Tuesday at 9:30 AM

Pericope will meet at Southern Lunch (26 S Railroad St, Lexington, NC 27292).

Pericope is a Bible study focusing on the week's texts.

All are welcome to join us in this time of breakfast, study, and fellowship.



Each Wednesday at 10:00 AM

Facebook Live Devotions with Pastor Miller

Please use the link below to join the devotions each week.

Join us here: <https://www.facebook.com/FLCLEX/>



Adult Sunday School Class will meet *each* Sunday at 9:30 A.M.

Denny Whalen will lead this class using the Augsburg Fortress Curriculum



Monthly Sunday School opportunities exist for our elementary aged saints. Amy Whalen and Melissa Morris will lead this class. Please join us at 9:15 AM for breakfast with Sunday school to follow at 9:30AM. Sunday School for elementary aged students will meet in the Family Life Center the following Sundays:

March 3, April 7, and May 5



Confirmation will be led by Pastor Matt and meet in the Youth Room the following dates.

March 3, April 7, & May 5

Please see Pastor Matt for more information.



Handbells rehearse on **Sundays at 9:15 AM, March 3, 10, 17, 24**

Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays in December at 7:30 PM in the choir rehearsal room.,




FLOWERING THE EASTER CROSS

9:45 AM — Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024


Please bring flowers from your yards, or those that you choose to purchase to adorn our beautiful Easter Cross to be placed in front of the Church.

A beautiful photo opportunity for your friends and family!


Outreach Opportunities

	<p>March — canned pasta (i.e. ravioli, etc.)</p> <p>April — dry beans May — instant mashed potatoes June — Grits (individually packaged) July — Hamburger Helper or store brand version August — canned tuna September — cans of mixed vegetables October — oatmeal (individual servings) November — soups December — macaroni & cheese January, 2025 – Canned meats (chicken, tuna, etc.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donations will be collected on the shelving outside of the chapel.</p>
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Good Shepherd Clothing Closet

	<p>March 16 ~ 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon</p> <p>The Good Shepherd Clothing Closet is open the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to transport items from the church over to the closet as well as volunteer while the clothing closet is open. If you'd be interested in supporting this ministry, please see Teena Walker for more information</p>
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Cracker Ministry

	<p>We continue to collect all brands of saltine crackers for our cracker ministry. Please leave your donation on the rack outside the chapel. Crackers are regularly donated to Davidson County Crisis Ministry .</p>
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Pop Tab Collection & Pennies Collection

	<p>The Women of the ELCA continue to collect pop tabs and pennies. These tabs are donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Winston– Salem while the pennies go to a district wide project. Please donate your tabs and pennies in the marked containers in the narthex.</p>
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Genesis House Schedule

March 24	WELCA Circles
April 28	Council
May 26	Learning Team
June 23	Endowment
July 28	Pericope
August 25	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
September 22	Worship and Music Team
October 27	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
November 24	Inreach Team
December 22	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
January 2025	Outreach Team
February 25, 2024	Handbell and Chancel Choirs



Prior to your Sunday, please call Davidson County First Hope Ministries [\(336\) 248-6684](tel:3362486684) to get the number of individuals you will be serving on your assigned Sunday. Then, please deliver drinks, paper products, a meal and a dessert on your given day by no later than 5:30 PM.

FLC serves the family shelter every fourth Sunday of the month.

Please direct your questions to Teena Walker.

Noisy Offering Schedule

March 3	Meals on Wheels
April 7	Domestic Violence Shelter
May 5	Humane Society
June 2	Fairgrove Family Resource
July 7	Novusway
August 4	West Davidson Food Pantry
September 1	Pastor's Pantry
October 6	The Life Center
November 3	Thanksgiving Meal Project
December 1	Angel Tree Project
January 2025	Storehouse for Jesus
February 2024	Lutheran Services of the Carolinas



The Noisy Offering

The listed Sundays, our littlest saints are encouraged to stay following the children's sermon to choose a small bucket. The children of the church will then collect change, checks, and paper money for donation to a charity each month. Our children will bless the funds collected to the glory of God before returning to their seats.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Members

President	Teena Walker
Vice President	Lee Conrad
Treasurer	Connie McMillan
Secretary	Marcia Hoffmann
Council Members	Melanie Bumgardner, Larry Conrad, Rick Grubb, Rebecca Moretz, Darrell Parks

Congregational Council Minutes — January 14, 2024

Attendees: Teena Walker (President), Pr. Matt Miller, Melanie Bumgardner, Larry Conrad, Marcia Hoffmann, Lee Conrad, Rebecca Moretz, Darrell Parks

Absent: Rick Grubb, Connie McMillan, Greg Turlington

Meeting Opened : 8:35 AM

Devotions: Pastor Matt offered thoughts on the story of Jonah who was angry because God was gracious to all. Shouldn't we love and be kind to all, as well?

Approval of Minutes: December minutes, Rebecca made a motion to accept, and Darrell seconded, vote carried.

Reports

Financial Report Greg was absent, no report.

Pastor's Report: The congregation has changed since Amanda began her position with FLC. It is more focused on congregational life than on youth. Carol Leonard, Matt and Kelly will work on defining the position. The vacancy is putting more work on both Matt and Kelly. It is hoped to have it filled by the end of summer.

Larry asked if the families that stepped away from worshipping in person during the pandemic have been contacted, reached out to during the past several months. Matt said yes and that they remain on mailing lists, email and USMail.

5-10-12 connect via FB Live on Sunday during worship and then many, many more connect later in the day and week.

New Business:

Team Liaisons for 2024 will remain the same with the exception of Property will now be Lee instead of Tawn.

Devotion assignments: See last page.

Team Reports:

Endowment (Marcia) No meeting no report.

Inreach (Melanie) They helped with the Christmas dinner and continue to provide breakfast food for Sunday School participants on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Outreach (Teena)

Aldi gift cards were given to 452 families through Davidson County school with the assistance of a school resource person.

Still frustrated by the lack of volunteers. They are going to meet with other local churches to pursue operating the Clothes Closet as a joint venture.

Congregational Council Minutes — January 14, 2024

Property (Lee)

The ice machine was repaired for \$1,600.

Annual sprinkler/backflow test was done and was less expensive than in the past due to bids being received.

Don Henderson has created a design for a metal handrail to help people use the steps up to the chancel.

This Saturday will be an indoor workday, primarily replacing fluorescent lightbulbs with LED bulbs.

An outside workday will be scheduled for March.

Harris Fund (Larry) to meet next week, January 22.

Youth (Rebecca)

Two youth, Kinsley Odum and Luke Nebrich, will attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, and three adults, Kim Odum, Christy Nebrich, and Pastor Matt.

Confirmation has 10 youth, three will be confirmed this year. Some will attend weekend gatherings at Lutheridge in March and May.

Learning (Darrell)

No report

Worship & Music (Pr. Matt)

Youth will lead worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

Lenten services, evening prayer, dinner plans are in the works.

Melanie asked when bread might be returned to communion. Matt explained the difficulty in ensuring that the bread is stocked, then properly thawed before the service. Matt said he will suggest that those who want bread can volunteer to make it available, a Bread Committee of sorts.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Matt

Meeting Closed: 9:10 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Hoffmann, Secretary

2024 Devotion Schedule

January – Pastor Matt

February – Darrell

March – Lee

April – Melanie

May – Larry

June – Marcia

July – Teena

August – Rebecca

September – Darrell

October – Connie

November – Rick

December - Teena

Joys and Cares

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Rebecca Moretz; daughter Hailee Smith and her husband Jeb; and son, Isaac Moretz upon the passing of her husband. Ronnie Lee Moretz passed away on February 23 at the Hinkle Hospice House in Lexington surrounded by his wife and children. A celebration of life service was held on February 26 at First Lutheran Church with the Reverend Matthew Lane Miller presiding. *Ronnie was a simple man who loved his family deeply and always put others before himself.* He was employed as a welder with Martin Marietta Materials for 41 years.

CJ Miller and family upon the passing of her brother. Robert Covington Hall, 75, of King, NC, passed away peacefully on February 7, 2024, at Village Care of King. A memorial service was held on February 11 at Mount Olive Baptist Church. Robert retired from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, where he traveled to 38 countries setting up Quality Assurance Labs. *He was a faithful member of Mount Olive Baptist Church, where he served as a trustee, deacon, choir member, Sunday School teacher, and Baptist Men's Director; he also served on the Youth and Senior Adult Councils; he enjoyed many trips with the senior adults, and loved the fall fishing trip to Oak Island. Mr. Hall loved to tinker and could fix anything; he would volunteer to help anyone, and all of his friends and neighbors would bring their mowers to him for repair. He loved sitting on his porch drinking his coffee and would welcome anyone to come up and join him.*

Sabrina Conrad and family upon the passing of her cousin. Robert "Larry" Childress, 81, of High Point, passed away January 20 at Kernersville Medical Center. Larry had received a stent just prior to Christmas and never completely recovered; he had numerous health problems. Memorial services were conducted January 27 in the High Point Chapel of Wright Funerals-Cremations. Larry started in retail as a teenager and was manager of Hines Shoes until he retired. He was a former member of the Winston-Salem Jaycees. *Larry never met a stranger and loved all his customers. He had special coffee buddies at Country Bar B Que and Biscuitville in High Point. Larry loved to go to flea markets and yard sales. He will be missed by all who knew him, and his favorite saying was "hang in there".* Larry was known as "the candy man" in several area churches.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Bob Redwine had laparoscopic surgery in December 19 for severe diverticulitis and a perforated bowel. In January (while recuperating at a nursing home) he developed an infection at his port site and returned to the hospital. After six weeks of being away from home, he was finally to return to his own home on January 23! He still goes to a treatment center for dialysis, and receives physical and occupational therapy at home. Although he has lost over 20 pounds, he is trying to get his strength back with the wonderful assistance of his "at-home-nurse," wife Sandy!

Mickey Persinger (cousin of Tracy Miller) was put on a ventilator early January for serious breathing issues; he is now under Hospice care and declining. Mickey is just in his 50's.

Tracy Miller had yet another kidney stone and this one blocked her kidney! She had an outpatient procedure on February 7 to remove the stone. She was looking forward to having her stent removed on February 21.

Pastor Bob Young (father of Suzy Crook, and friend of the congregation) was hospitalized at Forsyth Hospital in Winston-Salem on January 25. Stones blocking a bile duct from his gall bladder caused muscle tissue to break down and clog the kidneys with excess protein; that resulted in acute kidney infection which led to renal failure. A procedure was successful in removing several large stones. It is hoped that dialysis will do what the kidneys are supposed to do and give them a rest; then they might start working again. Dialysis arrangements have been set up; and he was able to go home on February 20 with home health care, physical therapy and occupational therapy. *He says, "It is well with my soul."*

Norma Heath (associate First Lutheran member in Council Bluffs, IA) was hospitalized the end of January with numerous health issues. We are happy to report that she is now back home, and learning to navigate dialysis.

Laura Turlington had her three-month scans completed in February, as well as an MRI. She received fairly good results; doctors are checking up on a couple places and she is now taking antibiotics along with new cancer medications.

Joys and Cares

Raegan Scott (daughter of Wes and Holli Scott, granddaughter of Chip Scott, great-granddaughter of Carolyn Scott) was hospitalized at Brenner Children's Hospital in Winston-Salem from February 9-11. She was experiencing vision problems. One procedure she endured was a spinal tap. Fortunately, removing some of the spinal fluid relieved pressure on her optic nerve; her vision has now improved and she will be put on a prescription medication. Her prognosis is good and she was able to worship with her family on February 18. Raegan wanted her church family to know that *"I am the bravest!"*

Pearl Grubb (mother of Rick Grubb) was hospitalized mid-February with an infection on her foot; she underwent procedures and antibiotic treatment. The infection could have resulted in possible amputation; but fortunately, it appears that she will recover without that.

Deb Wertman has been undergoing biopsies and specialist consultations. She has been diagnosed with pre-cancer dysplasia and will need more in-depth biopsies; she may also have to begin treatments.

The infant baby of Bobbie and Chris (friends of Sabrina Conrad - they attend Sabrina's mother's church) was born prematurely and weighed only two pounds. This little family lives in Mocksville. The baby is in the neonatal intensive care unit in Wilkes County. Please hold them all in your prayers.

Steve Ketner continues to experience frequent falls; doctors feel it may be residual effects from a stroke he suffered previously.

Pam Mabry underwent an outpatient procedure on February 21.

Logan, special needs son of Shane (Pastor Matt's "comic book guy" in Salisbury), was hospitalized mid-February.

Pat Mills is awaiting a heart catheterization; she will have to have surgery to have her aorta repaired or replaced.

Margie Coggins, friend of FLC (from Dei Gloria Lutheran Church) suffered a massive stroke.

Jon Lough will undergo outpatient surgery at the Lexington hospital on March 4 for hernia repair.

THANKS!

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Thanks to those who lead and participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. **Completed prayer shawls are in the closet in the "Prayer Shawl Room". Please feel free to pick up any that are needed, bless them and send them out. (Please notify Kelly so that he can note in our records.)**

Valentine's gifts - Thanks to the Sunday School children for making Valentine gift bags for our shut-ins; each bag contained a Valentine hanging, along with some candy. Thanks, too, to those folks who delivered the bags.

Special Music

February 4 – Prelude – FLC Handbells – "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

February 11 – Prelude – FLC Handbells – "Trinity Fanfare"

Meals on Wheels – Thanks to Chris Bitterman for giving a passionate Temple Talk prior to worship on February 18 regarding the Meals on Wheels program in this community. He targeted his appeal to this congregation, "the Body of Christ". Did you know that several of our FLC folks serve in this ministry? Thanks to ALL of you involved! If you would like to join them, please contact the Davidson County Senior Services agency.

Joys and Cares

Worship Furnishings – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Salisbury had to close its doors in November. Kelly Newsome had been intimately involved in these members through his music ministry; Pastor Matt also conducted some of their special services. We are so very grateful to Gloria Dei members for donating many worship furnishings to First Lutheran. During FLC worship on February 18, these items were received and dedicated. We used their Advent Wreath during Advent, and will use other furnishings during Lent. In addition to all these items, we also were given several acolyte/worship assistant robes and choral anthems. The communion service (paten, chalice, etc.) are pottery and were crafted by a former friend of Pastor Matt (small world!).

- *Send your blessings upon this Communion Service that all who receive the bread of heaven and the cup of blessing be sustained by your grace and power.*
- *Send your blessings upon this Sanctuary Lamp, Paschal Candle, Advent Wreath, and Torches that they be signs of Christ, the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.*
- *We receive these gracious gifts in thanksgiving for your overwhelming generosity May it be a blessing to you that these tangible furnishings of your beloved church will live on through us as we use these gifts to glorify almighty God.*

Community Lenten Service – The Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association (GLAMA) is again holding community services during Lent at First United Methodist Church each Wednesday at Noon. On February 21, First Lutheran was responsible for that service. Pastor Matt officiated, delivered a homily, and held a Service of Healing where assembly members were individually marked with oil and the sign of the cross “*as a sign of God’s healing and wholeness.*” Thanks to Kelly Newsome for providing hymn accompaniment and beautiful piano solos. Thanks also to Patti Richardson, Bleasha Carroll, and Pastor Matt for preparing soup and sandwiches for lunch following the service.

FLC Lenten Meals and Worship – Each Wednesday evening during Lent, First Lutheran will hold a simple supper in the Family Life Center followed by a Holden Evening Worship service in the Nave. Thanks to all who participate in this awesome fellowship and worship! On February 21:

- Teena Walker: will organize each weekly meal. This week, it was hot dogs! (Thanks to ALL who helped with this meal!)
- Kelly Newsome – beautiful prelude, followed by awesome piano accompaniment for our Holden Worship
- Pastor Matthew Miller – homily – from our next Sunday’s First Reading – Romans 4
- Darrell Parks – Holden worship leader
- Celie Lough – flute accompaniment to worship service

CONGRATULATIONS

Swimming



Luke Nebrich (son of Bill and Christy Nebrich, grandson of Teena Walker), a Senior at West Davidson High School, has signed to swim with the University of Missouri. With recent swim events, he has finished his high school swim career as/with:

- 50 free state champion
- 1A/2A 50 free state record holder (20.31)
- All American 50 free
- 100 butterfly state champion
- 2023/2024 Men’s State Championship Most Outstanding Swimmer Award

What a way to end his high school swim career. It was a great day!

The-Dispatch reported Luke’s state championship wins in an article that mentioned in addition Luke was named most outstanding male swimmer for the state meet and has now won the second-most titles (three) of any male swimmer in Green Dragon history. “*It’s obviously a good feeling, but really, I felt like I could have done a little better,*” said Nebrich, who also claimed a state title in the 100 free a season ago. “*During the season, before regionals and states got here, I try to qualify in as many events as I can. I decided to enter the 100 butterfly instead of the 100 free pretty much at the last minute before regionals. I looked at the other times (in the 100 butterfly) and decided why not? And for the 50 free, I was determined to win that this year after finishing second the past two years. Pretty much at the end of the state meet last year, my main goal was to win the 50 free this year.*” Mission

Joys and Cares

accomplished. Nebrich actually swam faster in the preliminary round for both events, and his prelim time in the 50 free (20.31) set a new 1-A/2-A record. In the finals of the 50 free, he got a slow start off the block and was the last one in the pool but still made up ground to capture that elusive championship. The 100 butterfly came right after, and Nebrich regrouped quickly to snag another title. Nebrich is known for his 6-foot-5 frame and long, wavy hair, something he began growing during the summer of 2020 during the height of COVID-19. His legacy at West is cemented for his talent, but his legacy among his opponents is with the hair. "I'll probably be remembered as either Tarzan or swimming Jesus," Nebrich said with a smile. "That's what some swimmers from East Davidson started calling me my sophomore year. They were cheering me on, so it was supportive...Along with my parents, I want to thank (West) Coach (Randy) Rouse and the people at Reeds Swim Club, where I started swimming when I was 3 years old, for introducing me to swimming," Nebrich said. "I never thought I would be doing as well as I have been. But I am happy I've had the chance to swim for West and accomplish these things." Well done, Luke; your church family is so very proud of you!



Kinsley Odum (daughter of Berry and Kim Odum, granddaughter of Ron and Sylvia Sink) swims on the North Davidson High School ladies' team. On January 25, the team won the Mid-Piedmont Conference Championship event at the Greensboro Aquarium! Kinsley was one of the twenty swimmers also selected for the Regionals' event on February 3! Thirteen swimmers then went on to the 3A State Swimming Championship event in Raleigh on February 10.

Pregnancy – **Jeb and Hailee (Moretz) Smith** are expecting their first child the end of this summer! Proud grandmother-to-be is Rebecca Moretz!



Honor Roll – Congratulations to **Emalyn Carlson** (daughter of Nick and Traci Carlson, granddaughter of Tommy and Nancy Carlson, great-granddaughter of Tom and Lorraine Carlson)! Not only did she get perfect attendance this quarter, but she also made A/B Honor Roll! Emalyn is in the third grade.

OTHER NEWS AND TIDBITS:

Eagle Scout – **Stephen Walser**, grandson of Larry and Judy Conrad, became an Eagle Scout many years ago. Recently, Holly Grove Lutheran Church put up a plaque on one of their walls, listing all Eagle Scout recipients; they held a dinner for all these Scouts and their families in honor of their achievement. Stephen's parents were unable to go, so Larry and Judy got to share in this celebration on February 4!

The legacy lives on: **Jeff and Tammie Beam** are doing some yard work and remodeling, but hope to move into their "new" home in mid-March: Jeff and Tammie were able to purchase the family home of his parents, Ralph and LouEtta Beam!



New Journey - Where in the World is **Eric Wertman**? Eric has moved from Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania. He finished some extra classes, and is now enrolled and attending classes at Lincoln Memorial University in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. Eric is pursuing his DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) at Lincoln. Eric, we are SO very proud of you!

His new address is:

Eric M. Wertman
157 Panther Drive, Apt 223
Cumberland Gap, TN 37724

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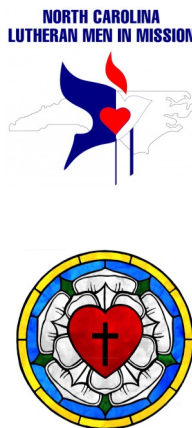
Acting Award - Frances Gray Riggs is a student at Wake Forest University graduating in Spring 2024. She is double majoring in English and Theatre with a minor in Creative Writing. When not at school she resides in Denton, NC but loves to visit her family in the mountains of Wise, VA. She has been awarded the Caroline Sanderson Acting Award and the Emily Crandall Shaw Scholarship in Liberal Arts. She is also President of the English Honors Society (Sigma Tau Delta) at Wake Forest University. Her hobbies include singing, Irish Dance, kayaking, and telling a good story. She is honored and grateful to be a part of the Barter Theatre's College Playwrights Festival.

Don't forget to share your "joys and cares" with us! Please call Celie Lough at 336-239-2522, so that we may "double your joys and halve your cares!" In order to meet printing deadlines, please have all items submitted by the 18th of each month. Thanks! Please note: articles may also be submitted via e-mail to loughjc@lexcominc.net

Lutheran Men in Mission recognize Frank Mills and Bob Sink



*Dr. Jack Weller
Frank and Pat Mills*



*Frank & Pat Mills and their family
Pr. Matt Miller and Dr. Jack Weller*



Bob Sink

On Sunday, February 25, the FLC Lutheran Men in Mission honored **Frank Mills** with Life Membership in Lutheran Men in Mission. Dr. Jack Weller, long-time friend and former member of FLC made the presentation. Frank's family was present for the occasion. The Inreach Team provided lunch for the congregation following the service.

Bob Sink was also recognized at the service. Bob received this award in September of 2021. We were unable to fully celebrate with Bob at that time due to the Pandemic. It was wonderful to finally be able to honor Bob!



Dr. Jack Weller

March 2024 Calendar

25 9:15am Handbell Rehearsal 10:30am Morning Worship	26 9:30am Yoga	27 9:30am Pericope 12:00pm Area Lutheran Pastors Pericope 1:00pm VITA Tax Program 6:00pm Beer and Bible	28 9:30am Yoga 10:00am Facebook Devotions 6:15pm Lenten Meal 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer -- Nave 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 1:30pm VITA Tax Program	1 9:30am Yoga	2
3 9:15am Handbell Rehearsal 10:30am Morning Worship	4 9:30am Yoga 7:00pm Agape Circle 7:00pm Property Team	5 9:30am Pericope 12:00pm Area Lutheran Pastors Pericope 1:00pm VITA Tax Program	6 9:30am Yoga 10:00am Facebook Devotions 6:15pm Lenten Meal 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer -- Nave 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 1:30pm VITA Tax Program	8 9:30am Yoga	9
10 9:15am Handbell Rehearsal 10:30am Morning Worship	11 9:30am Yoga	12 9:30am Pericope 11:30am Mary Circle 12:00pm Area Lutheran Pastors Pericope 1:00pm VITA Tax Program 5:00pm Smart Start Training 6:00pm Beer and Bible	13 9:30am Yoga 10:00am Facebook Devotions 6:15pm Lenten Meal 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer -- Nave 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 1:30pm VITA Tax Program 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	15 9:30am Yoga	16 9:00am Clothes Closet
17 9:15am Handbell Rehearsal 10:30am Morning Worship	18 9:30am Yoga	19 9:30am Pericope 12:00pm Area Lutheran Pastors Pericope 1:00pm VITA Tax Program	20 9:30am Yoga 10:00am Facebook Devotions 6:15pm Lenten Meal 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer -- Nave 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 1:30pm VITA Tax Program	22 9:30am Yoga	23
24 10:30am Morning Worship	25 9:30am Yoga	26 9:30am Pericope 12:00pm Area Lutheran Pastors Pericope 1:00pm VITA Tax Program 6:00pm Beer and Bible	27 9:30am Yoga 10:00am Facebook Devotions 6:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 1:30pm VITA Tax Program 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	29 9:30am Yoga	30
31 8:30 AM Early Easter 9:00 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Flowering the Easter Cross 10:30am Morning Worship	1 9:30am Yoga	2 9:30am Pericope 12:00pm Area Lutheran Pastors Pericope 1:00pm VITA Tax Program	3 9:30am Yoga 10:00am Facebook Devotions 6:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 1:30pm VITA Tax Program	5 9:30am Yoga	6



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Return Service Requested

We're on the Web:
WWW.FLCLEX.ORG

Church Staff & Volunteers

The Rev. Matthew L. Miller ~ Pastor
Teena Walker ~ Council President
Kelly Newsome ~ Organist / Parish Associate
Jim Lovelace ~ Pianist
Kelly Newsome ~ Music Ministries
Bing Grubb ~ Sexton