

First Impressions

First Lutheran Church

March 2022

Rev. Sean Esterline

Pastor

Phone 812-431-1923 or 517-543-4360 ext. 222

sesterline@msn.com

Mark Gawura

Specific Ministries Pastor for Care Ministry

Phone 517-667-6853

mgawura@gmail.com

Daniel Longden

Specific Ministry Pastor for

Youth & Family Ministry

Phone 517-543-4360 ext. 229

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Rebekah Simmons

Preschool/Daycare Director

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First Lutheran Church

550 E. Shepherd St., Charlotte, MI 48813

Phone 517-543-4360

Email: flcchurchoffice@gmail.com

web: firstlutherancharlotte.org

Amy Garnsay, Office Manager

517-543-4360 ext. 221

Home Office Phone 517-663-6439

flcchurchoffice@gmail.com

Worship Times

Sundays 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Contemporary Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays @

11:15 a.m. with live worship team

Communion 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

Mid-week Worship

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. during Advent & Lent



“That which we have seen
and heard concerning the Word
of Life, we proclaim to you.”



FLC Statistics for FEBRUARY 2022

Confirmed Membership	253
Baptized Membership	315
Child Baptisms	(0)
Adult Baptisms	(0)
Jr. Confirmands	(0)
New Confirmed Members	(0)
New Baptized Members	(0)
Transfers Out (Confirmed)	(0)
Transfers Out (Baptized)	(0)
Releases (Confirmed)	(0)
Releases (Baptized)	(0)
Deaths	(0)
Weddings	(0)

Wedding Anniversaries

James & Kristin Beal	March 20
Ed & Mary Sype	March 20

Office Deadlines

- Bulletin announcements are due no later than Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. unless otherwise advertised
- Newsletter articles and information are due no later than the 15th day of the month.

Birthdays

Mark Fondren	March 1
Lila Esterline	March 5
Gary Hamilton	March 3
Tom Cardenas	March 7
Zachary Creger	March 7
John Symmes	March 7
Kerrigan Keiffer	March 10
Charlene Sutherland	March 10
Marcelina Hatter	March 13
Dylan Malcuit	March 13
Cleo Cortright	March 15
Carol Creger	March 15
Leslie Dybas	March 15
Lydia VanLangevelde	March 17
Tessa Stoltzfus	March 19
Jenna DeWyse	March 27
Jennifer Packowski	March 28
Jim Thomas	March 29
Alexandra Withey	March 29

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month and you do not see your name listed, please let the church office know so we can update our records.

Church office: 517-543-4360 ext. 221

EMERGENCIES!

If you have a pastoral emergency such as a hospitalization, death in the family, or are in need of urgent Christian counsel, please call Pastor, Sean Esterline (812) 431-1923 OR Specific Ministry Pastor for Care Ministries, Mark Gawura at (517) 667-6853 OR Specific Ministry Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry, Daniel Longden at (248) 802-2392.

First Lutheran Phone Number is 517-543-4360:

Church Office (Amy) - extension 221

Pastor Esterline - extension 222

Pastor Daniel Longden - extension 229

Kitchen - extension 224

**If you call the church and do not get an answer, please leave a message- we may be in the office but unable to answer the phone at the moment.*

Please do not leave emergency messages on these extensions as we may not access them in a timely manner - please use the emergency numbers listed above instead. Thank you.

WORSHIP WITH US

Weekly Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

**Traditional worship with communion
on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at both 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.**

**Traditional non-communion worship at 8:30 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays.
Contemporary Worship with Live Band at 11:15 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays.**

You may wear a mask if you so desire. Hand sanitizer will be available.

STREAMING AND ONLINE WORSHIP

If you are immune compromised and cannot attend in-person worship, or if you are unable to attend for another reason, please join us for worship online by going to <https://www.facebook.com/flcharlotte/live>

All worship services will be livestreamed.

The worship services will be available for viewing after the livestream has ended.



Ash Wednesday - March 2, 6:30 p.m.
(no dinner on Ash Wednesday)

Mid-Week Lenten Worship - Wednesday, March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6
(Mid-Week Lenten Dinners will be served at 5:45 p.m. on these days)

Rides to and from Mid-week Worship, as well as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship, may be available. Please contact the church office at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a ride.



Palm Sunday - April 10, 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 14, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday - April 15, 6:30 p.m.
(Good Friday Seder Meal at 5:45 p.m.)

Resurrection Sunday - April 17, one service at 9:30 a.m.
(Easter Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.)
(Children's Holy Treasure Hunt - time to be determined)

MID-WEEK LENTEN DINNERS

Everyone is invited to join us for dinner every Wednesday, March 9 - April 6, 5:45 p.m.

The mid-week dinners will be provided by the following groups:

March 9 - Fellowship Committee

March 16 - Hamilton Family

March 23 - Bell Choir

March 30 - Outreach Committee

April 6 - FLC Council

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE

First Lutheran has an electronic giving option called Kindrid.

To utilize this option simply go to our website at www.firstlutherancharlotte.org look for the kindrid smart giving logo and click on it or go to the drop down menu on our website (three lines together at the top) and then click on "give."

Thank you for your continued support to First Lutheran and your church family.

BIBLE STUDIES AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Please join us for Bible Study . . .

† Sunday Morning Bible Studies for Adults and Teens - 10:00 a.m.

† Men's Monday Morning Bible Study - 7:00 a.m., Eaton Place Restaurant, Charlotte

† Ladies Thursday Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m., FLC Library

FIRST LUTHERAN PRAYER GROUP

Everyone is encouraged to join us for a time of prayer

Sundays at 6:00 p.m. in the First Lutheran Church Library.

Questions? Please speak with George Hatter.

ALTAR GUILD

We are in need of ladies to service on the First Lutheran Altar Guild.

If you are interested, please contact Wendy Jorgensen 517-420-7062.

Thank you.

USHERS

We are in need of men, women, and teenagers

to serve as Ushers at Worship Services and special events.

If you are interested, please contact Dennis Sergent 810-338-9265

or Mark Wells at 269-274-6352. Thank you.

ELISABETH GUILD

All ladies are invited to attend our next Elisabeth Guild Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 1:30 p.m., First Lutheran Church.

Questions? Please speak with Marj Huva 517-543-1615.

Reliving the Passion—Mark 15:37-39a

(From “Reliving the Passion” by Walter Wangerin, Jr.)

“‘A loud cry.’ In Greek the words are *phone megale*, which, transposed, begin to look familiar: a *mega-phone*. A shout of triumph!

Under other circumstances, this centurion commands a hundred fighting men, not four at a quick execution. He ranks with sixty brother-centurions in a legion of six thousand troops. He stands nowhere near the top of that brotherhood, but he isn’t a grunt, he isn’t the boy at the bottom.

So who is this ‘King of the Jews’? And why does his crucifix require such attention?

...

And so he has lingered through a truly terrifying storm, a blackness three hours long, here on a hill, exposed to the wind’s lash, protecting... what? Whom? Who is this Jesus? The rain runs his body in rivulets, beard and hair stuck to flesh, head bent backward, upward. The rim of his top teeth shows. Whereas his companions have begun shivering and crying in the cold, till now he has held his peace. One curses. One weeps. Common responses. The man in the middle flares his nostrils and groans.

Then, just in the last minutes, he breathed deeply, he swelled his chest and bellowed a hoarse word: ‘Eloi, Eloi—’ something. Can’t translate. But this, finally, is what the centurion expects. Right about now, six hours into the torment, even the best begin to break. Okay, then: so this Jesus of Nazareth is no different from everyone else who—

What was that?!?

A loud shout! *Phone megale!* What? What! No, this is not at all what the centurion expects. It’s a cry he has heard before, to be sure—but never in defeat, and never, *never* in death, always when the soldier has won the battle or the king the war!

This is a cry of triumph!

The centurion whirls around to see Jesus: he sees eyes like fiery darts in the darkness; he sees a mouth thin and thin, as thin as the blade of a sword, grinning!

Victorious? King of the Jews—victorious over what? What do these flaming eyes announce?

Satan, thou art defeated in my defeat! Sin, dispossessed of a people! Death, look about thee; thou art not mighty and dreadful. Lo, I close my eyes and die—and death shall be no more.

Then, suddenly, he dies. The centurion’s jaw drops. He stares, but he’s seen it before; he knows the signs: Jesus is dead. Dead. No coma, no deeper sleep than another sleep. All at once the eyes see nothing, the mind thinks nothing, the heart has ceased to beat—

—but suddenly! That’s what rivets the centurion. It is as if this man chose to go fully conscious straight to the wall of death, and there to strike it with all his might and, in the striking, die. Aware of absolutely everything.

See to it, Centurion.

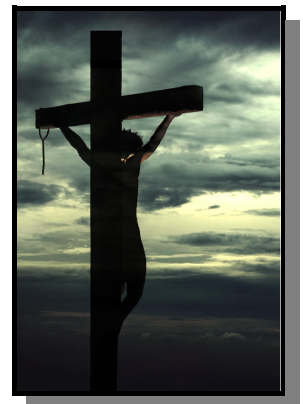
I’ll see to it all, sir.

No, not all. One thing astounds the centurion:

How can a crucified criminal act so convincingly like the victor?”

God’s Lenten blessings,

-Pastor Esterline



DONATIONS OF SNACKS FOR FLPD

Throughout the month of March we will be collecting donations of snack items for First Lutheran Preschool and Daycare in celebration of their being in their “new” building for 10 years. Becky Livingston will have a sign-up sheet for snack donations in the narthex each Sunday in March. If you have already purchased snacks FLPD will gladly take them even if they are not on the ‘wish list.’ Thank you for your continued support to our preschool/daycare.

FLC COMMUNITY DINNER

Our next Community Dinner will be held on Monday, March 21, 6:00 p.m. This dinner is free to anyone in our community or congregation regardless of need. Helpers are needed please. Questions? Please contact George Hatter at 517-213-1939.

FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Friday, March 25, 7:00 p.m. - Midnight.
Pizza, snacks, and games, in a Christian environment.
Friends are welcome.

Adults to help supervise are needed please.

Questions? Please text Daniel Longden at 248-802-2392 or call 517-543-4360 ext. 229.

SPRING FORWARD!

Be sure to turn your clocks one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12.

YOU ARE INVITED

Candy Wood would like to invite everyone to a surprise birthday party for her mother Saturday, March 5, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., First Lutheran Fellowship Hall.
Questions? Please contact Candy 517-402-0774.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is held every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the FLC Fellowship Hall.

Hosts and Hostesses are needed to serve coffee and refreshments every Sunday. The church provides coffee, other beverages. Volunteers make and serve the coffee/beverages. The volunteers provide and serve the snacks (cookies, bagels, fruit, etc.)

Please wear gloves and observe good sanitation while serving at Coffee Hour.

Please be sure to clean up following Coffee Hour and turn the coffee pot off.

Thank you to all who serve ♥

TABLES AND CHAIRS

First Lutheran loans tables and chairs to members of First Lutheran.

Only tables and chairs located in the FLC garage are available for use off-site by members. Tables and chairs from inside the church building are not available for use outside of the church.

To use tables and chairs please sign up through the church office.

Please do not take tables and chairs without a reservation
as someone else may already have them reserved.

Please be sure to bring tables and chairs back promptly at the end of your reservation. Thank you.

USE OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING

The First Lutheran Church fellowship hall, kitchen, and Pastor Olson Memorial Room, are available for use by members and outside groups for their private events, meetings, etc.

To make a reservation please contact the church office 517-543-4360 ext. 221.

Please do not make plans to use the facilities without making a reservation through the church office as someone may already have the space reserved.

A member of FLC must be present for the duration of any event/meeting held at First by an outside group.

FLC is not available for for-profit events (Tupperware, Candlelight, craft sale, etc.).

A deposit of \$150 is required for any use of the FLC facilities other than for non-profit or church events.

A list of facility use rules and a cleaning check list can be obtained through the church office.

Please be sure to clean up and secure the building after your event. Thank you.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider signing up to provide flowers to beautify our Sunday altar.

Cost is currently \$20 per bouquet..

Please make checks payable to FLC Elisabeth Guild and place in Shirley Lea's mailbox.

You may take your flowers home with you following the 2nd worship service.

A sign-up sheet is located in the office hallway.

When you sign up you may state a reason for your flowers

(this will appear in the Sunday announcements) such as celebrating a birthday or anniversary, in loving memory of someone, in thanksgiving for blessings, etc.

Thank you for helping make our altar beautiful.

FLC COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.

FLC ELDERS MEETING

The next Board of Elders' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THOSE IN NEED

Here is a list of ways you can help those in need in our community and congregation:

🕊️ **FLC Esther Fund.**

This fund helps provide emergency housing to the homeless in our community.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please write "Esther Fund" and the amount you wish to contribute on your offering envelope.

🕊️ **FLC Good Samaritan Fund.**

This fund helps members of First Lutheran who have a financial need.

If you are a member struggling with a financial need, please contact the church office to apply for help. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please write "Good Samaritan Fund" and the amount you wish to contribute on your offering envelope.

🕊️ **Helping Hands Food Bank.**

Please make donations directly to the food bank:

621 Jefferson St., Charlotte. For questions please call the food bank at 517-543-8737.

🕊️ **SIREN Eaton Shelter.**

Please make donations directly to the shelter:

520 Robinson St., Charlotte, MI. For questions please call the shelter at 517-543-0748.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Scripture Alone

We believe that the Holy Scriptures in their entirety are the inspired and infallible Word of God and that they alone are the only source and norm of faith and life for the Christian. We believe that the Bible is complete and requires no additions from any other source and that it clearly reveals God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Faith Alone

We believe that man was originally created holy by God but later rebelled against God and is now, by his nature, spiritually dead and blind. Only when man is brought to faith by the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God is it possible for man to be saved. Faith is God's work - not man's work - and comes only by hearing the Word of God. Man is justified before God by faith alone and not by good deeds.

Grace Alone

We believe that we are saved by grace alone and that man cannot earn his way into God's favor. Grace is the undeserved love of God who sent His Son Jesus into the world to take our place under God's law and to suffer and die to pay the penalty for our sins. Whoever trusts in that redemptive act of Jesus Christ will not perish but have everlasting life.