

*Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).
(John 20:16, ESV)*

A few days ago, I was reading an article about an old baseball player from the late 1800's. His name was William "Big Bill" Brown. He was a pretty good hitter and an excellent defensive first baseman. It seemed that he would have a long and successful career. But when he was just 28 years old, he developed a lung problem (probably tuberculosis). Two and a half years later, at the age of 31, he was gone. The author noted that, "even in a time when the average life expectancy in America was less than forty years, the death of Big Bill Brown was a shock to all those who knew him." I read that line again. Could that be true? The average life expectancy of someone living in America in the 1890's was less than 40 years old? I decided to do some digging.

What I discovered was that the author was absolutely right! Bill Brown was born in 1866. And for a person born in that year, the average life expectancy was just 38.3 years. And less than one in six people born in that era would see their 60th birthday. One of the reasons why so many people died young at that time was that there were no antibiotics. Penicillin wasn't discovered until 1928. Before that time, millions of people died from infections which could be easily treated today. And of course, medicine has made great strides in many other areas as well. For that reason, a child born in America in 2025 has a life expectancy of 79.4 years, and about 60% of them will see their 80th birthday. In fact, 3% of them (about 1 in 33) will live to be 100 years old!

A lot has changed since the 1890's. People are living much longer lives. But one fact remains. Whether a person lives to be just 31 years old, like Big Bill Brown, or lives to be 100, like a few of the 2025 babies will, our lives in this world are really very short. Our mortal bodies were not meant to live forever. And that is why Good Friday and Easter Sunday are so important. Good Friday was the day when Jesus died on the cross for our sins. And Easter Sunday was the day when he showed us what that meant for our future.

When Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb of Jesus on Easter Sunday morning, she was thinking only about death. She had stood in front of the cross on Friday and watched Jesus die. She was heartbroken. All of her hopes and dreams were destroyed on that piece of wood. All of her joy was buried in that tomb. But then Jesus approached her in the darkness and spoke her name, "Mary." And everything changed in an instant. Jesus was alive again! He was more powerful than all of our greatest enemies. He had triumphed over sin, and death, and the power of the Devil.

Mary turned to Jesus and said, "Teacher!" Then she fell at his feet and worshiped him. And that is what we do on Easter Sunday. We turn to the Teacher. We turn to our Lord. We worship our risen Savior. And we know that, because he lives, we too shall live. We will live in heaven with new bodies that will never die.

And who knows? Maybe someday when I'm in heaven, I'll run into Big Bill Brown. We'll play some catch. And I'll say to him, "You could have been one of the great ones." And he will stop and say to me, "There is only one who is truly great. His name is Jesus." And I will nod my head and say, "You are absolutely right, Big Bill. Amen and **Amen.**"

Pastor Shields

*Special announcements for the bulletin, or the screen, need to be to the office by **Thursday morning**. Call, leave a message, email, or drop off a note. **Newsletter deadline will be the 20th day of April.***

Office Hours: 9-12 & 1-4 Mon. – Thurs.
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Check us on Facebook.
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**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The open dates coming up:
 Apr. 6, May 11, 18, 25
 Please call the office if you would like to schedule one of the above Sundays

ALTAR GUILD

April – Marilynne Kloster, JoAnne Kloeping
May – Mary Ann Smith, Lynn Holland
June – Karen May, Julia Cain, Lani Swinford

Council Summary: MARCH 2025

The minutes from the February meeting & financial reports were approved.

Pastor's report – Regular monthly activities, February Food Challenge 948lbs for 1st Lutheran, 2,192lbs overall, hosted LCMC Illinois Fellowship meeting successfully, did a LCMC Podcast after the meeting, February Mobile Food Pantry, hold a new member class and 3 new people scheduled to join in March: Lois Chally, Jaimie Krug and Brook Schafer, held Ash Wednesday services and more Wednesday Lenten services with Soup suppers.

Admin. Report - February attendance 96 in person, 56 views.

Property – Will arrange tuck point work for summer, broken hymn racks repaired, outside lights checked for evening services, refrigerator light switch repaired, drywall in elevator entrance showing damage, outer wall in Sunday School storage area needs to be cleaned and repainted.

Service & Mission – Benevolence to Our Table \$250, Gideons local and global \$250 each, Second Story \$750, EdPowerment \$1000, February Mobile Food Pantry served 153 households, 316 people, next Mobile is April 24th, Lenten Denial changed to Homeless Ministry, Buddy Bags, and B.C. Food Pantry.

Outreach & Fellowship - Feb. Food Challenge: 1st Lutheran 948 lbs., Ev. Covenant 688lbs, 1st Prebyterian 211 lbs., Open Prairie 182 lbs., 1st Christian 128 lbs., Wesleyan 30 lbs., Hampshire Colony 25 lbs., total 2,192 lbs. Movie "The Most Reluctant Convert" about C.S. Lewis' life was well attended and many positive comments.

Youth & Education – Freedom House project complete, boxes to be delivered. Letter sent to SS parents about schedule for the remaining year. Teacher Appreciation Sunday, May 4th & Confirmation also May 4th, teachers will have May 11th off & other activities will be available for the kids.

Worship & Music – Singers scheduled for Lenten services, prices for lilies & begonias will be provided by Julia, Lisa Shields organizing Soup Suppers, Confirmation students measured for robes, green cloths purchased for flower risers.

Finance – Giving \$4,400 more than one year ago but expenses greater than income for February.

New Business – Security Task Force still needs to schedule some training & seeking interest in CPR/1st Aid training.



Pastor's Bible Study Class

*Wednesday, 11:00am or
Thursday, 6:00pm
No Bible Study April 16th & 17th*

Confirmation Class
*Wednesday, 6:00pm
No Confirmation April 9th & 16th*

Special Needs Prom
Bureau County Metro Center
Saturday, April 5th
5:30pm

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 1
1:00pm – Library Committee
7:00pm – Property, Youth,
Service & Mission, Finance

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 8
11:30am – Worship meeting
3:30PM – COUNCIL MTG.

Lenten Services

Wednesday Services
April 2 & 9
5:30pm - Soup Supper
6:00pm – Confirmation
6:00pm – Choir Practice
7:00pm - Worship



Anniversaries
April

John & Judy Shofner 4/16
Tom & Jo Kloster 4/22
David & Emalie Ohlson 4/27
Dave & Gayle Little 4/29

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

10:00am – Tuesday, April 8 & 22

QUILTERS

1:00pm – Thursday April 10, 24

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 15
9:30am - Rebekah Circle
3:00pm - Lydia Circle

1st Communion Sunday, April 6th

For our 5th & 6th graders

Domanik Anderson
Peter Bonucci
Kaden Jaques
Anna June Ohlson

Old Wheels Meeting

Scruggs' Pond

April 5th at 8:00am

1st planning meeting this year

“Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won’t stay there.” — *Clarence W. Hall*



BIRTHDAYS
APRIL

- Larry Nelson 4/1
- Lauren Schaille 4/1
- Linda Bacon 4/2
- Shelley Corban 4/4
- Azeem Hosein 4/4
- Jo Kloster 4/4
- Tom Kloster Jr. 4/8
- Karen May 4/12
- Emalie Ohlson 4/13
- Mason Scruggs 4/13
- Lisa Widmark 4/15
- Marilyn Borri 4/17
- Sue Eggers 4/17
- Judy Mugerdichian 4/17
- Eileen Prusator 4/18
- Pete May 4/19
- Amanda Ohlson 4/20
- Bernice Schuetz 4/20
- Kit Bonucci 4/21
- Madison Kloster 4/21
- Hannah Muehlschlegel 4/28
- Michael DiPietro 4/29
- Sara Scruggs 4/29



HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – April 13 – 9:30am
Kids in parade of palms &
singing with the choir

Maundy Thursday – April 17
1:30pm Owls Service
7:00pm Communion

Good Friday – April 18
7:00pm Tennebrae Service

Easter Sunday – April 20
7:00am & 9:30am
Worship & Communion
Breakfast 8-9:15am



OWLS WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP
1:30pm – Thursday, April 17th
Worship & Communion
Followed by cookie/dessert fellowship.
Invitations will be mailed,
please RSVP by April 15th.

Next Mobile Food Pantry

9:00am

Thursday, April 24th

Bureau County Fairgrounds
Need Volunteers & wagons.

Our February Mobile
Served 153 households
& 316 individuals

Lenten Denial Offerings

Lenten Denial offerings are going to:

- Homeless Ministry
- Princeton Food Pantry
- Princeton Buddy Bags

All offerings will be equally divided to
these 3 charities unless you designate
the one you prefer.

FEBRUARY FOOD CHALLENGE

Results

Hampshire Colony - 20 lbs.

Wesleyan - 30 lbs.

1st Christian - 128 lbs.

Open Prairie - 182 lbs.

1st Presbyterian - 211 lbs.

Evangelical Covenant - 688 lbs.

FIRST LUTHERAN - 948 lbs.!!!

Total 2,192 lbs.

**Thank you all for your generosity.
We are an AWESOME congregation!**

FREEDOM HOUSE BOXES

The Sunday School Students shopped to find items to fill boxes for kids at Freedom House on Feb. 2nd. We bought socks, toothbrushes, combs & brushes, hair ties for girls, hot wheels cars, play dough & other small items.

We packed the boxes on Feb. 23rd. The boxes have been delivered with many thanks for our project.



1st Aid/CPR Training

Thank you to all who signed up to take the training. Rick is checking with the instructor to coordinate a date & time for the training to take place. We will let you all know when that will happen.



VBS July 13-17, 2025

5:00 - 7:30pm

Sunday - Thursday

We are beginning to plan for this year's VBS. Volunteers are needed in all areas. Our theme is "Egypt" and we will study the stories of Joseph this year. Talk to June to volunteer.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

have arrived!

If your photo is in the book, there are copies with your names on them. (so we can be sure everyone gets their copy)

Additional copies are available for everyone else.

Confirmation Sunday is May 4th

9:30am Worship

Pablo Castro, Dash Nutter, Mason Scruggs & Westyn Widmer will be confirmed this year.

Please join us after worship for fellowship to celebrate with them.

YEARBOOK DIRECTORIES

There are still a few to be picked up in the back & some additional copies of those are available as well.

Continued prayers for:

Cancer patients: Gary Schail, Michael Frandsen

(brother of Lani Swinford), Terri Adamow (mother of Chris Adamow), Barb Amrein (friend of Mary Lee Twidell-diagnosed with Lymphoma),

Others: Sandi Smith (health issues) Nick Smith (health issues), Mitch Ebanks (brother-in-law to Mary Lee Twidell-bone spurs irritating nerves on his spine), Diane Little (Dave Little's sister – health issues), Val Blythe (infection), Sally Effner

(Sue Scruggs mother on hospice), Nancy Hartz (broken fibula),

Gayle Little & Linda Bacon (both with upcoming knee replacements)

FISH FRY

Ohio First Lutheran

Friday, April 11

5 – 7 pm

Adults \$12

Kids 8-12yrs. \$5

Kids under 8 \$2 (hot dogs available)

Carry outs or eat in

Call 815-376-7431

FLOWER SALE

CLUB 56 SUMMER CAMP

Impatiens (red, white, violet, salmon, mix)

Petunias (blue, pink, white, red, mix)

Marigolds (orange, yellow, mix)

Begonias (red, white, pink, mix)

Dusty Miller (gray)

Full Flats - \$28 Pack - \$4

Email/Text orders by April 28 to:

princetonclub56@gmail.com or

Call 815-878-5874

Lutheran World Relief

Thank you for your generous donations for LWR Personal Care Kits.

We still need medium to dark colored bath towels, bars of soap, and nail clippers.

Thank you for caring, Jo Kloster

It takes less time to do a thing right than it does to explain why you did it wrong.

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Pick a day, any day. Choose a person ...then, Say something unexpected, or nice, or flattering.

--Marcia Jacobs

My Dentist told me I needed a crown.
I was like, I know, right?