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*“When [Jesus] was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.” (Luke 24:30-31, ESV)*

There are twelve post-resurrection appearances of Jesus mentioned in the New Testament. They are all great stories, but my favorite has always been the appearance to two men on the road to Emmaus. It might have something to do with the children’s Bible that we had in our home when I was growing up. There was an illustration of Jesus walking down the road with the two men and the scene looked so beautiful and serene that I wished I could be on that road with them.

But, of course, the situation in the story was not serene at all. The two men were walking from Jerusalem to the little town of Emmaus, about six miles to the west. It was the afternoon of Easter Sunday, and the men were dealing with a combination of sadness and confusion. As they walked, a third man came up behind them and joined them on their journey. The third man was Jesus, but they did not recognize him. Jesus intentionally hid his identity in some way. He did this so that he could teach them an important lesson.

As they walked, Jesus asked the men why they were so sad. They said, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” Jesus said, “What things?” So the men told him the story. They were sad because Jesus, the man whom they had thought was the long-awaited Messiah, had been crucified on Friday and buried in a tomb. But they were also confused because some of the women in their group went to the tomb early that Sunday morning and said that the tomb was empty! The women also said that there were angels at the tomb who told them that Jesus was alive! But these two men weren’t really sure if they could believe that report.

Jesus said to the men, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!” He then proceeded to walk them through the Old Testament and show them all of the prophecies that foretold the death *and* the resurrection of the Messiah. The men were amazed, and as they came near to Emmaus, they begged the stranger to join them for dinner at the house where they were staying.

During dinner, Jesus did a very unusual thing. Even though he was the guest, he took over the role of the dinner host. He picked up the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the other two men. And at that moment their eyes were opened and they knew that it was Jesus. And just like that, Jesus disappeared. They looked at each other in amazement and then one of them said, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

The sun was going down, but the men didn’t care. They ran back to the house in Jerusalem where the Disciples of Jesus were staying. There they found out that Jesus had also appeared on that day to Mary Magdalene and to Peter. Suddenly, their sadness and confusion was turned into hope and joy. They realized that the Jesus movement was not over. In fact, it was just beginning!

I’m reminded of something that a Sudanese pastor said to me many years ago, when I was teaching at a conference in Sudan. We were sitting across the table from each other at lunch and we had a wonderful conversation. He told me that he had grown up in a small village where everyone was Muslim, including his family. All that he had ever heard about were the teachings of Mohammed. So I asked the obvious question: “How did you come to be a Christian?” He said, “Well, when I was twenty-five years old, someone told me about Jesus. And when he told me about the resurrection, it was like my eyes were suddenly opened! At that moment I knew that I did not want to follow a dead prophet. I wanted to follow the man who had risen from the dead!”

And that is who I want to follow as well. I want to follow him all the days of my life. And then I want to meet him face to face in heaven. My heart burns within me when I read the Old Testament and see all of the prophecies that point to Jesus. And my heart is filled with joy when I read the New Testament and see all of those prophecies fulfilled. I don't want to live my life in sadness and confusion. I want to live my life in faith and hope and joy. That is what the resurrection of Jesus means to me. And I hope that it means the same thing to you.

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 20<sup>th</sup> day of April for the May Newsletter.**

**Office Hours: 9-12 & 1-4 Mon. – Thurs.**  
**Website: [www.flcprinceton.org](http://www.flcprinceton.org)**  
**Check us on Facebook.**  
**Phone: 1-815-875-1685**  
**Email: [office.flcprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:office.flcprinceton@gmail.com)**

**Council Summary – March 2026**

February minutes and financial reports were approved.

**Pastor’s report** – regular monthly activities, 5 worship services in Feb., 10 calls, 7 meetings, 18 Prayer groups/Bible Studies/Classes, Officiated at marriage of Sharon Dyer & Rich Still Feb. 15, 1 vacation day. Greenfield Chapel Service Feb. 19, Wittenberg Door Feb. 26, Ash Wed. Feb. 18. We hosted “The Living Last Supper” presentation on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

**Administrator’s report** – February attendance 96 in person, 66 views. Ash Wednesday attendance 90 with 58 views. Council approved the membership of Sophia & Lyla Plock to join their parents in membership here. The July Council meeting is moved to Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> as the regular meeting will come during VBS week.

**Property** – No meeting but council approved a new contract for garbage removal with GFL Environmental for an approximate cost of \$25 per month.

**Service & Mission** – No meeting, but Benevolence distribution for March: Our Table \$250, Gideons Local \$250, Gideons Global \$250, Second Story \$750, and Edpowerment \$1000. March 26<sup>th</sup> is the next Mobile Food Pantry.

**Outreach & Fellowship** – Feb. Food Challenge results 496 lbs. Evangelical Covenant & 783 lbs. for First Lutheran. Attendance for “The Living Last Supper” March 8<sup>th</sup> was 74 with 16 people presenting. \$375 collected for local food pantries. March 20<sup>th</sup> will be Euchre night.

**Youth & Education** – Planning a Zentangle class for Sunday School Students.

**Worship & Music** – New banners were selected for the sanctuary.

**Finance** – At the end of February, we are - \$13,650.

**Endowment** – Approved payment for \$180 for New Life weekend scholarship & \$5000 for Club 56 Summer Camp scholarships.

**Memorial** - Approved using funds from Merle Polson to purchase new banners.

**ALTAR GUILD**  
*April – Marilynne Kloster, JoAnne Klopping*  
*May – Mary Ann Smith, Lynn Holland*  
*June- Karen May, Julia Cain, Lani Swinford*

**Altar Flowers**  
**Open dates:**  
*April 12*  
*& May 10, 17, 24*

**Congratulations!**

**Violet Eleanor Monier**

**Born 2/23/26 – 6 lbs. 15oz.**

**Parents: Thomas & Lindsey Monier**

**Great grandparents:**

**Donna Monier & Gary & Nancy Monier**

**February Food Challenge**

**There are numbers for only 2 churches:**

**Evangelical Covenant 496**

**First Lutheran 783**

**We are undefeated!**

**Euchre Night**

**26 people attended, good food, a lot of fun! Jeff Jaques was the overall winner of the night! Prizes were given. Plan to come next year!**



**Anniversaries  
April**

- 4/3 Ross & Susan Weber
- 4/16 John & Judy Shofner
- 4/22 Tom & Jo Kloster
- 4/27 David & Emalie Ohlson
- 4/29 Dave & Gayle Little

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00pm – Library Committee**

**7:00pm – Property, Youth,**

**Service & Mission, Finance**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**3:30PM – COUNCIL MTG.**



**April**

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

**PRAYER SHAWL GROUP**

**10:00am – Tuesday, April 14 & 28**

**QUILTERS**

**1:00pm – Thursday, April 9 & 23**

**Choir Practices  
will return to 7:00pm after  
Holy Week.**

**Circle Meetings**

**Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**9:30am – Rebekah Circle**

**3:00pm – Lydia Circle**



**Confirmation**

**Wednesdays at 6:00pm**  
**Confirmation will not meet on**  
**April 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Confirmation Sunday will be May 3.**

**Pastor's Bible Study**

**Wednesdays at 11:00am**  
**Thursdays at 6:00pm**

**No Bible Study on April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Personal Care Kits**

The Women of First Lutheran would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Personal Care Kits we are putting together for Lutheran World Relief. We will continue to collect items through Holy Week, with a special need for medium-sized, dark-colored, bath towels. Thank You.

**1<sup>st</sup> Communion Classes**

**For 5<sup>th</sup> graders or older who have not yet received 1<sup>st</sup> Communion instruction**  
**March 29<sup>th</sup> & April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**during the Sunday School hour.**  
**First Communion is scheduled for**  
**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**"The Living Last Supper"**

**74 people were in attendance at this event and 16 people were part of the presentation.**

**Many stayed for fellowship following the event.**

**OWLS Maundy Thursday**

**Worship & Communion**  
**1:30pm - Thursday, April 2**  
**Cookie Fellowship to follow.**

**Our next Mobile Food Pantry is**  
**Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**B.C. Fairgrounds**  
**Volunteers needed by 9am**  
**Bring wagons**



**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday – March 29 – 9:30am**  
Kids in parade of palms & singing with the choir

**Maundy Thursday – April 2**  
1:30pm OWLs Worship & Communion  
7:00pm Communion

**Good Friday – April 3**  
7:00pm Tenebrae Service

**Easter Sunday – April 5**  
7:00am & 9:30am Worship & Communion  
8:00am Breakfast

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal. –Henry Ford

Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish. –John Quincy Adams

Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it. –Michael Jordan

For by thee have I run through a troop; and by my God I have leaped over a wall. Psalm 18:29

**Lenten Denial Offerings 2026:  
 Pastor's Discretionary Fund  
 Buddy Bags  
 Farm Stew  
 Samaritan's Purse**

You may still submit your Lenten Offerings through Easter Sunday.

**VBS 2026 – RAINFOREST FALLS**

VBS will be July 12-16. We will be seeking volunteers in all areas from crafts, crew leaders, kitchen, etc.

Also, since it is a jungle theme, we will be asking to borrow any jungle-type stuffed animals and artificial plants. Thank you for your assistance in these matters.

**NOTICE**

The Evangelical Covenant Church will be hosting a large church wide event on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> through Sat., May 2<sup>nd</sup>. They have asked to use our parking lots during those days. Just be aware if you come to our church on those days.

**Continued prayers for:**

**Cancer patients:** **Keith Cain, Gary Schail, Barb Amrein** (*friend of Mary Lee Twidell- Lymphoma*), **Tina Nutter** (*stepmom to Gage & Dash Nutter-cancer*), **Steve Allen** (*brother of April Buchanan*), **Eric Davis** (*brother-in-law of Rob Buchanan*), **Rodney Smith** (*brother of Duane Smith*), **Lisa Woodruff** (*niece of Bernice Schuetz*), **Steve Cook** (*cousin of Rick Cook*), **Logan Kari** (*2 yr. old nephew of Debbie Lindberg, aggressive brain cancer*), **Becky Wicinski** (*sister of Tim Ploch, cancer*), **Leslie Johnson** (*cancer, started treatments*), **Michael Frandsen** (*return of cancer*), **Rich Still** (*husband of Sharon Polson Dyer, stage 4 stomach cancer*).

**Others:** **Dawn Dabler** (*family of Mary Lee Twidell & Nancy Hartz- tumors on liver non-cancerous*), **John Shofner** (*recovering shoulder surgery*), **Kim Bazant** (*daughter of Jackie Pilcher, on kidney transplant list*), **Sarah Smith** (*friend of Judy Carlsen – recovering from fall & injuries*), **Nick Smith** (*health issues*), **Linda Bacon** (*back pain*), **Carolyn Mahon** (*at Bounce Back at Liberty Village Princeton*), **Val Blythe** (*problems with site of recent heart surgery & injured hand severely*), **Miles** (*nephew of Val Blythe, health issues*), **Ray Schoff** (*health issues*), **Jamie Hedger** (*sister of Chris Anderson, premature birth of son, Everett, who is struggling to survive*), **Jerry Carver** (*in rehab in Aurora*).

