I'm no longer going to use the word “normal” as I think about “what comes next” after a pandemic. I don't like the term “new normal” either—I think we're facing a new future. “New” can be simultaneously amazing and fearful. Our world, our country and our congregation has changed due to this pandemic—something about which I’ve already written. Over this past year, we have lost people; but, we've also added new people. The dynamic of who we are will be a little different. My last article dealt with changes in technology and changes in how we do things. Now we need to address how we feel about it.

Christ is risen Christ is risen, indeed, hallelujah! However, that was not the first reaction in the Gospel of Mark when the women encountered the empty tomb. After all, the young man, dressed in white, told them that Jesus was alive and waiting for the disciples in Galilee. With this news, the women left—amazed and afraid. How could they not be? They were the first to experience the risen Christ—and had no idea what it meant for the future. The future feels a little bit like that for us today. We are both amazed and afraid of what it will bring. So how do we step into this new future? When we are both amazed and afraid, what do cling to? The good news is that Christ is in Galilee. It is God who formed us in our mothers womb; God who was at our baptism and God who has brought us to this point. God is with us now—even as we worship outside or using Facebook Live. It is God who has been with us—seeing us through a pandemic and feeding us through his Word and through pre-packaged bread and cup. Christ is our future and is waiting for us in Galilee. In amazement and fear, we know we can hold on to the good news that CHRIST IS RISEN and that Christ waits for us in our future—just as Christ comforts us in our present. I cannot tell you what the future holds—no one can—but, as your pastor, I can, with sure and certain hope of the resurrection, say to you that Christ has seen you this far—and Christ will see you home. Let us cling to that promise of Easter.

God's peace
Pastor Matt
We Pray for Each Other

In Our Hearts & Prayers

Let us remember in prayer:

**CHURCH FAMILY:**
- Amy Hollar Cormier
- Jean Conrad Darstein
- Mary Honeycutt
- Katie Lemly
- Frank Mills
- Ronnie Moretz
- Willie Ruth Pless
- Gracie Shepherd
- Jody Shepherd
- Ron Sink
- Sylvia Sink
- Dan Smith
- April Thompson
- Terry Trippett
- Deborah Wertman
- Jarrett Whitley
- Jan Willette

**LOVED ONES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:**
- Tonya Adams (Friend of David Smith)
- Susan Avery and Family (Friends of Christi Nebrich)
- Nick Babcock (Friend of the Kitzmans)
- Charles Baker (Bill Baker’s father)
- Jim Bailey (Carol Leonard’s brother)
- Nancy Beck (Judy Conrad’s sister)
- Mary Brink (Niece of Pauletta Conrad)
- Gene Bullock (Tracy Miller’s uncle)
- Anne Burkhardt (friend of Pam Mabry)
- Tessa Burns (Bob Redwine’s niece)
- Mike Byrd (Friend of Bob Sink)
- Johnsie Canny (Emma Apple’s sister)
- Rita Caudle (friend of Sabrina Conrad)
- Adam Cheely (Michelle Eppinga’s son)
- Edward Clancy (friend of Bing Sudarmono)
- Ken Clodfelter
- Jessica Crabb
- Don and Jackie Craft (Rebecca Moretz’ parents)
- Amy and Wes Cups
- Robert Dasch (Father of Keith Dasch)
- Marina Dunaway and family (friends of Karen Riggs)
- Delores Farrell (Dalane Farrell’s sister)
- Danny Fine (Lynn Smith’s brother)
- Patrick Foley (Bleasha Carroll’s brother-in-law)
- Debra Gainey (The Kitzman’s neighbor)
- Marlon Gaskins (Friend of Scott and Deb Wertman)
- Rick Gransee
- Ross Gray (Friend of Danny and Carol Leonard)
- The Greer Family (Friends of Karen Riggs)
- Kathy Harwood (Beth Lemly’s sister-in-law)
- Ronald Hensley (friend of Mary Honeycutt)
- Angelica Hernandez (coworker of Bill Nebrich)
- Barbara Sue Herrin (Friend of FLC)
- James Hewett (friends of Bill and Christi Nebrich)
- Gavin Hill (friend of the Odums)
- Tina and Andrew Holcomb (friends of Christi Nebrich)
- Reuben Hufham (Emma Apple’s brother-in-law)
- Bob Hughart (Bryan Hughart’s father)
- Jeff Hutcherson (Husband of Karen Rigg’s coworker, Jill)
- Caleb Hutcherson (Son of Karen Rigg’s coworker, Jill)
- Ken Jacobs (Friend of Cindy Schoonmaker and FLC)
- Damon Jones (brother of clothing closet volunteer, Teresa Smith)
- Betty Jordan (friend of the Carlsons)
- Steve and Fern Kennedy (friends of Pam Mabry)
- Karen Kernstine (friend of Sabrina Conrad)
- John Kleine (Nancy Carlson’s brother-in-law)
- Terry Kohler (Wertman family member)
- Jack Kunz (Nancy Carlson’s father)
- Mary and Charles Lee (friends of FLC)
- Nichole Leonard (friend of Patti Grant)
- Aleigha Lockhart and Family (Neighbors of the Nebrichs)
- Hazel Lovelace (Jim Lovelace’s mother)

**FAMILY:**
- Sue and Larry McMillan (Family of Brian McMillan)
- Mark Remissong (Frank and Pat Mills’ son-in-law)
- Craig and Lisa Royal (friends of FLC)
- Lynn Scoggins (brother-in-law of Beth and Katie Lemly)
- Jordan Sharpe (friend of the Nebrich and Morris families)
- Angie Shaw (friend of April Thompson)
- Emil Schuh (Dalane Kitzman’s cousin)
- David Smith (Nephew of Bob Sink)
- Jimmy Steele (friend of Mary Honeycutt)
- Jason Stone (Wendy Coley’s son)
- Marilee Stassor (friend of Bill and Patsie Baker)
- Denny Swinley (brother-in-law of Scott and Deborah Wertman)
- Jackie Taylor (Lorraine Carlson’s sister)
- Marie Thomason (Sarah Whitaker’s grandmother)
- Glenn Visbeen (friend of John Leonard)
- Mary Louise Wilkerson (Friend of FLC)
- Devone Wohl (Dalane Kitzman’s sister)
- Nathan Wohl (Dalane Kitzman’s nephew)
- Kara Wood (Mary Nebrich’s teacher)

**Expectant Parents:**
- Kara Wood (Mary Nebrich’s teacher)

The families of those who have passed to life eternal:
- Daniel Holcomb (former student of Christi Nebrich)

We continue to pray for:
- Maria (Abbi Thompson’ friend)
- Mandy Marshall (Debbie Triplett’s daughter)
- Miranda and Children (Friends of Sabrina Conrad)
- Deb McGraw (friend of Patrick Harris)
- Joetta McQueen
- Larry Michaels
- Bruce Moody (Friend of Bill and Christy Nebrich)
- Claire Murphy (Rebecca Moretz’ cousin)
- Dawn Mushrush (Bleasha Carroll’s sister)
- Libby Puckett (friend of Connie Beck McMillan)
- Mark Remissong (Frank and Pat Mills’ son-in-law)
- Craig and Lisa Royal (friends of FLC)
- Lynn Scoggins (brother-in-law of Beth and Katie Lemly)
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The families of those who have passed to life eternal:
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**Expectant Parents:**
### April Blood Drive

The Red Cross will host a blood drive at FELC on Wednesday, April 7 from 2:00PM – 6:30PM. Volunteers are needed to help and also to supply snacks. Please contact Carol Leonard to help with the blood drive.

To Give Blood visit: [https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time)

### WELCA Pennies Project

WELCA continues to collect loose change for the NC wide penny project. A donation jar is located in the narthex. This year, all change will be donated to Homeward Bound in Asheville, and a home community project in Wilmington. Change will be collected all year.

### Pastor’s Pantry

Just a reminder that we are still collecting for Pastor’s Pantry. There is a donation bin on the lower level of FLC just inside the door. The need is great, please donate if you can!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td><strong>dry beans</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>instant mashed potatoes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td><strong>grits (individual serving-size packets)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td><strong>Hamburger Helper or store brand version</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td><strong>canned tuna</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td><strong>cans of mixed vegetables</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td><strong>oatmeal (individual servings)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td><strong>soups</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td><strong>macaroni &amp; cheese</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td><strong>Canned meats (chicken, tuna, etc.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td><strong>dry pasta and/or pasta sauce</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td><strong>canned pasta (i.e. ravioli, etc.)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

Each Sunday morning at 11:00 we will be hosting outdoor worship. Please drive through the covered entrance on the corner of S. State Street and W. 4th avenue to receive your bulletin and the elements for the Eucharist. Please bring your own chair. The service will also be broadcast over the radio on station 97.7 and Facebook Live. Masks or face shields will be required and social distancing will be observed. Sanitizing stations will be available for your use. If you have been exposed to anyone experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 or have any symptoms yourself, please refrain from attending. Restrooms will be available only for emergency use only.

April 13 & 27 at 7:00PM
Beer and Bible in the ZOOM Room
Join Zoom Meeting
Computer: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018
Phone In: 1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 336 248 6018

Each Tuesday at 10:00 AM
Pericope in the ZOOM Room

Please note, we will not meet on Tuesday, April 6.

Join Zoom Meeting
Computer: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018
Phone In: 1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 336 248 6018

Property Team will be meeting on April 5 at 7:00.
Team chair, John Conrad, will send meeting information as needed.

FELC Council will meet April 15 at 7:00.
A Zoom link & past minutes will be sent to council members.

WELCA will meet on April 12 at 6:30 on Zoom.
All women of the church are invited to attend!
Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

April 8 & 22 at 7:30PM
Prayer Shawl Ministry in the ZOOM Room

Join Zoom Meeting
Computer: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018
Phone In: 1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 336 248 6018

Each Wednesday at 11:00 AM
Devotions with Pastor Matt on Facebook Live

Please note we will not meet on Wednesday, April 7
Join us here: https://www.facebook.com/FLCLEX/

Each Sunday at 10:30 AM
Children’s Message in the ZOOM Room.
All children who would normally attend the children’s sermon are invited to join us. Be sure to have an adult join you each week. We look forward to this time of fun and fellowship!

Join Zoom Meeting
Computer: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018
Phone In: 1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 336 248 6018

April 11 at 4:00 PM
Confirmation will meet in the ZOOM Room.
The topic will be the 10 commandments led by Pastor Matt.

Join the meeting:
Computer: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018
Meeting ID: 336 248 6018
Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

Electronic Giving

Electronic Giving is now available through our website or text messaging!

Give online: http://portal.icheckgateway.com/FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch/

Give via text messaging: You may text the word MYOFFERING to (502) 650-9147. Once you’ve completed this step, you will have the option to choose debit/credit card or a check. You will choose using your telephone keypad. Once you’ve chosen, you will receive an additional text to enter your information.

Youth Group

All middle and high school students are invited to join in our youth group!

The youth will begin meeting on April 11 from 5:00PM–6:00PM in the picnic shelter.

Please remember to wear your mask. We will not be sharing a meal.

We look forward to meeting each Sunday to share in devotion & fellowship!

Shut-In Project

All elementary school aged children are invited to complete a project to be shared with our homebound members. In the narthex, you will find a prepackaged project ready to be picked up and completed. Please sign your first name to the back of the completed project and turn the project in no later than Sunday, April 11th.

Thank you for helping us stay connected to our home bound members!

Want to join in on Zoom?

The majority of our church meetings use the same Zoom room. So try the log in below if you are interested in being a part of something here at FLC!

Need a Zoom lesson?

Contact Amanda: 336-248-6018 or flelexcongregationlife@gmail.com to learn more!

Computer: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018

Meeting ID: 336 248 6018
Join us for Holy Week and Easter

**Good Friday Worship, April 2**
At 4:00 PM a prerecorded worship service will be available at www.flclex.org and www.facebook.com/FLCLEX

**Stations of the Cross, April 2**
Outdoor Worship at 7:00 PM — FLC Columbarium

**Easter Sunday, April 4**
Decorating the Flower Cross—10:30 AM
Outdoor Worship 11:00 AM — FLC Picnic Shelter and Streamed over Facebook Live
Joys and Cares

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:
We all are devastated: two mass shootings in seven days. How long, O Lord, until we no longer suffer from gun violence, until we stop killing ourselves? Dear God, inscribe our hearts with justice and guide us in your way of peace.

Federal agents joined the investigations into shootings at three Atlanta-area spas that left eight people dead on March 16. Four people were killed in the shootings in Acworth, a suburb north of Atlanta, authorities said. Less than an hour later, four women were killed in two shootings in Atlanta. The victims in Atlanta appeared to be Asian women, as were two of the victims in Acworth, officials said.

A 21-year-old suspect in a massacre March 22 at a Colorado supermarket faces ten counts of murder in the first degree. He is accused of opening fire Monday afternoon at the King Soopers store in the university city of Boulder, killing people ranging in age from 20 to 65, authorities said. Ten people were left dead that included a store manager and a police officer. One of the victims was the sister of Phil Fountain, a Morgan Horse trainer (friend of Craig and LaVaughn Bartholomew). Susanne Fountain, 59, was a financial counselor who helped people enroll in Medicare. She was also an award-winning member of the local theatre community. She was described as “fearless” and a “lovely human being”.

Melanie Bumgardner upon the death of her friend, Beverly Bingham. Beverly Easter Bingham, 72, passed to life eternal on March 26. Melanie and Beverly had known each other and been friends since childhood. Her memorial service will be held at Allatoona Yacht Club in Acworth, Georgia on March 31; interment will be at the Lexington City Cemetery on April 3.

Tina and Andrew Holcomb upon the death of their son, Daniel. Daniel passed away March 28. Christy Nebrich taught both of their sons on and off through elementary school, and still communicates with the family; she taught Daniel just last year.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:
Katie Lemly has been hospitalized for several weeks with another severe occurrence of pancreatitis. At the time of this writing, it was hoped that she could come home on March 30 or 31.

Sandy Boshek, friend of Rebecca Moretz, had a massive stroke on March 12. She is just 60 years old and had surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center on March 13. She is now in a rehab facility and has a long way to go.

Jim Bailey, Carol Leonard’s brother, has been struggling after surgery and treatments for cancer since last June (mesothelioma from working around asbestos – his family is in the air conditioning and heating business). His cancer has worsened and his prognosis is not good; he only has about six more months to live. Jim lives in Charleston, SC.

Ronnie Moretz had anther routine brain scan on March 17. We rejoice upon learning that his scan is clear again, and he doesn’t have to go back for four more months!

Tony, former parishioner friend of Matt and Tracy Miller, is recovering from a stroke.

Olivia, friend of Mattias Miller, has a dear aunt now in Hospice care. Courtney and Carol, friends of Matt and Tracy Miller, are in the process of gaining custody of a little girl.
## Joys and Cares

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### New Babies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Rose</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>8 pounds, 6 ounces</td>
<td>21 inches</td>
<td>She has a big brother, Kyson, two years old in July. This family lives in Jacksonville, NC. Proud grandmother is Trixie Asbury.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Ruth</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>7 pounds 2 ounces</td>
<td>21 inches</td>
<td>Elizabeth has a two-year-old brother, Luke. This family just moved from their apartment in Charlotte to a new home in Cornelius. Proud grandparents are Mark and Laura Remissong; great-grandparents are Frank and Pat Mills!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Hayes Swaim</td>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>7 pounds 9 ounces</td>
<td>22 inches</td>
<td>Daniel has a big brother, Hudson; he will be two years old on March 30. This little family lives in Clemmons. Proud grandparents are Dan and Michelle Gasque Swaim; this is their fourth grandchild. Grandpa Dan &quot;is halfway there to the Swaim baseball team!&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Swimming

Luke Nebrich (son of Bill and Christy Nebrich, grandson of Teena Walker) is an awesome swimmer! At his first Upper-Southeast Regional Gold Swimming YMCA championships, he won first in the 50-free and third in the 100-free. He had personal bests in the 50-free, 100-free, 200-free, 500-free, 100-fly, 100-back, and 200-back. Great job, Luke; your church family is proud of you!
Joys and Cares

OTHER NEWS & TIDBITS

Art Exhibit – Mary Lou Legette’s art is on display at Piedmont Crossing until April 15.

Here is a sampling of her beautiful artistry:

New Business – Richard and Dinah Browne are thrilled to announce the opening of their daughter’s new store in Lexington, Bristle + Key. Bradley and Bobbie Key held their grand opening of their new downtown store located in the former Olde Homestead site on March 26. Bobbie explains, “Bristle refers to the paintbrush, and that is me, the painter. The pine is him and the wood he uses to build furniture. It's about what we both bring to the table.” In a recent Dispatch article, we learned that Bradley uses mostly pine wood to make dining room and kitchen tables, baker's tables, kitchen islands and potting benches that the store will carry. Bobbie, a painter since she was a child, paints on a variety of surfaces, including vintage furniture the couple purchases, vintage window frames and more. Besides the paintings and furniture, Bristle + Pine will carry a variety of women's accessories and home decor from Milkhouse Candle Co. candles, table decor, ladies’ handbags and premium chalk paint. Bobbie has already secured area artists to carry their handmade jewelry and wreaths, as well. The vintage country and French cottage style store will be set up like the rooms in a home to display merchandise. "I want people to feel warmth, welcomed and friendship when they come in," said Bobbie. "And I want them to be inspired." Eventually, Bobbie wants to offer workshops in the rooms behind the retail space to people how create custom wood signs with chalk paint for their homes and porches. Be sure to check this beautiful store out!

Don't forget to share your "joys and cares" with us! Please call Celie Lough at 249-6038, 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.
A PRAYER TO MARK ONE YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC
(shared by our NC Synod, from a SALT blog)

Good shepherd, thank you for walking with us through this valley of the shadow of death: through the suffering, the anxiety, the loneliness, the boredom, the longing for closeness and the longing for personal space, the confusion and fear, the impatience and hope, the good days and the bad.

Forgive us for our suspicions of each other, the ways this ordeal has made us more divided, as a country and a world. Help us bridge our differences and come together — even as we are physically distant.

Thank you for all the ways, large and small, that this ordeal has strengthened us as a community: the acts of kindness, the new ways of doing things, the support we’ve offered and received.

Forgive us for the inequities this pandemic has exposed. Kindle in our hearts a new commitment to justice as we build and rebuild our community together. Keep us ever mindful of those most in need.

We pray especially for those of us who have lost loved ones, lost jobs, lost hope.

Let us be good company, even from afar; good neighbors; and good friends.

We pray especially for those on the front lines of the pandemic, for all who are in harm’s way.

Gentle God, we ask that you continue to keep watch with those who work, or watch, or weep this day. Walk with those whose bodies are holding memories of sickness, of trauma, of pain, of confusion, of chaos, of isolation.

Give your angels charge over those who still cannot sleep because of anxiety or grief.

Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; all for your love's sake.

God of life and hope, lift our spirits as we dare to look ahead, dare to hope and dream about the new world to come. Strengthen our efforts, deepen our wisdom, so we might hasten that day.

And until that day, keep our eyes and hearts open to the signs of hope and life all around us.

For new ways to connect with each other, we give you thanks and praise!

For teachers and nurses and doctors and agricultural workers and grocery clerks and small business owners and frontline workers of all kinds, we give you thanks and praise!

For the beautiful hope of being together again in person one day, lifting our voices in song, passing the peace, sharing cups of coffee, being able to hug one another again — for that day that is surely coming, we give you thanks and praise!

For the ways in which our eyes have been opened by this ordeal, for the ways in which our hearts have been broken and put back together differently, softer and more attuned to the needs of the most vulnerable, we give you thanks and praise!

For all of these things and more, gentle God, we give you thanks and praise in the name of Jesus, our crucified and risen Jesus,

Amen.
Church Staff & Volunteers

The Rev. Matthew L. Miller ~ Pastor
Tawn Bizzell ~ Council President
Amanda Hathcock ~ Director of Congregational Life
Kelly Newsome ~ Organist / Parish Associate
Jim Lovelace ~ Pianist
Kelly Newsome ~ Music Ministries
Bing Grubb ~ Sexton

A Table Worship Service & Communion are available upon request.