“Ain’t it the Truth?”

Written by Bishop Tim Smith

The Bible lifts up competing narratives as a foundational human dilemma. While all of creation God proclaims, “very good,” God also warns the first humans that even in paradise there are boundaries, that enhance the greatest gifts of all—relationship with God and with one another. The tree of which they are instructed not to eat is the Tree of all knowledge of good and evil. Then comes the first competing narrative. The serpent beguiles them. “Did God tell you that you would die if you eat that fruit? Silly old God! No, the TRUTH is that God knows that if you eat of it you’ll know everything! You’ll be like God! Equal in power. Totally in control of your own destiny without even needing a God who wants to squelch your rights and power to choose!” (Genesis 3, my paraphrase) And you thought our generation invented alternative facts, competing narratives, and conspiracy theories! No, the pursuit of, claim to, assault on truth and the struggle to control the narrative defining reality are ancient. Not bearing false witness makes the Top Ten biblical list of necessary boundaries for faithfully living into the gift of community. Luther founded his stance of Reformation over against the traditions of the religious establishment as fundamentally a referendum on biblical truth that had been subjugated to human power and institutional preservation and control. His favorite Gospel was John. All of the synoptic gospels, of course, recount the competing narratives of Jesus and Peter. Jesus shares that to be Messiah means to suffer. Peter is having none of it. Jesus calls him “Satan,” pointing out that Peter is setting his mind “not on divine things but on human things.” John’s Gospel, a generation later than the synoptics and written to a Greek world of emerging Gnosticism, is a study in competing narratives. Good vs. bad. Light vs. dark. Temporal vs. eternal. Righteousness vs. evil. And yes, truth vs. lie. The Gospels, many note, are Passion (suffering) narratives with extended introductions. As we enter yet another pandemic season of Lent, we focus again on the theology of the cross central to our Lutheran faith. Sin (curved in on self, as if I am center of the universe—a lie) urges us on to one-up rather than love our neighbor. Sin centers the narrative in what is alluring to me or my group—the beguiling lie. Sin labels me “us” and you “them,” to be despised, blamed, used, eliminated—a lie! First John reminds us in our liturgical confession that “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

From John 18:37: “Then You are a king!” Pilate said. “You say that I am a king,” Jesus answered. “For this reason I was born and have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice.” 38 “What is truth?” Pilate asked. John 8, of course, gives us the promise we hear each Reformation Sunday that “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Even the classic prologue of John (1:14) asserts that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth.” Truth matters. Immensely. Foundationally. And it isn’t a concept for us. It’s a PERSON. (John 14:6) “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” So, when Pilate asks the question in Chapter 18, believers already know the answer. “What is truth?” “You’re looking at him,” Jesus replies (again, my paraphrase). Our truth, our foundation, our conviction, cannot be a political party or politician or news network or pastor or bishop or pop theology or sound byte. Our truth is the person of Jesus Christ, and everything—EVERYTHING—we proclaim and to which we aspire and for which we live and even might be called and willing to die are that truth. Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Knowing that, Paul writes to the Philippians (3:10) “I want to know Christ...” A great Lenten discipline. Less CNN and Fox. More Scripture, prayer, worship, study, and serving the least of these where, says Matthew 25, we meet Christ. As the old spiritual urges us, “You can have all the rest. Give me Jesus.” This truth alone, which informs our daily interactions and choices with family and friends, our politics, our stewardship, our spiritual practices, is the truth which alone sets us free. That relationship nurturing and “so what?” discerning is lifelong work. And part of that truth of which I’m increasingly aware and to which I’m committed is that none of us will live truthfully, none of us will be free, until we all do and are—together. The subjective “my truth” rampantly popular even in the church these days can only be helpful to the point that realizes “my truth” will only bump up against “your truth” unless somehow we both commit to a more objective “our truth,” a universal truth. Short of that, January 6, 2021, September 11, 2001, etc. will define us.

We live for a truth far beyond your and my and our subjectivity. Jesus, the Christ. To embrace his way begins just like Lent does—in wilderness temptation—and baptism does—with renunciations, the necessary “no” that free us to embrace a greater “yes” of belovedness in Christ. I invite you this Lent with me and with Peter and Pilate into a reboot entirely, to the core. To consider, “What is truth?” Who am I? Who tells me who I am and should be, and why? Are they manipulating me for their purposes, or do they truly have my wellbeing and the wellbeing of all in mind? And finally, insofar as I am able, to whom shall I listen and follow? That will effectively be my truth, my God. I invite you to follow one who knows you entirely, warts and all, yet loves you, forgives you, holds you, gifts you, calls you and all into that gracious embrace. If you know a more truthful and yet more hopeful narrative, I want to hear it.

Walking with you,

Tom
NC Synod Bishop

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.

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

December 10, 2020
First Evangelical Lutheran Church | COUNCIL MEETING

Attendees:
Berry Odum (President)
Tawn Bizzell
Bleasha Carroll
Rick Grubb
Sandy Hahn
Kevin Hathcock
Dr. Dalane Kitzman
John Leonard
Melissa Morris
Katie Tulledge
Greg Turlington
Pastor Matt Miller
Amanda Hathcock
Absent: James Whitaker, Frank Bell

Call to Order
- Pastor Matt opened the meeting.

Devotion
- Pastor Matt led us in devotion on how we approach scripture- what is the word of God?
- Christ is the living word of God.
- The Bible points us to God in the world and Luther reminds us that the Bible is a cradle that holds the Christ child. The Bible is just a book until it is opened and used to remind us that we are mean to be a tiny Christ to all we meet.
- Prayer

Minutes
- Minutes from November 19th submitted for approval
- Motion to approve: Melissa Morris, 2nd: Bleasha Carroll, unanimously approved
Council News

December 10, 2020
First Evangelical Lutheran Church | COUNCIL MEETING

Financials
- Greg Turlington reviewed November’s financials.
- Greg explained how the Harris Fund works
- Greg also reminded us that he is available at anytime to answer questions on financials as needed.

Business
2021 Council
- Welcome to our new council members, Tawn Bizell, Sandy Hahn, & Kevin Hathcock
- Thank you to Rick Grubb, Dr. Dalane Kitzman, & Katie Tulledge who have served faithfully these last 3 years. We appreciate your time and service to our congregation.
- The proposed officer slate for 2021 is as follows:
  President: Tawn Bizzell
  Vice President: Melissa Morris
  Treasurer: James Whitaker
  Secretary: Kevin Hathcock
- Motion to accept the 2021 officer slate: Bleasha Carroll
- 2nd: John Leonard
- Unanimously approved

Online Giving
- Bank OZK requires a resolution for continue set up for online giving.
- Berry, Kelly, & Joe Carroll will work together over the next few weeks to complete the online giving set up.

Pastor’s Report
- Outdoor worship continues to serve the most congregants each week with some people joining in person seated socially distanced in the parking lot. Others continue to listen weekly using the radio transmitter. Still others watch worship on Facebook Live.
- We continue to produce a weekly recorded sermon for use with table worship.
- As the weather gets colder, indoor worship is imminent.
- When indoor worship begins, the first broadcast will only be the staff. The service will remain similar to the outdoor worship format.
Council News

December 10, 2020
First Evangelical Lutheran Church | COUNCIL MEETING

Pastor’s Report Continued
• Allowing 10 total individuals (in compliance with the Governor’s orders) to participate in the indoor Sunday worship broadcast will be considered as indoor worship begins. Those 10 individuals would continue to follow the COVID guidelines council created for outdoor worship with some minor adjustments as needed that would apply to indoor gathering.
• Congregants who do not use the internet are called regularly by staff and Pastor.
• A request was made for Pastor to continue to remind congregants that in our call to love our neighbor we are tasked with wearing our masks, not touching our faces, washing our hands, and waiting 6 feet apart. COVID fatigue is real, but a vaccine is coming, stay the course and don’t give up caring for one another.

Team Reports
Property
• Property met recently and discussed a drainage issue from the Bier Garden that has caused damage in Amy’s downstairs Sunday school classroom. The drainage issue has been corrected. The damage to the Sunday school classroom has not yet been corrected.
• A back up battery is needed for the church. When the power goes out, the phone system alerts the alarm company. If a back up battery were present the phones would continue to work and a false alarm would not occur.
• Propane heaters for outdoor worship are being considered.

Memorial
• Developed durable resolution and policy change May 2019 to consolidate memorials that have been dormant, depending on size of the residual and time.
• Recently consolidated in October 2020. Should be revisited next in October 2021.
• Use of consolidated funds to be voted by Council. 2020 funds were applied to youth national meeting.

Youth
• FELC youth will meet December 20th at 2:00 on Zoom for a Christmas party to include a Lego competition, games, and devotion. All middle and high school students are encouraged to attend.
• A snapchat for current youth and our college students has been used throughout the pandemic to keep our youth connected.
• Weekly children’s time Zoom has been successful for our youngest saints. They enjoy gathering each week for time with one another, Pastor, and to hear a Bible story.
• Confirmation meets monthly using the Synod Zoom link.
Council News

December 10, 2020
First Evangelical Lutheran Church | COUNCIL MEETING

Outreach
- Outreach just completed a coat drive and donation for winter coats to The Storehouse for Jesus.
- Angel Tree has provided Christmas gifts for 3 children in our county through the Smart Start Parents as Teachers program.
- Outreach is expected to be donating to several organizations around the county as we spend down our budgeted funds for 2020.

Inreach
- Movie night will be December 13th at 6:00PM. Inreach is providing popcorn, and candy for this event. This is a drive in movie to substitute for our annual Christmas banquet.
- WELCA recently met for their Christmas party, 9 ladies attended.
- Advent devotions, boxes, and children’s calendars were provided to congregants the first week of Advent.
- Prayer Shawls continues to meet twice a month on Zoom.

The following teams had no report:
Endowment, Learning, Worship & Music, Support, Mutual Ministry

Upcoming Council Notes
- 2021 Team liaisons will be assigned at the January meeting.
- 2021 Devotion schedule will be created at the January meeting.
- Pastor Matt will provide the devotion at the January meeting.
- Council’s constitution will be provided to council members prior to January’s meeting.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Matt Miller.

Council’s next meeting will be January 21 at 7:00PM on Zoom.
We Pray for Each Other

Let us remember in prayer:

**CHURCH FAMILY:**
Amy Hollar Cormier
Jean Conrad Darstein
Mary Huneycutt
Katie Lemly
Ronnie Moretz
Willie Ruth Pless
Gracie Shepherd
Jody Shepherd
Ron Sink
Sylvia Sink
April Thompson
Terry Triplett
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)
Charles Baker (Bill Baker’s father)
Jim Bailey (Carol Leonard’s brother)
Ron Barton (Beth Huber’s brother)
Nancy Beck (Judy Conrad’s sister)
Jesse Both (Laura Tanley’s nephew)
Mary Brink (Niece of Pauletta Conrad)
Gene Bullock (Tracy Miller’s uncle)
Anne Burkhart (friend of Pam Mabry)
Tessa Burns (Bob Redwine’s niece)
Mike Byrd (Friend of Bob Sink)
Johnsie Canny (Emma Apple’s sister)
Jim Carrier (Tracy Miller’s dad)
Rita Caudle (friend of Sabrina Conrad)
Adam Cheely (Michelle Eppinga’s son)
Edward Clancy (friend of Bing Sudarmon)
Ken Clodfelter
Jessica Crabb
Don and Jackie Craft (Rebecca Moretz’ parents)
Amy and Wes Cups
Robert Dasch (Father of Keith Dasch)
Paul DeLaney (Friend of Laura Tanley)
Marina Dunaway and family (friends of Karen Riggs)
Debbie Sheppard Everette
Delores Farrell (Dalane Kitzman’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)

**Expectant Parents:**

**Families of those who have passed to life eternal:**
Mary Berrier (cousin of Connie Beck McMillan)
Maureen Darcy (friend of Connie Beck McMillan)
Cracker Ministry

Cracker Ministry Churches throughout the county are assigned specific grocery items to keep the food pantry stocked at Crisis Ministry. First Lutheran is responsible for keeping a supply of crackers stocked. We continue to need your contributions of crackers for this ministry. Please bring them to church and place them in the Chapel hallway. Thanks to Phil Lohr for coordinating this ministry.

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

February – dry pasta and/or pasta sauce
March – canned pasta (i.e., spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)
April - dry beans
May - instant mashed potatoes
June - grits (individual serving-size packets)
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– Canned meats (chicken, tuna, etc.)

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!
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.

February 2 & 16 at 7:00 PM
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
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 February 8 at 7:00.
Team chair, John Conrad, will send meeting information to those on the team.

WELCA will meet on February 15 at 6:30.
Join us using the Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/3362486018

FELC Council will meet February 18 at 7:00.
A Zoom link and past minutes will be sent to council members.
Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

February 11 & 25 at 7:30 PM
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

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

February 7 at 4:00 PM
Confirmation will meet in the ZOOM Room.
The topic will be worship led by Bishop Kevin Strickland.

Join the meeting:
https://zoom.us/j/6254746726?pwd=K250MmtJZDdiRERsYXVQVURML3pkQT09
Meeting ID: 625 474 6726
Passcode: NCSynod
Graduating Seniors

Do you have a graduating high school or college senior in your family?

Let Amanda in the church office know by calling or emailing flclexcongregationlife@gmail.com.

We are already thinking of graduation Sunday and how to best honor the accomplishments of these individuals.

Electronic Giving

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

Give online: Please visit www.flclex.org and click on the “Give Online” tab on the home page. This will take you directly to the online contribution portal.

You may also contribute by texting MYOFFERING to (502) 650-9147. Once you’ve completed this step, you will receive easy instructions to continue with your contribution.

Offering envelopes for 2021 are available in the narthex daily and in the covered drive thru area on Sundays during worship.

2021 Offering Envelopes

Please stop by to pick up your offering envelopes to help us save on postage.
Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

Lenten Worship & Devotion

Family Lenten Resource
Looking for a fun way to celebrate Lent with the children in your life? What if you could learn more about Jesus' life at the same time? The Jesus Tree is a creative resource that helps us focus on Jesus in the weeks leading up to Easter. A collection of stories make up the Jesus Tree. Stories about Jesus' life and ministry. This book contains 48 Ornaments - one for each day of Lent! The ornaments include a Bible Story, Scripture reference, Talk About discussion idea, Prayer reading, and Illustration to color. Hang the ornaments on a tree or garland, and laminate for a keepsake.

*Pick your family devotional up beginning Sunday, February 14th*

2021 Lenten Devotional
This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional highlights readings from the gospel of Mark with 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey.

*A Story to Tell* focuses on texts from the Gospel of Mark that show Jesus’ journey from baptism to the cross. The gospel writer has a story to tell, moving quickly from one scene to the next. The urgent tone of the story grabs us and pulls us in, but all the action comes to a halt when those who see the empty tomb tell no one about this. Is this the end of the story?

*Both Large print & regular print will be available to pick up beginning Sunday, February 14th*

Lenten Worship
- Every Wednesday, Pastor Matt will offer a devotional at 10:00AM on Facebook Live [www.facebook.com/FLCLEX](http://www.facebook.com/FLCLEX)
- Every Wednesday, the Davidson County Lutherans will offer a prerecorded worship opportunity available on Facebook that includes a sermon offered by a different pastor weekly.
- Ash Wednesday will be an opportunity to worship at home. More information to come, please check your email as we get closer to February 17th.
Joys and Cares

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:
Nathan Schmitt, son of Jeff Schmitt, upon the loss of his grandmother, Patsy Sowers.  Patsy Ganelda Sowers Hoover, 65, of Lexington, passed away on December 24 at her house.  A private memorial service will be held at a later date.  Mrs. Hoover was the mother of Nathan’s mother, Sarah Bryant.  She enjoyed gardening, had an amazing sense of humor, made some of the most beautiful quilts you have ever seen and was passionate about music.

Chip Edwards, family and friends upon the loss of his cousin, Mark Davis.  Dr. Gary Mark Davis, 61, of Lexington went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 11, at the Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem after succumbing to the COVID-19 virus.  A celebration of life service was held on January 16 at his office.  Dr. Davis practiced dentistry for 34 years in his hometown and was passionate about caring for and developing relationships with his patients.  Dr. Davis was a member of community boards, was a longtime member of the Civitans, was an Eagle Scout and was involved with countless other community service and outreach programs.

Connie McMillan, family and friends upon the loss of her cousin, Mary Berrier.  Mary Cornelia Beck Berrier, 94, of Lexington, passed away January 13 at Piedmont Crossing in Thomasville; no services are to be held at this time.  Mary was an active member of First Reformed United Church of Christ for many years, serving in the choir and other activities.  She retired from Link Taylor-Young Hinkle after 35 years working mostly in sales.  Mary also volunteered in other community groups.  She was a member of the Red Hat Society and she loved to read, cook, travel and work in her yard, but more than anything, she loved spending time with her family, friends and neighbors.  She often said her family and friends were the most important part of her life and she didn’t know what she would do without them.  She never met a stranger and was easy to get to know.  She was very independent and decisive in all facets of her life.  She was loved dearly and will be missed by many.

Connie McMillian upon the loss of her friend, Maureen Darcy.  Maureen “Reenie” Sullivan Darcey RN, CNM, 68, of Saxapahaw, North Carolina, passed away January 13 at home in the light of the brightest star, Sirius.  Despite her illness Maureen continued to maintain her role as the matriarch of her large family and network of friends, colleagues and patients.  She never complained about her condition despite some serious medical complications and remained engaged in the lives of her loved ones throughout her illness.  Maureen graduated from nursing school and midwifery school.  She practiced in all areas of nursing and served as the perinatal outreach coordinator for the Department of OB GYN at the University of North Carolina Medical School.  Seeking an alternative to hospital based birthing services she joined the midwifery staff of the Chatham Family Birth Center, the first hospital affiliated birth center in North Carolina.  She worked at the birth center for over ten years and helped to establish the first Chatham County Health Department OB clinic to provide health care services to an expanding Latino population.  Maureen’s passion for midwifery and the birth center model of care led her to receive a State of North Carolina grant in 1994 to establish the state’s only non-profit, free standing Birth Center, partnering with Piedmont Health Services in Chapel Hill, NC.  The Birth Center was renamed the Women’s Birth and Wellness Center (WBWC) in 2003 after separating from Piedmont.  Maureen served as Center Director from 1994 until 2019 delivering thousands of babies over the course of her career.  She was beloved by her patients, many of whom returned with their daughters to have Maureen lovingly deliver their grandchildren.  A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

Judy Conrad upon the death of her brother-in-law, Bill Chappell.  J. William “Bill” Chappell, 97, of Cape Carteret, passed away on January 14 at the Crystal Coast Hospice House.  He had been in good health, but slipped into a coma and passed away.  He honorably served in the United States Navy during World War II.  He will be remembered as a loving father and grandfather.

Terry Triplett upon the death of his aunt, Eula Church.  Eula Mae Triplett Church, age 85, of Hudson passed away January 21 at Caldwell UNC Health Care after succumbing to the COVID-19 virus.  Mrs. Church attended One Community Church and was strong in her faith.  She enjoyed traveling around town with her grandson and making homemade butter mints.  She will be remembered for her loving and giving nature.  A memorial service was held February 6 at One Community Church.

Mike Louia upon the death of his college roommate, Steve Ingram.  Steven Smith Ingram, 58 of High Point, NC, passed away at his home in Liberty Township, OH, on January 28.  He passed away from cancer and had been under Hospice care.  Prayers are lifted up for his mother who also had to bury Steve’s brother.  Steve started his career at
Joys and Cares

age 17 with The Kroger Co. and retired in August 2020. He was passionate and dedicated to his Team and the Kroger Family. His most memorable moment was his opportunity to represent Kroger on a trip to the Andes (Chile). He served in numerous capacities and was promoted numerous times throughout his career... as store managers, purchasing, sales, marketing, and planning/promotion positions locally, regional offices and corporate levels. To Steve, work was his unyielding passion. Committed, dedicated and loyal. He always put others first, before himself—always. His laughter was contagious, and he was always a friend to all. In his limited spare time, he would often volunteer working foodbanks, serving meals at homeless shelters, and assisting with Veterans fundraisers. Alongside his husband, he assisted with veteran hospital visits with the Military Order of the Cootie, Honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. True to his Carolina home, Steve was a die-hard University of North Carolina Tarheels fan, and an adamant Pittsburgh Steelers fan.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:
An evening prayer: O Lord my God, thank you for bringing this day to a close. Thank you for giving me rest in body and soul. Your hand has been over me and has guarded and preserved me. Forgive my lack of faith and any wrong that I have done today, and help me to forgive all who have wronged us. Let me sleep in peace under your protection, and keep me from all the temptations of darkness. Into your hands, I commend my loved ones. I commend to you my body and soul. O God, your holy name be praised. —Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We lift up all those families whose lives have been affected by the COVID-19 virus. Several have been directly or indirectly involving our church family.

- Many of Pastor and Tracy Miller’s family have been sick.
- Kelsey Leonard is an operating room nurse who was transferred to help in the hospital’s COVID ward and contracted the virus Christmas Eve; we are happy to report she has recovered and has been able to return to work.
- Ed and Cathy Sescourka and family (daughter of Pat and Frank Mills) have all been sick with the virus.

Rev. and Mrs. Dearl Bunce were the victims of a home invasion January 11.

Bennett Carlson (son of Nick and Traci Carlson, grandson of Tommy and Nancy Carlson, great-grandson of Tom and Lorraine Carlson) had surgery to place tubes in his ear on January 12. He is recovering well.

Ken Clodfelter had health issues in January and continues to be on our prayer list.

Brooke Craft, niece of Rebecca Moretz, contracted MRSA on her neck. She had surgery and hopefully all was removed.

Aubrey Smith, father of Dan Smith, was hospitalized over the weekend the end of January with low blood pressure. Please continue to hold him in prayer.

Asher, 16-month-old grandson of Sue Perkins Wilbur (friend of the congregation), had surgery on January 29 at Boston Children’s Hospital to correct Ventricular Septal Defect, to repair a hole in his heart. He had previously had cranial surgery to correct another birth defect. In spite of it all, little Asher came through this surgery and was able to be moved out of the pediatric intensive care unit in less than a week!

Jason, son of Wendy Coley, was in an automobile accident that severely injured his foot; ultimately, he had to have the foot removed. He is just 31 years old and lives in the Chattanooga, Tennessee, area. Wendy is able to care for him.

Margaret, college friend of Tawn Bizzell, is ill with cancer.

Jim Bailey, brother of Carol Leonard, has had his cancer return; and his prognosis is not good.

Judy Conrad’s sister, Nancy Beck, has been placed under Hospice care at home.

Frank Mills was hospitalized at the Sticht Center in Winston-Salem on January 31 to treat cellulitis; he was able to come home on February 3.
Joys and Cares

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.)**

Heater – Thanks to Allen Mabry and the Property Team for coming to the rescue! Allen installed a heater under the church picnic shelter to provide heat to Kelly and Pastor during our Sunday morning parking lot worship. Team members also put up plastic surrounding the shelter that helps to keep the heat in.

CONGRATULATIONS
Pregnancy – Zach and Sydney Boggs are pregnant and expecting a baby girl in May! This will be their second child. Proud grandparents are Pastor Derek and Meredith Boggs.

Nathan Schmitt made the A/B Honor Roll at Welcome Elementary School first semester!

Shelby Cates (daughter of Kim Cates and Diane Weaver) clogs in the Fuse Performance Team at J.M. Studio. The team traveled to Universal Studio December 28 and 29 to perform! The studio was also voted “Best Dance Studio” in the Archdale Christmas Parade! Shelby is also a member of America’s Clogging All-Stars.

College Acceptance – Two of our youth have been accepted into colleges!
- Isaac Moretz (son of Ronnie and Rebecca Moretz) was accepted into Architecture School at the University of North Carolina Charlotte!
- Gavin Tanley (son of Laura Tanley) has been accepted into Engineering School at North Carolina State!
- Luke Nebrich (son of Bill and Christy Nebrich, grandson of Teena Walker) swims on the West Davidson Swim Team. Mom Christy writes: **Congratulations to the West Davidson boys for qualifying for regionals! Luke will be swimming the 50 free, 100 free, 200 free relay, and butterfly in the 200 medley relay this Saturday (first weekend in February) on his 15th birthday. I’d say that’s a pretty cool birthday present!** At the Greensboro Aquatic Center on January 31, Luke has already broken two records: 100 IM and 100 free; he also earned first with a 4A time!

Symbol 2020 – Kelly Fitzpatrick writes:
**So proud of Tom Fitzpatrick and the team at Chick-fil-A Lexington! Y’all really finished 2020 with a bang and achieved something we didn’t initially think possible during this wild and crazy year!! Congrats on winning SYMBOL!!We are so proud of y’all!!**
Joys and Cares

OTHER NEWS AND TIDBITS

YouTube video – We have always enjoyed hearing Tim Williams sing and play his guitar, but have recently learned that he also writes music! It available through YouTube. He tweaked and updated a recent song, “Christmas in the Streets” and it can be heard via https://youtu.be/h8tPntgb4O4. This is an original Christmas song and is a ballad of a homeless lady who collects items all year to give as gifts to her homeless friends and how a fellow street person comes to take over her job of bringing "some joy to those who spend their Christmas in the Streets." Stay tuned for more!

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.

The Season of Lent begins:

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

Please visit www.flclex.org and click on the “Give Online” tab on the home page. This will take you directly to the online contribution portal.

You may also contribute by texting MYOFFERING to (502) 650-9147. Once you’ve completed this step, you will receive easy instructions to continue with your contribution.
We’re on the Web: WWW.FLCLEX.ORG

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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.