



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3600 25<sup>th</sup> St, Columbus, IN 47203

Phone: (812) 372-1256 Web site: [www.flccolumbus.org](http://www.flccolumbus.org)

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday

Facebook: First Lutheran Church (Columbus, IN)

### CASUAL WORSHIP

February 12, 2023 - 11:15 a.m.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

#### WELCOME TO THE LORD'S HOUSE!

We are so glad to have you with us this morning! There is an extended time of praise and worship at the beginning of the service, and we want you to worship your Lord as you feel comfortable. All forms of worship are acceptable, such as singing, clapping, standing, sitting, kneeling, and dancing. Please worship your God in a way that draws you closer to Him!

Rev. Paul Swartz is a Lutheran Pastor in "Re-Firement." He has served churches in Ohio, Illinois and Indiana; developed a new congregation; served as an Assistant to the Bishop of the Ohio Synod, LCA; is an Emeriti Board member of his alma mater, Wittenberg University, and is the author of several journal articles.

The Lily Endowment awarded him a Clergy Renewal grant that enabled him to study and trace Luther's steps in Germany. He is enjoying combining his vocation with his avocation stamp collecting and is anxious to complete a book on Martin Luther, "A Life Stamped, Cancelled and Delivered" which will be "illustrated philatelically" from his vast world-wide Luther/Reformation Collection. That project was sidelined when its research began to reveal striking similarities between the reformer and The President which led to this publication. Having a son, now deceased and a daughter, Paul and his wife, Betty of 57 years, reside in Carmel, Indiana.

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING PRAYER:

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] <sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

## WORSHIP & PRAISE

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

<sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

## **WORSHIP & PRAISE**

### **TIME OF OPEN PRAYER**

### **BLESSING OF THE OFFERING**

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:21-37**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>21</sup>"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Paul Swartz**

## **BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

### **Confession:**

P. As you are willing, repeat this prayer after me:

Almighty God, I have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed—by what I have done, and by what I have left undone.

I have not loved you with my whole heart.

I have not loved my neighbor as myself.

Forgive me. Renew me. Lead me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

### **Forgiveness:**

P. The Lord has already embraced us in complete forgiveness. Otherwise, we would not be able to make this kind of confession. We stand here, forgiven. We are free men and women, boys and girls—through the loving embrace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **APOSTLES' CREED:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **COMMUNION LITURGY:**

P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We trust and teach the "real presence" of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine.*

*As you approach the altar rail, please keep a good space between yourself and others. The floor is marked where you may stand or kneel.*

**BENEDICTION:**

**P:** Now may God, who has loved us with a love beyond all telling, send us forth to care for the world around us and to share the good news of that love, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING WORSHIP & PRAISE****SERVING FIRST TODAY**

Pastor: Rev. Paul Swartz

Greeters/Usher: John & Mary Ellen Wyman, & Dave Stocks

**WOUNDED HEALER PRAISE BAND**

Erika East, Annette Hull, Jennifer & Mike Langevin, Matt Pillar

**Today's altar flowers are given by Romel & Anitha Christopher  
 in honor of Rivaldo's birthday.**