



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

DECEMBER 2020 SCROLL

"God is among us!"

"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile, and trust God for all that we need."

WORDS FROM PASTOR BAILEY

Finally we turn the last page on the calendar for 2020. Most of us would probably admit its been a crazy year. Do you remember how it started? I do...

It was New Year's Day and I was the first one up in the house, which is not unusual. The dog was ready to go outside, so together we snuck downstairs. After what seemed to be an unusually long morning routine for Grover, I stepped out of the house to check on him. What I didn't realize in taking that step, I would roll my ankle. I rolled it hard, and was expecting to hear bones crack as I fell down the two back steps and landed on the air conditioner.

Needless to say, I was in pain. Never have I ever experienced such pain. Stars were swimming around my head. I wasn't sure if I was going to pass out, toss my cookies, or do some combination of both. Somehow, I crawled back inside, grabbed some ice and collapsed into the chair, where a few hours later the rest of the family came to find me, white as a ghost, still in pain, and unwilling to start the year by spending my health deductible and visiting the ER within the first few hours of 2020.

That's how my year started, and as we all well know, there have been

plenty of challenges that we have faced with every page of the calendar that has been turned. I wish I could say that as we look forward to 2021, everything we are experiencing will magically go away. Unfortunately, it will not, and it may be a months into the New Year before things return to "normal", what ever that was/is. Yet, hope is not lost.

St. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans:

5:1Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

In this final month of a crazy year, we have endured plenty. The pain, it is real. The suffering, many have experienced. Yet, in the midst of it all, hope is not lost.

(Continued on page 2)

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday Worship:

10:00 a.m.

Join us for worship:

**Broadcast live on 93.3 FM
or 1600 AM and livestream
on Facebook**

firstlutherantiffin

**In-person worship will not
take place if Seneca Co. is
red or purple status, per
Thursday updates.**

Drive-Thru Communion:

December 6th

11:30-12:30

Council Meeting:

Zoom Mtg

December 17th at 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Worship:

Call for ticket/reservation

6:30 Family Service

**11:00 Traditional
Candlelight Service**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

For true hope is found in the child we seek during the final weeks of this crazy year. The one we seek may have been born in a stable in Bethlehem many many years ago. Even as he was born then, he is born anew within us each and every day, of each and every year. This child brings us a sense of comfort and joy that only we as believers may truly understand and know. This child offers love and pours out peace to every generation, even at times that seem as broken and vulnerable as our own. In the midst of it, this child is the essence of hope upon which our faith is founded.

For Jesus is our hope for a pain and virus free world. Jesus is our hope for a place and time where all are loved and seen as one. Jesus is our hope for everything that is yet to come. That brings me comfort, that brings me joy, each and everyday.

I pray that you may find the same comfort and joy in Christ and that your faith walk is always guided by his eternal light. I further pray, that if your walk isn't guided by Christ, that now might be the right time to begin walking with him. But fair warning, the first step might be a doozy!

God's Blessings and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Bailey

Christmas Tradition at First

It is time to think about poinsettia orders and designations for this year. Each poinsettia will be \$10. Orders can be placed through the Church Office. You can either mail your payment and designations or stop in the office and give your information to Ruth.

Thank you for helping to keep some of our Christmas traditions at First as close to normal as possible!

GOOD NEWS

Even though the pandemic has slowed down our production, we were able to contribute 37 quilts to Lutheran World Relief this year. For this we are grateful to the faithful women and men who worked on this project.

We received word that last year's quilts were sent to Chile and Lebanon. What a blessing it is that we have this opportunity to help our fellow man.

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 1st is Giving Tuesday. This is a day to give of your **time, talent or resources**.

As you consider how you can celebrate Giving Tuesday, please consider donating a gift to support the programs and activities here at First Lutheran.

Remember, your contribution doesn't need to be monetary.

You can give of your time and talents too!

TRANSITIONS

**Joanne Dunbar
8/8/1931-11/20/2020**

Please look for:

A recent mailing that includes cards to fill out for both poinsettias and Thanksoffering donations, if you so desire.

There is an envelope included so you can return your cards and donations to First Lutheran.

Your generosity is very much appreciated, especially during this time of isolation from much of what is 'normal' during this holiday season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / BIRTHDAYS

West Ohio Food Bank

December 17th will be the next opportunity to lend a hand as we help feed Seneca County. Distribution begins at 1:00. Volunteers are welcome anytime after noon. If you are in need of assistance, know that the line starts forming around 10 a.m. Feel free to come early, as supplies are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Many thanks to our faithful volunteers!



Follow Ohio Color Code Levels when they are announced Thursday afternoons

Please be aware that if Seneca County is listed as Red or Purple, ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND GATHERINGS within the building will be suspended until we have returned to a Yellow or Orange status.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL IN-PERSON MEETINGS AT THE CHURCH WILL BE SUSPENDED WHILE SENECA COUNTY IS RED OR PURPLE.

Small groups of In-person meetings may resume if we are at a yellow or orange status. Please remember to be respectful of social distancing, masking and sanitizing procedures so that everyone can remain healthy.



It's that mitten weather time of year once again, and our annual Mitten Tree has appeared in the lobby area.

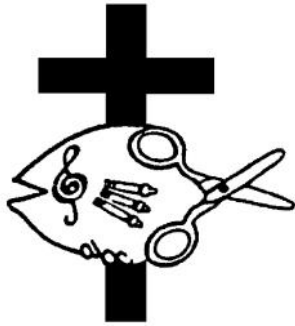
Items requested include: Mittens, Gloves, Hats, Scarves, and Socks.

Donated items can be dropped off in the Church Office. or placed on the bench inside the sliding doors if you choose not to enter the Office area.

Items will be collected/delivered Dec. 13th.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Rachel Cook |
| 3 | John Hoyda
Frances Smith
Jennifer Martinez |
| 5 | Laura Cook |
| 6 | Amy Mills |
| 7 | Kim Kontak |
| 8 | Jeanette Ruess
Beverly Wott |
| 10 | Mark Eppley |
| 11 | Carol Bhagat
Allison Meyer
Shawn Vallery |
| 12 | Amanda Wildman |
| 13 | Gavan Reis-Kelly |
| 15 | Carter Groves |
| 19 | Beth Margraf |
| 20 | Jonathan Nominee |
| 21 | Andrew Porter |
| 24 | Nilam Bhagat |
| 25 | Renee Meyers |
| 26 | Peg Ward |
| 27 | James Bosse
Ed Lape
Donald May |
| 29 | Nancy Nielsen |
| 31 | Ross Pauley |

GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!



Greetings from Childhood Ministries!!

Greetings from Childhood Ministries! Our Extended Care program is now back to normal. We had 18 children and 2 staff members out for over a week, due to being quarantined because one of our School Age children were sent home from school with a fever and headache, and then tested positive for Covid. I worked closely with Tiffin City Schools and the Seneca County Health Department to determine who would need to be quarantined. I came in on a Sunday morning and made all necessary phone calls. It was a tough morning for me, but on a positive note, I came upstairs for the special congregational meeting and was pleased to find out that our security wall was unanimously approved!

Our preschool classes continue to meet in person. We have had a few children absent due to illness and three were quarantined, one unrelated to the previous case. We continue to teach and nurture the children who are here, adapting as we go!

Our Pre Three classes have focused on Fall Harvest, Friendship (Pilgrims and Indians) and Thanksgiving. The children have also been working on the color yellow, triangle shapes and the letter "T". They have been talking about being thankful for friends, family, dinosaurs, pizza and various other things that three year olds are thankful for.

Our Pre Four/Five classes have been concentrating on the letters "T"(Turkey Time), "I"(Indians) and "U" (Ugly Duckling). I donned my pilgrim costume and visited Ms. Mindy's classroom and read our traditional Thanksgiving story, as the children feasted on puff corn and fishy crackers! This certainly was not the Thanksgiving Feast that we normally have, but as I said earlier, we have been forced to adapt! It has been a very challenging time for all, as we struggle to clean toys, take

temperatures and play and learn together as we stay socially distanced.

This has been a very difficult year for all of us! The Thanksgiving season reminds me of a phrase I used earlier this year, "We are all in the same storm, but we are not on the same ship!" Much like our many ancestors who came to America, many years ago, our struggles are not all exactly the same, but we are all dealing with many of the same problems. It is not more difficult to be thankful this Thanksgiving, but what we appreciate may be a little different! I am thankful for my family (especially my new grandson and my father, who is celebrating his 86th birthday today), my job, my co-workers and all that make our programs here possible), my friends, food and a warm home to go to at the end of the day!

Sincerely,

Jane Frederick,

Director of Childhood Ministries



Holy Humor



WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Christmas Eve	Sunday
December 6	December 13	December 20	December 24	December 27
Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	First Sunday after Christmas
<i>Lector: Beth Margraf</i> <i>Hosts: Nominee Family</i>	<i>Lector: Carol Jarrett</i> <i>Hosts: Janet & Joe Zirger</i>	<i>Lector: Jamie Lodermeier-Fay</i> <i>Hosts: Judy Kimmel & Donna Brueggemeier</i>	6:30 <i>Lector: Beth Margraf</i> <i>Hosts:</i> 11:00 <i>Lector: Melissa Chester</i> <i>Hosts: Nominee Family</i>	<i>Lector: Gracie Chester.</i> <i>Hosts: Beth & Jack Myers</i>

OTHER NEWS



COMMUNION

December 6th will be the next drive-thru style communion, from 11:30-12:30, following worship.

Drive through the parking lot and down the south side driveway.

Under the portico, you will receive the sacrament, without leaving your car!

FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

DECEMBER SNOW CREW

November 28-December 11 John Kobelt
and Ron Guisinger

December 12-January 1 John Kobelt

January 2-8 Jim Ruess

WEED WARRIORS

THANK YOU for the many, many hours of time spent keep the grounds of the church looking colorful and neat throughout this growing season!

COUNCIL NEWS

God is among us!

We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile, and trust God for all that we need.

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Greene who declared a quorum. We met via Zoom Meetings due to the Corona virus situation. Participating in the meeting were: Pastor Bailey, Rick Greene, Deb Nominee, Bonnie Oberlander, Kelly Cook, Jane Fruth, Janet Zirger, Anna Widman and Linda Ellinger. Absent were, Amy Mills and Kelly Reis-Kelly. Pastor Bailey led us in prayer.

Agenda: Janet Zirger moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Linda Ellinger. The motion passed.

Minutes: The minutes from the September 2020 meeting were sent previously via email. Bonnie moved to accept the minutes; Deb Nominee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jane presented both August and September's treasurer's report. Linda moved to accept the report and Deb Nominee seconded. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Pre-School Phase I Door Progress No meeting was held last week as Jane Fredericks had to fill in for an absent teacher. A second quote from Jeff Hohman Design (JHD) has been received for \$9,860. (\$3,410 for the stairwell and \$6,450 for the doors. The only other quote received was from Clouse Construction for \$11,327.

Discussion followed concerning how to hold a congregational meeting during Covid so that we can proceed with the project. Pastor will add information concerning this to his "Planning for the week ahead" weekly email. The congregation will be notified by post card two weeks prior to the meeting. Kelly Cook moved to proceed with the project, Bonnie seconded, and the motion passed. Jane moved to hold the congregational meeting on November 8th. Anna seconded and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Spectrum/At&T Wifi and internet issues prompted a review of the provider. Spectrum offers a much higher download and upload than AT&T (our current provider) at a \$20 savings per month locked in for two years. Linda moved to change our provider to Spectrum, Janet seconded, and the motion passed.

UIS Insurance Premium The proposal for next year shows no increase in premium.

Listing of Maintenance Projects Since we have several major

FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 2020

	Month	YTD
<u>Income</u>		
Parish	\$9,759	\$148,866
C.M.	14,149	\$93,579
	\$23,908	\$242,445
<u>Expenses</u>		
Parish	\$21,160	\$173,007
C.M.	\$13,762	\$77,389
	\$34,922	\$250,396
Total Income		
Less Expenses:	(11,014)	(7,951)

Transfer from Investments to cover expenses \$0

We appreciate your gifts. The QR code will take you to our online giving page.



maintenance projects in our future (air conditioning, fellowship hall roof, house roof, etc.) it was suggested that a list be made and prioritized so that we can begin to raise the funds necessary to complete the projects.

Pastor's Salary Pastor is currently at Level 16. Executive council proposed that he be moved to Level 19 while reducing his insurance coverage from the gold Plus to the Silver Plus. This would be an overall increase of \$2,405.46. Since his insurance selection has to be made by October 30th, Janet moved to accept the insurance package recommended. Linda

(Continued on page 7)

COUNCIL NEWS CONTINUED/ANNOUNCEMENTS

seconded and the motion passed. His final package will be voted on at the yearly congregational meeting in January.

Pastor's Report Confirmation will be held Sunday, October 25th. If the county is in the "red" Covid level, church will be held for the confirmands and their families only. There are six confirmands:

- Jonathan Nominee
- Brance Gebauer
- Avery Hoover
- Isabelle Meyer
- Julie Wildman
- Keghan Reis-Kelly

Pastor moved to accept the confirmands for confirmation. Jane seconded and the motion passed. Ruth Scott has volunteered to make cupcakes for the confirmands and their families since it was decided that a reception cannot be held because of Covid.

Confirmation classes are being held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer Budget sheets are in the mailboxes

Property The heater and boiler have been serviced and all are working

Worship and Music Christmas Eve services will be held at 6:30 PM and 11:00 PM. The earlier service is for families with children. This will be by reservation only in order to keep the numbers low. More information about reservations will be forthcoming. Both services will be shown on Facebook.

Parrish Ed No report

Childhood Ministries There was no meeting this month as Jane

Frederick had to fill in for an unscheduled absence. There was discussion about the need to hire an additional substitute teacher to cover absences.

Social Ministry Deb reported that the Bountiful Feast will be held November 8th as a drive through. Meals can also be delivered to those who cannot come to the church to pick it up. More information will follow. Halloween Hospitality will be held (in a safe manner) unless our mayor cancels it due to high Covid numbers.

The next executive meeting will be held November 9th and the next council meeting will be on November 12th to accommodate Pastor's vacation schedule.

With no further business to be brought before the council, Deb moved to adjourn, and Jane seconded. The motion passed. Pastor then closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Ellinger
Janet Zirger
Co-Council Secretary

PLEASE NOTE



Please remember that this year reservations for the 6:30 Youth & Family Service
Or
11:00 Traditional Candlelight Service
need to be made in advance through the Church Office.

Ruth is in the Office Tuesday-Thursday from 9-4.

After your reservations are made, the ticket for your space will be mailed to you.

If you find you cannot attend, please let us know so we can reassign your spot.

A Message from the NOAH Foundation of Ohio

This is the thirteenth year that NOAH will offer a Christmas meal to anyone who will be alone on Christmas. Unlike previous years, this will be a free Take-Out meal that can be picked up at Camden Falls on Christmas Day from **11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.***

***Please note that reservations are required and can be made by calling 419-455-4569.**

Special Congregational Meeting November 8, 2020

Congregational Meeting

November 8, 2020

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and vote on the first phase of security needed for the protection and well being of our Preschool.

President Rick Greene called the meeting to order. He announced that we had a quorum of members and the meeting could continue.

Using a diagram, President Rick Greene explained the issue to be voted upon. Phase 1 is to install a wall with a new door made of oak wood and glass to compliment the existing woodwork. That being done it would be necessary to reverse the direction of the stairwell door to limit access to the basement. We have secured two estimates:

One estimate is from Clouse Construction for \$11,324.

A second estimate is from Jeff Hohman Design for \$9,860.

At this time Council has not made a decision on which company to hire.

The vote today is to approve the construction for this project and that it not exceed \$13,000.

Due to Covid-19, a voting system used by Synod, was used at the meeting. Each member received three cards, red, green, white. Raising the white card signaled that you had a question. Raising the red card signified that you wanted to vote "no" while raising the green card signified a "yes" vote.

President Rick Greene asked if there were questions about this project. Since there were no questions, he asked for a motion to approve the Phase 1 of this project and its funding. A motion was made by Mike Porter to approve the project. It was seconded by John Swope. All in favor raised they green card. Those opposed raised their red card. The vote was unanimous to approve the project.

President Rick Greene then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Shelley Ross and seconded by Melissa Chester.





Respectfully submitted by

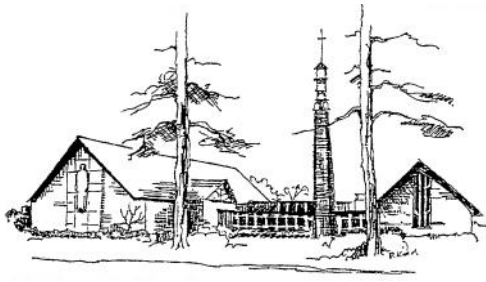
Janet Zirger

co-secretary



DECEMBER

<p>10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person*</p> <p><small>* if orange or yellow</small></p>	Office Closed	1	2 Chapel time w/ Pastor 2-4p and 5:30-7:30	3	4 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	5
<p>10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person*</p> <p><small>* if orange or yellow</small></p>	Office Closed	8	9 Chapel time w/ Pastor 2-4p and 5:30-7:30 6:30p Worship & Music	10	11 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	12 K of C Food Distribution at the fair- grounds.
<p>10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person*</p> <p><small>* if orange or yellow</small></p>	Office Closed	15 SCROLL INFO DUE TODAY!	16 Chapel time w/ Pastor 2-4p and 5:30-7:30	17 West Ohio Food Bank Distribution 1-3p 7:30 Church Council	18 Office Closed	19
<p>10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person*</p> <p><small>* if orange or yellow</small></p>	21  First Day of Winter	22 Office Open	23 Office Open	24 Christmas Eve Services: 6:30 p 11:00 p	25  Christmas DAY	26
<p>10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person*</p>	Office Closed	29	30	31  New Year's Eve		



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.
Tiffin, OH 44883

December 2020

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First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St., Tiffin, Ohio 44883-3535 Tel: 419-447-1323

Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Website: firstlutherantiffin.com E-mail: 1lutheran@sbcglobal.net

Sunday morning worship is broadcast on WTTF, 1600 AM, 93.3 FM at 10:00 AM

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstlutherantiffin

CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAMS

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
STEWARDSHIP

Rick Greene
Kelly Reis-Kelly
Janet Zirger/Linda Ellinger
Jane Fruth
(vacant)

WORSHIP & MUSIC
PARISH ED
EVANGELISM
PROPERTY

Anna Wildman
Amy Mills
(vacant)
Kelly Cook

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Deb Nominee

FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

Clayton J. Bailey *Pastor* Tel. 567.938.6077
Ruth Scott *Secretary*
Curtis L. King *Director of Music*
Michael Porter *Janitor*

CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES

Jane Frederick, *Director*
Tel: 419.447.1145