



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

JANUARY 2021 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

I am looking forward to December 21st. Seems like an odd date to look forward to, and as you read this, I realize that the date has probably come and gone. Yet, as I sit down to write this article, December 21st is still a few days away.

So what is the big deal about the 21st of December? Along with being the shortest day of the year, in the hours of darkness we are going to be treated to a once in a life time event. Actually, we are going to be treated to an event that takes place once every 800 years or so as Saturn and Jupiter align in their orbit to form what many call the "Christmas Star." From our house, we will have a perfect vantage point to watch and witness as our street has a wide open vantage point over the western horizon, and I am hopeful that we have a clear night to take it all in.

In pondering this mysterious and miraculous event of God's creation, the Epiphany of our Lord quickly comes to mind. Was this the same star that guided the Magi to the Christ Child? As astrologers of old, could they have been tracking Saturn and Jupiter in their courses through the night sky, traveling from the East until the light of those two "stars" combined in all of their glory? I'd like to think so. There in that moment, they

knew the Kings of kings was near.

As I wait for December 21st, I am reminded of my childhood when I was likely in 2nd or 3rd grade. My class was to sing "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (Of course that was back in the day when public schools could still do such a thing.) I remember practicing in the days leading up to the show. I remember the "big day" and going to school full of anticipation and wonder. And, sadly, I remember the phone call that was made as I started feeling ill and had to be sent home. I never got to sing for that Christmas program, and truthfully the song still brings tears as it forever reminds me of missing out on that moment.

Within that song includes the verse:

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king*

As we enter a New Year and celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, we can recall the brightness of the star that once guided the Magi to greet the Christ Child. As we are blessed to take in the brightness of the Christmas Star on December 21st, we can ponder the

(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:

January 3rd

11:30-12:30

Council Meeting:

Zoom Mtg

January 21st at 7:30 pm

Annual Congregational Mtg

**Following worship on
January 31st**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

mystery of its light that calls us to Christ still today. The words continue to sing true and an invitation is forever extended. "Come and worship. Come and Worship! Worship Christ the new born king." While worship might look different than it did when the Magi first bowed down and opened their treasure chest, and while it may look different than it did when we gathered last January, the essence of it hasn't changed. For we come to Christ, following his light, seeking his love, and forever rejoicing knowing that Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us!"

God's Blessings!

Pastor Bailey

TRANSITIONS

Tom Weddle

11/3/1937-12-/2/2020

Louise Scaife

12/13/1941-12/6/2020

Joe Wott

2/19/1939-12/13/2020

We recently received word of the death of Ruth Dietz. 8/8/1937-12/19/2020. Memorials to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 712 N Fountain Ave Springfield, OH 45503. The latest word we have is that Pastor Dietz continues to slowly recover from both Covid and Ruth's passing.

If you wish to send a note or card to Bev Wott, please know that her address is:

520 Hedgegate North
Tiffin, OH 44883

The information in the church directory is for the Wott's former address.

GOOD NEWS

We have received word from Lutheran World Relief that ALL of the quilts sent to Beirut survived the bombing/blasts with no damage. All of our quilts have been delivered to people needing them!

Confirmation Youth are reminded of their classes for January which are to take place following worship on January 10 and January 24. We will meet for class as long as Seneca County is not labeled as Red or Purple.



Pastor Bailey is going to temporarily suspend the Wednesday hours in the Chapel until the beginning of Lent. This follows the same pattern as our former Wednesday Evening service which typically did not meet in January or early February. While the Chapel may not be open, if you or your family are in need of prayer, communion, or pastoral support please contact the church office.



Pastor Bailey will be out of the office January 26 through January 28 to attend the Ohio Rostered Minister Gathering. This annual event gathers ELCA Pastors and Deacons from all three Ohio Synods for a time of renewal, education, and rest. While the traditions of the retreat have changed for this year, Pastor Bailey looks forward to some time to reconnect with colleagues from across the state.



Mobile Communion is on for January 3. You and your family are invited to the Table of the Lord as communion is served under the South Portico from 11:30 to 12:30 following worship on the First Sunday of the month. Please note that should Seneca County be elevated to Purple, we will not have Mobile Communion.



Please note a change in Office Operating Procedures: Should Seneca County be elevated to Purple, the church office will be open to visitors by appointment only. Normal office hours will be held, however we ask that you please call ahead if visiting and that all visitors must wear a mask while in the building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / BIRTHDAYS

West Ohio Food Bank

January 28th 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.

The large size *Portals in Prayer* are available at various spots around the church.

The smaller size ones have been shipped, but, along with many other packages, are sitting somewhere in a sorting center waiting to be processed and delivered!

JANUARY



- 2 Peyton Demith
Hannah Eppley
Peyton Phares
Anneliese Rochester
- 3 Lori Bell
- 5 Evelyn Marker
- 7 Kathy Bosse
- 8 Diane Greene
- 12 John Bailey
Shelley Ross
Brandon Stephens
- 13 Jan Grangaard
- 16 Maxum Hoyda
- 18 Pat Wise
Judy Kimmel
- 19 Olivia Pauly
- 22 Sue Johnson
- 25 Kendra Bosse
- 26 Taylin Bell
- 27 Melissa Chester
- 29 Phil Engle
Bob Meyer



From Parish Education Committee:

A HUGE thank you to everyone who placed items on and under the "Mitten Tree" this season.



The tree was beautifully adorned with colorful hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks. Many of the items were lovingly handmade!

We delivered a large box of "warmth" to Salvation Army. Many deserving people in our community will have a warmer smile this winter. Thank you for your overwhelming generosity again this year.



GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!



Greetings from Childhood Ministries!!

We continue to have preschool classes and extended care for the families we serve. Currently we have three preschoolers and no school age children quarantined. We have had one Krout student test positive, resulting in two staff and 18 children quarantined. We are constantly missing children due to Covid. It seems to be getting a little better, with fewer children being absent.

Our Pre Three classes have been learning about the Five Senses, The Gingerbread Man and Christmas! They are learning about the color green, star shape and reviewing letters "A", "P" and "T". The classes are looking forward to a Christmas Party/ Pajama Day to end the year before Christmas break.

Our Pre Four/Five classes have focused on letters "C" (Caps For Sale), "G" (Gingerbread Man) and "O" (Ornaments). The classes also enjoyed "Crazy Cap Day", recording songs and fingerplays for their parents (our attempt at a Christmas program, Covid style) and decorating gingerbread cookies. As usual, the cookies came to life and ran around the church causing trouble! Due to Covid, they were not allowed to run around as much as they have in past years and were limited to our classrooms. The classes are also working on opposites and sight words ("and", "the" and "you").

Our Extended Care children have enjoyed various Christmas-related activities and snacks. They especially enjoy playing in the Fellowship Hall. It is so nice for all of the children to have a large area to run around in and get rid of some of that energy.

We will be closed from December 19 through January 5 for Christmas Break. We had hoped to open Extended Care, but there weren't enough children needing our services. We will all be able to spend time with our families and relax a little. Ms. Mindy and Ms. Barb will both be having knee replacements and

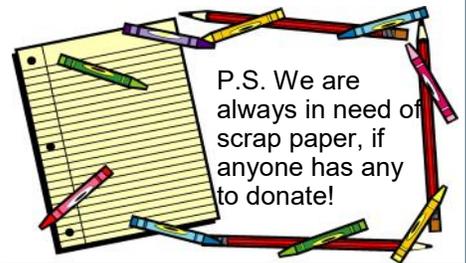
recovering during this time. Please keep them in your prayers for healing and a speedy recovery!

Thanks to everyone who has supported our programs in any way! We appreciate your prayers, donations and sharing of your "Talents and Treasures". Special thanks to our Childhood Ministries Board, our staff and especially our families that make this all possible. This certainly has been one of the most unusual and difficult years of my life, but with everyone's help, we made it!! I hope you all had a very blessed Christmas and look forward to a Happy New Year!!

Sincerely,

Jane Frederick,

Director of Childhood Ministries



P.S. We are always in need of scrap paper, if anyone has any to donate!

Holy Humor



"Have you done something to warrant a drive-by prayer group?"

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Question and Answer

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married? **A. Ruthless**

Q. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible? **A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.**

Pastor: Karen K. Torrez

**Sunday School: 9:20 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM**

**IF YOU'RE PRAYING
FOR A BLIZZARD
PLEASE GO TO DAIRY QUEEN**

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Second Sunday of Christmas	Baptism of Our Lord	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
<i>Lector: Jan Grangaard</i>	<i>Lector: Gracie Chester</i>	<i>Lector: Shelley Ross</i>	<i>Lector: Melissa Chester</i>	<i>Lector: Beth Margraf</i>
<i>Hosts: Jan & Blake Grangaard</i>	<i>Hosts: Janet & Joe Zirger</i>	<i>Hosts: Janet & Joe Zirger</i>	<i>Hosts: Nominee Family</i>	<i>Hosts: Beth & Jack Myers</i>

OTHER NEWS



COMMUNION

January 3rd 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!

OUR VOLUNTEERS

JANUARY SNOW CREW

January 2-8 Jim Ruess

January 9-15 Bob Fruth

January 16-22 Shawn Vallery

January 23-29 Jim Ruess

January 30-Feb 5 Bob Fruth

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

November 12, 2020

This meeting was held by Zoom due to Covid-19.

Present: Pastor Bailey, Rick Greene, Jane Fruth, Kelly Cook, Anna Widman, Janet Zirger, Bonnie Oberlander, Deb Nominee and Linda Ellinger.

Absent: Kelly Reis-Kelly and Amy Mills.

Rick called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Agenda: Jane moved, and Bonnie seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Secretary's Report: Deb moved, and Jane seconded a motion to approve the secretary's report and the motion passed.

Financial Report:

Jane spoke briefly about the reduction in the income from the Pre-School, on which the church depends for financial support. The carry over of around \$10,000 from last year has somewhat alleviated the situation. Discussion followed about Giving Tuesday and envelopes will be prepared as was done last year. Linda moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Janet seconded, and the motion was approved.

Old Business:

Pre-School Phase I Project: The project was approved last Sunday, November 12th, by the congregation at the Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose. Bonnie reported that the Pre-school Board recommends that we hire Jeff Hohman Construction LLC to do the stairway door and the hallway door. Bonnie moved and Jane seconded a motion to proceed with Jeff Hohman. The motion passed. Rick will sign the contract.

Pastor's Vacation: Pastor can carry over one week of vacation into 2020. He requested that the same policy apply to all employees. Pastor moved to allow a carryover of one week vacation to all, Bonnie seconded, and the motion passed.

Nominating Committee: To assist the nominating committee, Rick wanted to determine who is remaining on council. Rick and Linda are not returning. Kelly Reis-Kelly was not present so is undetermined. All others are returning. Stewardship and Evangelism remains unfilled.

New Business:

Room Use Request: There has been a request for room usage but

FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH ENDING
OCTOBER 2020

	Month	YTD
<u>Income</u>		
Parish	\$12,202	\$161,068
C.M.	6,858	\$100,437
	\$19,060	\$261,505
<u>Expenses</u>		
Parish	\$14,979	\$187,986
C.M.	\$8,756	\$86,145
	\$23,735	\$274,131
Total Income		
Less Expenses:	(4,675)	(12,626)

**Transfer from Investments
to cover expenses \$0**

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



because Seneca County is now at Level Red, it was denied. We will not approve requests as long as we are at Red.

Christmas Eve Service: Worship and Music has been having lengthy discussions and it has been decided, even though we are at Level Red, to proceed with making two services available, because this is one of our high holidays. People can attend by reservation only and extra precautions will be put in place, such as taking temperatures, names, numbers (for contact tracing) and requiring people to hand sanitize both coming and leaving. The church can have 25% of capacity,

(Continued on page 7)

COUNCIL NEWS CONTINUED/ANNOUNCEMENTS

which is about 100 people, at both services. (Churches are exempt from the 10-person rule.)

Printer Contract: Discussion was held about terminating our printer contract (which costs \$435 per month) and purchasing several smaller printers since the amount of printing done has been drastically reduced and probably will continue even after the Covid situation is over. Pastor is checking on the cost of terminating the contract and requirements for printers will be assessed before any decisions are made.

New Business:

It was decided that the January Congregational Meeting date will be on January 17th. Jane and other committee members agreed that this will give them adequate time to complete their committee reports.

Committee Reports:

Childhood Ministries: Bonnie reported that there has been an active case of Covid in one of the classrooms and 2 teachers and 18 children are in self – quarantine. With two teachers out and no substitutes, if one more teacher is exposed, the Pre-School will have to close temporarily. Discussion followed on hiring another substitute and how to handle payroll for those teachers who were exposed while on the job. Bonnie will discuss with the pre-school board and make recommendations.

Social Ministry: Deb reported on the success of the Bountiful Feast. All went well and they served approximately 150 people. We usually help the Salvation Army man their kettles, but no decision has been made on how this is to be handled.

Pastor's Report: Pastor has been sending out a Monday email to council members which highlights actions/concerns.

Next Meeting: Next regular council meeting will be Thursday, December 17th at 7:30. Executive Council meeting will be Monday, December 14 at 7:30 PM. Both meetings will be held by Zoom.

Rick asked for a motion to adjourn. Linda moved, Pastor seconded, and the motion passed.

Pastor ended the meeting with a prayer. 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda Ellinger
Janet Zirger*

Co-Council Secretary

Should you wish to send cards or notes of encouragement to Pastor Dietz, his address is:

537 Trotwood Street
Springfield, OH 45503.

As far as we know he was released from the hospital, but went to a rehab facility for some additional therapy before returning home.

Pastor Dietz also has an email address on file:
dietz@erinet.com

IDEAS FOR RESOLUTIONS / INTENTIONS FOR 2021

1. Make a New Budget
2. Try New Recipes
3. Less Alcohol, More Water
4. Take the Stairs
5. Start Owning Plants
6. Learn a New Skill/ Start a New Hobby
7. Read More
8. Travel More
9. Connect More with Family & Friends
10. Meditate
11. Reduce Screen Time
12. Volunteer
13. Donate to Charity
14. Be Polite
15. Get More Culture
16. Give More Compliments
17. Reduce Exposure to Stressful Situations
18. Eat Out Less
19. Avoid Impulse Buying
20. Sleep More
21. Worry Less
22. Try Yoga
23. Ditch Soda
24. Eat Mindfully
25. Walk Regularly



january

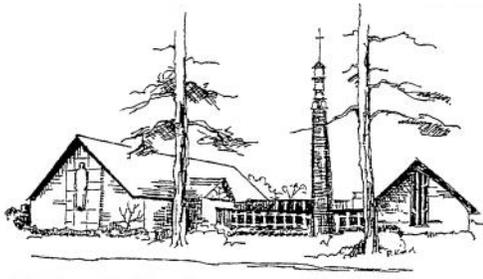


1	2
	
3	4
10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person* <small>* if orange or yellow</small>	Office Closed
5	6
	6:30p Worship & Music
7	8
	Office Closed Pastor's Day Off
9	10
	10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person* <small>* if orange or yellow</small> 11—Confirmation
11	12
Office Closed	
13	14
15	16
Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	
17	18
10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person* <small>* if orange or yellow</small>	
19	20
SCROLL INFO DUE TODAY	
21	22
7:30 Church Council	Office Closed Pastor's Day Off
23	24
	10:00a Worship via Live stream, radio or in-person* <small>* if orange or yellow</small> 11—Confirmation
25	26
Office Closed	
27	28
	West Ohio Food Bank Distribution 1-3p
29	30
Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	

Pastor at Continuing Education Retreat

31
10:00a
Worship via
Live stream,
radio or
in-person*
Annual Mtg
* if orange or yellow





First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.
Tiffin, OH 44883

January 2021

Vol. 38, No.1

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