



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

NOVEMBER 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

"Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.

All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple,
come,
raise the song of harvest home.
ELW #693 v.1

November is a season of Thanksgiving. As we gather with family and friends throughout the month, we are reminded of how richly blessed we truly are. Indeed, there is so much to be thankful for. In light of the circumstances we journey through in October, for us and our household, we give thanks for the gift of family.

I didn't say much to many as it was an ever changing situation that lasted just shy of a week. Still, it was life formative, and it gave Wendy, John, Andrew and I a greater appreciation for the time we have together. Long story short, in October we became emergency foster parents for a special needs child. To back up a bit, the story begins a few years ago, when Wendy had Cindy (I'll give her that name for her protection) in the classroom where she works as a teacher's aide.

Sometime last Spring, Cindy was removed her home. She was relocated to a foster home well outside our area. Fast forward to early October, when all the children in Cindy's foster home were removed, and she was reassigned a new home. Twenty minutes into her new house, her newest foster mom gave a 24 hour notice to have her removed. Of course, that happened on a Friday at 5 p.m.

So, what to do? Somehow word got to the school about an emergency situation for a former student. Texts were sent. Phone calls made. All with the urgent plea that Cindy needed a temporary home preferably with someone she knew. With a lot of prayer and family conversation we decided to open our doors.

What a gift! Granted, I don't think any of us slept that week and Cindy's energy level maintained a constant "Christmas Morning" enthusiasm. Our eyes were opened. Our hearts were opened as well.

We agreed to one week, in order for the system to go to work in finding Cindy a new foster home. I am pretty sure we'd all admit there were times that week couldn't go

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday Worship:

10:00 a.m.

Join us for worship:
We are offering worship in-person with precautions
Broadcast live on 93.3 FM
or 1600 AM and on
Facebook Live
(firstlutherantiffin)

Piece Corp

Wednesday, November 10
9:00 a.m.

Church Council

Wednesday, November 17
6:30 p.m.

West Ohio Food Bank

Thursday, November 18
Volunteers report by 12:30
Distribution begins at 1:00

Bountiful Feast

Following worship on
Nov. 21st

Temporary Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
9-4

(Continued from page 1)

fast enough. Still, we poured out love, kindness, and reiterated support like she hadn't seen for quite some time. From my vantage point, Cindy reveled in being with Mrs. Bailey nearly 24/7, and Wendy was in "teacher mode" for those same hours as well. Even with the ups and downs it was truly a blessing.

When Thursday came and we kept asking what next, we found out that her parents were approached about a return plan. For all intents and purposes, they said they didn't want her anymore. Then, we were told she would be staying at the case workers office on the floor for the weekend since she hadn't found a home yet. It broke our hearts. It almost seemed selfish that we couldn't keep her longer. Gratefully, Friday morning news came that a new home was in the works and she would be meeting her new foster family that evening.

Honestly that was just as hard, to pack her few belongings into a tattered suitcase and a few grocery bags. Tears were shed as goodbyes were offered. To say the least, Cindy was upset, hurt, and frustrated that we couldn't keep her "forever." Granted, we didn't have the skills or training for what we experienced, perhaps in the future we might, and now our house seems oddly normal. Maybe even a bit empty.

As that week in October will remain with me forever, we now turn to November, and I am ever more grateful for the gift of family. To imagine the heartbreak that one such child as has over and over, it opens my eyes once again to the needs of the world. Family is precious. Family is a gift from God. Family needs to be treasured, loved, and adored.

In this month of Thanksgiving, it is my prayer that you would be mindful of your own family. Be sure to let them know they are loved. Care for them. Connect with them. For even as John is now a senior and eagerly looking forward to life in college, Wendy and I are reminded how quickly childhood and the parenting years come and go. At the same time, an experience we treasured with Cindy reminds us just how blessed we are to share the treasure and gift of family.

Happy Thanksgiving and God's Blessings to you and your family!

Pastor Bailey



YOUTH

National Youth Gathering

We have four youth that are signed up and excited to be a part of the National Youth Gathering in 2022! As they continue to get organized and prepare for our travels, they would like to share their thanks and support for all that you have done to make this trip a possibility. To do so, they are each being asked to serve the congregation and community with a variety of volunteer projects. If you have a project in mind or something that you need help with around your house, please let our youth know. There are purple forms hanging on the bulletin board outside of the Church Office. Fill one out and share it with Pastor Bailey so that our youth can help serve you.

Youth Night Is on the Second Sunday of the Month

Attention All Youth! Mark your calendars for Sunday November 14th as we gather for Youth Night.

Our Confirmation Youth will gather from 6-7 p.m. as we continue to learn more about the life of Martin Luther

Youth Group will take place from 7-8 p.m. where we will help pack and assist with the
Thanksgiving
Food Baskets.

Our pre-Gathering meetings will go from 8-9 p.m. as we continue to explore God's Boundless gift of Love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



COMMEMORATION
of the

FAITHFUL
DEPARTED

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On the First Sunday in November we will remember all those who have died this past year.

If you have a name of a friend or loved one who you would like remembered during our All Saints service, please pass their name on to the Church Office ASAP.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

This year we hope to put together 20 food baskets to help feed those in need around our community. Each week has a specific "theme" food, but you can bring in any of these items at any time. This year's collection includes:

October 31

Boxed Dessert
Corn Bread
Applesauce
Canned Cranberry

November 7

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Pancake Mix
Syrup

November 14

Cereal
Mac & Cheese
Spaghetti Noodles
Spaghetti Sauce

On November 14, we gather following Worship to sort the donations we've received so far. Then we'll re-gather in the evening at 7:00 p.m. to pack the boxes for distribution.

Thanksgiving Sunday

On Sunday, November 21 we will celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday as we pause to give thanks for all that God has blessed us with throughout this past year. Bountiful Feast meals will be ready after worship for pick-up and drive-through. Donations accepted.

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is November 30th. At the end of the October financial report we are behind \$27,694 for the year. Gratefully we have not had to dip into our investments for the past three years, however the reserves in the checkbook are covering our deficit spending. Would you kindly consider an end of the year gift to help continue the ministry of First Lutheran? God's blessings and many thanks for your continued generosity!

Advent Begins November 28

Advent is a time of waiting and this will be our theme for our Advent journey together. Join us for Sunday as we wait with Faith (Nov. 28) with Hope (Dec. 5), with Rejoicing (Dec. 12) and with Gratitude (Dec. 19). A daily devotional is also available as well as an Advent Calendar for our youth. A midweek service will also be available for family reflection. More details on all things Advent will be available by the end of the month.

Bringing back TWO Oldies but Goodies:

1) **The Pew Crew**.....half the pews = half the work!
How it works:

- do it solo or with a partner
- once a month - grab the baskets in first door in sacristy
- check pew pockets to add envelopes/ attendance cards about 10 each
- replace dull/broken pencils with a sharpened one
- on Communion Sunday collect empty baggies and place in wastebasket by door.

Contact Janet Zirger 419-447-8505
or jzirger@gmail.com if you can join the Pew Crew.

2) **Offering Counters**

How it works:

- Follow step by step directions on "work mat."
- Count cash envelopes
- Count check envelopes
- Write in all other donations on weekly offering form
- Take deposit to bank and return receipt to the Office

Contact Janet Zirger 419-447-8505
or jzirger@gmail.com to join the Team and receive a free walk-through session.

HOLY HUMOR



The Reverend Lewis was completing a temperance sermon and with great expression he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' With even greater emphasis he added, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' Finally, the Reverend Lewis said, 'And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' He sat down. The Curate, Roger Marples, then stood up very cautiously and announced with a smile, 'For our closing hymn let's sing number 365, "Shall We Gather at the River."

BOOKWORMS ANONYMOUS are looking for some new book lovers to join them!

Their November book selection is *Clear Night, Bright Star* by Sister Jane Omlor. All are invited to join them the third Monday of the month at 1:30, (November 15th) This group meets in the Library at First Lutheran.

Come join them and enjoy some fellowship and lively discussion.



GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!



Our Pre Three classes have been very busy learning rules and routines! During the month of October, they also learned about "Leaves/Fall", "Fire Safety", "Pumpkins" and "Halloween Fun". The classes also learned about the color orange, square shape, the letter "P" and Covid quarantine! Unfortunately, Ms. Ashley and both of her classes spent a week at home, due to a possible Covid case. Fortunately, no one contracted Covid and we were all very relieved! The children are all looking forward to celebrating Halloween together at their class parties to end the month.

Our Pre Four/Five classes have focused on letters "L" (Leaves), "F" (Fire Safety), "E" (Elephants) and "H" (Halloween). They also are learning rules and routines, as well as many other things! The classes all enjoyed a trip to the theater room to watch a Fire Safety video during Fire Safety week. The children are all looking forward to a fall/harvest party at the end the month. We all miss Ms. Mindy, as she is home recovering from surgery. The classes are in great hands with Ms. Barb and Ms. Gena, during her absence. Thanks for all of the prayers sent her way during this difficult time!

Our preschool Extended Care children have enjoyed various fall-related art activities, stories, games and action songs during the day. Our school age children enjoy a snack every day after school and look forward to outdoor play. Most of them have a great deal of energy, after sitting in school all day! The play yard is a very busy place after school, as weather allows.

We are looking forward to Thanksgiving and spending Thanksgiving break with our family and friends! Again, thanks to all of you who support our programs in any way! It is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Jane Frederick,

Director of Childhood Ministries



WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday November 7	Sunday November 14	Sunday November 21	Sunday November 28
<i>All Saints Sunday</i>	<i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>Christ the King Sunday</i>	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>
Lector: Beth Margraf	Lector: Gracie Chester	Lector: Shelley Ross	Lector: Linda Ellinger
Hosts: Shelley Ross	Hosts: Nominee Family	Host: Judy Kimmel	Host: Janet Zirger
Slide Show: John & Haley	Slide Show: John & Haley	Slide Show: John & Haley	Slide Show: John & Haley
Videographer: Wendy Bailey	Videographer: Wendy Bailey	Videographer: Wendy Bailey	Videographer: Wendy Bailey
Altar Guild Bonnie Oberlander	Altar Guild Bonnie Oberlander	Altar Guild Bonnie Oberlander	Altar Guild Bonnie Oberlander

OUR VOLUNTEERS

LAWN/SNOW CREW

November 4- John Kobelt

November 11

November 18

November 25

December 2

**Many THANKS to our loyal Lawn/Snow Crew
AND Weed Warriors who work tirelessly to
maintain the well-kept curb appeal of First!!**

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
September 15, 2021

Present: Pastor Bailey, Beth Margraf, Shelley Ross, Jane Fruth, Janet Zirger
Absent: Kim Ames, Bonnie Oberlander, Deb Nominee, Kelly Cook, Anna Wildman

Because we did not have enough members present for a quorum, official business could not be conducted.

Those present did have conversation and discussion on a number of church related topics.

One item that was discussed was the repairing and patching of the parking lot and south driveway. A quote of \$550 had been received to do this work. With \$545 in the dedicated accounts fund which can cover the cost no official approval was needed. We will continue to receive bids on the sealing of the driveway and possibly the parking lot which would be done in the spring.

Shelley and Beth will get quotes on updating the lighting in the Fellowship Hall. When quotes are received, a vote by email will take place so that the lights and leaking ballasts can be fixed by the end of October.

Next meeting: October 20th at 6:30.

Respectively Submitted,

Janet Zirger

Co-Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH ENDING
SEPTEMBER 2021

	Month	YTD
<u>Income</u>		
Church	\$14,641	\$137,721
Pre-School	<u>\$11,566</u>	<u>\$94,428</u>
	\$26,197	\$232,149
<u>Expenses</u>		
Church	\$15,785	\$182,922
Pre-School	<u>\$9,229</u>	<u>\$76,921</u>
	\$25,014	\$259,843
Summary:	\$1,183	(\$27,694)

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

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



If you have ideas of things you would like to see at First Lutheran or if you would like to play a larger role in the direction of the church, please consider a position on Church Council.

There are a number of open positions beginning in 2022.

Contact any member of the nominating committee to express your interest:

Rick Greene

Linda Ellinger

Kelly Reis-Kelly

Mark Stephens

If you head up a committee currently and have not met recently, as we move into the holiday season, now might be a great time to meet and determine an agenda/direction for next year!

LOOKING TOWARD ADVENT / BIRTHDAYS



November Birthdays

- 2 Cheryl Staib-Lewis
- 3 Zachary Shawberry
- 4 Vicki Clouse
- 5 Julie Garlock
Allison Sallee
Gloria Stacy
- 6 Herb McClellan
- 9 Janice Nord
- 10 Blake Grangaard
- 13 Janet Zirger
- 15 Ron Guisinger
- 17 Claire Groves
- 19 Doug Rathburn
- 21 Heather Sallee
Charles Schrenk III
- 22 Dave Weickert
- 25 Gregg Cole
Racquelle Kelly
- 29 Jackson Hohman

During Advent our focus will be on:

Faith

Hope

Rejoicing

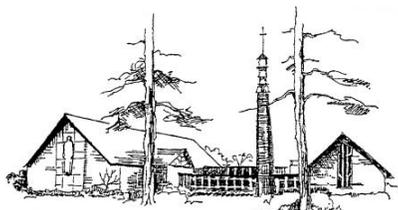
Gratitude





November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed	2 Office Open Election Day	3 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p W&M mtg	4 Office Open	5 Office Closed 7:30p NA Group	6  Fall Back
Pastor on Planning Retreat for Advent						
7 All Saints Sunday 10:00a Worship	8 Office Closed 10:00a Bible Study	9 Office Open	10 Office Closed 9:00a Piece Corp 4:00 Preschool Board 7:30p NA Group	11 Office Open	12 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 7:30p NA Group	13
14 Christ the King 10:00a Worship 11:00a Food sorting 6:00p Confirmation 7:00p Youth Group and food packing 8:00p Pre-Gathering	15 Office Closed 1:30p Bookworms Anonymous	16 Office Open	17 Office Closed 10:00a Bible Study 6:30 Council 7:30p NA Group	18 Office Open West Ohio Food Bank	19 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 7:30p NA Group	20
21 Thanksgiving Sunday 10:00a Worship 11:00a Bountiful Feast (pick-up only)	22 Office Closed	23 SCROLL INFO DUE TODAY Office Open	24 Office Closed 7:30p NA Group	25 	26 Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday 7:30p NA Group	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent 10:00a Worship	29 Office Closed	30 Office Open				



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.
Tiffin, OH 44883

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: firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com

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	Beth Margraf	WORSHIP & MUSIC	Anna Wildman
VICE PRESIDENT	Shelley Ross	PARISH ED	(vacant)
CO-SECRETARIES	Janet Zirger/Kim Ames	EVANGELISM	(vacant)
TREASURER	Jane Fruth	PROPERTY	Kelly Cook
CHILDHOOD MINISTRY	Bonnie Oberlander	STEWARDSHIP	(vacant)
SOCIAL MINISTRY	Deb Nominee		

FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

Clayton J. Bailey	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Tel. 567.938.6077</i>
Ruth Scott	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Tel. 419-447-1323</i>
Curtis L. King	<i>Director of Music</i>	
John Bailey	<i>Janitors</i>	
Haley Welter		

CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES

Jane Frederick, *Director*
Tel: 419.447.1145