



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

DECEMBER 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

Waiting.

Advent is a time of waiting . . . and waiting.

As we turn the final page of our calendar and as December is now upon us, we might ask what are we waiting for?

Our children are easily gone to answer Santa Claus and all of the gifts tucked up under the tree. Looking back now, it's fun to remember the innocence of our youth, as we waited patiently to be greeted by jolly old St. Nicholas.

While most of us have lost the innocence of our youth and some of our child like mentality, we may then still ask, "What are we waiting for?"

Well in our house we are waiting for surgery. I know I haven't said much to many, but now is the time for a bit of transparency as our family could use your prayers in the weeks ahead. Wendy is waiting for a hysterectomy on December 13. At this point we are unsure if it is a full or a partial hysterectomy and that won't be determined until the doctors are well into her surgery. Honestly, it's one Wendy has been waiting on for the past several months, as she was diagnosed with Uterine Fibrosis mid-summer. Sadly, even after her diagnosis, this was the first available date that she

could be scheduled for surgery.

I'm also waiting for a procedure to stretch my esophagus. I can't tell you how many times I've had food stuck, and it's not a pleasant experience getting things resolved one way or the other. My referral came in mid September, and December 1st is the first I could get in. So I'm waiting. I've also spent a big part of November waiting on results from some irregular and rapid heartbeats. After several different tests, my cardiologist said I have a healthy heart. However, the challenge remains that stress and lack of sleep seems to trigger my arrhythmia. The great challenge is then trying to create a stress and rest filled life.

All that said, Wendy and I could use your prayers for December.

We may be an odd couple as we continue to wait on each other in the midst of everything we have going on. With all of that taking place in our household, I can only imagine what each of you might be waiting for in your own family. Sometimes it seems a bit too much to take in, and perhaps on my own part that is the challenge of trying to destress for a healthier and happier heart.

Turning to Advent, it seems fitting that this year Advent takes on its

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday Worship:

10:00 a.m.

Join us for worship:
In-person with precautions
93.3 FM or 1600 AM and on
Facebook Live
(firstlutherantiffin)

Piece Corp

Wednesday, December 8
9:00 a.m.

Church Council

Thursday, December 16
6:30 p.m.

West Ohio Food Bank

Thursday, December 16
Volunteers report by 12:30
Distribution begins at 1:00

Midweek Worship

Wednesday 7p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

7p.m. Family Service
11 p.m. Traditional Service

Office Hours

9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday

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truest meaning as we journey through these four weeks, as they are four weeks of waiting. Together we will wait for the Lord. This is what Advent is supposed to be about . . . waiting for the Lord's great and glorious day when he comes with trumpet sound to make all things new. Let's not forget that! Advent is more about future waiting for the Lord than it is a about past waiting for the Lord as we look forward to greeting the Christ Child at Christmas.

In these four weeks, we will celebrate our waiting for the Lord, as we gather with Abraham and Sarah on November 28 as we wait with faith. On December 5, we will hear from the Prophet Isaiah as we wait upon the Lord with Hope. Then on December 12, we hear of Mary's visit to Elizabeth as we wait upon the Lord with Rejoicing. Then our fourth week of advent takes us on an encounter with Zechariah as we wait upon the Lord with Gratitude.

Together, through their bold witness, we will encounter the one for whom we are all waiting, Jesus Christ. Let us not forget that, especially in all of the craziness this time of year may bring. Let us not forget to pause, reflect, remember, and wait patiently for the Lord!

Blessed Advent!

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.

A treat to and from our youth looking forward to the National Youth Gathering!

At the end of November our NYG youth passed out treats to those who attended worship and/or the Bountiful Feast. Your "treat" a tube of mini M&M's. If you enjoyed your treat, then we ask that you might prayerfully consider treating our youth by filling the container with quarters to help support our journey to the NYG in Minneapolis. If you didn't get a treat of M&M's just let some of our youth know, and we'll get one to you. Thank you as always for your generosity!

Dear Family and friends of First Lutheran Church,

In a matter of a few months, you will be hearing from other members of the youth group and myself about the National Youth Gathering. Each of us has been assigned a topic. My topic is God's boundless love. So as I ponder this topic, I come back to Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Lord." In the past three months, I attended all National Youth Gathering meetings after the youth group.

We learned and talked about the National Youth Gathering topics. We've been learning about God's boundless love. I've learned how God's love is spread throughout the world. We think of love as loving someone, do something nice for them, and even die for them if needed and requested. But I've learned from Pastor and Wendy that God's love is unconditional and unexpected. God's love could be helping you remember to study for tests. God's boundless love can prevent you from getting into an accident, heal you from a disease, and even take you in his arms on the last day.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mid-Week Worship in Advent

All are welcome to gather for a service of creative reflection and thanksgiving on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

During worship we'll have time for conversation, reflection, prayer, singing, and crafts. Come and be a part of this festive Advent midweek service..



BOOKWORMS ANONYMOUS members will be meeting on December 20th for a book exchange and to choose their reading selections for 2022.

Contact Diane Greene for more information if you would be interested in becoming part of this group.



December 19th will be the deadline for contributions to this year's mitten tree. Items will be collected on that day and delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution to those who are in need of warm winter gear. Thank you for your generosity!

Thanksgiving Baskets

20 very appreciative families visited the church on November 22nd to claim their bags of supplies generously donated by this congregation! Thanks to everyone who helped contribute the 494 items were brought to the church. A donated Thrivent card helped round out the baskets so that each family got the same number of items. In addition, the Elks club donated vouchers to each family so they could purchase a turkey, 2 dozen eggs, oil, butter, milk and bread so that families could enjoy perishable items that the household might need. Thank you for your part in sharing your great bounty with those who have much less.



(Left) Many hands helped sort items after worship on November 14th.



After an inventory, shoppers spent part of the afternoon buying items to add to the supplies. That evening, hands of all ages helped fill 60 bags with goodies to be given to families who need extra support. Thanks to all!

HOLY HUMOR



A poem credited to Spike Milligan:

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed in on to him.

I thought about that smile,
Then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
Could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

I found this poem while cleaning
out things from my mother's
dresser. As we're searching for the
"perfect" gifts this season, perhaps
it's time to stop and remember the
best gifts are often free...and a
smile costs nothing. Sending smiles
and Advent Blessings to all of you!

Office Ruth



Make
Someone
Smile



GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!

Our Pre-Three classes continue to learn about rules and routines! They have also been learning about Fall, Leaves, Friendship and Thanksgiving. They have been focusing on the color yellow, the triangle shape and the letter "T". The children have also been working on skills such as: opening/closing bookbags, putting folders inside of bookbags, pulling up their pants after using the bathroom and putting on coats to go outside.

Our Pre-Four/Five classes have focused on letters "T" (Turkey time), "I" (Indigenous People), and "U" (Ugly Duckling). The classes have also been reviewing letters from the past weeks. They are also working on zipping and buttoning their own jackets and coats and knowing and writing the letters of their first and last names. The children and their families worked together on "Disguise the Turkey" family project. The classes enjoyed making and eating cornbread for snack.

The preschool classes gathered together for a nice Thanksgiving story, with myself as a "guest reader". (We did not do the big Thanksgiving feast with parents and grandparents, again this year, due to Covid.) All of the preschool children have also been practicing Christmas songs, which will be recorded and shared on our Facebook page, in place of a Christmas program.

Our Extended Care children have enjoyed various Fall and Thanksgiving-related art projects and activities. We have all enjoyed playing in the play yard, as much as possible.

Everyone is looking forward to Thanksgiving break, enjoying good food and spending time with our families!

Special thanks to all who support our programs in any way!

Sincerely,

Jane Frederick,



Director of Childhood Ministries



WORSHIP INFORMATION

	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Friday	Sunday
	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 24	December 26
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	1 Christmas
Acolytes	Garrett Chester	Jonathan Nominee	Garrett Vaughn	7p Michael & Zachary Ross, Garrett Chester 11p Jonathan & Angela Nominee, Jack Fay, Andrew Fay, Andrew Bailey	
Lector	Melissa Chester	Gracie Chester	Carol Jarrett	7p Shelley Ross 11p Rick Greene	
Hosts	Linda Ellinger	Bob & Janet Meyer	Janet Zirger	7p Judy Kimmel & son	
	Richard Ellinger		Deb Hohman	11p Nominee Family	
Slide Show	John Bailey	John Bailey	John Bailey	John Bailey	John Bailey
	Haley Welter	Haley Welter	Haley Welter	Haley Welter	Haley Welter
Video	Wendy Bailey	Wendy Bailey		Wendy Bailey	Wendy Bailey
	Andrew Bailey	Andrew Bailey	Andrew Bailey		Andrew Bailey

OUR VOLUNTEERS

LAWN/SNOW CREW

November 27-December 10-John Kobelt / Ron Guisinger

December 11-17-John Kobelt

December 18-31-Jim Ruess

January 1-7-Bob Fruth

**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

October 20, 2021

Present: Pastor Bailey, Beth Margraf, Shelley Ross, Bonnie Oberlander, Anna Wildman, Deb Nominee, Janet Zirger

Absent: Kim Ames, Jane Fruth, Kelly Cook

President Beth Margraf called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Bailey

Approve agenda: A motion accept the agenda was made by Bonnie and seconded by Janet and the motion was passed.

Approve the September minutes: Since there was no official meeting due to lack of quorum the minutes were discussed and reviewed.

Approve financial report: It was reported that there was a net gain which slightly closed the deficit. Shelley made a motion to accept the report, Deb seconded motion passed.

Old Business: Parking lot: Once the weather is cooler and the company has finished its big paving projects they will come and fill in the pot holes in the driveways.

Lights in the Fellowship Hall: The lights have been changed over to LED, fixing the problem with the ballasts leaking. The job was completed in one day.

Maintenance needs: The Finance committee will prioritize the needs and make a plan to finance.

Nominating committee: The committee will be contacted to fill the following positions: Property, Vice-President, Worship and Music.

Funeral document: The funeral planning document will be introduced to the congregation during the All Saints Day service.

New Business: Room request: Two room requests were made; one for a Graduation party on May 29, and one for the Life Line organization on February 10, 2022. Both requests were approved.

Nomination of Parish Education Representative: Diane Greene has accepted the call of council representative for the Parish Education committee. A motion to approve was made and passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 2021

	YTD	Month
<u>Income</u>		
Church		\$14,641
Pre-School	\$137,721	\$11,566
	<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)

No Report was Submitted.

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



Pastor's report:

A copy of his monthly report is attached. Planning for the National Youth Gathering trip continues. Sunday Youth group is gaining in attendance. There are 7 in the Confirmation class at this time.

Committee Reports: No reports from Worship & Music, Evangelism or Finance Committees.

Stewardship: Giving envelopes for 2022 ordered.

Parish Education: Beth - Sunday School will resume for grades K-5. There are 4 volunteer teachers who will be on a rotating schedule with each taking one Sunday a month. Diane Greene will be revising the lessons from the previous Sunday School format. Substitute teachers will be needed.

Childhood Ministry: Bonnie - Money has been received from the Covid Relief Fund. The money may be used for new flooring downstairs and for the purchase of the Bright Wheel attendance program. Jane will be contacted for the purchase of these items.

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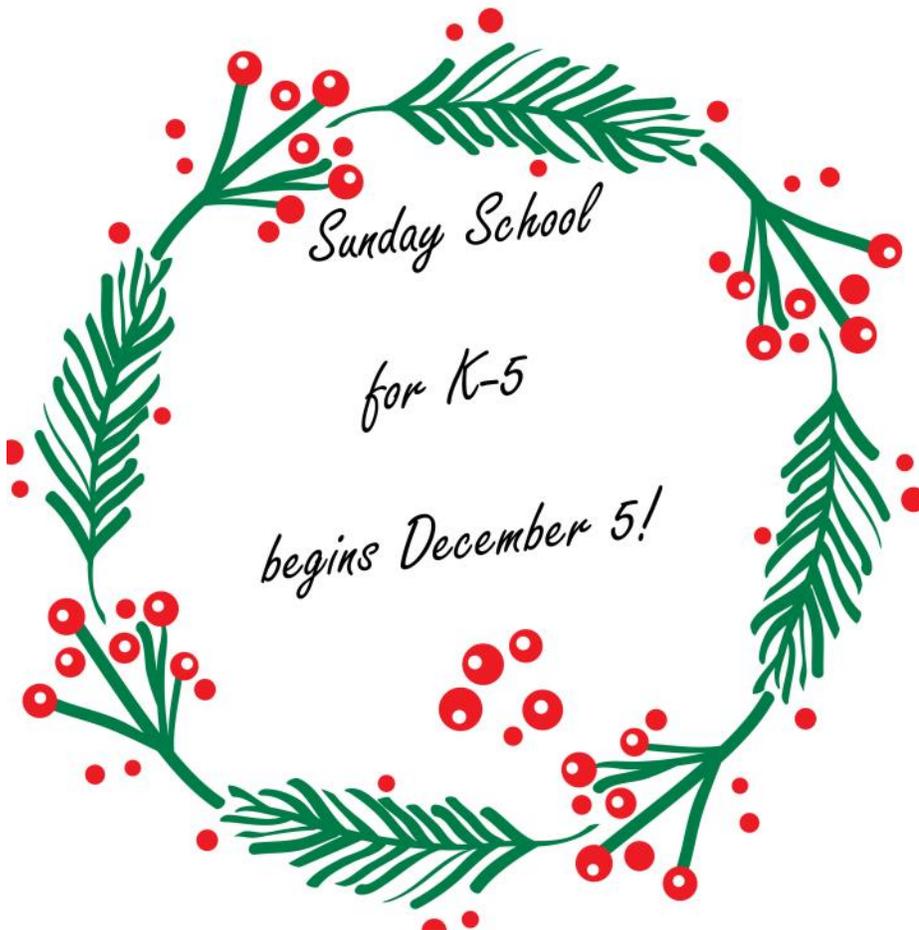
ANNOUNCEMENTS / TRANSITIONS / BIRTHDAYS

(Continued from page 2)

God's boundless love is with us, even when we haven't been born yet. God's boundless love helps fellow believers in Christ to exceed in their mission to spread the gospel. We have to accept God's boundless love into our hearts so that we can spread the good news, help the poor, donate time, help other people and be closer to God. In our last meeting we wrote a letter to ourselves about why God loves us. Even though I know God loves me no matter what I do, good or bad, it was still difficult to write. If you had to write a letter to yourself about God's boundless love, what would you write about? So please, accept God's boundless love in your hearts.

God's blessings from your fellow believer in Christ.
Have a Merry Christmas,

Jonathan Nominee



TRANSITIONS

Elizabeth "Beth" A. Myers

August 19, 1946-November 15, 2021

- 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
- 27 James Bosse
Ed Lape
Donald May
- 29 Nancy Nielsen
- 31 Ross Pauley

December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Office Closed	Office Open	1 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p W&M mtg 7:00p Worship	2 Office Open 4:00 Preschool Board	3 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	4
5 ADVENT 2 10:00a Worship 3:00p Tuba Christmas	6 Office Closed 10:00a Women's Bible Study	7 Office Open 4:30 Christian Ed Mtg	8 Office Closed 9:00a Piece Corp 7:00p Worship	9 Office Open	10 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	11 12
14 ADVENT 3 10:00a Worship 6:00p Confirmation 7:00p Youth Group 8:00p Pre-Gathering	13 Office Closed	14 Office Open	15 Office Closed 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Worship	16 Office Open West Ohio Food Bank 6:30p Council	17 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	18
PASTOR OUT OF THE OFFICE						
19 ADVENT 4 10:00a Worship	20 Office Closed 1:30p Bookworms Anonymous	21 Office Open 	22 Office Closed 7:00p Worship	23 Office Open	24 7:00p Family Service 11:00p Tradition Candlelight Service	25 
26 Christmas 1 10:00a Worship	27 Office Closed	28 Office Open	29 Office Closed	30 Office Open	31 Good-bye 2021! 	

Additional Information

The Preschool and Extended Care teachers and workers have wish lists of things they would like to have for the students.

Look for the tree made with cutouts of the kids' hands. Displayed on it, you will find pictures/prices of items that are on the wish list.

The items range in price from

inexpensive to larger amounts.

If you would like to contribute to a particular item, place money in the envelope. When the envelopes/contributions are collected, the items will be ordered.

Thank you in advance for your continuing generosity in supporting



the mission of our Preschool, Daycare and Extended Care programs.

Contact Bonnie Oberlander if you have any questions or would like more information.



Christmas
EVE

Christmas Eve worship will consist of two services:

7:00 pm will be a family-oriented service with scripture and music

11:00 pm will be a traditional candlelight service.

All family and friends are invited to attend the service that best fits your family needs and schedule.

*This year **no** reservations or tickets are required.*

Property: The boilers are not working properly. The first boiler is in bad condition and parts have been ordered. The second has had lines drained several times and is working currently.

Social Ministry: Deb - At present we are collecting food items to assemble 20 Thanksgiving baskets for Tiffin City School families in need. We will partner with the Elks organization who will provide turkeys, eggs, milk and butter. On November 21st, we will have our annual Bountiful Feast Dinner. It will be a drive-thru event but members may also pick-up their dinner after church.

Next meeting: November 17th at 6:30.

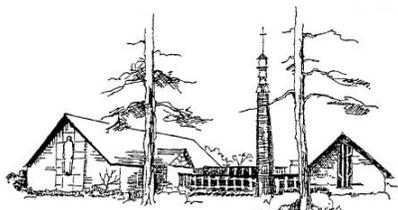
Motion to adjourn: Pastor made a motion to adjourn and Anna seconded.

Respectively Submitted,

Janet Zirger,

Co-Secretary





First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.
Tiffin, OH 44883

December 2021

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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: 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	Diane Greene
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