



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET TIFFIN, OHIO
SEPTEMBER 2022 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

If you had to paint a picture of Jesus' baptism, what would it look like? If you had to tell the story of Jesus' baptism, what would it include? As you think about Jesus being baptized, what do you recall?

These were some of the questions we pondered as a church council at our monthly meeting in August. Together, as a council, we have been reflecting upon our favorite Bible stories as part of our opening devotions. This month took us to Diane Greene's favorite story. When asked why it's her favorite she states: I chose "The Baptism of Jesus" as my favorite Bible story because I have always been fascinated by the relationship between Jesus and his cousin John (the Baptist). Also, because Rick and I visited the Jordan River at the area where Jesus may have been baptized. We witnessed many people being baptized or reaffirming their baptism. Very inspiring!

Based on Diane's thoughts, we can make a quick assumption that if you had to retell, paint, or ponder Jesus' baptism, we would need water, mainly from the River Jordan. Somewhere in the midst of your mental recreation, there is Jesus, John the Baptist, the sun beaming down from heaven, and a dove. All of those sound about right? Well let's take a little bit deeper look and dust off our Bibles. Open them up to Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, and Luke 3:21-22. Oddly enough there is no baptismal story in John, because Jesus is revealed as divine from the opening verses of John . . . "in the beginning was the word." Here's a quick lesson in what is taking place at Jesus' baptism. In Matthew, we find the familiar story, Jesus and John dialogue about who should be baptizing who. John doesn't seem worthy, but Jesus insists that it is necessary. Then all the good

Continued on page 2

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

Join us for worship:

In-person,

93.3 FM or 1600 AM and on

Facebook Live

(firstlutherantiffin)

Healing Service

Wednesday, September 7

6:30 p.m.

Piece Corp

Wednesday, September

9:00 a.m.

Church Council

Wednesday, September 21

6:30 p.m.

West Ohio Food Bank

Thursday, September 22

Volunteers report by 12:30

Distribution begins at 1:00

Office Hours

**9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday**

stuff that we easily recall, the dove, the sky, and the voice from heaven.

Luke is a bit different than the traditional image of Jesus' baptism as Jesus is baptized as part of a crowd. There is no solo moment between him and John the Baptist. The "ah" moment comes when Jesus is alone praying, and this is when we find that the heavens open and the dove descends.

Then in Mark, we hear Jesus is baptized with all of the traditional imagery with one additional detail, "the heavens were torn." For me, I love this part of the Gospel. It's one of Mark's literary tools connecting baptism to death. What is it that happens at Jesus' death? According to Mark the curtain in the temple was "torn."

Here's the significance . . . many thought there was once a veil that separated heaven and earth, or us from God. As Jesus is baptized, named and claimed, that veil is torn open as the Spirit of God descends upon him, heaven is opened. In much the same way, when the temple curtain is torn at Jesus' death, the curtain was woven in such a way to depict the heavenly realm and no one could pass through it. Therefore, when the curtain was torn, heaven was once again open for all people. So it is at both Jesus baptism and death that the veil of heaven or the symbolic curtain representing it, was torn open, so that there could be no more division. I think that is a powerful image. For in much the same way, in our own baptism we are united with God through water and

the word and strengthened for our earthly life. Then, at our death, we are once again forever claimed by God for all of eternity. In both moments, we are united with God as heaven and earth collide and the veil between us is torn open once again.

While that may be a lot to ponder, I think it is a wonderful image to portray in the midst of Jesus Baptism. So perhaps, the next time someone asks you to paint an image, tell the story, or simply think about Jesus baptism, you might want to start with a big tear in the page, so that we can forever remember that it is in Baptism that we are forever united with the kingdom of God.

With Thanksgiving,

Pastor Bailey

20TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY



It was a blessing and an honor to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of my Ordination with you on August 14th. Thank you for your kind words, cards, gifts, and fellowship as we shared in the blessing of the day together!

With Thanksgiving,
Pastor Bailey

The Anniversary of Pastor's Ordination was made sweeter by sharing cake and drinks following worship.

The cake was created by Racquelle Reis-Kelly. Many thanks to the people who arranged the details of this time of fellowship.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY



GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!

As I compose this article, we are enjoying our last official day of Summer Extended Care. We celebrated with a "Pizza Party" for lunch. Some of our friends will be back tomorrow, before or after school. Some of our friends will be going to other area schools and plan to return next summer. Many of our preschoolers will be going off to kindergarten. We also look forward to many children returning, after being off all summer.

Our Summer Extended Care finished the summer with units on "Dinosaurs", "Dr. Seuss" and "Back To School". The children enjoyed various related crafts, books, games, snacks and other activities.

Our Preschool Summer Enrichment program completed Session II with a week of "Summer Celebrations". The children enjoyed a class party on their final day of class and enjoyed special activities and snacks. They had planned to have a "Water Play Day" outdoors, but God had other plans by sending too much rain! As usual, Ms. Brittany had to change her lesson plans to accommodate the weather.

Again, thanks to all of you who support our programs in any way. Be it large or small, we appreciate it all! Special thanks to the ladies who were outside on their hands and knees, pulling weeds from around the building and around our play yard. Also, thanks to Pastor and our Childhood Ministries Board members, who are available for monthly meetings, job interviews and special meetings as needed. You all make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve!

HOLY HUMOR



COMING SOON...

Wednesday Evening Healing Service

Mark your calendars for the first Wednesday of the month as we gather for a service of reflection and healing.

This service will include music, reading from scripture, the laying on of hands for healing, and communion. Come and be a part of what we hope will be a new first Wednesday of the month tradition.

Wednesday, September 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Together, we look forward to kicking off Sunday School and our Confirmation classes on the first Sunday in October.

Stay tuned for more information, but be sure to pencil in October 2nd for some special Sunday School events.

YOUTH



The Youth trip to Lutheridge provided lots of opportunities to get up close with nature! From vespers on the mountain-top to working in the garden, hiking, working in a food pantry, painting railings at the local Y, and floating in tubes the Boundless beauty and wonder of God was evident everywhere.



TRANSITIONS

Matt & Jessica Hoyda, married
8/13/2022
Golden Hanna
Sept 27, 1922-August 22, 1922

PIECE CORP REQUEST

Piece Corp funds are severely depleted. We would very much appreciate any monetary donations so that we are able to continue to purchase supplies and contribute to the mailing costs of the quilts and school supplies sent to LWR. All donations will be gratefully accepted.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

Holy Land Trip – October, 2023

You are invited to join Pastors Dave and Beth Westphal who are hosting a ten-day trip to the Holy Land October 10-19, 2023. The tour includes visits to Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and other biblical sites in Israel. Early registrants get discounted prices. The tour is offered through Educational Opportunities, a Methodist-based tour company.

If you are interested, contact Pastors Dave and Beth at pastordavedelc@gmail.com or 419-455-0513.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / BIRTHDAYS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Monday Evening Group Contact Carol Jarrett for information.

Wednesday Morning Group will meet in the Library at 10 AM Sept. 14th

Thursday Night Group Contact Diane Greene or Janet Zirger to see when they will be meeting.

BOOKWORMS ANONYMOUS

This group will meet Monday afternoon, September 19th at 1:30 pm. If you would like to join them, the September reading selection is: **Untamed by Glennan Doyle.**

CHALLENGE FOR TLC

Challie Briihl, director of the Transformation Life Center has challenged our congregation to donate items:

Women's razors
 Women's body wash
 Women's deodorant
 Women's hygiene products
 Shampoo & Conditioner
 toilet paper
 paper towels
 Detergent

Diapers (all sizes)
 baby wipes
 toothpaste
 toothbrushes
 floss
 hand soap
 first aid kits
 Hydrocortisone cream
 Neosporin
 Cleaning supplies
 gas cards
 SCAT passes

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

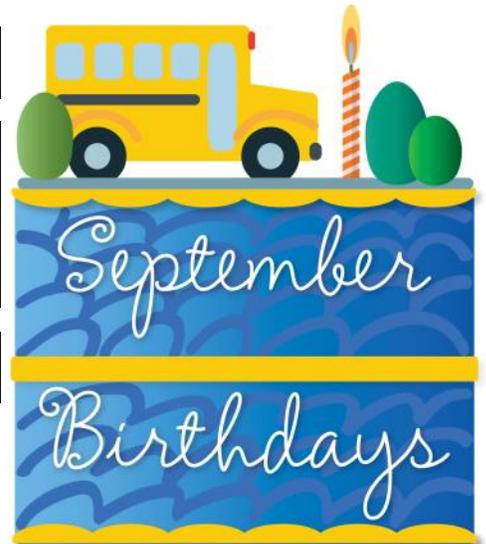
Thank You!



We have not only met, but exceeded our goal to fill 50 backpacks for Lutheran World Relief, thanks to the generosity of this congregation. Backpacks will be packed, boxed and delivered to this year's in-gathering.

Extra supplies will be given locally for Tiffin students who may need support in gathering needed school supplies.

!



- 1 Clayton Bailey
- 2 Ron Mellott
- 4 Jamie Chester
- 6 Dick Wyka
- 7 Sandra Mellott
Jim Zellner
- 9 Linda Phares
Alice Smith
- 11 Scott Jarrett
Diane Hampshire
- 12 Kathy Livoti
- 13 Maxwell Pauley
- 14 Angela Nominee
- 15 Jacob English
- 16 Janet Meyer
- 17 Martin Meyer
- 19 Avery Hoover
- 20 Andrew Bailey
- 22 Savanna Cook
Libby Hoyda
Kevin Reser
- 24 Annabel Binau
- 25 Claudia Felckner
- 26 Deborah Fassler
Jill Griffin
Jason Lather
Sandra Maistros
- 30 Isabella Meyer
Pat Nelson

WORSHIP INFORMATION

<p>Call Melissa Chester or email her if you would like to become more involved as a worship assistant.</p> <p>419-618-6622 melisac@qt2.com</p>	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
	SEPTEMBER 4	SEPTEMBER 11	SEPTEMBER 18	SEPTEMBER 25
	PENTECOST 13	PENTECOST 14	PENTECOST 15	PENTECOST 16
OFFICIANT	Pastor Bailey	Pastor Bailey	Pastor Bailey	Pastor Bailey
LECTOR	Philip Scheer	John Kobelt	Carol Jarrett	Beth Margraf
HOSTS	Janet Zirger	Nominee Family		
ACOLYTES	—	—	—	—
SLIDE SHOW	Andrew Bailey	Andrew Bailey	Andrew Bailey	Andrew Bailey
VIDEO CREW	Wendy Bailey	Wendy Bailey	Wendy Bailey	Wendy Bailey



MOWING CREW & WEED WARRIORS

September 1-7-Shawn Vallery
September 8-14-Rick & Deb Nominee
September 15-21-John Swope
September 22- 28-Jim Ruess
September 29-October 5-John Kobelt



Weed Warriors put your weed-pulling and watering skills to good use! Hands of all ages are invited to join this group of very dedicated people who plant, water and weed the church grounds. They do an awesome job but **need more hands to join them!**

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
Wednesday, July 20th, 2022

Present: Pastor Bailey, Janet Zirger, Jonathan Nominee, Deb Nominee, Beth Margraf, Chet

Margraf, Diane Greene, Jane Fruth, Mike Porter, and Bonnie Oberlander.

Absent: None

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by president, Beth Margraf. Pastor then opened the meeting with a bible study and prayer.

Approve Agenda: Beth added a room request to agenda. Jane motioned to accept the agenda. Jonathan seconded. The motion passed.

Approve June Minutes: Janet made a motion to accept and Deb seconded. Motion passed.

Approve June Financial Report: Jane informed council that as of June 30th church expenses are significantly exceeding revenue for the year. A motion to accept the report was made by Jonathan and Mike seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business:

□ Updated Church Constitution

o Council reviewed Chapter 11 of a new model constitution as prepared by Pastor Bailey with guidance from the ELCA.

o Changes were suggested for the constitution as to increase office term length to two years and adjust some minor responsibilities of each officer position.

□ Roles of Committees

o Deb & Jonathan gave updated committee role reports to Beth for youth and social ministry committees.

□ Historical Project

o There will be an upcoming meeting for the project on August 7th to get the project started.

□ Fire Alarm System

o U.S. Protective Services gave pastor a quote of \$595 to install and purchase a new fire panel with a monthly fee of \$35 dollars to monitor the service.

o This quoted cost of monitoring is less than currently

FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH ENDING JULY 2022

<u>Income</u>		<u>YTD</u>
Church	\$9,606	\$100,219
Pre-School	<u>\$11,453</u>	<u>\$103,606</u>
	\$21,059	\$2,03,825
<u>Expenses</u>		
Church	\$17,689	\$164,169
Pre-School	<u>\$9,695</u>	<u>\$ 73,598</u>
	\$27,384	\$237,767
<u>Summary:</u>		
Income	(6,325)	(33,942)

Transfer from Investments

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



charged by the Tiffin Fire Department.

o It was motioned to approve going forward with the U.S. Protective Services quote by Mike and seconded by Diane. Motion passed.

□ Protocol for Pastor Illness

o No update at this time.

□ Technology Committee

o Mike presented council with a copy of what is used at Trinity United Church of Christ for a social media policy and a Technology and Publicity Strategic Plan.

o This information was brought to council as possible guidelines for such policies at First Lutheran.

o Beth suggested to review the documents and hold more council discussion in depth at next meeting.

o Pastor sent the image and likeness disclaimer as created by Mike at our last council meeting to the Synod. They approved of the disclaimer wording.

o Council decided to go forward with this disclaimer statement. Starting in August, we will have this

(Continued on page 8)

statement appear with our weekly slideshow.

☐ **Handicap Accessible Bathroom**

o Pastor will continue with a focus on opening the preschool doors on Sunday mornings.

o No other council action on this topic will be taken at the moment.

☐ **Juneteenth Holiday**

o Council decided to continue with the currently recognized holidays of the church.

☐ **Rental House**

o Pastor has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Stephey on August 2nd to discuss changes for the house that might impact the cost of insurance.

☐ **Fundraising**

o Janet talked to our current envelope provider on getting different colors, and they told her it would be expensive to get special order envelopes.

o It was suggested that we make our own envelopes to save on costs if council were to go forward with this fundraising idea.

☐ **Janitor Position**

o Rick Sholl started work on August 18th. His typical work hours will be from 5am to 10am on Monday through Friday.

New Business:

☐ **Church Facility Rental**

o Room request for 10/1 from Hanna Family for Golden's 100th Birthday was received for Fellowship Hall. Pastor motioned to accept, and Jane seconded. Motioned approved.

Pastor's Report:

A written report to council members was sent (attached to this report). Highlights from the report discussed at the meeting include:

o Pastor has been busy meeting with couples for weddings this summer. In total, he will have conducted 6 marriage ceremonies.

o Pastor and the youth are leaving this Saturday for Luther Ridge. He is planning to be back for service the following Sunday.

o August 14th the Bishop will be here for his 20th ordination anniversary.

o Phil Scherr is currently making the trip to Kentucky to get the playground parts for the

preschool. He will be back this weekend and is asking for hands to help unload.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Position not currently filled.

Evangelism: Position not currently filled.

Property (Mike Porter): No Committee Report.

On side note, Mike will be leaving August 5th for military training. After training in Michigan and

Ohio, he will spend September in Texas and then be in Iraq for nine months. He expects to return around June next year. Pastor is looking for a date to bless and send him off on this deployment.

Finance (Jane Fruth): No Report.

Worship and Music (Janet Zirger): There is discussion of doing a planter by the big Jesus out-

front of the building. Estimated cost for the box is \$599. No decision on the project was made at meeting.

Parish Education (Diane Greene): There is an upcoming meeting with Diane, Beth, and Pastor on August 9th.

Childhood Ministries (Bonnie Oberlander): There was no regular committee meeting this month. However, it was noted: The preschool is in need of 3-year old and 4-year old children. One preschool teacher and possibly two aides are needed for hire. The preschool passed a state inspection report with only some minor issues being addressed such as updates to carpet backing. There are leads for a teacher and aides going forward this fall that the committee is looking to pursue. The newest staff teacher is working very well with the program.

Social Ministry (Deb Nominee): Sharing kitchen was July 11th and 14th. Deb was able to volunteer and mentioned that there was plenty of food available for everyone in need. August 15th and 18th are upcoming days for those looking to volunteer.

Youth Report (Jonathan Nominee): The theme for the upcoming youth camp is Boundless. The group is looking forward to the opportunity to learn, worship, serve, and have fun times ahead with their trip to Lutheridge. August 7th will be a Sunday for wearing everyone's new First Lutheran shirts to service and hearing about the youth experiences on the trip.

Adjournment: The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 17th at 6:30pm.

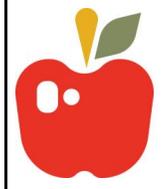
A motion was made to adjourn by Chet and seconded by Jane. The motion passed.

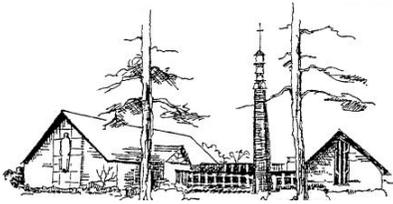
Pastor sent everyone off with a blessing and prayer.

Submitted: By Secretary, *Chet Margraf*.



SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Office Open	2 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	3
4 10:00a Worship Pentecost 13	5 LABOR DAY Office Closed	6 Office Open 4:30p Christian Ed	7 Office Open 6:30 Healing Service	8 Office Open	9 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	10 Margraf Wedding @ their farm
11 10:00a Worship Pentecost 14	12 Office Closed	13 Office Open	14 Office Open 9:00a Piece Corp 10:00a WBS 4p Pre-School Board	15 Office Open	16 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	17
18 10:00a Worship Pentecost 15	19 Office Closed 1:30p Bookworms Anonymous	20 Office Open	21 Office Open 6:30p Council	22 Office Open West Ohio Food Bank	23 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off FIRST DAY OF Autumn	24
25 10:00a Worship Pentecost 16	26 Office Closed	27 Office Open	28 Office Open	29	30	



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.

Tiffin, OH 44883

SEPTEMBER 2022

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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 WTFB, 1600 AM, 93.3 FM at 10:00 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAMS

PRESIDENT	Beth Margraf	WORSHIP & MUSIC	Janet Zirger
VICE PRESIDENT	Mike Porter	PARISH ED	Diane Greene
SECRETARY	Chet Margraf	EVANGELISM	Deb Nominee
TREASURER	Jane Fruth	PROPERTY	(vacant)
CHILDHOOD MINISTRY	Bonnie Oberlander	YOUTH	Jonathan 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>	
Rick Sholl	<i>Janitor</i>	

CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES

Jane Frederick, Director
Tel: 419.447.1145