



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

DECEMBER 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

As we shift into December, saying goodbye to Thanksgiving and Fall, one thing will be on the hearts and minds of everyone. Christmas! It's coming whether we like it or not. If you are doing any shopping, decorations are out reminding us the countdown is on. If you are tuning into your radio, tunes are playing, and we are quick to sing along. So, I'm curious what are some of your favorite Christmas songs and carols? If you are willing, drop me a line, text, or an email and share your favorite secular songs and faithful hymns. Feel free to even share why they are your favorite. Here are a few of mine:

For fun, you can quickly catch me singing along to "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas." It's silly I know, but it's a classic and reminds me just how fun Christmas can be. At the same time, it's a reminder of how ridiculous Christmas wishes have become. A Hippopotamus? Really? I know my bathtub isn't big enough, is yours? Still Christmas for many is about dreaming of gifts large and small tucked up under the tree.

Also for fun, and a little be more heart felt, one of my other favorites would be "What God Wants for Christmas." As Darius Rucker's smooth voices sings, I'm always taken back. If you aren't familiar with this tune, look it up, because it's a wonderful reminder of what

Christmas is supposed to be about. Perhaps its also trying to see a Christmas list through God's eyes. If God had a list, what would it include? I won't spoil it all for you, but it's a wonderful modern song that melts my heart every time I hear it.

Closer to home, and what we do here at First Lutheran, I have two favorite Christmas Hymns. The first is "Angels from the Realms of Glory." Like most of us songs take us somewhere. They are connected to a memory or a moment. For me, this takes me to my early childhood and what was likely my second or third grade Christmas Show, back when you could still sing these in public school. My class was set to sing, and we might not have sounded like Angels, but we tried. What I do remember is rehearsal the day of, and standing on the top of the risers. I felt faint and nearly passed out. Soon I was sitting in the office with a fever, waiting for a ride home. I never got to sing that night. Nearly 40 years later, I still hold on to that regret. Maybe, you'll still catch a tear in my yet as we sing in the company and presence of angels.

Last but not least, my personal favorite, "O Come All Ye Faithful." Growing up in Sandusky, I was part of KeyNotes, Bell Choir, and A Cappella Choir while in High

Continued on page 2

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY

Worship

10:00 a.m.

In-person, on the radio @
93.3 FM, and Facebook
(firstlutherantiffin)

Confirmation Class

11:00 a.m.

HEALING SERVICE

Wednesday, December 7
6:30 p.m.

PIECE CORP

Wednesday, December 9
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL

Wednesday, December 14
6:30 p.m.

WEST OHIO FOOD BANK

Thursday, December 15
Volunteers report by 12:30
Distribution begins at 1:00

School. December was a busy month as we preformed close to 60 times in between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We always started with "O Come, All Ye Faithful." My bells were always the first to ring as we processed in. It wasn't about being the start or star of the show, for me it was the bold reminder this is what we are called for, to invite the faithful to come and see the good news. I loved that moment! I still do, as the prelude and introduction to Christmas Eve begin, this is our call to worship the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

I pray, as you enjoy all the festivities of this December, that you might ponder your favorite song of Christmas. What story do they tell? Are they fun and strike a smile? Do they bring back memories? What ever message they may sing, I pray that they help share the good news, of Jesus and his birth in Bethlehem.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Bailey

HEALING SERVICE

Wednesday Evening Healing Service

Mark your calendars for Wednesday December 7th as we gather for our monthly healing service. This service will include music, reading from scripture, the laying on of hands for healing, and communion. Join us for what is turning out to be a new monthly tradition for First Lutheran.



GIVING THANKS



Thanksgiving Baskets

Your generosity is amazing! This year, you helped to donate 423 items to help provide from families in need throughout our community. Our generosity was partnered with the Elks who provided vouchers for eggs, milk, bread butter, and a turkey! We were further blessed by Thrivent who helped us fill out our baskets with another 110 items and other goodies. All of the 25 families we assisted were humbled and very gracious in receiving their "Thanksgiving Dinner." Thank you all for your kindness in living out our mission to "Care for All!"

GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!

October was a very exciting month, especially for our preschool children! The classes enjoyed a visit from one of the librarians from Tiffin-Seneca Public Library. They also had a visit from the Tiffin Fire Department. The students were able to observe a firefighter in full turn-out gear, practice crawling under "smoke" (a sheet held by firefighters) and climb up in the firetruck. The firemen were able to spend quite a while here with our children and teach them about fire safety!

The classes also learned about pumpkins and Fall leaves, as well as focusing on the letters and sounds of the alphabet while beginning to use the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum.

Another highlight of the month was welcoming a dwarf hamster as a class pet! The children will end the month with Halloween parties and class pictures!

Our Extended Care children have enjoyed different fall-related snacks, games, story books, art and

science activities. We have been unable to play outside during some of this inclement weather. Many of the students enjoy going up to the gym (Fellowship Hall), as they haven't been up there much at all the past few months!

We are excited to share that we have applied for and recently been approved for a Child Care Stabilization Grant in the amount of \$122,600.00. These funds are earmarked for Preschool use only.

Again, thanks to all of you who support our programs in any way. It is greatly appreciated!

It "takes a village to raise a child".

Thanks for being part of our village!

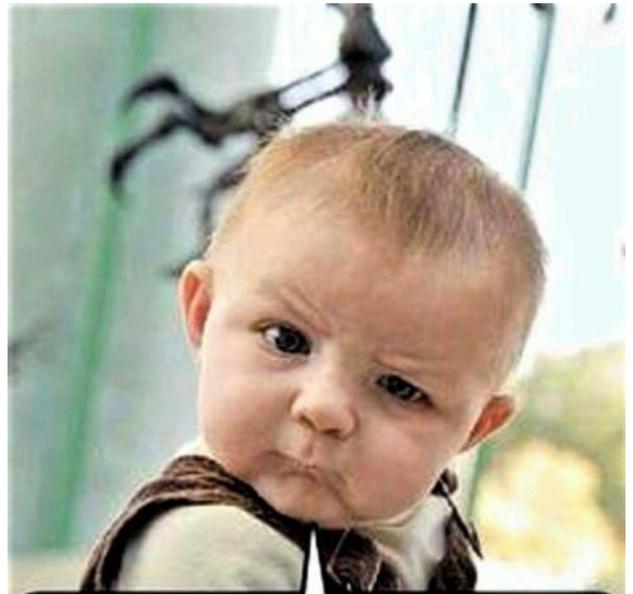
Jane Frederick,

Director of FLEC/Pre-school

HOLY HUMOR



"Two pair ain't gonna cut it, Joseph.
I've got Three Kings."



What do you mean Christmas is over?
Don't you know Christmas lasts until
the Epiphany?

YOUTH & CONFIRMATION

Youth Night

All High School and Middle School Youth are invited to Youth Night on Sunday, December 4th. This month we are moving our festivities to the Bailey's for a bit of holiday fun. Everyone is invited to bring a gift to exchange (\$10 or less). Together there will be plenty of fun with games, holiday snacks, and other goodies as we enjoy the evening together.

Confirmation Class in December

Our Confirmation Youth will be meeting for two weeks in December. Mark your calendars for December 4 and December 11 as we continue our studies of the Ten Commandments.

Classes will take place right after worship and last about 45 minutes or until the noon bells ring.

THANK YOU & GROUP INFORMATION

TRANSITIONS

Beverley Wott

December 8, 1939-
November-19,-2022

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Monday Evening Group Contact Carol Jarrett for information.

Tuesday Morning Group will meet in the Library at 10 AM on Tuesdays

Thursday Night Group Contact Diane Greene or Janet Zirger for meeting info.

THANK YOU

From Pat Wise:

Thank you so much for Pastor's visits, Jeanette and Sandy & Ron for visits, and for the cards. We loved them all, especially the prayers. After six weeks I'm home and would love visits at 119 Oakley Meadow Lane.



BOOKWORMS ANONYMOUS

This group will meet Monday afternoon, December 18th at 1:30 pm. If you would like to join them for their annual book exchange and the selection of 2023 titles.

Many Thanks to everyone who shared cards, goodies, well-wishes and words of thanks with me throughout October for Pastor's Appreciation Month.

Your kindness is a wonderful reminder of the blessing of ministry that we share.

With Thanks,
Pastor Bailey



While some volunteers packed Thanksgiving bags with donated items, others placed tables/chairs and set tables in preparation for Bountiful Feast.



PIECE CORP

The December gathering will be held on December 14th, beginning at 9am in Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited to join Piece Corp the second Tuesday of each month.



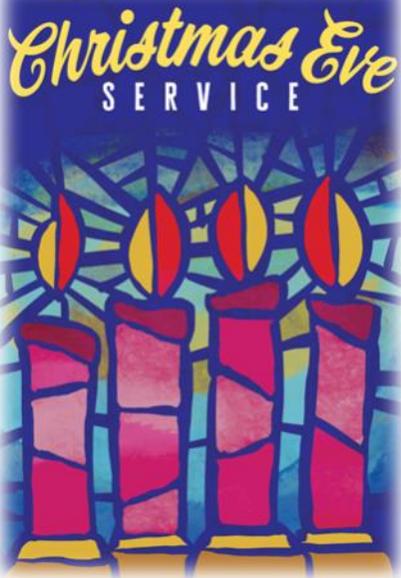
BIRTHDAYS



Celebrate the season with the Tuba Christmas Concert on December 4, 2022 at 4 pm. at First Lutheran.
This is a free, uplifting, fun concert that we are hosting again this year.
This is a **DO NOT MISS** event!

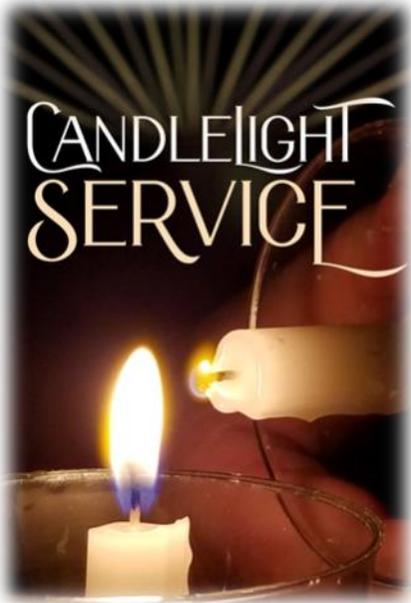


- 3 John Hoyda
- Frances Smith
- Jennifer Martinez
- 6 Amy Mills
- 7 Kim Kontak
- 8 Jeanette Ruess
- 10 Mark Eppley
- 11 Carol Bhagat
- Allison Meyer
- Shawn Vallery
- 12 Amanda Wildman
- 13 Gavan Reis-Kelly
- 15 Carter Groves
- 19 Beth Margraf
- 20 Jonathan Nominee
- 21 Andrew Porter
- 24 Nilam Bhagat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



A family-oriented service will be held at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve.
Family and friends are invited to attend.

A traditional Candlelight Service will take place at 11pm.
Family and friends are invited to attend.



WORSHIP INFORMATION

	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	DECEMBER 4	DECEMBER 11	DECEMBER 18	DECEMBER 24	DECEMBER 25
	2 ADVENT	3 ADVENT	4 ADVENT	CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY
LECTOR	LINDA ELLINGER	JOHN KOBELT	SHELLEY ROSS	7p SHELLEY ROSS 11p RICK GREENE	PASTOR PHILIP SCHERR
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LINDA ELLINGER	JOHN KOBELT	SHELLEY ROSS	SHELLEY ROSS RICK GREENE	PASTOR PHILIP SCHERR
HOSTS	JANET ZIRGER	NOMINEE FAMILY	SHARON LOSEY	7p JUDY KIMMEL BRIAN KIMMEL 11p NOMINEE FAMILY	NOMINEE FAMILY
SLIDE SHOW	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY
VIDEO CREW	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY

SNOW CREW

**November 19-Dec 16-John Kobelt &
 Ron Guisinger**
December 17-23-John Kobelt
December 24-30-Jim Ruess
December 31-Jan. 6 John Swope

Many THANKS for all you do!

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, October 19th, 2022

Present: Pastor Bailey, Jonathan Nominee, Deb Nominee, Beth Margraf, Chet Margraf, Diane Greene, Bonnie Oberlander, Janet Zirger, and Jane Fruth.
Absent: Mike Porter (Currently Stationed in Texas).

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President Beth Margraf.

Pastor then started the meeting with a bible study on Easter and a prayer.

Approve Agenda: Beth added two new business additions to the printed agenda: Pastor benefits and room rental. Deb motioned to accept the amended agenda and Diane seconded. The motion passed.

Approve September Minutes: Jonathan made a motion to accept the minutes and Diane seconded. The motion passed.

Approve September Financial Report: Jane explained the monthly financial report to council. She transferred \$10,000 from investments to cover expenses for the month. A motion to accept the report was made by Deb and Bonnie seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business:

□ Updated church constitution.
o Council decided to postpone this discussion to November meeting. o Council has chapters thirteen through nineteen of the constitution left to cover this year. Pastor distributed the remainder of the proposed constitution to council by email.

□ Building heating and cooling.

o Bishops worked on the heat system this month and as of yesterday (10/18), heat appears to be working again in the nave after being down for about a week.
o Pastor distributed a couple of diagrams on heating and cooling for the building with different options for new office locations going forward.

New Business:

□ Andy Stephey with U.I.S. Insurance & Investments presented a new insurance plan for the church. Andy took over First Lutheran's account for John Kobelt a couple of years ago.
o Cincinnati Financial (our current provider) used to offer reasonable church insurance packages in the past, but they have now increased pricing by double digits.
o Andy got a quote for the church from Utica National Insurance which was about \$4,000 cheaper than the 2022-2023 quote from Cincinnati.
o Jane asked if an increased deductible payment on the church's plan would lower the premium, to which Andy suggested a \$1,000 deductible but no larger than a

FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 2022

<u>Income</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Church	\$9,964	\$124,970
Pre-School	<u>\$10,282</u>	<u>\$126,931</u>
	\$20,246	\$251,901
	<u>Expenses</u>	
Church	\$17,955	\$229,898
Pre-School	<u>\$10,378</u>	<u>\$106,262</u>
	\$28,333	\$336,261
<u>Summary:</u>		
Income	(\$8,087)	(\$64,114)

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



\$2,500 for the year, if that is a consideration for council.

o If a renter would develop in the future for church facilities throughout the week, they would need their own policy and a small addition on the church's policy would need to be adjusted.

o A motion to accept the proposal from Andy as given to council for insurance in 2023 was made by Deb and seconded by Janet. The motion was approved.

o As an additional part of council discussion, Jane asked if there was an insurance pool or anything from the Synod which could possibly decrease insurance rates, the answer council found was that no-one had heard of such a thing.

Pastor Insurance Benefits

o This month was the renewal period for pastor health and insurance benefits. It is required by ELCA to use Portico as the provider. As of last year, pastor was

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enrolled in the silver plus category. He was previously enrolled in the gold health insurance plan. For 2023, the increase in premiums will cost about \$1,700 per year. The plan will automatically continue, and no council action is required.

Possible Room Rental

An individual has approached Pastor about possibly using two office spaces in the future. As of now, details of the business are still developing and out of confidentiality no more details are known as of this moment.

o If something were to develop council would like to find the current price of rental space in the Tiffin area.

Pastor's Report:

A written report to council members was sent (attached to this report). Highlights from the report as discussed at the meeting include. □ In the past snow removal was handled by Kelly Cook. Going forward, we need to find someone to handle snow removal for us. □

Sunday, November 20th there is discussion of a joint evening service with a couple other congregations for Thanksgiving. This is the day of the Bountiful Feast and there will be a traditional 10am morning service. Council agreed to commit to the idea for the event if it was to be held at First Lutheran.

□ The Tiffin fire department did not come back to re-check the building yet.

□ Pastor celebrated his ordination with the Northwest Synod's Banquet on September 22. There were over 1,700 years of collective ministry at the event.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Position not currently filled.

Evangelism: Position not currently filled.

Finance (Jane Fruth): Jane suggested that there needs to be some sort of church fundraising event going forward, or that council will need to look into salary cuts because we are behind expenses by about \$100k for the year. it was suggested that Bountiful Feast could be a donation event, envelopes should be used at Christmas for special donations, and council should send individual letters out to all church members before Thanksgiving to ask for help with church finances. Council would like to put together an information letter for all members and meet after church on the 30th of October. Jane will have a rough draft sent to council by the 26th for everyone to review before the meeting.

Property (Filled-In by Pastor): Rick has been doing a great job as new janitor.

Worship and Music (Janet): There was a second healing service this month, changes were made from the first one and it was well welcomed by those in attendance. Decorations will be going up on the 21st

for Advent and Thanksgiving décor will be removed.

Parish Education (Diane Greene): There was a parish education meeting last month, but there have been no children on Sundays. Diane prepares a lesson every week, but there are no children at the church in Sunday school age.

Childhood Ministries (Bonnie Oberlander): Notes from the last childhood ministries meeting are as follows:

The preschool was approved for a grant including \$50,000 for salaries and \$1,100 for 59 students which can be used for building improvements.

There was also a small increase in student attendance last month to increase overall preschool numbers. Brittany and Jane were part of outreach for the preschool at a Tiffin City reading event. School pictures and Halloween parties are upcoming.

Social Ministry (Deb Nominee): Topics Deb presented to council included:

The 20th of November is the bountiful feast. The event will be dine-ins and to go meals. They are thinking 75 meals will be plenty.

Trunk or Treat will be held again on Sunday this year at 3-5pm on October 30th.

Youth Report (Jonathan Nominee): Confirmation classes have resumed on Sundays from 11am to noon. There have been 4 students. There were 5 youth at the last youth night, and November 6th will be the next youth night event including bible study, games, icebreakers, etc.

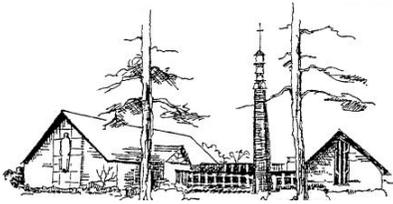
Adjournment: The next meeting of council will be October 30th at 11:15am for special business with the regular meeting on Wednesday, November 16th, at 6:30pm.

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

Submitted: by *Chet Margraf*,
Council Secretary



				THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Office Open	2 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	3 10:00a Celebration of life for Bev Wott 4:00p Tuba Christmas
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY			
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00a Worship 11:00a Confirmation Class 6:00p Youth Night at the Bailey's	5 Office Closed 3:45p Bell Choir	6 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study	7 Office Open 6:30p Healing Service	8 Office Open	9 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	10 4:00p Lesson's & Carols at Old Trinity
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00a Worship 11:00a Confirmation Class	12 Office Closed 3:45p Bell Choir	13 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study	14 Office Open 9:00a Piece Corp 4:00p Pre-School Board 6:30p Council	15 Office Open 1:00p West Ohio Food Bank	16 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00a Worship	19 Office Closed 1:30p Book worms 3:45p Bell Choir	20 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study ?? Pre-School Program	21 Office Open  FIRST DAY OF WINTER	22 Office Open	23 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	24 Christmas Eve 7:00p Family Service 11:00p Traditional Service 
25 Christmas 10:00a Worship  Christmas Day Service	26 Office Closed	27 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study	28 Office Open	29 Office Open	30 Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve
PASTOR ON VACATION						



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.

Tiffin, OH 44883

DECEMBER 2022

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First Lutheran Church

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

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

The Staff of First Lutheran

PASTOR	Clayton J. Bailey	PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR	Jane Frederick (419) 447-1145
SECRETARY	Ruth Scott	LEAD TEACHER	Britany DelTurco
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Curtis L. King	JANITOR	Rick Sholl

Our Church Council and Our Ministry Team Chairs

PRESIDENT	Beth Margraf	WORSHIP & MUSIC	Janet Zirger
VICE PRESIDENT	Mike Porter	PARISH ED	Diane Greene
SECRETARY	Chet Margraf	EVANGELISM	(vacant)
TREASURER	Jane Fruth	PROPERTY	(vacant)
CHILDHOOD MINISTRY	Bonnie Oberlander	SOCIAL MINISTRY	Deb Nominee
YOUTH REP	Jonathan Nominee		