



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

JANUARY 2023 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

Happy New Year!

As we enter another year we may wonder what does 2023 have in store for us? What will the year look like? What blessings lie ahead? What unforeseen challenges lurk in the future? As much as I might like to play with the Magic Eight Ball that Wendy received as a gift during the Youth Christmas Party, I am pretty sure if we asked the questions about 2023, we would likely get an answer like "ask again later" or "Better not tell you." While the future is still unwritten, we can and do have some say and how things play out. Although, in order for that to happen, I believe we have to look back before we look forward.

Looking back, a letter was sent by Council to the congregation in November that addressed some of our financial concern for 2022 and for the years ahead. While I was teaching Confirmation class when the letter was drafted, an

interesting word was chosen regarding our current spending level. That word, unsustainable. That word has left me pondering what does "sustainable" ministry look like?

Let's face the hard truth, the church is changing. It's not just First Lutheran that is challenged, as most congregations are facing some sort of challenge as we journey through what has been entitled by scholars "the rise of the none's." Meaning the growing number of unpracticing and non believing people in our society. While I, and many others had hoped that Covid would bring about a faith resurgence, instead it seemed to only quicken the pace of the "rise of the none's" even faster. While I firmly believe that God is present in our midst and still has a relevant message of hope, grace, and forgiveness for the world. We have work to do in this New

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, January 4
6:30 p.m.

PIECE CORP

Wednesday, January 11
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 18
6:30 p.m.

WEST OHIO FOOD BANK

Thursday, January 26
Volunteers report by 12:30
Distribution begins at 1:00

Year.

That being the case, it is my intention to ponder and reflect on what sustainable ministry might look like as we share, read, and ponder our monthly newsletter together. So we'll start with January by recalling that sustainable ministry includes all of us. Ministry is not the act of the pastor alone, nor is it the work of church council. Ministry is about what we do together. Martin Luther called this "Priesthood of all believers." It means we all have a share in the gospel proclaimed

and the kingdom work we do.

As we set about 2023 and ponder what sustainable ministry looks like it . . . it looks like all of us working together. It takes many hands to make things happen here at First. From readers, hosts, camera operators, cantors, janitors, pre-school teachers, bell ringers, choir singers, prayer chain prayers, and on and on the list could go. I'd like you to ask yourself how am I participating? How am I serving as a priest in the kingdom of God? As you ask

yourself, perhaps it's time to take on a New Year's resolution and challenge yourself to try and be present in one new fashion of what we do together. In doing so, we begin to move towards sustainability. In doing so, we begin to make this place a bit more worthy of being called the kingdom of God.

God's Blessings and Happy New Year!

Pastor Bailey

HEALING SERVICE

Wednesday Evening Healing Service

Mark your calendars for Wednesday January 4th 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.



Weather Reminder

If we are on a LEVEL 3, stay home! The church will be locked and events will be cancelled. If we are on Level 2, keep tuned for updates via email, knowing that events may be cancelled. Our greatest concern is your safety. **When in doubt, don't go out!**



GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!

Our Preschool classes have been very busy getting ready for Christmas. The classes have been practicing for their Christmas Program, which was held Tuesday, December 20 in the sanctuary. Refreshments followed in the Fellowship Hall. The children have also been focusing on various kindergarten readiness skills, as Parent Conferences were held December 21 and 22. Each class also had a Polar Express/Pajama Party on their final day of class before Christmas Break.

Our Extended Care children have enjoyed various Christmas-related art activities, games, songs and snacks. The children still enjoy playing outdoors, as the weather allows. The school-age children (and most of the staff) are currently counting down the number of school days left until Christmas Break.

of you that support our programs in any way. The support I receive from our church staff, the Childhood Ministries Board, the Preschool/Extended Care Staff and families and the First Lutheran Church family makes it possible to continue our mission of serving young children and their families in the Tiffin area.

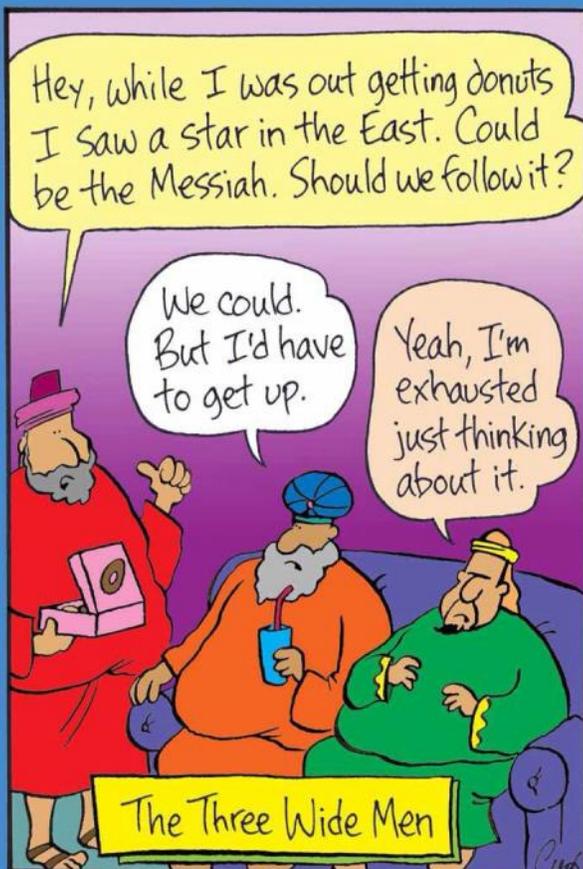
We are all looking forward to an extended Christmas Break. Our Preschool classes are on break from December 21 to January 4, 2023. Our Extended Care will be on break from December 22 to January 2, 2023. We all look forward to spending time with family and friends.

Jane Frederick,

Director of FLEC/Pre-School

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank all

HOLY HUMOR



inheritthemirth.com ©2010 Cuyler Black

This is a reminder to NOT be like the Wide Men!

First Lutheran is bigger than one person and it needs everyone to get off the couch and pitch in to make this a place where mountains can be moved!
From Office Ruth's soapbox.
XO



©2008 Cuyler Black inheritthemirth.com

THANK YOU & GROUP INFORMATION

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Monday Evening Group Contact Carol Jarrett for information.

Tuesday Morning Group STAY TUNED for changes coming soon! **EVERYONE interested will be welcome Tuesdays at 10** when Pastor Bailey will lead a class on the Parables of Jesus. Gatherings will include a modern retelling of the parable and conversation. The beginning date will be announced mid-January.

Thursday Night Group

Contact Diane Greene or Janet Zirger for meeting info. Meetings will be weather and member-availability-dependent during the winter months.

TRANSITIONS

Cheryl Staib-Lewis

Transferred membership to New Beginnings.

THANK YOU

From the Bailey's...

Thank you to everyone who shared Christmas cards, well-wishes, treats and other goodies with our family over the holiday.

BOOKWORMS ANONYMOUS

This group will meet Monday afternoon, January 16th at 1:30 pm. If you would like to join them. Their reading selections for 2023 are as follows:

January –*A Light in the Window*, by Jan Karon

February –*The Talented Mr. Varg*, by Alexander McCall Smith

March –*Seeking Allah Finding Jesus*, by Nabeel Quershi

April –*The Pioneers*, by David McCullough

May –*No Dogs in Heaven: Scenes from Life*, by Robert T. Sharp

June –*Run, Rose, Run*, by Dolly Parton & James Patterson

July –*Remarkable Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt

August –*Ordinary Grace*, by William Kent Krueger

September –*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson

October –*Amending at the Edge*, by Jane Kirkpatrick

November –*TBA*

December –Book Exchange and selection of 2024 books

PIECE CORP

The January gathering will be held on January 11th, beginning at 9am in Fellowship Hall.

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

YOUTH NIGHT

Youth Night traditionally takes place on the first Sunday of the month. Being New Year's Day, we will not have Youth Night in January. We look forward to other festivities in February.

CONFIRMATION

Our confirmation Youth will resume meeting on January 15th as we begin to reflect upon some of our favorite Bible stories and learn more about God's good news as told through scripture.

BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 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



The Annual Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday January 29, 2023. All are encouraged to attend.

SERVANT LEADER
 QUILTING SINGING SERVING OTHERS
 TRANSPORTATION ALTAR GUILD YES TEAMWORK
THANK YOU READER GIVE
 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ACOLYTE
VOLUNTEER
 YOU USHERING MENTORING
 GREETING
 WORKING TOGETHER BEING AVAILABLE
 THE HEART OF EVERY CHURCH EVERY WHERE
ANSWERING THE CALL
 GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS
STEPPING UP
 ASSEMBLING SCHOOL KITS
DISCIPLESHIP
FOOD PANTRY
 THANK YOU FOR SAYING YES

If you have opinions about the church or special talents, we need your help! We are in need of people to fill open positions on Church Council, in addition to help in many areas that allow our church to continue to serve the congregation well. Many positions require behind-the-scenes work, like that of Altar Guild, Pew Crew or Prayer Chain. Other jobs are more visible, such as being a Lector, Host or Council member. You don't have to be perfect...contributing in some way is what counts!

WORSHIP INFORMATION

To volunteer, contact Melissa Chester at: melissac@qt2.com	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
	JANUARY 1	JANUARY 8	JANUARY 15	JANUARY 22	JANUARY 29
	1 Christmas	Baptism of Our lord	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
LECTOR	PASTOR PHILIP SCHERR	JOHN KOBELT		MELISSA CHESTER	BETH MARGRAF
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	PASTOR PHILIP SCHERR	JOHN KOBELT		MELISSA CHESTER	BETH MARGRAF
HOSTS		JUDY KIMMEL	JANET ZIRGER		
SLIDE SHOW	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY
VIDEO CREW	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY
JANUARY ALTAR GUILD	Donna Brueggemeier, Sharon Losey, Deb Hohman	Donna Brueggemeier, Sharon Losey, Deb Hohman	Donna Brueggemei- er, Sharon Losey, Deb Hohman	Donna Brueggemei- er, Sharon Losey, Deb Hohman	Donna Brueggemei- er, Sharon Losey, Deb Hohman

SNOW CREW

December 31–Jan. 6 John Swope
January 7-13 -Bob Fruth
January 14-20 -Shawn Vallery
January 21-27 –Jim Ruess
January 28-February 3 -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, November 16th, 2022

Present: Pastor Bailey, Jonathan Nominee, Deb Nominee, Beth Margraf, Chet Margraf, Diane Greene, Bonnie Oberlander, and Jane Fruth.

Absent: Janet Zirger and Mike Porter.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President Beth Margraf. Pastor started the meeting with discussion on thankfulness within the church and a prayer.

Approve Agenda: Beth motioned to add the topics of advertising and nominating committee to new business in the printed agenda. Deb motioned to accept the amended agenda and Diane seconded. The motion passed.

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

Approve October Financial Report: Jane explained the monthly financial report to council. Currently, giving for 2022 is behind last year by about \$25,000. She is anticipating transferring at least another \$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

Council decided to postpone farther discussion of Chapter 12.05.01, which was the ending point of the last constitution discussion, to next meeting and to begin review of chapter 13 of the proposed constitution.

There was a great discussion involving the ministry teams of chapter 13 in the constitution and agreement to revisit the topic at next council meeting.

Chapter 14 of the constitution was approved unanimously.

Building Heating and Cooling

Last month, pastor distributed a building heating and cooling breakdown to council for possible office relocations. Beth motioned to table this discussion until a budget is set for 2023.

Snow Removal for Winter (Added to Agenda)

FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 2022

<u>Income</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Church	\$26,426	\$161,360
Pre-School	<u>\$9,778</u>	<u>\$146,991</u>
	\$36,204	\$308,351
	<u>Expenses</u>	
Church	\$18,684	\$248,582
Pre-School	<u>\$9,517</u>	<u>\$115,889</u>
	\$28,201	\$364,462
<u>Summary:</u>		
Income	(\$8,003)	(\$56,111)

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



Deb mentioned to council the need for someone to perform snow removal with winter being very close. Jane found the contact for Hawk Tree Services, who performed snow removal for the church last year.

New Business:

Janitor Review

Rick Scholl, church janitor, reached out to Beth about the need for a review on his position. All council comments on his job performance were positive and it was decided that there is not a need for a review at this time. He is doing a great job. It was mentioned in the church's hiring ad for janitor this summer of a possible raise for the position after six months. However, at this time, council does not want to commit to giving a raise for the position due to the financial position of the church. Council and the preschool would like to express their appreciation for him with a gift before the holidays.

(Continued on page 8)

Advertising and Outreach

The church received a flyer about advertising on the radio with 96.7 WBVI for the holidays. Beth is going to discuss more details with 96.7 for the \$150 advertising Classic Christmas Show. If Beth believes it is a good idea, she has council permission to pursue the advertising position. In the only response to the letter recently sent to the congregation from council on church finances, it was suggested that council should talk with local funeral homes to rent out space for more funeral dinners.

There will be a joint Thanksgiving service with other local congregations held at First Lutheran on the 20th of this month. It will be broadcast as normal on the radio.

Room Request

December 18th Victor has requested the sanctuary for a recital. Council approved the request.

Going forward, council would like to pursue the idea of renting space as much as possible.

Nominating Committee

Currently, according to our constitution Anna Wildman, Shelly Ross, and Kim Ames, if they are able, will make up the 2023 nominating committee.

Council will need to replace the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Social Ministry, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Property.

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.

Feedback on the healing services have been very positive.

There are currently four kids in confirmation class.

There is great excitement for this upcoming Sunday with Thanksgiving celebrations.

Pastor and Wendy were able to go to Cincinnati this weekend, and they are excited that John will be able to complete his teaching degree in three years.

For Halloween, candy and donuts were distributed by the church to the local community.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Position not currently filled.

Evangelism: Position not currently filled.

Property: Position not currently filled.

Finance (Jane Fruth): Jane distributed a rough draft of a proposed 2023 budget to council to review before going into more discussion going forward.

Worship and Music (Janet & Bonnie): On behalf of Janet, Bonnie distributed a written report to council (attached).

Highlights from the report include:

There was a healing service this month and it has been a good experience for those involved.

Decorations will be going up on the 21st for Advent and Thanksgiving décor will be removed.

Survey results for communion distribution preference were received, and the results were split evenly as to traditional versus Covid style communion.

There will be two services on Christmas Eve. One service at 7pm and another at 11pm.

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. She will continue preparation until January at which point the program will be re-evaluated. There will be no December committee meeting.

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

There was an increase of one preschool student this month.

This was the first month that Bonnie can remember where the preschool lost money.

The preschool grant money should arrive any day, and the committee is currently working on a budget for spending the money within the required stipulations.

Tentatively, they are looking to use the money for flooring, security, new doors, and wages.

Lowes graciously donated pallets of mulch & sand, two picnic benches, and three tables to the pre-school for the outdoor play area.

All childhood services will be closed the 23rd to 25th of November for Thanksgiving.

The preschool will be out of class Dec. 23 to Jan. 4 for Christmas break. Extended care for this time is not determined.

Social Ministry (Deb Nominee): This Sunday, the 20th of November is the bountiful feast. The event will be dine-ins and to go meals. They are planning for seventy-five people with fifty people signed up to eat as of today (Nov. 16th).

Youth Report (Jonathan Nominee): Confirmation classes are currently occurring on Sundays from 11am to noon. There have been 4 students. There will be at least two youth helping at the Bountiful Feast on Sunday.

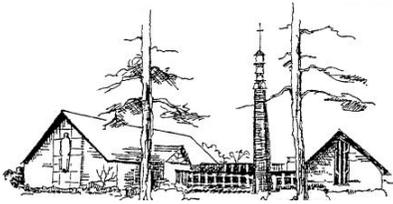
Adjournment: The next meeting of council will be December 14th at 6:30pm. The annual meeting of the congregation will be January 29th with the congregational report due by January 15th.

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

Submitted: By Secretary, *Chet Margraf*

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00a Worship	2		6:30p Healing Service	5 Office Open	6 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	7
8 10:00a Worship	9 Office Closed 3:45pBell Choir	10 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study	11 Office Open	12 Office Open	13 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	14
15 10:00a Worship 11:00a Confirmation Class	16 Office Closed 1:30pBook worms 3:45p Bell Choir	17 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study	18 Office Open 9:00a Piece Corp 4:00p Pre-School Board 6:30p Council	19 Office Open	20 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	21
22 10:00a Worship	23 Office Closed 3:45pBell Choir	24 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study	25 Office Open	26 Office Open 1:00p West Ohio Food Bank	27 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	28
29 10:00a Worship Annual Meeting after worship	30 Office Closed 3:45pBell Choir	31 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study				



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.

Tiffin, OH 44883

JANUARY 2023

Vol. 40, 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: 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

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		