



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

APRIL 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

As we welcome the month of April, we do so by making our journey through Holy Week!

Of all of the rich tradition and various worship services held throughout Holy Week, our Palm Sunday service is by far my favorite. Truth be told, it's a liturgy that Mr. King and I have crafted over the years and it is quite a bit different from what you might find in other Lutheran congregations on Palm Sunday.

More recently, Palm Sunday has become Passion Sunday. In many congregations, you'll begin with a short palm procession and then share the reading of the Passion which becomes the primary focus for the day. Not that this is a bad thing, however, it does minimize the opportunity to celebrate a day worth celebrating. For that reason, we celebrate Palm Sunday differently. We make it more about the glory and then some about the hardship.

If you join us for worship on April 2 (and I hope you do) we'll begin our service in the Fellowship Hall with a procession of palms. We sing our hosannas and praise as we celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. There will be a short message of praise and thanksgiving. We will gather

around the table of communion. All in a mind set of praise. This is what Palm Sunday should be about. Then, after the meal, we transition to pondering the Passion. We will hear the story of the betray, trial, and cross. Then we close our out our service with a brief reflection on the hardships Jesus faced, a song, and sending as we then begin our walk toward Good Friday and the Cross.

What I love about our Palm Sunday Service is that it allows us the opportunity to celebrate. In my mind, Jesus is always worth celebrating. At the same time it allows us the opportunity to grieve and mourn, which of course is fitting for the journey through Holy Week. Then, let us not be dismayed, for our mourning turns to dancing and further celebration as we look forward to celebrating the Resurrection April 9th as we gather for worship on Easter Sunday!

Indeed, all of the blessings and worship services that Holy Week brings are worth celebrating. At the same time, they mirror what we are journeying through as a congregation. Hardships, woes, and of course celebration!

(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.

LENTEN WORSHIP

April 6 & 7 at 6:30 p.m.

PIECE CORP

Wednesday, April 12
9:00 a.m.

WEST OHIO FOOD BANK

Thursday, April 27
Volunteers report by 12:30
Distribution begins at 1:00

(Continued from page 1)

I know that things may not be easy, expected, or anticipated as we journey through 2023. Yet, as our Mission Statement reminds us, "God is among us!" Let us never forget that. Also, let us never forget that in faith death does not have the final say.

Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter are a journey of death and new life. We as a congregation are on a similar journey! There is still life to be found. There are still things to celebrate. Please, be mindful of that, and don't forget that.

In the month ahead, just as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ, we will begin our new life journey. I would invite you to a series of conversations on What Happens Next? This is our opportunity to reflect on the challenges and dream of the future. This will be

our opportunity to share our woes and craft our dreams. In our conversations and rethinking tomorrow there are no wrong answers, and the only bad ideas are the ones that remain unspoken.

So an open invitation, actually two of them, 1) join Jesus as we journey through Holy Week. Walk in the way of the cross, grave, and empty tomb. 2) join me and many of your fellow congregational members as we gather for conversation, prayer, and reflection over where we've been, where we need to go, and how we might get there as we ponder What Happens Next?

Then, in both journeys, let us be able to celebrate the new life that comes out of pains of hardship and death.

God's Blessings!

Patsy Bailey

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Join us for worship Throughout Holy Week as hear more about God's amazing gift of grace as experienced through several key individuals in scripture.

Palm Sunday
April 2 — 10:00 a.m.
Peter

Maundy Thursday
April 6 — 6:30 p.m.
John

Good Friday
April 7 — 6:30 p.m.
The Penitent Thief

Easter Sunday
April 9 — 10:00 a.m.
Mary Magdalene



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT ?

◀ Looking back, to look ahead! ▶

Thursday — April 13
Breakfast Gathering
8:30 a.m.

Monday — April 17
Lunch Gathering
Noon

Wednesday — April 19
Evening Gathering
7:30 p.m.

Saturday — April 22
Breakfast Gathering
9:00 a.m.

Tuesday — April 25
Dinner Gathering
6:30 p.m.

Sunday — April 30
Lunch Gathering
11:30 a.m.

Monday — May 1
Evening Gathering
7:30 p.m.

Thursday — May 4
Dinner Gathering
6:00 p.m.

Each gathering should last 1 and a 1/2 hours and be no longer than 2 hours in length. Menus and sign up sheets will be posted on the Dietz Room wall. You are encouraged to sign up with others outside of your family and friends in groups of 6 to 12 individuals. Keep in mind that blended groups help promote good conversation.

AMAZING
grace

GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!

The staff and children have all been very busy with a variety of activities during the month of March.

Our Preschool classes have enjoyed various Dr. Seuss art projects in celebration of his birthday. One of their favorites was using their handprints to make "Thing 1" and "Thing 2". The classes also read "Green Eggs and Ham" and made a paper plate version and were also able to try real green eggs and ham. (Some of the children loved it and wanted seconds, while a few refused to even try it!) The children also discussed Spring and St. Patrick's Day, making shamrocks and leprechaun hats and enjoying a St. Patrick's Day party. We enjoyed a visit from our traveling librarian, Ms. Angie from Tiffin-Seneca Public Library. She is very entertaining with her stories, fingerplays and songs. It is a real treat when she brings her ukulele and sings. The children always enjoy free play in the gym or outside, weather permitting.

Our Extended Care children have been able to play outdoors more often, as weather allows. The older School Age children really look forward to being in the play yard after school. Their energy after school continues to amaze me, as they run around the play yard. The preschoolers here during the day have also been enjoying spring-related activities, stories, and snacks, as well as more outdoor play.

Our staff is preparing for Tiffin City Schools Spring Break the first week of April. Our preschool classes will not be in session during this time, but we will have 12 to 15 children ages 3 through Fifth grade here all day. We will be using the preschool room upstairs, as we will be getting our new floor installed in the lower level of the church. This will be somewhat crazy, but well worth it!

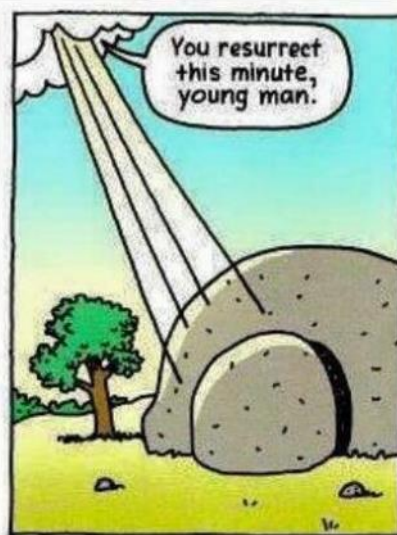
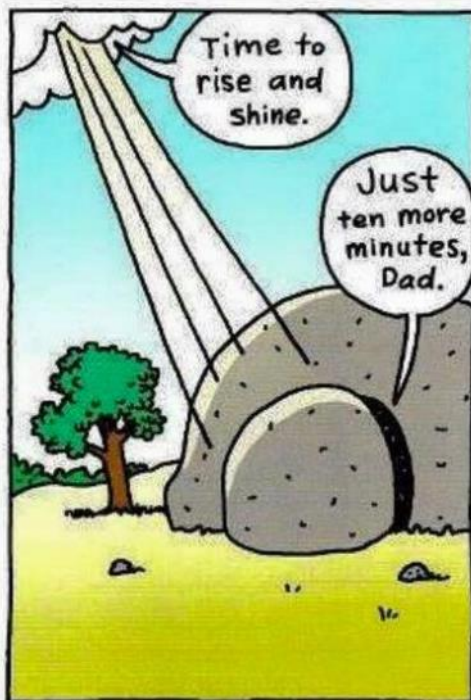
We are still searching for a preschool teacher for the fall. If you know of someone who may be interested, please have them contact me. Also, thanks to all of you who support our programs in any way! Prayers are always welcome and appreciated!

Jane Frederick,

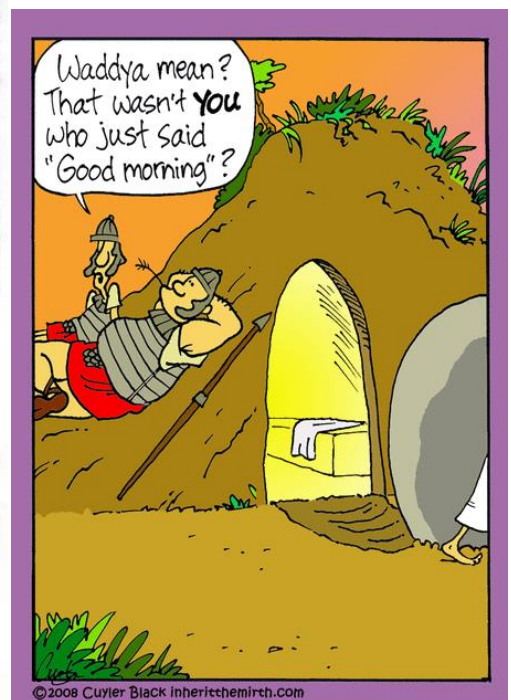
Director FLEC/Extended Care



HOLY HUMOR



HAPPY EASTER



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Monday Evening Group Contact Carol Jarrett for information.

Tuesday Morning Group The Tuesday Morning Bible Study begins at 10:30 a.m. and should be a refreshing opportunity to learn and grow together. This is a group that welcomes **everyone**, not just ladies!

Thursday Night Group

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

BOOKWORMS ANONYMOUS

This group will meet Monday afternoon, March 20th at 1:30 pm, if you would like to join them. Their reading selections for 2023 are as follows:

April - *The Pioneers*
by David McCullough

PIECE CORP

The April gathering will be held on April 12th, beginning at 9am in Fellowship Hall.

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



YOUTH NEWS!

Confirmation Classes:

Our Confirmation Youth are reminded that classes will meet in the Youth Room following worship and explore some of our favorite Jesus stories as we learn more about the New Testament.

Don't forget to bring your Bible as we learn and grow together.

Youth Night:

LILY DEDICATIONS

There is still time if you would like to dedicate a lily or spring flower for display at Easter. Purple envelopes for your dedications and donations can be found near all of the entrances or in the church Office.

The absolute deadline for placing dedications to be included in print will be Wednesday, April 5th.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Haley Welter
- 3 Ron Clark
Austin Bell
- 4 Natalie Wertz
- 5 Becca Kobelt
Emily Stacy
- 6 Jay Eckelberry
- 9 Ann Koning
- 11 Jerry Wheatley
- 12 Paul Crerar
- 13 Spencer Pauly
- 15 Erin Bhagat
Claire Hall
- 16 Denise Stephens
- 17 Cindy Weickert
Morgan Wise
- 20 Nancy Owens
- 21 Megan Moneer
- 22 Rick Nominee
Zachary Ross
- 23 Marissa Stephens
- 24 Mikaelynnn Sallee
- 25 Emma Blott
- 27 Lydia Vallery
- 28 Angie Bell
Betty Rush
- 30 Amy Swope
Nathan Wise



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.

Congregational Council Meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Present: Pastor Bailey, Bonnie Oberlander, Jonathan Nominee, Deb Nominee, Diane Greene

Absent: Jane Fruth, Janet Zirger

About the Meeting: No meeting could be called to order for several factors. Pastor discussed some of the concerns, determined by the constitution as to why a meeting could not be called. All present understood the concern and the need to take further action in-order to move forward.

Concerns Stated:

Council size: Constitutionally, Council is to be made up of 6—8 individuals, as well as 4 officers and the pastor. (C12:01) A youth representative can be an additional member on council. (C12.02) Those currently elected include 1 member of exec, 4 members, and a youth representative. Per the constitution we would need 5 additional members to be within its defined limits.

Executive Committee: The executive committee is to be elected by the congregation, and the only individual elected was our treasurer. (C11.02) While some may assume that the pastor can step into this leadership role, this is an incorrect assumption, as the constitution clearly defines the roles of the pastor and leading as 'president' is not one of them. Without an elected executive officer, there is no one to call and chair either a council or congregational meeting.

Definition of a Quorum: A quorum is defined as a majority of the members of council. Not member elected, but members defined by the constitution. (C12.12)

Next Steps:

Pastor Bailey shared with those present the many conversations that have been had with the Synod Office and the Conference Dean. In the short term it is recommended that we approach the congregation and seek individuals who would be willing to serve on council in order to fill the seats as established by the constitution. Long term, the

FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH ENDING

FEBRUARY 2023

<u>Income</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Church	\$7,770	\$25,784
Pre-School	<u>\$8,981</u>	<u>\$18,131</u>
	\$16,681	\$43,915
<u>Expenses</u>		
Church	\$16,337	\$34,947
Pre-School	<u>\$9,087</u>	<u>\$16,826</u>
	\$25,424	\$51,773
<u>Summary:</u>		
Income	(\$8,743)	(\$7,858)

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



constitution needs to be revised to better represent the current size and needs of the congregation. It was discussed and then decided that a "Congregational Chat" would be held after worship on Sunday February 26th.

Would you be willing to serve on our leadership team?

We are seeking creative minds and willing spirits to help guide us through this transition.

WORSHIP INFORMATION


SUNDAY	READER	HOSTS	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	VOICES FOR LENT	ACOLYTES
4-2 PALM SUNDAY	Gracie Chester	Mills Family	Melissa Chester	Garrett Chester	Jace/Kael Margraf McClain Meyer
4-6 MAUNDY THURSDAY	No reader needed	Janet Zirger	John Kobelt	Rick Greene	
4-7 GOOD FRIDAY	No reader needed	Nominee Family	Jonathan Nominee	Victor Welsch	
4-9 EASTER SUNDAY	Melissa Chester	Sharon Losey Judy Kimmel	Melissa Chester	Gracie Chester	Jack/Andrew Fay Michael/Zachary Ross Garrett Chester
4-16 SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER	Beth Margraf	Nominee Family	John Kobelt	—	Kael/Chet Margraf
4-23 THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER	Philip Scherr	Nominee Family	Philip Scherr	—	
4-30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER	Shelley Ross	Janet Zirger	Jonathan Nominee	—	Zachary Ross Kael Margraf
ALTAR GUILD	Mike & Bonnie Oberlander				

MOWING CREW





APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10:00a Palm Sunday Setup
2 PALM SUNDAY 10:00a Worship 11:00a "Let's Chat" Congregational Conversation	3	4 <i>Office Open</i>	5 <i>Office Open</i>	6 <i>Office Open</i> 6:30p Maundy Service	7 <i>Office Closed</i> 12:00p Community Good Friday 6:30p Good Friday Service	8 10:00a Easter Setup
9 EASTER 10:00a Worship  EASTER SUNDAY	10	11 <i>Office Open</i>	12 <i>Office Open</i> 9:00a Piece Corp 4:00p Pre-School Board	13 <i>Office Open</i> 8:30a What Happens Next	14 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	15
16 Second Sunday of Easter 10:00a Worship 11:15a Confirmation Class	17 12:00p What Happens Next 1:30p Book worms	18 <i>Office Open</i> 10:30a Bible Study	19 <i>Office Open</i> 7:30p What Happens Next	20 <i>Office Open</i>	21 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	22 9:00a What Happens Next
23 Third Sunday of Easter 10:00a Worship 11:15a Confirmation Class	24	25 <i>Office Open</i> 10:30a Bible Study 6:30p What Happens Next	26 <i>Office Open</i>	27 <i>Office Open</i> 1:00p West Ohio Food Bank	28 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	29
30 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:00a Worship 11:30a What Happens Next?						



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.

Tiffin, OH 44883

APRIL 2023

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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	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Curtis L. King	JANITOR	Rick Sholl

Our Church Council and Our Ministry Team Chairs

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