



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

FEBRUARY 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 I sit down to write my February newsletter article, I wish I knew if you are getting this before or after reading our Annual Reports. At the same time I wish I knew if this was hitting your mailbox before or after the Annual Meeting. Either way you are going to soon realize, or you've already come to realize that we have a huge challenge before us as we move further into 2023. My friends, I won't paint a bleak picture, instead the honest truth reveals that the proposed budget shows us operating with a \$128,000 deficit for the year. What more is there to say then: WOW! How do we overcome that?

First, let me remind you of our Mission Statement: "God is among us!" Over the past few years, we have reflected on each of the various phrases that follow our bold introductory statement. These phrases remind us that we are called to ministry in its many and various forms. This year we reach our final

statement: "We are called to . . . forgive, reconcile, and trust God for all that we need." First and foremost, let's start there, especially as we stand at a cross roads of wondering where and how we even begin to close the gap in such a large projected deficit. Let's start with "Trusting God." For years we all heard "First Lutheran will never survive". I heard it when I first arrived as your pastor in 2016, when we had a projected deficit of \$60,000. Many of you heard it in the months and early years after the congregation spilt in 2009. Somehow, we are still here, and we have beaten the odds that several placed against us! Why, because we trust God. God has, and will, continue to give all that we need for ministry, and let us remember that ministry isn't about dollars and cents, although important to operate, ministry is about proclaiming the gospel through word and deed!

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, February 1

6:30 p.m.

PIECE CORP

Wednesday, February 8

9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 15

6:30 p.m.

WEST OHIO FOOD BANK

Thursday, February 23
Volunteers report by 12:30

That said, looking into the future ministry may be different. You might ask, what does that look like? To that, I wish I could say, but honestly, I'm not sure. I say this especially as this letter is written before the Congregational Meeting, where I'll assume several options for us to ponder will be presented during the meeting. Moving farther into 2023, we will spend time reflecting on what those options look like. We'll do that through prayer and reflection, because God is and should always remain at

the center of everything we do. Which is all part of the "trusting God" thing. Perhaps it's fitting that this comes to our attention in this transitional time between Epiphany and Lent. The bright star of Bethlehem lies behind us, the barren road of Lent lies in front of us. In between stands a mountain. For Jesus, it is the mountain in which he will be transfigured and revealed in all of his Glory before a few of the disciples. For us, maybe we'll be transfigured too! Hopefully we do, so that we

can continue to shine with the brightness of Christ for many years to come, so that we can continue to celebrate "God is among us!" as we are called to go out into the world to worship and serve together.

God's Blessings!

Pastor Bailey

HEALING SERVICE

Wednesday Evening Healing Service

Mark your calendars for Wednesday February 1st 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

Greetings from Childhood Ministries! Our staff and children have all returned from Christmas Break. January has been an unusual month with Tiffin City Schools having Teacher Work Days and Professional Development Days after break. We have also had a holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) and one "Snow Day" so far. You just never know what the weather will do!

Our Preschool children have been focusing on writing. They have all been working in their "Handwriting Without Tears" workbooks. The children have all been writing their names daily. Some of the children are ready to start working on their last names. The classes have also been learning about "Winter", "Hibernation" and "Snow". They have all enjoyed "Sharing Day". This gives the children a chance to talk in front of the class and share something important to them.

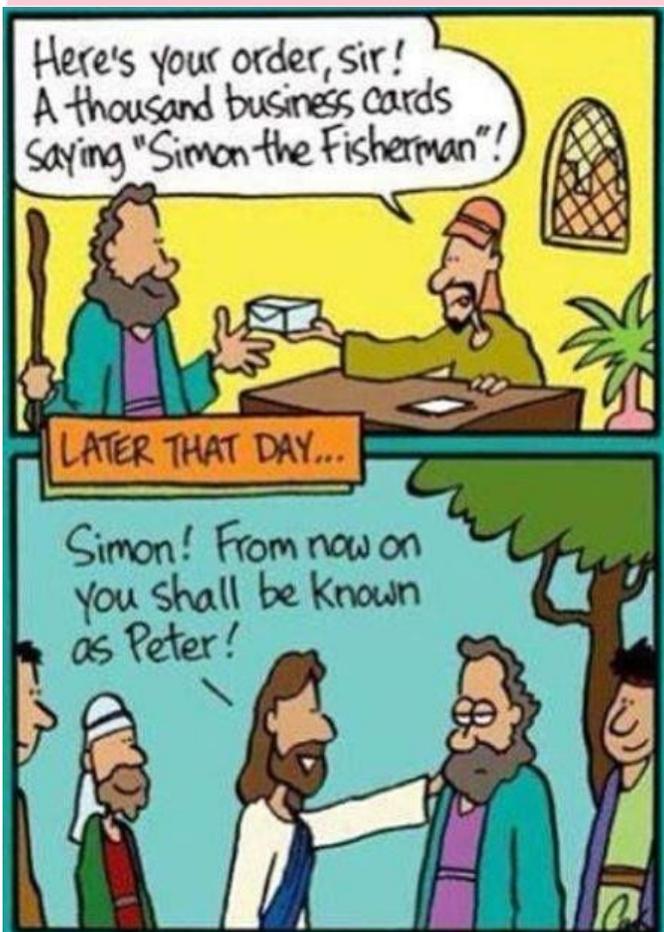
Our Extended Care children have been enjoying many winter-related art activities and games. We were all happy to play outdoors during the warmer, dry days of January. We look forward to February and probably more snow! (The children seem to enjoy the snow much more than I do!)

Jane Fredericks,

Director FLEC/Extended Care



HOLY HUMOR



INFORMATION/TRANSITIONS

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Monday Evening Group Contact Carol Jarrett for information.

Tuesday Morning Group Have you ever wondered how Jesus might retell the parables if he were speaking them to us today? Come and reflect on some modern interpretations of the Parables every Tuesday as we gather in the Library. The Tuesday Morning Bible Study begins at 10 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.

SHARING KITCHEN DATES:

February 27 & March 2

Please contact Deb Nominee if you can help.

TRANSITIONS

Robert W. Meyer

1/29/1939-1/18/2023

ASH WEDNESDAY

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return!

The beginning of Lent is nearly here. Mark your calendars for our Ash Wednesday service which will begin at 7 p.m. This year's theme for our Lenten Worship together will reflect on God's gift of grace, and it centers around the beloved hymn "Amazing Grace" which was written 250 years ago.

We are still reflecting on the best time for our Midweek Services, so stay tuned for more information as we move closer to Lent.

BOOKWORMS ANONYMOUS

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

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 February gathering will be held on February 8th, beginning at 9am in Fellowship Hall.

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

YOUTH NIGHT

Youth night is on for February! All our middle school and high school youth are invited to hang out with Pastor Bailey on Sunday, February 5th. The fun will last from 6 to 8 p.m. and will include time for games, food, bible study, and an opportunity to just “chill.” Be sure to mark your calendar for this monthly youth gathering.

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation Youth are reminded that classes will resume on Sunday February 5th.

We 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.

Pancake Supper

It's time to flip those flapjacks and pour some syrup as our youth welcome you to their annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February. Pastor Bailey will be flipping pancakes as fast as he can, so invite a friend and come and enjoy a good meal and great fellowship before we begin our journey into Lent. Dinner will be served from 5 – 6:30 and you are welcome to dine in or carry out.

It's Souper Bowl Sunday

It's game time! While the world looks forward to a battle on the gridiron, we look forward to a friendly battle in providing for those in need. On Sunday February 12 everyone is encouraged to bring a can of soup (or other nonperishable item) which will be donated to our local food pantries. To make it fun, the Angels will take on the Saints as we see who donates the most canned goods. Monetary donations are welcome as well, and we'll compete with that too. Of course the real winners are those in need as we seek to “care for all.”

To make the day even more enjoyable, we'll have a “Soup Potluck” following worship. A sign-up sheet will be available soon, for those willing to provide a crock pot of soup for us to enjoy. Stay tuned for more information.



- 1 Garrett Vaughn
- 4 Connie English
Kale Garlock
Kennedy Garlock
- 5 Nancy Betz
Alec Demith
Pat Rathburn
- 8 Larry Frankenfeld
Jeff Shawberry
- 9 Jeanette Conley
Ron Hall
Anna Wildman
- 11 Dan Kontak
Boomer Roszman
- 14 Lori Vallery
Angie Vaughn
- 18 Becky Leopold
Kayson Matter
- 19 Mike Griffin
Kasidi Kelly
Jim Ruess
- 20 Linda Ellinger
Debra Hohman
Connie Spittler
Alice Zoll
- 23 Judy Ryman
- 24 Curtis L. King
- 25 Becky Bennett
Hunter Stark
- 26 Lori Adkins
Tyler Phares
- 28 Chloe Orians

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 DECEMBER 2022

<u>Income</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Church	\$15,950	\$177,310
Pre-School	<u>\$7,745</u>	<u>\$154,736</u>
	\$23,695	\$332,046
<u>Expenses</u>		
Church	\$31,147	\$279,729
Pre-School	<u>\$8,742</u>	<u>\$124,622</u>
	\$39,889	\$404,351
<u>Summary:</u>		
Income	\$(16,194)	\$(72,305)

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 7)

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*

WORSHIP INFORMATION

To volunteer, contact Melissa Chester at: melissac@qt2.com	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
	FEBRUARY 5	FEBRUARY 12	FEBRUARY 19	FEBRUARY 26
LECTOR	REV. PHILIP SCHERR	JOHN KOBELT	MELISSA CHESTER	SHELLEY ROSS
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	REV. PHILIP SCHERR	JOHN KOBELT	MELISSA CHESTER	SHELLEY ROSS
HOSTS	JUDY KIMMEL	JANET ZIRGER	MILLS FAMILY	NOMINEE FAMILY
SLIDE SHOW	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY	WENDY BAILEY
VIDEO CREW	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY	ANDREW BAILEY
FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD	Deb & Jonathan Nominee			

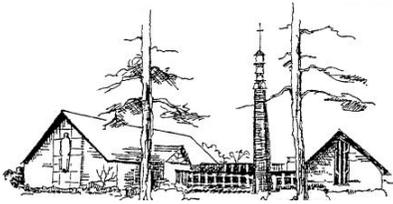
SNOW CREW





February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30 Healing Service 7:00 Worship and Music	2 Office Open	3 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	4
5 10:00a Worship 11:00 Confirmation Class 6p Youth Night	6 Office Closed	7 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study	8 Office Open 9:00a Piece Corp 4:00p Pre-School Board	9 Office Open	10 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	11
12 10:00a Worship 11:00a Souper Bowl Sunday following worship Bring soup to share!	13 Office Closed	14 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study 	15 Office Open 6:30p Council	16 Office Open	17 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	18
19 10:00a Worship 11:00a Confirmation Class	20 Office Closed 1:30p Book worms	21 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study 5:00p Pancake Dinner	22 Office Open 7:00p Ash Wednesday Worship	23 <i>Office Open</i> 1:00p West Ohio Food Bank	24 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	25
26 10:00a Worship 11:00a Confirmation Class	27 Office Closed Sharing Kitchen	28 Office Open 10:00a Bible Study				



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.

Tiffin, OH 44883

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First Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

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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		