



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 MELMORE STREET

TIFFIN, OHIO

MARCH 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

One of the first steps in sustainability as a congregation is congregational leadership. As things exist right now, we are stuck in a conundrum. Simply said, we don't have enough leaders to lead, therefore we cannot move forward. The in-depth details lie within our Constitution.

Constitutionally speaking, our council is to be made up of:

- 4 officers
- 6—8 members at large
- 1 youth representative

For a total of 11—13 members, excluding the pastor. However, at our congregational meeting in January we elected:

- 1 officers
- 4 members at large
- 1 youth representative

You can do the math and see that the numbers don't add up to 11-13 individuals.

To make matters a bit more complex, a quorum is defined as 50% of council membership. As this is interpreted, this is not members elected, this is of members called for per the constitution. Which means we are lacking a quorum with those currently elected.

One might say, “well that's just the way it is” and think little of it.

However there are larger implications at play. Without a full council and executive leadership we are at risk legally in that:

- We do not have anyone to preside at a council and/or congregational meeting.
- We do not have anyone to approve expenditures and/or sign checks.
- We lack council guidance as we strive to move forward.
- We could be at risk of losing our non-profit status as we lack the leadership called for by our constitution.

I know this is a lot of legalese, but it is the simple facts of where we are. In order to move forward we need you to help us lead.

While that is the conundrum we are stuck in at the moment there is still good news to be found. For God does not leave us orphaned or abandoned. Our mission statement reminds us that “God is with us!” God always has been, always will be. More than that, God provides us the gifts we need when we need them. This means that yes, you are gifted by God to be a leader and a voice

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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

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

PIECE CORP

Wednesday, March 8th
9:00 a.m.

WEST OHIO FOOD BANK

Thursday, March 23
Volunteers report by 12:30
Distribution begins at 1:00

LIFELINE Screening

March 29 All Day

(Continued from page 1)

in our wilderness experience.

Maybe this sounds a bit Lenten, and justifiably so. Lent is a wilderness journey. Lent is a time of pondering and self reflection. I fully believe that is where God is calling us, as a congregation, right now. To begin pondering "What Happens Next?" This is our wilderness journey.

While that may sound despairing, I pray that it also sparks an image of hope. For God did not leave the people of Israel abandoned in the wilderness. Not at all, instead they were provided manna and quail until the day they entered the promised land, and then they inherited a great land "flowing with milk and honey." God also did not leave Jesus abandoned in the 40 days spent in the wilderness. After being tempted by the evil one,

the angels waited on him as he had need. So it is and will be for us. But it starts with being a faithful witness, and faithful witnesses are people of action. So I'm going to ask you to begin pondering how you might serve this congregation as we move forward by being one of our future leaders.

As you ponder, here are some of our next steps.

- At some point in the near future we will likely have a congregational meeting to elect new leaders.
- An alternative to that may be suspending the constitution and restructuring outside of our current governing documents.
- After either of these two have taken place we will revise and present a new draft of the constitution for adoption. This step takes

2-3 months for initial readings, presentations, etc.

- In conjunction with that, we will also begin sharing some small group conversations on "What Happens Next" Stay tuned for more information in the coming month as to when and where.
- Throughout it all, we will probably share several "Congregational Chats" just as we did on Sunday February 26, so that a level of transparency and honesty is maintained within us.

While all of this will take work and creative thinking, I am grateful for your partnership. Know that what lies ahead I cannot do alone. It has to be done together. So it is, that together, we may wonder on this Lenten journey, knowing

Pastor Bailey

CELEBRATING LENT

Join us for worship on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. as we hear more about God's amazing gift of grace as experienced through several key individuals in scripture.

Sunday, March 5
The Prodigal Son

Sunday, March 12
The Blind Man

Sunday, March 19
The Woman at the Well

Sunday, March 26
Paul

Palm Sunday
April 2
Peter

Maundy Thursday
April 8
John

Good Friday
April 7
The Penitent Thief

Easter Sunday
April 9
Mary Magdalene

Our Wednesday Midweek Services begin at 6:30 p.m. As we "Behold the Tree"

The Oaks of Mamre
March 1

The Burning Bush
March 8

Jonah's Withered Plant
March 15

The Trees of the Psalms
March 22

Zacchaeus' Sycamore
March 29



GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES!

February was a short but very busy month for us. It began with Ms. Brittany, our new preschool teacher, turning in her resignation. She had some changes in her personal life, and as a single parent she felt the need to seek employment outside of Early Childhood Education where the income and benefits far exceeded what we could offer her. We were saddened by the news, but were very concerned about our young preschoolers and working together to provide as much continuity as possible for our programs. Special thanks to Ms. Leslie, Ms. Gena and Ms. Paula for stepping up and helping to make this transition as easy as possible. We are now combining our Extended Care children and Preschool children occasionally during the day in order to follow required adult-to-child ratios. We are also working more hours in order to run three preschool classes during the day and continue with our Extended Care from 6am to 6pm Monday through Friday. One of our main goals is to continue to follow classroom routines established by Ms. Brittany.

Our preschool classes have enjoyed various Valentine stories, art projects and activities. The children especially enjoyed sharing treats and Valentine's cards during their class parties. The classes have also been working on handwriting, talking about President's and Presidents Day and various other related activities.

Our Extended Care children have enjoyed playing outdoors after school on the unusually warmer days. When not with the preschool classes during the day, the children have enjoyed free play and other seasonal activities.

Thanks to all who support our programs in any way. It is greatly appreciated! We are currently searching for a new Preschool teacher. If you or someone you know is interested, please let me know. We would certainly appreciate any and all prayers and positive thoughts as we continue our search for our next Preschool teacher.

Jane Frederick,

Director FLEC/Extended Care

HOLY HUMOR

So technically Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



Be warned . . . It's Lent. If you stop in the office this might just be how you find us!

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 10:30 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:

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

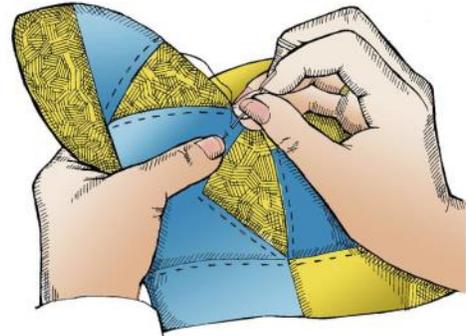
November -*TBA*

December -Book Exchange and selection of 2024 books

PIECE CORP

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

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



TLC GALA

The Transformation Life Center will gather for it's Second Annual Gala and Fundraising Event.

Friday March 31
6-9 p.m.

Wickham Great Hall
Heidelberg University

Come and celebrate the successful opening of Seneca County's Emergency Homeless Center. Join us for an evening of food, drinks, and inspiring messages from the TLC ladies and former wide receiver from OSU and current OSU Chaplin, Roy Hall Jr.

**\$50 per person
Buffet Dinner**

RSVP by March 24 by calling 419-630-3850 or email trsbms@aol.com. Please provide your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

TRANSITIONS

Annabel Putnam Binau
September 24-1924 — February 8, 2023

Celebration of Life:
February 13, 2023



YOUTH NEWS!

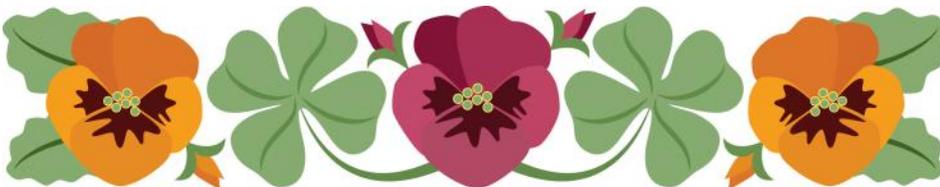
Confirmation Classes:

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:

Please note there will not be a "Youth Night" in March.
Stay tuned for our next gathering in April.



THANK YOU

Thank you from the Youth Group:

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in the Annual Pancake Supper. We thank everyone for your support.

Thank you from Janet Meyer:

The family of Bob Meyer would like to express our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for the many hands that so lovingly contributed and served in any way for the funeral luncheon. The church family went above and beyond in their show of love for Bob and all of us.

"A great deal of good can be done in the world,
if one doesn't care who gets credit."

*Old Jesuit saying
one of Bob's favorite quotes*



- 1 Caden Groves
- 2 Evelyn Cole
Kenny Thomasson
- 3 Wendy Bailey
Andrea Cleveland
Mary Hoyda
- 5 Pat Digby
Joan Ruffing
- 6 Wendy Demith
- 7 Michaela Griffin
- 8 Jace Margraf
Kael Margraf
- 11 Tori Lee
- 14 Sally Moffett
Ken Zeop
Carlo Adams
- 15 Tyler Dunbar
Brenda Matter
- 20 Colby Fay
Kai Hoyda
- 22 Vicki Ryman
- 24 Andrea Eckelberry
- 26 Morgan Schulz
- 27 Barb Vogel
Jack Fay
Krew Stephens
- 28 Richard Ellinger
- 31 Emma Hall



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.

FINANCIAL REPORT MONTH ENDING JANUARY 2023

Special First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17th, 2023

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

Absent: Mike Porter.

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

Pastor then led the meeting with devotions and asking of prayers for Jerry and Bev Wheatley.

<u>Income</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Church	\$18,084	\$18,084
Pre-School	<u>\$9,150</u>	<u>\$9,150</u>
	\$27,234	\$27,234
<u>Expenses</u>		
Church	\$18,610	\$18,610
Pre-School	<u>\$7,739</u>	<u>\$7,739</u>
	\$26,349	\$26,349
<u>Summary:</u>		
Income	\$885.00	\$885.00

Business:

West Ohio Food Bank

The West Ohio Food Bank reached out to pastor about using the facility to distribute to the Seneca County community twice a month, rather than once.

Council raised many questions and debated as to the additional hosting event.

The final decision of council was to agree with using the church lot for an additional distribution but not the building. Council would like to keep the church building closed for the additional distribution as there will not be a congregational volunteer present and the preschool will be in class.

2023 Budget

The 2023 congregational budget as created by Jane was distributed for council review and debate.

Income estimates for the year were decreased due to the loss of some congregational families.

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



Expense items for variable costs such as heating and electricity were increased for the year.

No raises were given for First Lutheran staff members.

Jane moved to accept the budget for congregational approval and Jonathan seconded.

Vote passed 7-2 for presentation of the budget to the congregation.

Pastor Sabbatical

In November, pastor mentioned the idea of him taking a 12-week sabbatical as is synod recommendation for 6 years of service.

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Council discussed the notion of a sabbatical, but with the current financial position of the church it was determined to not be an appropriate time.

Ideas for Church Future

Council discussed multiple ideas as to possible paths that may help with sustainability of the church going forward. The ideas are as follows:

- Create a fundraising committee
- Share with end of life/estate giving
- Join with another congregation
- Sell current building and downsize
- Share our building with another congregation
- Share pastor with another congregation
- Rent out building space
- Develop a monthly giving list for individuals to cover regular church expense items

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Chet and seconded by Beth.

The next meeting of council will be January 29th after service at the annual congregational meeting.

Submitted: By Secretary, *Chet Margraf.*

Life Line Screening

February 29th. LifeLine Screening will be using our Fellowship Hall for the entire day to conduct health screenings. These screenings include Carotid Artery Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, PAD screening & Atrial Fibrillation screening.

I have one complimentary free screening available, with a value of \$149. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please let me know. You must register prior to the event and take the complimentary screening page with you. I am in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-4

There are flyers with additional information about the screening that can be found on the table in the lobby area.

Office Ruth



(left)
At the end of the pancake dinner, Andrew challenged the pancake makers to make a griddle-sized pancake with the leftover batter. This is the result of their successful completion of his challenge.



Coming in March:



March 12th



March 17th



March 20th

WORSHIP INFORMATION

SUNDAY	READER	HOSTS	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	VOICES FOR LENT	FEATURED CHARACTER
2-22 ASH WEDNESDAY	Shelley Ross	Judy Kimmel Sharon Losey	Shelley Ross	Rick Greene	DAVID
2-26 SUNDAY	Shelley Ross	Nominee Family	Shelley Ross	Mike Oberlander	ISAIAH
3-5 SUNDAY	Pastor Phil Scherr	Judy Kimmel Sharon Losey	Jonathan Nominee	Victor Welsch	PRODIGAL SON
3-12 SUNDAY	Pastor Phil Scherr	Janet Zirger	Pastor Phil Scherr	Victor Welsch	THE BLIND MAN
3-19 SUNDAY	Amy Mills	Nominee Family	John Kobelt	Angela Nominee	WOMAN AT WELL
3-26 SUNDAY	Beth Margraf	Ross Family	Shelley Ross	McClain Meyer	PAUL
4-2 PALM SUNDAY	Gracie Chester		Melissa Chester	Garrett Chester	PETER
4-6 MAUNDY THURSDAY	No reader needed		John Kobelt	Rick Greene	JOHN
4-7 GOOD FRIDAY	No reader needed	Nominee Family	Jonathan Nominee	Victor Welsch	PENITENT THIEF
4-9 EASTER SUNDAY	Melissa Chester		Melissa Chester	Gracie Chester	MARY MAGDALENE
ALTAR GUILD	Ron & Sandy Mellott				

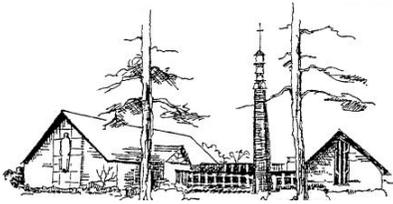
SNOW CREW





march

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Office Open</i> 6:30p Mid-Week Lenten Worship 7:15p Worship and Music	2 <i>Office Open</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4
			Pastor on Vacation			
5 First Sunday in Lent 10:00a Worship	6	7 <i>Office Open</i>	8 <i>Office Open</i> 9:00a Piece Corp. 4:00p Pre-School Board 6:30p Mid-Week Lenten Worship	9 <i>Office Open</i>	10 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	11
Pastor on Vacation						
12 Second Sunday in Lent 10:00a Worship 11:15a Confirmation Class <i>Spring Forward</i>	13	14 <i>Office Open</i> 10:30a Bible Study	15 <i>Office Open</i> 6:30p Mid-Week Lenten Worship 7:15p Council	16 <i>Office Open</i>	17 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	18
19 Third Sunday in Lent 10:00a Worship 11:15a Confirmation Class	20 1:30p Book worms	21 <i>Office Open</i> 10:30a Bible Study	22 <i>Office Open</i> 6:30p Mid-Week Lenten Worship	23 <i>Office Open</i> 1:00p West Ohio Food Bank	24 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	25
26 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00a Worship 11:15a Confirmation Class	27	28 <i>Office Open</i> 10:30a Bible Study	29 <i>Office Open</i> <i>Life Line Screening</i> 6:30p Mid-Week Lenten Worship	30 <i>Office Open</i>	31 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.

Tiffin, OH 44883

MARCH 2023

Vol. 40, No.3

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	
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		