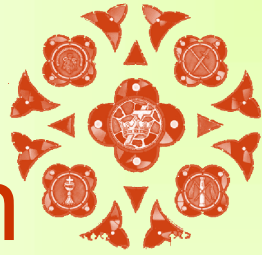


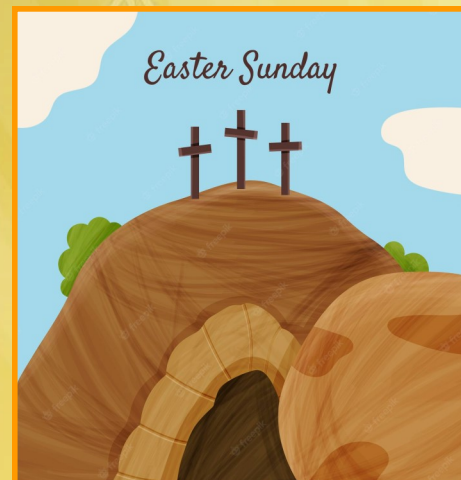


first Lutheran

Findlay, OH



Anticipating Easter



My father would always joke with me. He would ask, “Chris, who is buried in Grant’s tomb?” After I struggled with this awhile, with a laugh he would reply, “Well, Grant, of course!” He thought it was funny! Grant’s tomb is a huge mausoleum on Riverside Drive in Manhattan and is described as “a tomb of ‘unmistakably military character,’ modeled after the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, with twin sarcophagi based on Napoleon’s tomb in Paris.” The tomb was completed in 1897. I never have understood why it wasn’t built in Ohio.

There are so many magnificent tombs dedicated to great men and women. I think of the Taj Mahal in India. This starkly white structure on 32 acres of land is world renown. It is hard to believe it is a tomb, built by the emperor Shah Jahan in 1643, the resting place for his “favorite” wife (I wonder what the other wives thought!).

Or what about Lenin’s tomb in Moscow? This grand structure is open to the public, literally *open* as you can go inside and view Lenin’s body. Lenin has been dead 98 years, so there are workers who spend all of their time keeping the body in viewable state.

Perhaps the most impressive of all is the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. It was started as a tomb for Pharaoh Khufu 4500 years ago.

I have never visited any of these famous tombs. One that I did visit shocked and surprised me. I had been to St. Peter’s in Rome and while I was touring this huge church, I came upon the body of Pope John XXIII resting under glass in the middle of the nave of the basilica. “Good Pope John” had died 38 years earlier, but his body was described as “remarkably well preserved”, though it had to be fitted with a wax face mask made from a mold taken at the time of his death. I remember the wax being a bright green color. Since John was canonized and is now considered a saint in the Roman Church, his body was placed in this very public place for “the veneration of the faithful.”

There are so many great tombs built as memorials to great men and women. They are usually large and imposing, erected at great expense to honor them, hallow their memory and praise their legacy. Indeed, you can visit Lenin’s tomb, and that of Napoleon, Herod the Great and even Martin Luther (he is buried in the floor of the Castle Church in Wittenberg in front of the pulpit). But what about the tomb of Jesus Christ?

For some this may take some thought. You cannot find Jesus’ burial spot, because Jesus is not dead. He is risen!

I look forward with anticipation and joy as we prepare for the great celebration for our Lord who is not dead, but who lives and rules eternally.

Pastor Chris



He Is Risen. *Alleluia*

WELCA Calendar of Events for April 2023

Rachel Circle is in-service for the month of April

April 11 – Martha Circle – 9:00 am, Church Library
Hostess: Judy Kipker; Leader, Erika Cunningham

April 11 – Rachel Circle – 1:00 pm Church Lounge
Hostess: Shirley Gerber; Leader, Cindy Fitzpatrick

April 15 – WELCA Spring Central Conference
First Lutheran Church, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

April 17 – Hannah Circle – 7:00 pm Church Lounge
Hostess: Nina Dukes; Leader: Marilynn Dunn

Sunday, April 30 – Cookie Sunday – Rachel Circle



Living In Faith and Trust

L.I.F.T. will meet on Tuesday, April 18 at 11:30 for a brown bag lunch in the Church Fellowship hall. Please contact Sue DeMoss at 419-306-9994 or Marilynn Dunn at 419-722-8543 for more information or if you need a ride.

Women of the Bible



For the past seven months we have learned about the women of the Bible on the cover of this year's program booklet. There are many more amazing women in the Bible. By one author's count there are forty-nine women who speak in the bible, from Eve in Genesis, to a fortune-telling slave girl in Acts. All these women were part of the story, a story that continues to be told today. Today let us continue to tell the story, following in the tradition of so many before us.

Blessings! Marilynn


Encouraging Women
FOR CHRIST

Stewardship Is Heart Work



*Heartwarming stories of ministry in Ohio,
supported by your stewardship.*

I believe it was March of 1990 that our world crashed for our family. Our first grandchild, who was just a little over one year old, was diagnosed with a large brain tumor. He had emergency surgery, followed by a year of chemo. Rhonda had to quit her job to care for her sick baby. First Lutheran was there providing spiritual and financial support. Our grandson had two more brain surgeries, one at seven years old and another at eleven years. He is now 34 years old. The same daughter's husband died in 2001 from melanoma. First Lutheran has always been there for us! Again in 2013, the congregation supported me when I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Your prayers have always gotten us through the hardest of times! - Mary Lou McCann

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ... For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.—2 Corinthians 4: 5-6



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES *in Findlay*

Lutheran Social Services—Food Pantry

What if you were a single mom with three small children, only a part-time job, and no way to buy groceries at the end of the month? What if there was nothing in your cupboard to create a meal for your family? What if you were on a fixed income and no way to stretch your money to the end of the month? What would you do?



Although most of us have never been in this situation, I see these stories every week at Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. Fortunately for our community, there are several options to get help with food, but LSS is the ONLY choice pantry. I have been involved with Lutheran Social Services since 2007 as a Food Pantry volunteer who started by only bagging groceries for folks in need. These were generic bags of groceries which contained pork and beans, boxed mac and cheese, peanut butter, and tuna. Sometimes a sleeve of crackers and cereal might also be included.

When we moved to St. John's Lutheran on Tiffin Avenue, we had space to become a "choice" pantry, enabling clients to choose what they could use, and therefore, there was mostly no waste. With donations from area Lutheran churches and sometimes Boy Scout or Postal drives, we fed many individuals and families. We were open 3 days a week. Today, post COVID, we are open only one day a week (Tuesday 11-2), but we are still able to offer a choice of grains, vegetables, fruit, milk, proteins, combination foods (mac/cheese, condensed soups, etc.), and snacks (dried fruits or nuts). Everything is non-perishable. We also try to offer taxable items such as laundry soap, shampoo, dish soap, and coffee.

Last year we served 397 families and 900 individuals largely due to your weekly donations, The Love and Memory Tree at Christmas, and the Cross of Love at Easter. I am so proud of First Lutheran's involvement with this important ministry.

Jane Ebersole

**Heartwarming stories of ministry through
your generous stewardship!**

Library News

It is that time again to say goodbye to the Keys. By the time you read this, Paul and I will be on our way home from Big Pine Key Florida, 33 miles east of Key West. We are fortunate to be able to do this travel and we appreciate the get-away. While we were gone, our family and friends had some major life upheavals. Many prayers went north from the keys.

While in the south, I, of course, did some reading. Spare by Prince Harry is a troubling read in that the "spare" has two purposes: one, of course, is to be the heir should something happen to the rightful heir; the second is to give spare parts should the heir need a kidney, etc. As I read this book, I found it necessary to reevaluate all that I had previously heard against what Harry now wrote. Even if only half of what Harry wrote, is true, I understand his need to get his wife out of England. The so-called journalists are brutal. Members of the royal family even purposely leak half truths about Harry and Megan to take the focus of the press off of themselves.

Then I am not sure what to say about Night Sky by Clare Francis, the February read for the church book club. The novel centered around the Germans in World War II who refused to believe that sonar was an option, even though one Jewish scientist was convinced it was possible. The reader meets people from many walks of life, all involved in the war. Courage, betrayal, and love...so much intensity in here. This book needed just a dash of joy or happiness every so often.

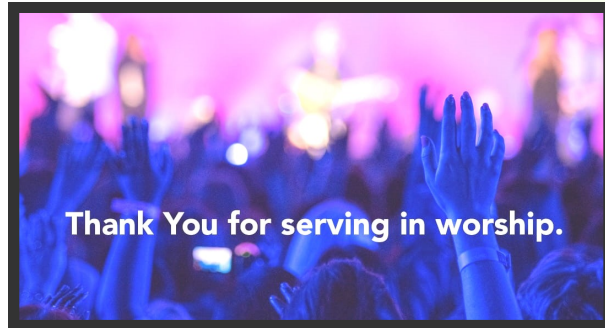


The PUMA Years: A Memoir by Laura Coleman was an unusual read. Every year, Amazon Kindle offers 10 books from a variety of international authors FREE; this was one of last year's. Coleman, a young woman in her twenties, had made a mess of her life and took off for South America. She reaches Bolivia and the NGO Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi, which manages three wildlife sanctuaries and gives homes to animals rescued from illegal wildlife trafficking. Each volunteer is given a cat...she was assigned Wayra, a Puma, who would never again be able to roam free because he no longer had the drive to handle himself in the jungle. Imagine walking, every day, a wild puma latched to a rope to give him exercise and a swim out in the jungle. Every time her visa was up, she would go home to England for a short time but then she would long to get back to Wayra and the volunteers. Suffice it to say she finally does return home and founds ONCA that promotes social and environmental justice issues.

And I read Everything Is Yours, by Kris Camealy, who hails from the Westerville, Ohio area. The book is her spiritual journey to surrender her life to the will of God. She writes, "Here's what I want you to do - God helping you. Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, working, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him." She adds "our surrender to God is never just for our own sake. Our actions, choices, obedience, behavior, words, decisions, spending habits, will impact another person's life at some point."

And on that note, I say, It will be good to see all of you again. God bless and keep reading. Kathy (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)





The congregation would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to Brian Fruchey for his service to First Lutheran Church over the past several years. Brian has been assisting our church in its mission of Evangelism by uploading our worship services to YouTube on the internet.

This task began during Covid and continues today, and it enables our homebound members and others in the community of Findlay to be able watch our worship services and be inspired by them.

Thank you, Brian, for your faithful service to First Lutheran Church, and to help us move the people of our community and the world one step closer to God. We will miss your service to this church but know that we will continue the work you have started.



Many thanks to all who assisted with the Lenten Evening Prayer services this year! I especially want to recognize Miriam Gibson who in addition to playing the piano arranged the candle display, Jane Eakin and Kurt Ebersole who served as cantors, Crystal Clark for the flute accompaniment, Steve Rice for the poster illustrations, Pastor Chris for assisting and leading the last service, Wayne Dukes for equipment and logistical support, Nina Dukes for designing the worship bulletins, and those who served as sound technicians and ushers.

We should also recognize the talents of Marty Haugen, who developed the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service while a guest at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Chelan, Washington. Thanks, finally, to all who shared in prayer at these services.

It is easier to "Wander in the Wilderness" when one can journey with such a caring community.

Pastor Art Wilde



Women ^{of the} ELCA

We Love to Tell the Story

April 15
9:00am to 1:00pm.

Spring Conference

- a light breakfast
- a short worship service led by Pr. Art Wilde
- Kaitlyn Kniss— Women's Resource Center's work in Hancock County
- all followed by a lunch and fun!

In-Kind donation of diapers requested

RSVP to Barb Larick
419-422-0499 (home)
419-722-3682 (cell/text)
By April 11th

First Lutheran Church
109 E. Lincoln St.
Findlay OH

Sponsored by:  **THRIVENT**
FINANCIAL



The second Sunday of each month has been designated as Youth Sunday. During the 10:45 service, the youth (ages 5-18) help serve as greeters, ushers and readers.



We have also been doing a skit and/or a children's message. The skit for Easter Sunday April 9th is titled "The Beautiful Resurrection".

The skit for May will be honoring Mother's Day.



We are also looking at helping serve the community with the Backyard Mission project and Saturday April 22nd.

Sunday School for all youth is at 9:30 A.M each Sunday. Come and check it out.



First Lutheran Church Call Committee Update

Over the last year, the Call Committee has received five Rostered Minister Profiles to review for the Senior Pastor position at First Lutheran Church.

The committee has conducted GoogleMeet interviews with four of those pastors. One pastor removed their name as we were scheduling a date to conduct an interview. From those four interviews over the internet, the committee has conducted in-person interviews with two pastors. In prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit, one of those pastors did remove their name from consideration. The committee is in extended discussions with the other pastor we met in person.

We know this Call process has been long, and there have been long periods of time when we did not receive profiles to review. We are thankful for the profiles we did receive, and now ask for your continued prayers as the Call Committee and the Pastoral candidate seek guidance from the Holy Spirit as to this Call here at First Lutheran Church.

2023 Altar Flower Chart



The 2023 Flower Chart is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There are many Sundays that still need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

April

NewsLetter DEADLine

Monday, April 24th

LECTORS

Apr. 2
8:15 - Marilyn Dunn
10:45 - Kristen Johnson

Maundy Thursday
7:00 - Marilyn Dunn

Good Friday
7:00 - Falkyn Roth

Apr. 9
8:15 - Elaine Miller
10:45 - Youth

Apr. 16
8:15 - Toni Poling
10:45 - Cyndy Rotman

Apr. 23
8:15 -
10:45 - Julie Buck

Apr. 30
8:15 -
10:45 - Arlene Powell

SOUND ROOM

Apr. 2
8:15 - Tim Roth
10:45 - Steve Roth

Maundy Thurs.
7:00

Good Friday
7:00

Apr. 9
8:15 - Tim Roth
10:45 - Toni Poling

Apr. 16
8:15 - Tim Roth
10:45 - Jerry Bryant

Apr. 23
8:15 - Tim Roth
10:45 - Falkyn Roth

Apr. 30
8:15 -
10:45 -

ALTAR GUILD

Gerbers and Schriners

COOKIE SUNDAY

Apr. 2 - Community Dinner
Apr. 9 - Easter Sunday
Apr. 16 - Worship & Music
Apr. 23 - Property
Apr. 30 - Rachel Circle

COMMUNION BREAD

Apr. 2 - Wafers
Apr. 9 - Cindy Thompson,
Suzanne Kirk
Apr. 16 - Karen Rose
Apr. 23 - Sharon Thompson
Apr. 30 - Pat Needles

COUNTERS

Apr. 2 - Basingers
Apr. 9 - Schriners
Apr. 16/23 - Rotmans
Apr. 30 - Bucks

DRIVERS

Apr. 2 - Jerry Bryant
Apr. 9 - Mike Zawisza
Apr. 16 - Aaron Ried
Apr. 23 - Jerry Bryant
Apr. 30 - Jerry Bryant

FLOWER DELIVERY

Maria Schell

LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Apr. 2 - Rob Leipheimer
Apr. 9 - Tim Cochran
Traci Roth
Apr. 16 - Daryl Rotman
Apr. 23 - Daryl Rotman
Apr. 30 - Kylee Timbrook

ALTAR FLOWERS

Apr. 2 - Cheryl Everitt
Apr. 9 - Jon & Sandra Burnside
Apr. 16 - Judy Kipker
Apr. 23 - Schwartzkopf/
Cunningham
Apr. 30 -

Forms for your bulletin announcement are available on the bulletin board and at 1stLutheranChurch.org.

Flowers need to be delivered to the church by noon on Friday.

DEACONS

Apr. 2 - Tim Cochran
Sue DeMoss
Apr. 9 - Marilyn Dunn
Reed Needles
Apr. 16 - Paul Brooks
Apr. 23 - Paul Brooks
Apr. 30 -

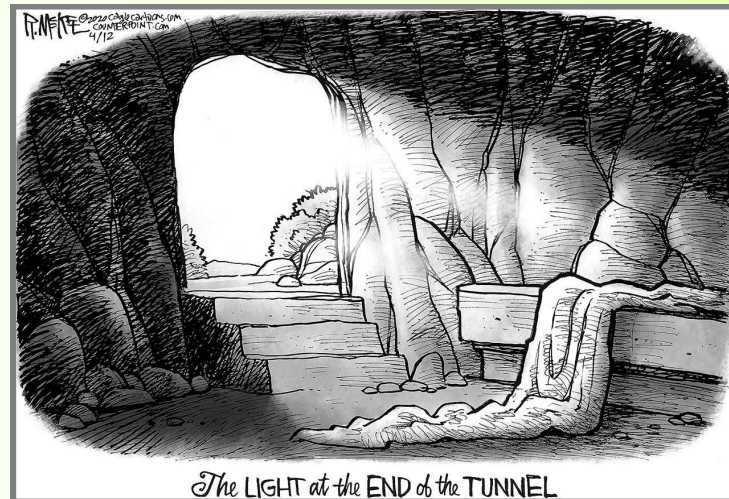
Apr. 2 - Steve Roth/???
Apr. 9 - Steve Roth/???
Apr. 16 -
Apr. 23 - Suzanne Kirk
Judy Kipker
Apr. 30 - Suzanne Kirk
Judy Kipker

APRIL Celebrations Birthdays

Avarie Needles	4/1
Nick Thorbahn	4/2
Doug Bonnoront	4/3
Charles Crates	4/3
Jerry Bryant	4/4
Harry Fifolt	4/6
Rhonda May	4/11
Wayne Dukes	4/12
Edwin Dunn	4/12
Doris Brand	4/15
Beth Meier	4/15
Caitlin Mathias	4/17
Ken Bahler	4/18
Jack Haffelder	4/18
Janette Treece	4/18
Cynthia Fitzpatrick	4/20
Robert Rodman	4/20
Patricia Needles	4/21
Robert Schriner	4/23
Maurine Denney	4/24
Harper Cleary	4/25
Oliver Cleary	4/25
Daniel Eakin	4/25
Cecilia Maag	4/26
Judith Mains	4/28
Gary Schultz	4/29
Gavin Haudenschild	4/30

Anniversaries

Clyde & Donna Mason	4/7/1980	43
Randy & Julie Buck	4/15/1989	34
Dean & Amy Bowser	4/26/1986	37
Alex & Jennifer Treece	4/27/2002	21



The other day I was hanging out with a friend. This friend is a Christian but doesn't always act or speak like one. Some days he is completely in line with God's Word, and some days his life is a struggle that gets the best of him.

As our eyes met, I really wanted to say something about it, but I decided to let the Lord speak to his heart, knowing nothing that I say will have the same impact as the Father's Words.

So.... I prayed with him... And after some time passed, I winked at him & walked away from the mirror.

Paul Grustans
The Laughing Christian

Food Cart Requests



**Laundry Detergent,
Toilet Paper, Soup**

All donations will benefit

Lutheran Social Services

first Lutheran
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
FINDLAY, OH
PERMIT NO. 338

Current Resident or:



Mailed around
March 28, 2023

Mauudy Thursday
Worship @ 7:00pm

Good Friday
Worship 7:00pm

Easter Worship

8:15 and 10:45

Easter Breakfast 9:00