

ELCA Year of Prayer



ELCA Year of Prayer memory verse:

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our denominational body, has declared 2018 as the Year of Prayer. We agree about very little these days in America, but all of us feel the need for fervent prayer in the face of escalating division and violence. With everything that is going on, I’d hate to have God say to us in the final days, “You didn’t have a prayer.”

You will be hearing how we at First will be participating in the ELCA prayer initiative in upcoming weeks. But I thought that this article might be a good time for me to post a few reminders concerning our ongoing prayer efforts.

Listing Prayer Requests on the back of the “Footprints” cards:

- 1) We need your name on the front side of the card to add a prayer to our list.
- 2) We need a “Yes” box checked to list your prayer in the bulletin.
- 3) Prayers run for four weeks unless they are requested in future “Footprints.”
- 4) Be sure that the person you are listing knows that you are doing so.

Speaking of personal privacy, I would also like to remind all of you that hospital visitation rules have changed drastically since HIPAA regulations in 1996. If you don’t check the box that allows them to contact your church, they won’t put you in their “church book” and won’t tell me when I visit which room you’re in or even if you’re in the hospital.

If you do check the box, this doesn’t necessarily mean that they will contact the church and tell us you have been admitted (in fact, you can be pretty sure that they won’t call us at all). You still need to let Nina or me know if you would like a pastor to come see you.

The point of all this is that I want to pray for you and the people you love, whether you (or they) are in the hospital or at home. Is laughter the best medicine? Actually, it comes in second, after prayer.

Pastor Bob



Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) and Clare (1193-1253)

March 4 and 7

Francis is perhaps the most beloved of all the saints. He is founder of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) and took literally a verse from the gospels to live in complete poverty. Clare, inspired by Francis, established an order of women dedicated to contemplative prayer, radical poverty, manual labor, and extreme austerity. *“Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks and serve him with great humility.” Cantic of Brother Sun*

John Donne (1572—1633)

March 11 and 14

John Donne, dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, was an eloquent preacher. He is honored especially for his poetry, which exemplified the 17th century style of complex syntax and eloquent metaphors.

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.” - Meditation XVII

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543)

March 18 and 21

Copernicus was a church administrator, working in politics, canon law, medicine and economics. Before his death he published his astronomical study, which demonstrated that the sun, not the earth, is the center of our solar system.

“I know that the philosopher’s aim is to seek truth in all things as far as God has permitted human reason to do so.” - Preface to Copernicus’ work

**Holden
Evening Prayer
Wednesdays at 7:00**



Soup Suppers at 5:45

Mar. 7—Youth Mar. 14—Council
Mar. 21—Pastor Bob’s Sunday School Class

First News

Thank you for sharing the altar flower Sunday. The red and white colors of the beautiful bouquet lifted our spirits to February's Valentines Day as it approaches.

With His love,
Harvey and Gladys Feustel

Baptized on February 18th:

Charlotte Rose Holbach,
Born to Matthew and Sadye Holbach on July 26, 2017. God bless this newest member of our church family.

Food Cart Requests

Shampoo, deodorant, bath soap, & fruit

All donations benefit Lutheran Social Services.

The cart is in the Coat/elevator room.

This month's Noisy Offering will benefit:

Capital University

Transforming lives through higher education.

Newsletter DEADLine

Monday. March 19th

Easter Offering

During the Easter season, it is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship services. Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions but greater participation is always welcome. We encourage you to look into our electronic giving program. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan. Visit the church website and locate the online giving link under the forms/gifts tab, or complete a paper authorization form or download the Vanco Give+ App.

THE 2018 FLOWER CHART is on the bulletin board in the hallway by the church office. Please consider signing up for flowers that honor or remember special people or events in your life. Not only are you sharing God's beauty of nature on Sunday but you brighten your home or the home of a shut-in the following week. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

Think about sharing the purchase of altar flowers with another family or friend. You may also call the church office and Nina will be more than happy to reserve your date.



Social Ministry

Social Ministry Interest Form

Name _____

Phone Number _____ Best Time to Call _____

Email _____

I am interested in the following...

<input type="checkbox"/> Being a member of the Social Ministry Committee (We usually meet the 2 nd Monday of each month.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry
<input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Social Services Food Cart	<input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Linus	<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat for Humanity Build
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Dinners	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Boxes	<input type="checkbox"/> Chipotle Meat Pick Up
<input type="checkbox"/> Blood Mobile	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Opportunities	

Thank you for your interest. You will be contacted by phone so that we may answer any questions you may have in regards to the social ministry committee and its subcommittees.

We look forward to chatting with you and getting "Social"!



Turn into office

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 7, 8:30—4:00
Sunday, April 8, 1:00—4:00

Your Treasure Awaits

Brinkman's Country Corner, 1800 E. Sandusky St., Findlay

Christian Clearing House

Christians Helping in Crisis

An Evening of Re-purpose...

The Velvet Chandelier Event

April 5, 2018
6:00—8:00 pm
Brinkman's Country Corner.

Your chance for a sneak preview into CCH's Annual Garage Sale. Tickets \$50/person





The Easter Breakfast

will be a continental breakfast this year. Easter falls on April 1 which is also the Community Dinner. It has been decided to serve

rolls, muffins, coffee and juice in the lounge area following the early Easter service and before the 2nd service. Please come and enjoy the fellowship and food in our new space. Men of the church will help with preparation and serving that morning.

Social Ministry

hopes many had an opportunity to see the displays and ask questions during the Social Ministry Fair. There are many opportunities for any **youth**

or adult needing community service hours to sign up for many of our projects; whether it's working at the Community Dinners, making Linus blankets, helping with food boxes or any of the other projects. Please contact any of the members and we will put you to work for the hours! Using our/your hands to do God's Work.



Endowment



The Endowment committee has distributed the funds for all Restricted accounts for 2018.

The following funds were given to the appropriate committees:

Schlee Fund for Special Maintenance	\$1,513.23
McCracken Fund for Candles, Worship and Music	\$ 291.00
Bradley Fund for Current Benevolence	\$ 135.80
Yamine Fund for Youth Activities	\$1,334.08

First Lutheran appreciates all those who continue to support the current Restricted accounts and other funds within the Endowment guidelines to ease the financial needs of our church both physical and spiritual into the future. Any size gift is beneficial to these needs.

Scholarships

Scholarship applications are now available on the bulletin board and in the church office for two scholarships from the Endowment Fund.

1. The Endowment General Scholarship is available for voting members and their dependents attending a Christian Theological Seminary, a Lutheran affiliated college or university regardless of major, or any Christian college or university if majoring in areas of Christian ministry.
2. The Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship was established for members of First Lutheran Church

by Paul and Sue DeMoss in memory of their son, Jeff. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who is an active member of First Lutheran between the ages of 18 and 25, attending a nationally accredited college or university with a declared major in health, religion, and/or social work professions. Examples of professions include but are not limited to social work, counseling, psychology, nursing, medicine, youth work, ministry, and mental health. Applicants must also be of good Christian character and be making use of their talents in a manner that is pleasing to God.

No one person may receive the scholarship award more than twice.

Deadline for submitting applications and letters of recommendation is March 31st. The recipient(s) will be selected and notified on or before June 1st. A total of \$9,163.86 for the General Scholarship and \$866.07 for the DeMoss Scholarship is available to be awarded. Any questions, please contact any Endowment committee member or the church office.

ed to as

the



March

Ministry Spotlight

Dean Kathryn "Kit" Kleinhans of
Trinity Seminary at Capital University

The Rev. Dr. Kathryn "Kit" Kleinhans began her tenure as Dean on January 1 2018. Kleinhans joined the Capital family after serving 24 years on the faculty of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. The first woman hired to teach religion full time at Wartburg, she was named the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission in 2013.

1. **Tell us what's new at Trinity Seminary at Capital University!** While Trinity became a part of Capital University on January 1, we are still in transition -- integrating systems, getting to know new colleagues, and learning some new ways of doing things. What hasn't changed is our mission: forming leaders for Christ's church at work in the world!
2. **What are your goals as the Dean?** What's exciting about this union, as opposed to the other two ELCA seminaries that have become part of ELCA universities, is that we are literally right across the street from each other. That means we have real opportunities for collaboration to make the educational programs we offer even stronger than they already are. Having access to the resources of the Law School, the School of Management and Leadership, and other professional programs will allow Trinity students to gain knowledge and skills from other disciplines that will strengthen their ministry -- and vice versa. One of my main goals is building and strengthening partnerships like these.
3. **How much of the support comes from the ELCA? Private/alumnae gifts? How much do congregations contribute?** Seminary budgets are never tuition-driven. Seminaries are gift economies. Student tuition and fees cover only a portion of the overall costs of preparing students for ministry. ELCA churchwide support is distributed through seminary clusters (Trinity is part of the Covenant Cluster, along with Wartburg and LSTC) and constitutes only a small portion of any seminary's budget. Gifts are essential, both for the support of our students and for the ongoing work of the seminary.
4. **How can First Lutheran and the other congregations in the NWO Synod support the seminary and encourage women and men to consider Trinity?** We ask for three things: your prayers, your financial support, and your nurturing the call of individuals with gifts for ministry. Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University continues to form leaders for Christ's church at work in the world! Trinity's unique 2+2 curriculum, with two years on campus and two years of internship, allows our students to deepen their learning in context and over time in the same ministerial setting.

If you want to hear regular updates and reflections, please visit www.tlsohio.edu and read my "New Beginnings" column, which is posted every Wednesday. You can also subscribe by email.

Where do our offerings go? Although we do not budget for Trinity Seminary, the Endowment Committee does provide scholarships for prospective students at Trinity. A portion of our offerings go to the eight ELCA seminaries through our Mission Share (benevolence). Individual gifts and special offerings, like the recent "Noisy Offering" help support our seminary in Columbus.



As the Saints go marching in, we are “soldiering on” with The Year of Prayer endeavors. You may remember that we are looking to enrich the prayer life here at First. We realize that this may seem like a daunting task—who has time for prayer? But seven (a perfect number, according to the Bible) have committed to learning more about prayer in general and how we can be seeds in good soil.

On March 4 we will begin a study on Congregational Prayer called *Grounded In Prayer* by Brent W. Dahlseng. This is a 6-week study which will be a training guide for future groups. Please continue to pray for this process, and prayerfully consider being a part of a future group. “Prayer changes things, but it also changes us. In the very act of prayer, we open ourselves to the will of another—God.” Gloria Gaither.

Again, for more information, contact Sue DeMoss or Jane Ebersole

ELCA Year of Prayer (Memory verse)

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6



Pastor's Sunday School Class

The Jesus I Never Knew
by Philip Yancey



You are about to engage in a six-session study that is bound to change your perceptions of who Jesus is. Each week you will see several film depictions of Jesus, his life and his ministry. Some will be funny, some will be profound, and some will even be disturbing.

After reacting to the film clips you will return to the Gospel accounts of these same scenes and discuss what you believe really happened. The film clips are there to help us think about Jesus in a new way—to examine our own preconceived ideas in comparison with what the Bible teaches.

The class will begin at 9:30 on March 4th and will meet in the Builder's classroom upstairs.



From our Librarian

Welcome to March, my friends One of today's topics erupted at February's book club. The night centered around the question of how accurate should historical fiction should be? The problem was thus: we read *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict, sold as the story of Albert Einstein's first wife Mileva, who is presented as a brilliant mathematician in her own right.

Now Albert is presented in a similar light to the twentieth century F. Scott Fitzgerald. F. Scott actually published, under *his* name, stories he took from his wife Zelda, when he could not meet a publisher's deadline with something of his own creation. In the book club book, Mileva is given credit for the conception of the theory of relativity while her husband takes full credit.

The difference between the two presentations? F.Scott really did steal Zelda's stories, while there is no proof that Mileva even conceived of the theory.

I am not sure I appreciate being given an image that has NO basis in fact. My view of Albert Einstein is dented by a portrayal of him based on the author's own whim. Some members at the discussion had no problem with the fiction of the Einsteins' lives, while others had a tough time discussing events in the book that probably didn't happen anyway. The book presented quite a dilemma.

On a related note, his formula for happiness which he jotted on hotel stationery and gave to a bellhop in lieu of a tip reads “A calm and modest life brings more happiness than the pursuit of success combined with constant restlessness.” This piece of wisdom on hotel stationery sold, along with one other piece of advice, for a cool \$1.8 million!

And on even another note, Gene Sharp, born in North Baltimore, Ohio, “founded the Albert Einstein institution to advance the study and use of strategic nonviolent action as an alternative to violent conflict.” Sharp, who died January 28, had corresponded with Einstein for years according to *The Courier* article. He had lived in Boston.

And now for all those odds and ends that are scattered all over my desk:

My calendar told me one day: “We hear so much about unusual and extraordinary days and times. Have we taken the time to be completely grateful for an ordinary day? No excitement! No adrenaline rush! No rush at all! Just the simple process of doing a day.” I like that thought- the simple process of doing the day. That

Well, I have run out of space. God bless and keep reading.
Kathy Brooks

Time 2 Read

Three other ways to become more grateful:

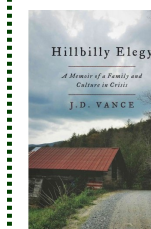
Ann Voskamp suggests keeping a journal. Everyday write down three things for which you are grateful. You will begin to feel more optimistic and better about your life.

Once a month send a handwritten card to someone who has not been properly thanked for a kindness, whether you know the person or not.

Every time you feel grateful for something, jot it down on a scrap of paper and put in a jar. Empty the jar every New Year's Eve and relive your wonderful moments.



What if today, we were just grateful for everything?



And don't forget the Community Read presentation of J.D.Vance, author of *Hillbilly Elegy*. He was raised in Middletown, Ohio; Vance 's book “explores poverty and the working middle class from the inside by someone who lived it.”

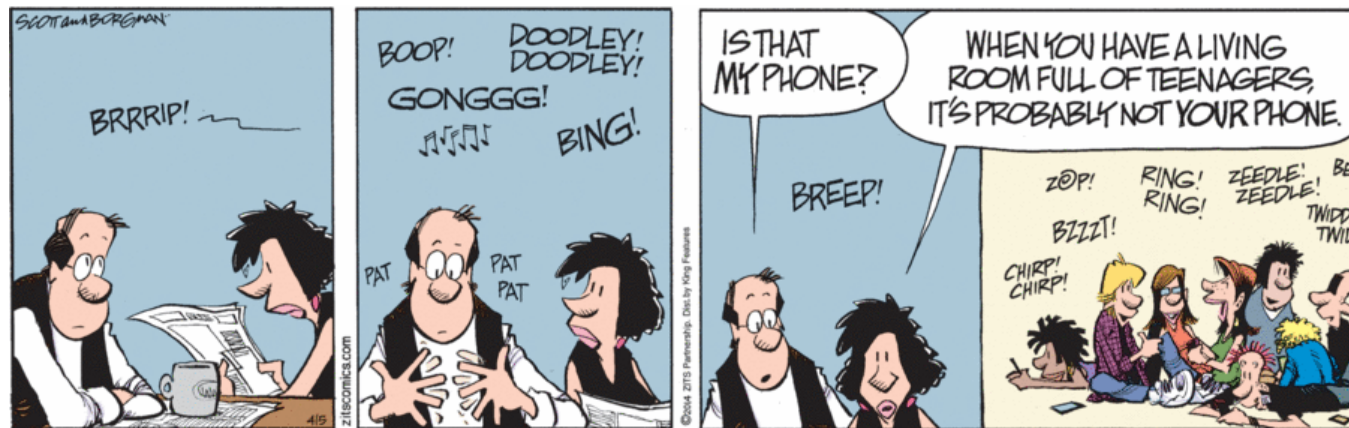
He will speak at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts on March 22 at 7:00 pm.



March 4 Games at church
March 7 Youth Soup Supper
March 11 YMCA Open Swim 2:00-3:30
March 18 Games at church

Confirmation

Worship March 7, 14, 21@ 7:00 PM
April 25—Last Class
8th graders and parents
April 29— Confirmation Sunday; 10:45
Pictures at 9:30



WHERE DO YOU LIVE? In the search for **additional** pastoral staff (no, Pastor Bob is not leaving) we are requested by the synod to complete a questionnaire. One of the categories is demographics of our congregation, including how far our members drive to church on Sunday. A quick survey on February 4th produced the results below.

Miles	Number Attending
0 to 1	11
1 to 2	14
2 to 3	15
3 to 4	37
4 to 5	12
5 to 6	17
6 to 7	6
7 to 8	6
8 to 9	6
10 to 20	15
21 to 30	6

Women of the ELCA

March 7—WELCA Board Meeting,
10:00, Library
March 13—Martha Circle,
9:00 am, library
Rachel Circle,
9:30 am, lounge
March 19—Hannah Circle,
7:00 pm, lounge
March 25—Cookie Sunday,
Rachel Circle
April 27/28—Rummage Sale



Volunteers

March Newsletter Deadline
Monday, March 19th,
Weekly Bulletin Deadline
Wednesday Mornings

LECTORS

Mar. 4
8:15 – Jeff Kamm
10:45— Rob Leipheimer

Mar. 11
8:15— Acolytes
10:45— Acolytes

Mar 18
8:15— Marilyn Dunn
10:45— Renee Smith

Mar. 25
8:15— Carol Bridinger
10:45— Elaine Timbrook

SOUND ROOM

Mar. 4
8:15 – Tim Roth
10:45— Alex Treece

Mar. 11
8:15— Dave Gerber
10:45— Todd Thompson

Mar 18
8:15— Sam Ried
10:45— Steve Roth

Mar. 25
8:15— Tim Roth
10:45— Jerry Bryant

March 29—Steve Roth
March 30—Tim Roth

DEACONS

8:15— Jeff Kamm
Nick Thomas

10:45- Bob Schriener
Eric Timbrook
Dawn Franks

GREETERS

Mar. 4
8:15 – Jeff & Jennifer Kamm
10:45— Leipheimer Family

Mar. 11
8:15— Robin Bowman
Mary Lou McCann
10:45— Kids of the Kingdom

Mar 18
8:15— Ken & Nancy Bahler
10:45— Bev Yammine

Mar. 25
8:15— Carol Bridinger
Carole Wittenberg
10:45— Cox Family

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Mar. 4
Tim Franks

Mar. 11
Daryl Rotman

Mar 18
Pastor Chris Dittmar

Mar. 25
Tim Franks

ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar. 4—Jeff & Angie Nunn
Mar. 11 –
Mar. 18—
Mar. 25—Daryl & Cyndy Rotman

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.

ACOLYTES

Mar. 4
8:15 – Karissa Welte
10:45— Emily Meier
Nathan Leipheimer

Mar. 11
8:15—
10:45— Emily Meier
Samantha Franks

Mar 18
8:15— Christian Nielsen
10:45— Zach McRill
Lily Cox

Mar. 25
8:15— Karissa Welte
10:45— Kylee Timbrook
Seth Franks

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell
Pat Needles

COUNTERS

Bob & Arlene Schriener

LSS DELIVERY

Carolyn Wilde

FLOWER DELIVERY

Marilynn Dunn

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mar. 4— Kurt & Jane Ebersole
Mar. 11— Dave & Dee Rossman
Mar. 18— Dave & Dee Rossman
Mar. 25— Randy & Carie Eakin

COOKIE SUNDAY

Mar. 4— Community Dinner
Mar. 11— Youth
Mar. 18— Christian Education
Mar. 25— Rachel Circle

Birthdays

Sue Baxter	3/1
Taylor Fieger	3/1
Sandra Burnside	3/2
Audrey Leopold	3/4
Angela Nunn	3/4
Robin Wilkins	3/4
Linda Ried	3/5
Hannah Roth	3/5
Jon Wilkins	3/5
Lee Hardesty	3/6
Cameron Roth	3/9
Drew Short	3/9
Richard Larick	3/10
Jeanne Bartolomeo	3/11
John Huff	3/11
Clyde Mason	3/13
Caleb Miller-Rinker	3/13
Adelyn Tabler	3/13
Dee Rossman	3/14
Leslie Dudics	3/15
Dianne Beekman	3/16
Audrey Hicks	3/16
Angela Baker	3/18
Jaden Tabler	3/18
Jacob Brown	3/21
Steve Roth	3/21
Jonathon Bonnoront	3/22
Thomas Basinger	3/23
David Wobser	3/23
Beth Bonnoront	3/24
Pamela Cochran	3/24
Cynthia Napier	3/24
Lori Cox	3/25
Jon Jones	3/25
Erin Rodabaugh-Gallegos	3/26
Robert Rodman	3/26
Aaron Clark	3/27
Dawn Franks	3/29
Carol Bridinger	3/30
Evelyn Napier	3/31
Cam Taylor	3/31



Baptisms

Kurt Ebersole	3/1	Thomas Leonard	3/17
Leo Benedetti	3/2	Phillip Bash	3/19
Jerry Luth	3/2	Carol Bottoms	3/20
Nancy Bahler	3/6	Patricia Taylor	3/20
Emily Meier	3/7	Susan Waltermeyer	3/20
Beulah Bishop	3/8	Cloyce Baker	3/22
Janann Lishawa	3/8	Kim Blunk	3/22
Jeanne Bartolomeo	3/11	Brian Fruchey	3/22
Cynthia Habegger	3/11	Pamela Basinger	3/25
Brandon Maas	3/11	Justin Buckingham	3/27
Elizabeth Brossia	3/13	Mary Clayton	3/27
Ryan Buck	3/14	Pamela Cochran	3/27
Lesley Betts	3/16	Beth Schmidt	3/28
Brent Fruchey	3/17	Madison Kirk	3/29
Brynlee Johnson	3/17	Tad Schell	3/30
Michael Leonard	3/17	Jason Polder	3/31

Anniversaries

Michael & Tracy August	3/1/1997	21
Mark & Kim Blunk	3/13/1993	25
Phil & Denise Burson	3/22/1975	43
Wayne & Nina Dukes	3/24/1979	39
James & Merrill Maurer	3/26/1977	41
Daryl & Cynthia Rotman	3/26/1983	35
Todd & Cindy Thompson	3/28/1987	31



Sunday Morning Worship 8:15 & 10:45

Sunday School, 9:30

Wednesdays:

Soup Suppers 5:45; Holden Evening Prayer 7:00



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

Return Service Requested

Current Resident or:



www.1stlutheranchurch.org

419-422-2638