



# First News August 2021

## I Love to Tell the Story

*[note: This is Pr. Paul's final newsletter article and, thus, represents his last words to us.]*

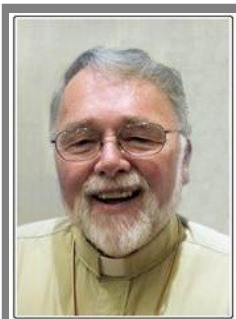
What a summer this has been with so many fears arising over the virus and discipleship/witnessing! What am I talking about? I'm talking about my article in the MAY/JUNE newsletter, in which I suggested that pastors are apostles and the members of congregations are disciples. I showed Biblical evidence for this in *Luke* as 72 followers were sent out to witness, preach, and heal. In our case, we are sent out by the pastor (or worship assistant) at the conclusion of worship with the words, "Go in peace. Serve the Lord." or "Go in peace. Remember the poor," or "Go in peace. Share the God News," or "Go in peace. Christ is with you." Copies of my article are in the church office or online if you want to read it again.

The second part of the article talked about witnessing to others. Yes, I am well aware that most church members are fearful of witnessing. That's why I discussed an easy yet caring method to witness that most people can feel comfortable doing. Most of us have experienced having someone describe something terrible that is happening to them, making them feel like they are caught in the middle of a storm. What can you do in this situation? You can first show that you are listening by repeating back what you have heard them say. After they have acknowledged that you have heard them, they may say more about their troubles. This is the point at which you have an opportunity to share with them what you have encountered in your life that is similar to their situation and how your faith and trust in God helped you get through your storm to safety and peace.

Some of us are already doing this, and I want to encourage you to continue. I would add one part of this witnessing that I did not share: **the invitation**. Believe me, this is essential to the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ. We are called to invite others to church. If the person to whom you are speaking does not have a church home, offer to pick up his/her family and bring them to worship. If he/she says, "No, we will come by ourselves," say, "That is fine. I will meet you there (at a certain time)." It is important that you sit with these guests because it is hard for a visitor to know what to do and when in the service. This is true even if they say that they are Lutherans. Not all Lutherans worship in the same way, and no two buildings are the same. This is simply being hospitable, as we are commanded to be in the Holy Scriptures.

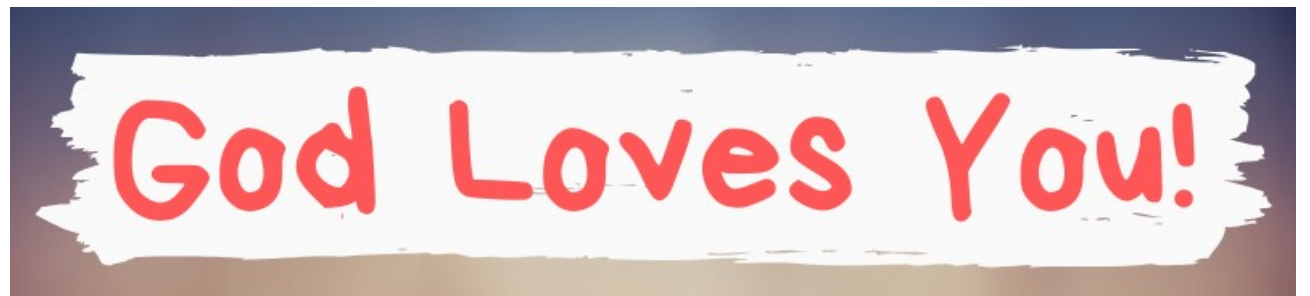
As you are walking with them through the halls, you can point out the restrooms, office, library, and lounge. After the service, make sure you introduce them to the people around you, and if you don't know the names of people around you, this will give you the opportunity to greet them and introduce the new family. We want to show people that ours is a hospitable church that welcomes everyone.

I hope you are taking advantage of the opportunities that God is placing in front of you to help others get through their storms to safe harbor. You can do this if you allow the light of Christ to shine in and through you. Shine, my friend. Shine brightly.



**First Lutheran offers prayers to the family of Rev. Dr. Paul W. DeMoss, Jr. Pastor Paul passed into the Church Triumphant On July 5th. May the love of friends give the family comfort. May the love of God give them peace.**

***"We would like to personally thank each and every one of you for all of your visits, cards, phone calls and prayers during this time of great sadness and loss. Your kindness and expressions of sympathy are deeply appreciated. They have brought us great comfort and will always be remembered in our hearts." The DeMoss Family***



**God loves you.** It's as simple as that. **YOU** are beloved. Just the way you are. Just **because** you are. God loves you! That's the message of Grace today. Many of us have trouble believing that God loves us. How intricately woven our struggle to love and care for ourselves is with our difficulty in knowing, undoubtedly, that we are beloved beyond all imagining by the very Creator of the Universe.

Self-care, true joy, the ability to listen to ourselves, listen to God, listen to others, to align ourselves with God's mission in the world, is dependent on a core belief that we are of value and loved by something greater than ourselves; that we are a beloved child of God.

Many of us need to be reminded when we are in the process of healing from some very hard experiences and at a place where we aren't sure God loves us or forgives us, these are three statements (reprinted from Rev. Dr. Rudolph R. Featherstone) to repeat to in the ourselves in the mirror every morning and every evening until they are ingrained in our core beings:

1. I am someone because God made me someone and made me good.
2. God loves me, yes, even me.
3. I can be anything I want, if it is being faithful to God.

These words are life-changing! Be gracious to yourself, take these words and phrases, and use them daily to remind yourself that the God of forgiveness and new beginnings, the God who created you, the God who created everything, the God who Was, who **IS**, and who Is to Come, the God of Grace loves you beyond measure. This is **THE MOST** important piece of information that **forms** us, **reforms** us, **renews** us, **guides** us and **binds** us together...in Christ's **LOVE**.

***YOU are loved, I am loved, We are loved by the very Creator of the Universe. There is no greater Grace than that.***

Condensed from "Grace Between the Lines" NWOS ELCA office.  
Submitted by Jane Ebersole—In remembrance of Pastor Paul.



# CELEBRATION of Life Luncheon

We will celebrate the wonderful lives of Marilyn J. and Richard E. Schweitzer with a Memorial Luncheon at First Lutheran Church after the 10:30am service on Sunday, August 15, 2021. The luncheon will begin at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall, in



the basement of the church. Marilyn joined our Lord in Heaven on August 10th, 2020 and soon after, Richard followed in her footsteps on September 12th, 2020. After a wonderful marriage of 63 years, they now live eternally together with our Lord and Savior. The luncheon is hosted by sons Steve and Mark Schweitzer and their families. All who wish to remember and honor the lives of Marilyn and Richard are invited to attend.



Students are asked to bring their backpacks to church on

Sunday, August 29, at 9:00 or 10:30.

Pastor Bob will provide a blessing and students will receive a backpack tag.

## Worship SCHEDULE

August  
9:00 & 10:30

September 5  
9:00 & 10:30

Beginning Sept 12.  
8:15 & 10:45



### Community Dinners Return to In Person Service!

After 15 months (or 17 by next month!), the plan is to return to in-person "service" for the Community Dinners in September. When we say "service," we will serve our congregation and community guests a HOT meal complete with real silver ware, dishes, jello

salads, vegetables, cakes, and casseroles! So, get out your baking mitts, mixing bowls, aprons, etc. and join us in making a dinner for our community, which includes us and our neighbors. Remember, it's not just about serving a meal for those who are hungry, but also for those who are lonely and in need of communing with others. Let's roll out the welcome mat and extend the hand of Christian fellowship to others. Look for a sign-up sheet for September 5 (I know...that's Labor Day Weekend! But come on, you've had months off!). There will be spots for salads, fruit, veggies, kitchen prep, servers, and clean up! Join us for this important ministry!

# All Aboard! the Steward Ship

ようこそ東京へ

[Welcome to Tokyo!]



TOKYO

TOKYO is a world unto itself, and it's an absolute must-see for any travel lover. Soak in the traditional Japanese culture, learn about modern life in the city, and people-watch until your head spins!

Tokyo has it all: from hole-in-the-wall gyoza joints to high-end Michelin sushi bars. If you're going to Tokyo, plan on trying all the amazing food — eating here is half the fun.

Food notwithstanding, Tokyo is a crazy and amazing city. You can watch the tuna auction at the Tsukiji fish market in the morning, wander around the Imperial Palace in the afternoon, and sing karaoke with the locals in the evening.

This is a modern, fast-paced city that still embraces its traditional roots. Even though the city is large, there's a sense of cleanliness and order about Tokyo that makes it extremely accessible to visitors, and keeps it consistently rated by Conde Nast as one of the best cities in the world.

Japan is a country of 126 million people but only 1% of this country is Christian. In 1597, in order to stamp out foreign influence (namely from the Spanish and Portuguese), Japan executed 26 missionaries and others Japanese Christians by crucifixion (the Church commemorates this event on February 5, "The Martyrs of Japan"). The Christian witness has been stymied and suppressed over the centuries in Japan like few other places. Praise the Lord, Christians are not persecuted in Japan today, yet there are few converts in this largely secular culture. The Lutheran witness has been minute over the centuries. That has not prevented Lutherans from working hard to preach, teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Japan. There are some 30,000 Lutherans living in that country. The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church has 23,000 members in 122 congregations. The work of the Lutherans in Japan takes stamina, courage and faith! Who ever heard of Lutherans in Japan? More than you think! Being small with very limited resources doesn't make witness and service any less important or effective. It is because the Holy Spirit is alive and working in Japan! **And you are in ministry there** as well as here at home through your stewardship! Remember that we are sowers. God does the planting and increases the growth! And the results are "a hundredfold."





# All Aboard! the Steward Ship



Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary



Rev. Dr. James and Carol Manfred Sack

When one thinks of a Lutheran seminary, he/she usually thinks of Trinity in Columbus or Luther in St. Paul, or perhaps even in Germany or Tanzania. But did you know that there is a Lutheran seminary in Tokyo, Japan? It was established in 1909 by a predecessor body of the ELCA and is still in relationship to us. One of the ways we continue that support and cooperation with the Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary is through providing educators [missionaries] from the ELCA to teach at the Seminary as well as the Japan Lutheran College. Currently we have two pastors teaching at the Seminary and College. Rev. Dr. James Sack and his wife, Carol Manfred Sack, work with music-based pastoral care. Also teaching at JLTS and JLC is Dr. Andrew L. Wilson and his wife, Sarah Hinlicky Wilson serve as pastor to the English-language congregation at Tokyo Lutheran Church. The ELCA Global Mission division also supports pastors, missionaries and several young adults [Young Adults in Global Mission] teaching English. Half-way around the world we are contributing to a ministry in Christ in a land that is only 1% Christian! This is what Stewardship is all about!

## Lutherans in Southeast Asia

**Did you know that there is a Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea?** After 13 years of harsh work, the first baptism in PNG was in 1899. Today the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea has 1.2 million members, 16% of the total population of the country.

**Did you know that there are more Lutherans in Indonesia than in the U.S. [ELCA]?** The world's largest Muslim country also is one of the world's largest Lutheran countries. In the 1820's, Protestants brought the gospel to the Batak people without success. It wasn't until 1861 that German missionaries began baptizing the Batak. Today Protestants make up the second largest religious body in Indonesia. The Batak Christian Protestant Church [a member of the Lutheran World Federation] has 6 million members, the largest Lutheran Church in Asia.

**Are there Lutherans in China?** While it is impossible to know, we do know that, according to the government, there are 38 million Protestants (2018) and 10-12 million Catholics. There are probably tens of millions more unaccounted for, making China one of the world's largest Christian countries!



Good grief, it is August. The summer is slipping by in all the family gatherings and friend gatherings and open church and shopping for the heck of it. Isn't it wonderful?

Not too long ago, Med Mutual sent Paul (not me!) a flyer about shedding pandemic pounds with "mini-habits." Mini-habits are small behaviors that you do every single day. They are intentionally simple, so you can do them even on your worst day. On days when you have more energy or motivation, you can do bonus reps.

Here are some mini habits to get you started.

- ⇒ Eat one extra serving of fruit or vegetables.
- ⇒ Swap out one unhealthy snack for a healthy one.
- ⇒ Swap out one sugary beverage for a glass of water.
- ⇒ Prepare one healthy meal at home.
- ⇒ Stretch one body part.
- ⇒ Get up from your chair and sit back down.
- ⇒ March in place for one minute.
- ⇒ Dance for one song.



I think you get the idea. Now add to the list and go for it. (The source for all this is "Mini Habits for Weight Loss" by Stephen Guise.)



I must also remind you of the reading challenge. Read and make notes on the papers on the library table of two books you choose from your church library. One, a book on becoming a better Christian and one, a book of your choice. The glass jar will hold your papers.

My reading hasn't stopped; I merely got started on several books at once. I have begun Eleanor and Roosevelt by Joseph P. Lash, which is just short of 1000 pages. It is slow work, especially in that a Roosevelt marries a Roosevelt, so her family and his family all have the same last names and some of the same first names. So, I am taking my time with it.

I am slowly reading How Can I Help? – Stories and Reflections on Service by Ram Dass and Paul Gorman. My oldest step-son Adam wanted me to read this. (I love that instinct in him!) The text provides stories of others and how they serve that we can draw ideas from others when we are needed to help.

I am also working with Jim Henson's "The Storyteller" by Anthony Minghella. It is based on Henson's television series, nine traditional European folk and fairy tales. And the illustrations are delightful.

I borrowed from the church library Great Short Stories of the World, a fun book when you have ten minutes to sit and read. Some stories I have read, some I have never heard of – good reading.

And, of course, our church book club just finished discussing The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan, the novel one of the new genre known as magical realism. Always a touch of magic or the unreal in the story. It is a great read.

Well, time to put the dinner on the table... grilled pork chops and zucchini stuffed with dressing. God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks





**WELCA Calendar of Events for August**

**Martha Circle is in-service for August**

**August 25** Hannah Circle, Dinner Out Hunan Gardens

**August 12** Program book info to be verified, 10 am

**Sept. 17-18** Rummage Sale



**THE RUMMAGE SALE is set for September 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. You may place your "gently used" in the Rummage Sale Room.**

**No TVs are allowed. We are in need of children's clothing. Questions: Call Mary Lou McCann at 419-423-2223 or 419-348-6164.**

**Calling all members!**



In October we as a church family will be recognizing and celebrating First Lutheran Church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What a remarkable record of service to our community and our world. Think about it, 175 years of faithful giving and outreach for God's work. From our local monthly community dinners to supporting our ELCA outreach throughout the country and around the world we, as a church, have been actively participating.

Much planning is going into this celebration with the whole month of October scheduled with activities. From period appropriate worship services, to history displays and tours to the building of a meditation/memorial garden south of the building, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Take pride in what this family of believers has accomplished and help prepare for the next 175 years of service!

**History quiz:**

The Church has had 3 buildings in it's 175 years. The first building was located at the N. W. corner of S. Cory St and W. Crawford St. The third building is located at the corner of S. Main St. and E. Lincoln St. Where was the second building located?

Who has been the longest serving pastor of First Lutheran Church?

Answers will be available in the history presentation during the celebration.

—Kurt Ebersole



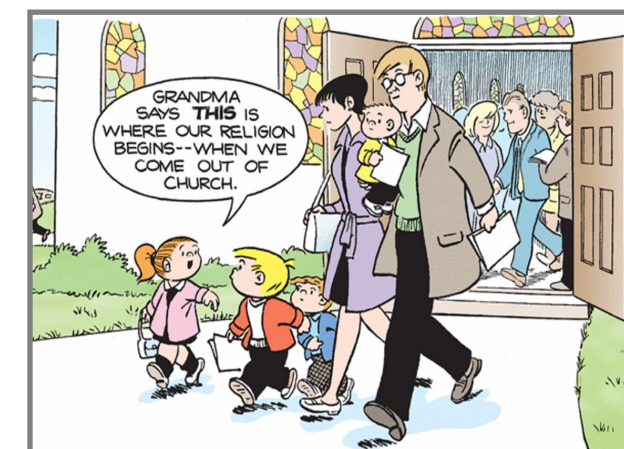
**Wow! With all of God's good sunshine and rain, the Good News Garden is bursting with flowers and the promise of lots of vegetables for this month's harvest through the end of the growing season. Be sure to take a stroll around to see it, or drive by on the elevator driveway.**

**As we work, we are amazed at how many walkers stop to admire or ask questions about it. On one occasion, one of our Lima Street neighbors, who has recently moved in from the country, said how much she enjoys the flowers. On a side note, I asked if she could hear our chimes (the mini concerts at noon and 6 p.m.), and she said she just loves listening to them. A good feeling to reach our community in these ways.**



The Endowment Committee would like to recognize our recipient from the Scholarship Selection Committee. Evelyn Napier received the distribution from the General Scholarship Fund.

Evelyn is attending Capital University and is majoring in Political Science and is hoping to continue in graduate studies to become a lawyer and eventually a politician. We wish Evelyn our best in pursuit of her higher education goals..



**Christian Clearing House**  
Christians Helping in Crisis™

**GOLF SCRAMBLE**

Come support Christian Clearing House at their Charity Golf Scramble on September 10, 2021. Registration begins @ 8 AM with shotgun start at 9 AM at Sycamore Springs Golf Course near Arlington. Registration is due by September 2, 2021: \$90 per player or \$360 per team. Sycamore Members pay \$75 per player. Any questions, call Cyndy Rotman @ 419-425-0838.



# AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1-Aug 9am & 10:30 Worship 11:30am Community Dinner	2 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Stewardship/ Evangelism 6:30pm Worship & Music	3 7pm Book Club	4	5 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	6 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	7
8 Noisy Offering 9am & 10:30 Worship	9 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	10 12:45pm NWOS 7:30pm Finance	11 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	12 10am WELCA Board 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	13 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	14
15 9am & 10:30 Worship 12:00 Schweitzer Memorial Luncheon	16 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 12pm Newsletter Deadline	17 1:30pm Staff Meeting	18	19 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal 6:00pm BSA	20 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	21
22 9am & 10:30 Worship	23 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Council Meeting	24	25 6:30pm Hannah Circle	26 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	27 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	28
29 Blessing of the Backpacks 9am & 10:30 Worship	30 10:30am Ladies Bible Study	31				

# 2021

## August Worship Disciples

September Newsletter  
Deadline  
Monday, August 23rd,  
Weekly Bulletin Deadline  
Wednesday Mornings

### SOUND ROOM?

Aug. 1  
9:00  
10:30  
Aug. 8  
9:00  
10:30  
Aug. 15  
9:00  
10:30  
Aug. 22  
9:00  
10:30  
Aug. 29  
9:00  
10:30

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Aug. 1 - Tad & Maria Schell  
Aug. 8 - Pastor Bob & Pam Cochran  
Aug. 15 - Schweitzer Family  
Aug. 22 - Pastor Chris & Julie Dittmar  
Aug. 29 - Craig & Beth Meier

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.

### Ushers

9:00?  
10:30?

### DEACONS

9:00  
Aug. 1,8,22, 29  
Tad Schell  
Aug. 15  
Marilynn Dunn  
10:30  
Tim Roth

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Aug. 1 - Pastor Chris Dittmar  
Aug. 8 - Kylee Timbrook  
Aug. 15 - Pastor Chris Dittmar  
Aug. 22 - Daryl Rotman  
Aug. 29 - 9:00 Tim Cochran/ 10:30 Pam Cochran

### ALTAR GUILD

Dave & Shirley Gerber  
Bob & Arlene Schriener

### COUNTERS

Aug. 1 - Tom & Pam Basinger  
Aug. 8,15, 22  
Daryl & Cyndy Rotman  
Aug. 29 - Bob & Arlene Schriener

### LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Judy Kipker

### DRIVERS

Aug. 1 - Jerry Bryant  
Aug. 12 - Mike Zawisza  
Aug. 15 - Aaron Ried  
Aug. 22 - Pam Cochran  
Aug. 29 - Jerry Bryant

# Church Council

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[flcpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:flcpastor@hotmail.com)



# Celebrations

## Birthdays

Matthew Price	8/1
Joseph Baker	8/4
Randy Buck	8/4
Robin Bowman	8/6
Carol Roessing	8/7
Rick Dudics	8/8
Steven Rice	8/8
SilverLyn Roth	8/8
Riley Biggs	8/9
Ryan Maas	8/9
Kathy Brooks	8/10
Carson Dale	8/10
Cyndi Ulrich	8/10
Micah Fultz	8/12
Vickie Poling	8/12
Judy Routson	8/13
Barbara Larick	8/14
Robert Beutler	8/15
Alec Bonnoront	8/15
Nancy Meek	8/15
Ethan Patrick Schell	8/15
Jason Bower	8/16
Elyse Clark	8/18
Emily Clark	8/18
Jonathan Ruehle	8/18
Adrienne Masterlasco	8/19
Jane Eakin	8/20
Clyde Mitchell	8/20
Kristina Rodman	8/20
Corey Spoon	8/20
Robert Cochran	8/21
Stanley Phillips	8/23
Lyla Gerdeman	8/25
Fred Makrancy	8/26
Laurel Beutler	8/27
Jeff Howard	8/27
Tanner Timbrook	8/29
Jayna Routson	8/30
Kenneth Wynkoop	8/30
Jim Fultz	8/31

## Anniversaries

Diana & Jeff Salisbury	8/4/1973	48
Paul & Kathy Brooks	8/8/1992	29
Harry & Ann Fifolt	8/13/1966	55
Nick & Tonya Thorbahn	8/16/2008	13
Brent & Peggy Fruchey	8/17/1985	36
Timothy & Nora Cochran	8/19/1978	43
Steven & Jodi Wilson	8/19/1978	43
Stanley & Jane Wise	8/23/1969	52
Milton & Carol Peters	8/27/1960	61
Christian & Julie Dittmar	8/28/1971	50
Jerold & Bonnie Bosse	8/30/1959	62

### Food Cart Requests



Toilet Paper, Dish Soap,  
Canned Meat/Fish

All donations benefit  
Lutheran Social Services.

The cart is in the  
Coat/elevator room.



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Church Directory™

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Instantly!

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Go to:

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(Tab) Forms  
(Tab) Directory Download instructions

(The church needs your email address  
on file to allow you access)

*first*  
Lutheran  
109 E. Lincoln Street  
Findlay, OH 45840

NONPROFIT  
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Current Resident Or:



Mailed around  
July 29, 2021

## First Lutheran Church, Findlay OH

### Worship 9:00 & 10:30 Sunday Mornings

# AUGUST

Communion Every Sunday

419-422-2638

[www.1stLutheranChurch.org](http://www.1stLutheranChurch.org)