



First News

*We will strive in everything we do to help the people
of our community and the world to move one step closer to God!*

January 2018



JANUARY MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Jane Ebersole Talks about the Community Dinners

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A New Year with the Lord

© M.S. Lowndes, copied with permission

**A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences
New adventures with the Lord**

**Remember not the former things
The things of this past year
The Lord will do new things in us
Much more than we are aware**

**For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within**

**What God has placed within our hearts
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities
We'll see the door to go through**

**We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace.**

- 1. What is the Community Dinner and why do we do it?** The Community Dinner is a free meal offered at FLC the first Sunday of every month. It was begun in 2001 by St. Andrews Methodist to foster community and fellowship and because Sunday was a day when City Mission offered no hot meal. Four other churches also are part of the Community Dinner Council. Because I knew Linda Laux, the German teacher at FHS, and we had shared social ministry interests, she approached me and asked if I thought FLC would be interested. With about \$3,000 "seed" money from the Endowment Committee we began in November of 2005, and we have never stopped...even during the flood when our kitchen was out of commission from Sept-March (7 mos.). During that time, we assembled "grab and go" brown bag lunches!
- 2. How many meals are served each month?** We serve anywhere from 68 (the first month) to now between 125 and 175...I always plan for 200.
- 3. How many members and friends of the congregation participate (total)? How many hours total monthly?** 35-50 people, including shopping, calling for volunteers, picking up Panera bread, cutting the bread, setting up tables, preparing the entree, making the salads and desserts, serving the meal, clean-up. Probably 100-150 hours by the time you include all who make cakes, salads, etc. and the making of the meal, the serving, the clean-up.
- 4. Where do the food, money, supplies come from? What is the total monthly cost? Who pays for these?** Whoever is doing the cooking (and I have Cindy and Todd Thompson and Tim and Nora Cochran who take the months I am gone) shops/prepares the entree (beef/noodles, spaghetti/meatballs, etc.) and hot vegetable. FLC has an account with GFS and much of our food comes from there. Panera "doughnates" their leftover bread and pastries from every Friday for each of the dinners. During the flood I made a plea to the congregation, we recouped much of those funds. God always provides, and throughout, the congregation has been very generous with food, time, and talent. We cook, prepare the entree, and then I rely on parishioners to bring fresh fruit, homemade salads, and desserts, and our community guests really seem to enjoy the variety. The cost for each meal is about \$2. Almost a year after the flood (which was costly), I discovered that I had almost \$4,000 dollars in the account. I discovered I had an anonymous donor who sent \$200 almost every month for either the Community Dinner or the food pantry!
- 5. What are the benefits of this ministry?** Besides seeing the congregation and the community leave our Fellowship Hall with full bellies and smiles from shared conversation and experiences, this ministry has involved some of our congregation who are a part of no other ministry. And we have seen many start with cakes or fresh fruit to go on to other ministries like deacons, altar guild, church council. We don't have that many community guests take advantage of our worship services, but 1 or 2 enjoy the service and take Communion.
- 6. Have you received any feedback (comments) from the clients? workers? community?** Occasionally we will receive a \$1 tip that is put under the centerpiece (we do NOT accept any money from anyone on Sundays during the meal); one of our clients always comes into the kitchen to vociferously thank us for the great meal, and we do have prayer requests that clients can fill out and renew each month. And our parish nurse "works" the crowd while she manages the drink table and is available for advice and consolation:)
- 7. Do you have a Bible verse that inspires you to do this ministry in Christ's name?** Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship." This was a verse that the dean of our church camp always opened with at the counselors' pre-week prep. session. I think it applies to every day of our lives...being a living sacrifice. Mostly, none gives the sacrifice that Christ gave. But we do what we can.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join us
for your Annual Meeting.
Don't miss it!

January, 21, 2018
12:00 Noon
Lunch Provided

Agenda:

- Celebrate our Accomplishments of 2017
- Approve 2018 Budget
- Final Approval of Constitutional Amendment
- Elect 2018 Nominating Committee
- Elect 2018 Delegates to the NWO Synod Assembly
- Thoughts and Ideas of Congregational Members

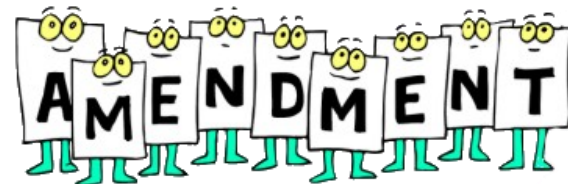
Constitutional Amendment

Because First Lutheran believes that youth are not only the future of the church but the present, we believe that at least one youth should be involved in the governance of the church. In order to have a youth representative permanently on Council, be it resolved that one additional Council position be created specifically for an active voting member under the age of 21.

...youth are not only the future of the church but the present...

First Lutheran Church Council proposes the following amendment to the church constitution:

(Changes are in bold, italics and underline)



C12.01

The voting membership of the Congregational Council shall consist of the pastor(s), not more than **13** members of the congregation, ***including a youth representative (an active voting member under the age of 21 at the time of election or appointment)*** and the officers of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregational Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or B) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregational Council without cause, or c) resigns.

C12.02.

The members of the Congregational Council, except the pastor(s), shall be elected at a legally called meeting of the congregation during the month of November. Their term of office shall be for three (3) years, ***except for the youth representative, who will serve for two (2) years***, with the term of office beginning at either 1) a reorganizational meeting of the Congregational Council at which time officers are elected or appointed or 2) the close of the annual meeting, whichever is first.

First Congregational Reading and Approval 1/22/17



Hold on to Your Hats It's Christmas

Presented by pre-K to 5th grade children.
Narrated by 7th and 8th grade students.



Snow Emergencies

- Level 1** Worship & meetings will be held as scheduled.
- Level 2** Worship will be held - use your discretion; Meetings—Check with your chairperson to see if your meeting has been canceled. Please be safe.
- Level 3** All worship and events are canceled.

Everyone's Ministry



caring & sharing

How do we care for each other?

How can we be better in our care for each other? By Communication! Please let the church office or a pastor know about a change in your life, such as a hospitalization, being confined to a home, even temporarily, the death of a loved one, etc.

If you notice the absence of a brother or sister from worship, leave a note on the back of your yellow "Footprints" or call the church office or pastor. Our pastors are prepared to support you in times of change and adjustment.



Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the family of Loni Seeman who passed into the Church Triumphant on December 3rd. A memorial service will be held at First Lutheran Church on January 5, 2018 at 5:00. May God comfort all who are mourning the loss of loved ones.



First Holy Communion

Celebrating their First Communion on December 12th:
Ali Cox, Micah Fultz
Kendra Tatum, and Phoebe Treece

Altar Flowers



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.

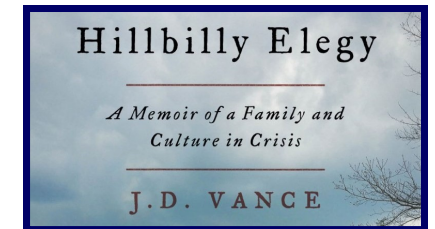
Think about sharing the purchase of altar flowers with another family or friend. You may also call the church office and Nina will be more than happy to reserve your date.



It is always good to greet you once again at the beginning of the month.



Do not forget that J.D. Vance, author of Hillbilly Elogy, will visit Hancock County on Thursday, March 22 for a public presentation at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts.



As the new year moves further into January, why not make a list of the firsts you accomplished in 2017?



- ◇ Fifteen minutes in the cold has the same effect on your metabolism as an hour of exercise.
- ◇ Adding 21 minutes of standing or moving to your day may build muscle mass and improve your heart health. Make sure you're getting up and about every hour.
- ◇ Adults catch an average of 3 colds per year.
- ◇ **11000 of us go to the hospital each year for an injury caused by shoveling snow. To avoid muscle strain, bend at your knees and focus on lifting the shovel with your legs instead of your back. When you can, push the snow with the shovel instead of scooping it and take frequent breaks. Coffee drinkers are 18% more likely to live longer than those who don't have a cup regularly.**

And then there are the following things I learned on my way to elsewhere:

- ◇ **You are 12% less likely to develop Type 2 Diabetes if you eat fresh fruit daily. Munching a piece or two also protects your health if you already have diabetes. Three servings a day reduces the risk of complications by 17 percent.**
- ◇ Getting a flu shot lowers your risk of the flu. Those 50 and older who get the shot lower their risk of being hospitalized from the flu by 57 %.
- ◇ **FIVE MILLION AMERICANS HAVE AT LEAST ONE MIGRAINE PER MONTH. (CHRONIC MIGRAINE SUFFERERS HAVE AT LEAST EIGHT.) MIGRAINES ARE OFTEN MISDIAGNOSED. A FEW DISTINGUISHING SYMPTOMS: THROBBING PAIN ON ONE SIDE OF THE HEAD, NAUSEA, SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT AND SOUND.**

Until next month, God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks

Social Ministry



Please continue to collect ONLY the Box Tops for Education labels on items purchased. These are the labels used by Lincoln School to help their students.

The labels are found on many items, not just food. The Campbell soup company does not have any labels for use on their products. The box for the labels is in the drawer in the kitchenette.

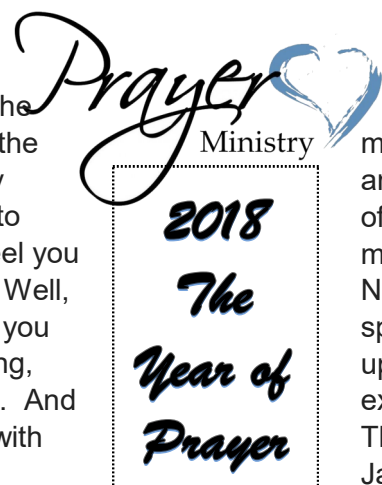


Community Dinners. They will accept boxed food, unopened frozen items, canned goods, fresh vegetables etc. The committee will gather more information.

Thank You! to all who donated to our Love and Memory Tree. We raised more than \$1,625 for our local Lutheran Social Services office.

A message has been received from City Mission that they will not accept food items from "parties, events, etc." and that includes the

This year has been designated by the ELCA as The Year of Prayer. Over the past year, we have lost some mighty prayer warriors, and we are looking to replenish our ranks. Perhaps you feel you are not a strong, dedicated pray-er. Well, any English teacher will tell you that you only get to be a better writer by writing, and a better reader by more reading. And a better golfer by playing more and with better players.



Please consider joining us. We will be meeting with Bishop Daniel in January and hope to bring back ideas from his office to highlight and strengthen this ministry at First. What could be a better New Year's resolution than to plan to spend intentional time with God. Look for updates in the bulletins, or if you are excited to "sign on" right away, call us! Thanks, Sue DeMoss (419-423-7109) and Jane Ebersole (419-422-9640).

Community DINNER

Sunday
January 7th
11:30—1:00

We are planning to have a **Good Luck New Year's casserole** with a twist...and, of course sauerkraut on the side! But we ALWAYS need salads, fresh fruit, and homemade desserts...even if Mrs. Kroger or Mr. Meijer makes them for you. And, of course, there's Sunday preparing, serving, and clean-up! Hope to see you there!



How You Can Help?

Food Cart Requests
Toilet paper, kleenex, cleaning supplies, laundry supplies, toiletries.
All donations benefit Lutheran Social Services.
The cart is in the elevator lobby.

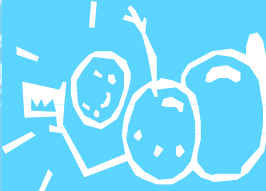
The November Noisy Offering will benefit:
Trinity Lutheran Seminary
"...a school of theology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)".

Newsletter DEADLINE
Monday.
January 22

My New Year Resolutions.
1. Study my Bible
2. Do what it says

Jokes for the Month
New Excuse: I was on my way to church and was almost there when I look at my cell phone and it said "NO SERVICE"....so I turned around and went home.
Right, we've picked up the gold and the myrrh...what on earth is THAT?!

2017



1-Jan	2	3	4	5	6
Office Closed 10:30am Ladies Bible Study	11:30am Pastors Lunch Canceled	No Confirmation	4pm Riehm Farm 4:30pm Organ 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly 5pm L. Seeman Memorial	9am Council Retreat 9:30am Remove Christmas Décor
8 Council Installation 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 11:30am Community Dinner 6pm EPIC Youth	9 9am Martha 9:30am Rachel 12:30pm Deaf Worship 7:30pm Finance	10 7pm Confirmation 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	11 4:30pm Organ 7pm Sr. Choir	12 4:00 BSA Staff Development 9:30am Bulletin Assembly 9:30am Literary Group	13 4:00 BSA Staff Development All Day
14 Noisy Offering 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Kids Choir Sings 11:45am Youth Committee 6pm NO EPIC Youth	16 1:30pm Staff Meeting	17 7pm Confirmation	18 4pm Riehm Farm 4:30pm Organ 7pm Sr. Choir	19 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	20
21 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 12pm Congregational Mtg. 6pm EPIC Youth	23 23	24 7pm Confirmation	25 4:30pm Organ 7pm Sr. Choir	26 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	27
28 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 6pm EPIC Youth	30 30	31 7pm Confirmation			

January



Times subject to change. Please visit our calendar at

January Helpers

February Newsletter Deadline
Monday, January 22nd,
Weekly Bulletin Deadline
Wednesday Mornings

LECTORS
 Jan. 7
 8:15 – Tad Schell
 10:45— Arlene Powell
 Jan. 14
 8:15— Acolytes
 10:45— Acolytes
 Jan. 21
 8:15— Jenny Welte
 10:45— Elaine Timbrook
 Jan. 28
 8:15— Shirley Gerber
 10:45— Elaine Timbrook

GREETERS
 Jan. 7
 8:15 – Dave & Janet Wobser
 10:45— Arlene Powell
 Jan. 14
 8:15— Cloyce & Janet Baker
 10:45— Kids of the Kingdom
 Jan. 21
 8:15— Bart & Jenny Welte
 10:45—
 Jan. 28
 8:15— Dave & Shirley Gerber
 10:45—

ACOLYTES
 Jan. 7
 8:15 –
 10:45—
 Jan. 14
 8:15—
 10:45—
 Jan. 21
 8:15—
 10:45—
 Jan. 28
 8:15—
 10:45—

SOUND ROOM
 Jan. 7
 8:15 – Sam Ried
 10:45— Jerry Bryant
 Jan. 14
 8:15— Dave Gerber
 10:45— Steve Roth
 Jan. 21
 8:15— Tim Roth
 10:45— Todd Thompson
 Jan. 28
 8:15— Tim Roth
 10:45— Alex Treece

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
 Jan. 7
 8:15 – Tim Cochran
 10:45— Traci Roth
 Jan. 14
 8:15— Daryl Rotman
 10:45— Daryl Rotman
 Jan. 21
 8:15— Pastor Chris Dittman
 10:45— Pastor Chris Dittmar
 Jan. 28
 8:15— Daryl Rotman
 10:45— Daryl Rotman

ALTAR GUILD
 Bob & Arlene Schriener
COUNTERS
 Dave & Dee Rossman
LSS DELIVERY
 Marti Schmidt
FLOWER DELIVERY
 Karen Rose
COMMUNION BREAD
 Jan. 7—Susan Waltermeyer
 Jan. 14—Karen Rose
 Jan. 21—Dawn Franks
 Jan. 28—Renee Smith
COOKIE SUNDAY
 Jan. 7— Community Dinner
 Jan. 14—Endowment/Finance
 Jan. 21—Property
 Jan. 28—Hannah Circle
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
 Jan. 7—Mike & Chris Zawisza
 Jan. 14—Mike & Chris Zawisza
 Jan. 21 –Joe & Candy Spoon
 Jan. 28—Joe & Candy Spoon

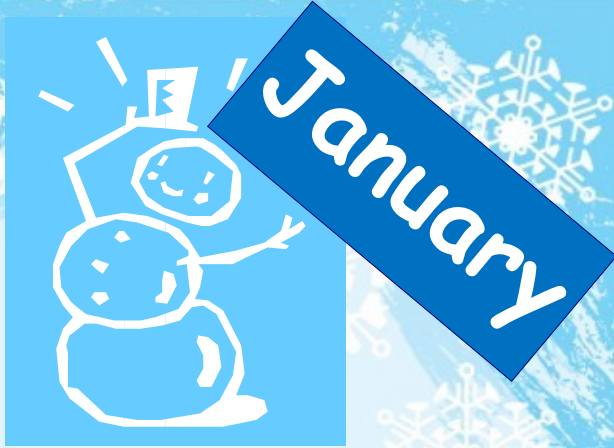
8:15 Ushers

DEACONS
 8:15
 Tad Schell, Greg Johnson,
 10:45
 Joe Spoon, Jerry Bryant,
 Alex Treece

Celebrations

Birthdays

Madison Kirk	1/1
Jason Polder	1/2
Denise Burson	1/3
Tressa Benedetti	1/4
Donna Mason	1/7
Patricia Taylor	1/7
Brynlee Johnson	1/8
Jerry Luth	1/10
Kaelee Mains	1/10
Chris Zawisza	1/12
Andy Schriener	1/13
Voleta Willford	1/13
Nancy Woodruff	1/13
Ryan Price	1/14
Sarah Kidd	1/15
Richard Polder	1/16
Lily Cox	1/17
Michael Fraley	1/17
Phillip Bash	1/18
David Gerber	1/18
Linda Schwemley	1/18
Elizabeth Brossia	1/19
Mark Kirk	1/19
Jason Clark	1/20
Gregory Rakestraw	1/20
Marilyn Schweitzer	1/20
Susan Waltermeyer	1/20
Richard Kondik	1/21
Mary Clayton	1/22
Emily Betts	1/25
Raeleigh Bower	1/25
Justin Buckingham	1/25
Renee Smith	1/25
Steven Wilson	1/25
Bonnie Bosse	1/26
Jon Burnside	1/28
Amber Leipheimer	1/28
Kevin Breen	1/30
Madison Cox	1/30
Mitchell Routson	1/30
Nathan Routson	1/30
Tracy August	1/31



Baptisms

Thomas Fitzpatrick	2/1
Debra McMillen	2/1
Carson Dale	2/2
Voleta Willford	2/2
Denise Burson	2/7
Elizabeth Kutschbach	2/12
Heather Nielsen	2/12
Mary Lou McCann	2/13
Kahle Thorbahn	2/14
Yvette Mains	2/16
Reed Blunk	2/19
Kendall Hoffman	2/24
Jordan Spoon	2/24
Zachary Beutler	2/27

Anniversary

Steve & Cheryl Seibert 1/21/95



first
Lutheran
First Lutheran Church
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Current Resident or:



Mailed around
January 6th



First News

Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am

Sunday School 9:30 am