



# First News January 2020



*Sharing the Light... with First Lutheran*



# 2020 VISION for Stewardship

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all, but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, I still possess.” – *Martin Luther*



When we sing “All that we have, all that we are...we give to you [ELW 692],” do we *really*

## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

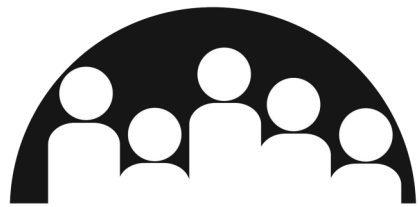
When we think of ancient Israel, we often think of priests offering sacrifices on altars: a lamb, a sheaf of wheat, a small bird or some grain. Whatever the gift may have been, all would be consumed in the flames. *What is the point?* The



basic point seems to have been this: worshipers brought things, most often their most precious things, and left them at the altar. They gave them up; they gave them away. The liquid was poured out, the animals were slaughtered, the grain was incinerated. People gave offerings to God as an act of worship and those offerings were simply destroyed.

The idea of sacrificial giving is foreign to most people. This practice of faithful giving requires *renunciation*—we are to use all of our money in God-pleasing ways but we are to take some of our money and give it to God ...and give it away. The biblical standard of sacrifice means that we give up control of all the money that has been given to us, and we do not expect anything in return. I am invited by Christ to give my money to God in a sacrificial way as a response to his goodness and love.

**I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.—Romans 12:1**



**2020 Council Members**

**Julie Buck**  
jab67@hotmail.com

**Cindy Fitzpatrick**  
cbfrenfitz@aol.com

**Tim Franks**  
Tfranks75@hotmail.com

**Elaine Freemyer-Ashley**

**Rob Leipheimer**  
rleip@sbcglobal.net

**Sam Ried**  
samried112@gmail.com

**Karen Rose**  
KRose13395@gmail.com

**Daryl Rotman**  
Rotman4@aol.com

**Maria Schell**  
biddy45@aol.com

**Jeff Short**  
JShort@bright.net

**Arlene Shriner**  
ollie2bob@aol.com

**Alex Treece**  
AlexTreece@yahoo.com

**Jenny Welte**  
JBWelte@frontier.com



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**January, 26, 2020**

**12:00 Noon**

**Lunch Provided**

**Agenda:**

- Celebrate our Accomplishments of 2019
- Approve 2020 Budget
- Elect 2020 Nominating Committee
- Elect 2020 Delegates to the NWO Synod Assembly (June 12, 13)
- Thoughts and Ideas of Congregational Members

**Staff:**

**Senior Pastor:** Bob Cochran:

flcpastor@hotmail.com

**Assisting Minister:** Chris Dittmar:

cdit668995@aol.com

**Administrative Assistant:**

**Nina Dukes** (419-422-2638)

flcFindlay@gmail.com

Hours- M-TH, 8:30-3:00; Fri, 8:30-12:00)

**Building Manager:** Wayne Dukes

(419-306-3358 emergency only)

Flc BuildingManager@gmail.com

**Organist:** Miriam Gibson

**Sr. Choir Director:** Jane Eakin

**Brass Ensemble Director:** Diane Adler

**Kids Kingdom Directors:**

Sally Rice, Heather Nielsen

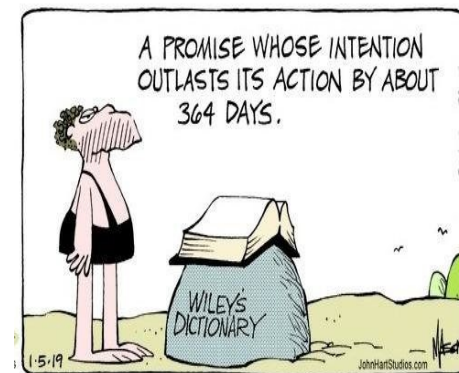
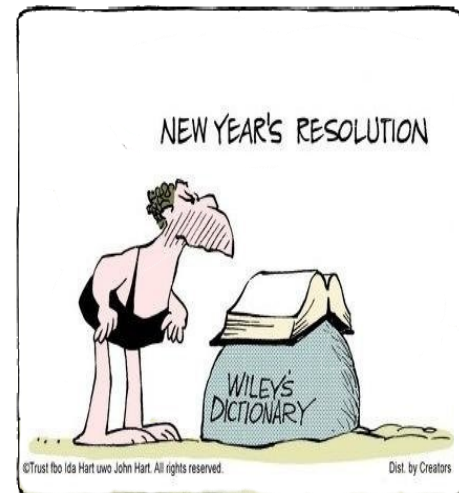
**Financial Secretary:** Daryl Rotman



**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.



**WELCA Calendar of Events for January**

- Jan 14 Martha Circle, 9:00 am, Church Library
- Jan 14 Rachel Circle, 9:30 am, Church Lounge
- Jan 20 Hannah Circle, 7:00 pm, Church Lounge
- Jan 26 Cookie Sunday – Rachel Circle
- Feb 5 Snowflake Social – 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**KATIE'S FUND**  
**Raising Up Bold Women of Faith**

Katie's Fund is an endowment that supports ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology. Katie's Fund is now more than \$1 million. Women of the ELCA established Katie's Fund in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the churchwide women's organization, and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come.



Your gifts to "Katie's Fund" go to the endowment, generating income each year to support ministry. You can also give to "Katie's Fund Current," to support current ministry projects. Your generosity makes a real difference in women's lives. Thank you!



**A VALENTINE SNOWFLAKE SOCIAL!!**

Calling ALL Mothers, Daughters, Aunts, Sisters, and Girlfriends!

**BEFORE** you think you can't stand winter another minute--you know, when it just seems cold, damp, and all the Christmas cheer seems gone, there's (ta da!) Valentine's Day!! A time of pink cheeks, red noses, white doilies, Cupids, and our 4th annual Snowflake Social!

Come and enjoy a time of fellowship or "girlship" with a light supper and a lovely Valentine craft to take home presented by our wonderful resident artist, Beth Maurer. Come share this time to prepare our HEARTS for our Lenten Walk to Calvary, where Christ's heart was given for us all.

**WHO:** All women and girls of the church

**WHEN:** Wednesday February 5 from 6:30-8 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Fellowship Hall

Thrivent Financial will be sponsoring this special event and helping the WELCA Circles provide the craft and light supper, so SAVE THE DATE.

You can show YOUR HEART by bringing an in-kind offering of bath tissue, paper towels, diapers, hand or laundry soap, dish detergent, and shampoo which will benefit the Christian Clearing House's Caring Cupboard.

**Food Cart Requests**



Toilet paper, kleenex, cleaning supplies, laundry supplies, toiletries .

All donations benefit

**Lutheran Social Services.**

The cart is in the elevator lobby.

*Prayer Retreat*

Something Old,

Something New

If in January you're feeling blue, why not treat yourself to a Saturday away from your usual routine. Our Prayer Group, which meets on Thursday afternoons would like to invite you to a PRAYER RETREAT. Becky Green, M. Ed. LSW has agreed to be the facilitator for this unique Bible study based on the recent film **The War Room**, a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power that prayer can have in--

- marriages
- parenting
- illness
- friendships
- every other area of life

**WHERE:** First Lutheran Church (watch for bulletin announcements)

**WHO:** Any who would like to jumpstart their prayer life for 2020 with a different spin

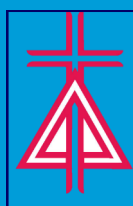
**WHEN:** Saturday January 25 from 9:00 a.m.-3 p.m.

**HOW:** Thrivent Financial will be funding supplies and a lite lunch

Please plan to register by signing up on the sheet outside Pastor Bob's office by Sunday January 12!! Hope you can join us.

The November Noisy Offering will benefit:

Trinity Lutheran Seminary



"...a school of theology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)".



Pastor Paul and Barb Vonstein-Smith

would like to thank the wonderful band of angels who came and blessed them with Christmas cards and Carols.

**Altar Flowers**



The 2020 Flower Chart is up in the hallway, across from the church office. January and February are in need of 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.

**Newsletter DEADLINE**

**Monday. January 20th**



2018 Year of Prayer  
2019 Year of Scripture

What's Next?? 2020 YEAR OF MISSION: We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work! We do God's work in the world--restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or how wide the chasm.

Whether it's volunteering at a shelter for the homeless, gathering food items or taxables, sending medical supplies to remote parts of the world, making sure kids have a fun, faith-filled week at camp, our ministry and mission offer an opportunity for us to explore one of the most basic convictions as Lutherans: That all of life in Jesus Christ--every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life--flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

How will you challenge yourself for this MISSION in 2020?



Happy New Year to all of you. And so we begin a new year, the slate is clean for the calendar of 2020 and our sins are forgiven. It doesn't get any better than this.

And while you pack away your Christmas decorations, sort out the ones you no longer use and donate them NOW to the Church's 2020 Christmas giveaway. Bring items into the library marked for the giveaway and I will store them in my "secret" place for December.

While I am on the subject, thank you all so much for your donations for this year's giveaway at the December community dinner. It is heart-warming to hear the "shoppers" talk excitedly about who is now getting this or that for Christmas, whether it's books, Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, or household goods.

Thank you, too, to those who donate books, money, and candy to the church library. It has been a wonderful "giving" year. Details will be in the next month's newsletter.



The new reading list for the Church book club is now available and posted on the Church bulletin board. By the way, why don't you stop in on the first Tuesday of every month for the book discussion, except for January (we watch a movie at Bev Yamine's)? We eat well from everyone's contributions and we have fun talking about the book.

How will you challenge yourself for this MISSION in 2020?



Now, for this month's "something I found while looking for something else" discussion.

In the September 2019 Real Simple, I found the following article by Kimberly Truong "Five Lessons We Can Learn from Kids." It made sense to me.

★ *How to confront and embrace your fears* One daughter of a contributing writer embodied Death which she feared. She dressed up as and pretended to be Death. The fear didn't completely go away, but the intensity diminished.

★ *How to relate to other people, even when they seem different.* Young readers remind another author how similar we all are beneath the surface - we are all human. Young readers tend to see her Asian protagonist as any American teen. Her background may be different but her conflict with loved ones, feelings that she doesn't measure up, struggling to fit in are world-wide in the teen world.

★ *How to find joy in the day-to-day.* Everything is new to them. Borrow that wonder, notice the joy in the everyday. Children don't care if the day is not sunny...a picnic is a joy.

★ *How to make time for bonding rituals.* How deeply children remember rituals and the important parts of rituals. Two of my granddaughters visit, the third one wants to do exactly the same things as the other two when it is her turn. And how often do conversations begin with "Grandma, do you remember when we...?"

★ *How not to hold back.* I had a grandson run into the house and into me and say "I have missed you, Grandma." Melts my heart. And out of the blue, one of the grandchildren will throw arms around me and say "I love you, Grandma!" Or just to hear "Grandma, you're the best." It is so freeing just to tell them how you feel as well... my line, when they do something ridiculous is "well, that's attractive," with all the sarcasm I can muster. They of course have picked up the line and let me know when I do something "less than attractive", as well! I love their freedom with emotions.

Enjoy your children and grandchildren.

I pray your 2020 is full of good health, joy, happiness and living with God's blessings. God bless and keep reading.

Kathy Brooks (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)





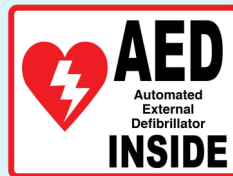
### Happy New Year from the Social Ministry Committee!

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and wanted to thank you for your generosity in supporting *Coats for Christmas* and *Hope for the Holidays*. First Lutheran provided 50 coats, as well as 21 accessories hats, scarves and gloves for folks in our community and sent 73 beautiful Christmas cards and wishes to interned migrant families.

With the first of the year upon us, we'd like to talk to First about First Aid.

First aid supplies are on the main floor in the kitchenette in cupboard marked *FIRST AID*. There is also a first aid box in the pantry in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. It is to the left as one enters the pantry.

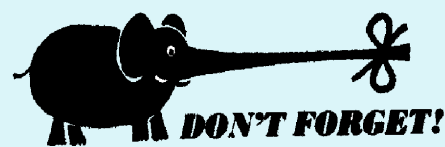
A wrist blood pressure cuff is also available for anyone in the congregation to use to check their own or someone else's blood pressure if there is concern about the person. This will be kept in the cupboard in the kitchenette. While it is shiny and new, it's not a toy and must be used by a responsible person. It isn't difficult to use and if you would like to learn how to use this cuff or have questions please see Carolyn Bryant for a demonstration.



Social Ministry has ordered an AED (automated electronic defibrillator) to be used in an emergency here at the church. While we all hope that we will never need it, it is a valuable tool to have just in case. A class will be offered for ushers and anyone else interested in learning how to use this item. It is not difficult to use as the AED gives verbal commands when it is in use and only applies a "shock" if it is needed. If you are CPR and AED certified to teach others, please contact Carolyn Bryant (419-422-0015) and together we will try to set up a time for a class.

Our committee is thankful for the support and generosity of First's church body and we are excited for a New Year, full of opportunity for this great ministry. Join us! We meet the second Monday of the month.

Thanks,  
Rob



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.



### "WHO AM I"

As we hear and read the Gospel lessons, we ask the question, "Where am I in the story that Jesus tells: WHO AM I?"

*In the First Sunday* in Advent, Jesus is talking to us about the end times and tells us that no one knows the time, so we are to be ready. Yes, we are to be ready by reading scripture, praying, and helping others.

*In the Second Sunday* in Advent, we hear that we are with Jesus at the Jordan River watching a man dressed in rags saying that he is preparing the way of the Lord and baptizing people. The question for us is raised, what are we doing to prepare the way for the Lord?

*In the Third Sunday* in Advent, John the Baptist is calling us to repent, which means to turn back to God. Who Am I but a blessed, beloved, baptized Child of God?

*In the Fourth Sunday* in Advent, we find that we are witnessing an awesome event. Joseph's young bride to be is with child and says she has conceived by the Holy Spirit. Joseph does not want to disgrace her, so he decides to marry Mary. If you were a participant in this strange story of Matt. 1.18-25, what would you do as a member of the crowd or a family relative? Yes, WHO AM I, and what would I do?

*After the Advent Season* we have the beautiful season of Christmas with all the lights and Christmas carols. Here again we ask the question, "Where are you in this Christmas story?" The story is in Luke 2.1-20. We read that Joseph takes Mary to Bethlehem, finding there is no room for them but in a stable. Out in the valley below Bethlehem there are shepherds watching their sheep at night, and an angel appears saying, "I

bring you good news." If you were one of the shepherds, what would you think? When is the last time you saw an angel? Or heard a host of angels singing:

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

Yes, for unto you and me is born a Savior, and His name is Immanuel, "God with us" (Matt. 1.23). If you were one of the shepherds, what would you do? What do you do today? You received the candle light on Christmas Eve. What a beautiful sight, but did you take the light of Jesus into your heart? For unto you Jesus is born.

Next month we will look at *Epiphany, Lent and Holy Week*.



Peace,  
Pr. DeMoss



### Church Garden Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree in the church garden this year was acquired from an event sponsored by the National Museum of the Great lakes.

This event commemorates a historical Great Lakes tradition from the late 19th and early 20th centuries when lake freighters made their final run of the season delivering Christmas trees, harvested in Northern Michigan, to cities around the Great Lakes.

In Toledo, a tugboat brought trees to the museum deck with trees that had been purchased by museum members. Merry Christmas from the church garden crew. *Jerry & Carolyn Bryant*

# EPiC Youth



## Youth Calendar

### January

- 5th, 6:00  
Group time, Games
- 12th, 4:00—6:00  
Congregational Games at Church
- 19th, 8pm—8am  
Lock-in
- 26th, 6:00  
Service Project  
Community Dinner

### February

- 2nd, 1-3  
Ice Skating @  
The Cube
- 9th, 6:00  
Talent Show,  
Dessert Contest
- 16th, 6:00  
Group Time, Games
- 23rd, 6:00  
Movie Night

### March

- 1st, 2-4  
Congregational  
Bowling @  
Sportsman
- 8th, 6:00  
Fundraiser
- 15th, 6:00  
Bible Study/Games
- 22nd, 6:00  
Bible Study/Games
- 29th, TBA  
Service Project

## Talent Show and Dessert Contest Sunday, February 9, 6:00 pm

Fundraiser to benefit **boundless** \*  
2021 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING  
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

We welcome you to share your talent, whether on the stage or in the kitchen. Please sign up below with your name, talent, and time needed on the stage. If you're baking for the dessert contest, please list what you are baking. Thank you!

\* June 29 – July 23, 2021 in Minneapolis, MN

Theme based upon Ephesians 3:19 – *I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.* *cev*

<https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>

# January Helpers

**February Newsletter Deadline**  
**Monday, January 20th.**  
**Weekly Bulletin Deadline**  
**Wednesday Mornings**

### LECTORS

- Jan 5  
8:15 – Jenny Welte  
10:45—
- Jan. 12  
8:15— Acolytes  
10:45— Acolytes
- Jan. 19  
8:15— Kathy Brooks  
10:45— Arlene Powell
- Jan. 26  
8:15— Marilynn Dunn  
10:45— Elaine Timbrook

### GREETERS

- Jan 5  
8:15 – Bart & Jenny Welte  
10:45— Tim & Dawn Franks
- Jan. 12  
8:15— S. DeMoss, C. Wittenberg  
10:45— Kids of the Kingdom
- Jan. 19  
8:15— Paul & Kathy Brooks  
10:45— Jenifer & Alex Treece
- Jan. 26  
8:15— Dave & Janet Wobser  
10:45— Judy Kipker

### ACOLYTES

- Jan 5  
8:15 –  
10:45— Gianna Masterlasco
- Jan. 12  
8:15—  
10:45— Casey Leipheimer
- Jan. 19  
8:15—  
10:45— Gianna Masterlasco  
Phoebe Treece
- Jan. 26  
8:15—  
10:45— Casey Leipheimer

### SOUND ROOM

- Jan 5  
8:15 – Sam Ried  
10:45— Alex Treece
- Jan. 12  
8:15— Dave Gerber  
10:45— Todd Thompson
- Jan. 19  
8:15— Tim Roth  
10:45— Alex Treece
- Jan. 26  
8:15— Sam Ried  
10:45— Jerry Bryant

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

- Jan 5/12—Daryl Rotman
- Jan. 12
- Jan. 19
- Jan. 26

### 8:15 Drivers

- Jan 5— Jerry Bryant
- Jan. 12 –Mike Zawisza
- Jan. 19— Aaron Ried
- Jan. 26— Pam Cochran

### 8:15 Ushers

- Dave Wobser
- Jim Schoeger
- Richard Ruehle

### DEACONS

- 8:15  
Tom Mitchell, Marilynn Dunn
- 10:45  
Daryl Rotman, Greg Johnson,  
Judy Kipker, Mike Zawisza

### ALTAR GUILD

Schriners, Timbrook

### COUNTERS

Daryl & Cyndy Rotman

### LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Karen Rose

### COMMUNION BREAD

Jan. 5—Amber Leipheimer  
Jan. 12—Jennie Treece  
Jan. 19—Elaine Timbrook  
Jan. 26—Dawn Franks

### COOKIE SUNDAY

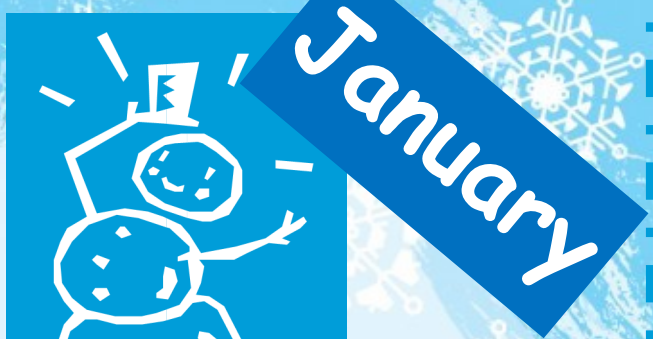
Jan. 5—Community Dinner  
Jan. 12—Youth  
Jan. 19—Christian Ed.  
Jan. 26—Rachel Circle

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jan. 5- Mike & Chris Zawisza  
Jan 12-Mike & Amy Tabler  
Jan. 19 & 20-Joe & Cansy Spoon

# Birthdays

- Shelby Dale 1/1
- Madison Kirk 1/1
- Jason Polder 1/2
- Denise Burson 1/3
- David Wirt 1/5
- Donna Mason 1/7
- Patricia Taylor 1/7
- Brynlee Johnson 1/8
- Lexington Sanders 1/9
- Jerry Luth 1/10
- Kaelee Mains 1/10
- Chris Zawisza 1/12
- Nancy Woodruff 1/13
- Matt Morehart 1/14
- Ryan Price 1/14
- Richard Polder 1/16
- Lily Cox 1/17
- Phillip Bash 1/18
- David Gerber 1/18
- Mark Kirk 1/19
- Jason Clark 1/20
- Gregory Rakestraw 1/20
- Marilyn Schweitzer 1/20
- Susan Waltermeyer 1/20
- Richard Kondik 1/21
- Emily Betts 1/25
- Raeleigh Bower 1/25
- Renee Smith 1/25
- Steven Wilson 1/25
- Bonnie Bosse 1/26
- Judy Kipker 1/26
- Jon Burnside 1/28
- Amber Leipheimer 1/28
- Kevin Breen 1/30
- Mitchell Routson 1/30
- Nathan Routson 1/30
- Tracy August 1/31



# Baptisms

- Doris Brand 1/1
- Carolyn Bryant 1/1
- Jerry Bryant 1/1
- William Chubb 1/1
- Alan Hartzell 1/1
- Craig Meier 1/1
- Margaret Meyer 1/1
- Patricia Needles 1/1
- Blaine Peters 1/1
- Milton Peters 1/1
- Sandra Rakestraw 1/1
- Carol Roessing 1/1
- Robert Schriener 1/1
- Jack Taylor 1/1
- Mike Waltermeyer 1/1
- David Wirt 1/1
- Kenneth Wynkoop 1/1
- Nina Dukes 1/12
- Adelyn Tabler 1/12
- Ryan Nunn 1/14
- Michael Meyer 1/16
- Karon Makrancy 1/18
- Sandra Dale 1/21
- Gianna Masterlasco 1/22
- Phillip Tuttle 1/26
- Andrew Maurer 1/29
- Jeffrey Short 1/29



# Anniversary

Steve & Cheryl Seibert 1/21/95 24

# Celebrate Anniversaries

*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:

Happy New year!!!

# 2020



Mailed around January 2nd 🙌😊🙌

## First News

**Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am**  
**Sunday School 9:30 am**

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

419-422-2638