

LENT

To a Christian, “spiritual” = “of the Spirit of God”



Those who are spiritual but not religious attack Christian worship as tired or secular and Christian views of sin as repressive. They see spirituality as a personal activity, church hierarchy as evil, and the Christian faith as having a negative outcome on the world. In response, we say that...

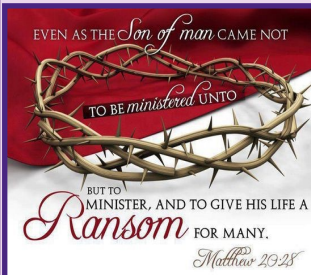
Christian Community Is spiritual. (March 7)

Ephesians 4:2-6 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”



Pastoral Leadership Is Spiritual. (March 14)

Matthew 20:25-28 “But Jesus called them to him and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’”



Christian Mission Is Spiritual. (March 21)

Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



Wednesday Lenten Services



The Wednesday Lenten services (February 24-March 24) will continue to be offered. This time of devotion will include Taizé music, prayer and a review of Sunday's sermon.

Check it out on our webpage
www.1stLutheranChurch.org.



The ELCA Northwest Ohio Synod is celebrating the Year of Generosity In 2021. As we continue the 40 Days of Lent let us celebrate 40 days of giving. Lutheran Social Services this year is more than ever relying on generosity to fill their pantry. The pantry provides a three-day emergency food supply to their clients. WELCA is asking members to please consider gifts to the food pantry as we observe, a time of reflection on God's abundant generosity in our lives, . Here is a list of 20 of the most needed items:

Canned meat	Coffee (11 oz. size)
Tea	Powdered milk
Boxed dessert mixes	Paper towels
Cereal	Oatmeal
Wide Noodles	Chunky soups
Boxed sides (potatoes, pasta, rice)	Saltine crackers
Specialty crackers (cheese, wheat)	Apple sauce
Chicken noodle soup	Tomato soup
Shampoo	Dish soap
Laundry detergent	Bath tissue

Items can be brought in weekly and placed in the cart by the elevator or there will be a few boxes available in the mail room for those that would like to collect items throughout the month. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to share your blessings with others.



WELCA Calendar of Events for March

Because of the fluid situation all dates, places, and times are subject to change.

Rachel Circle is in-service for the month of March

March 9 Martha Circle,
9:00 am, Church Lounge
Hostess: Miriam Gibson
Leader: E. Cunningham

March 9 Rachel Circle,
1:00 am. Church Lounge
Hostess: Carolyn Bryant
Leader: Barb Larick

March 15 Hannah Circle
7:00 pm, Church Lounge
Hostess: Marilynn Dunn
Leader: Julie Buck

March TBD
Rummage Sale
Committee Meeting

A VALENTINE SNOWFLAKE SOCIAL

Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped with the drive-thru Snowflake Social and all that participated by donating a taxable item to Hancock County Christian Clearing House. And a special thank you to Beth Maurer for the beaded blessings purse hanger project.



From Our Librarian

READ

Well, hello to all of you from beautiful Big Pine Key Fishing Lodge, in Big Pine Key, Florida. We are socially distancing, wearing masks, but still re-connecting with friends and connecting with the "newbies" at the campground. We don't have the big gatherings as in the past but we sit outside and visit in small groups. The boat is currently getting its annual check-up before we put it in the water; should be ready tomorrow (February 8). We have been fishing off the bridge that leads into Big Pine Key.

If you get the chance, I urge all of you to stop into the church building, grab a book or two from the book cart, and READ. With the help of financial donations and of many books, the book cart is loaded with new readings. Today, I just name a few.

In light of last month's Hannah circle, one fitting donation is Dickey's The Amazing Power of the Holy Spirit. In January, we discussed the Holy Spirit, referencing all the New Testament quotations that the Holy Spirit could appear only if Jesus died. This book further clarifies all that I did not know about the Holy Spirit.

Our church book club read recently David McCullough's The Pioneers—The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West, the story of the settlers of the 1780's who tamed the area known as Marietta, Ohio, a city I have only ever driven through without stopping. My curiosity has been aroused after this read.

In the time of COVID 19, the text Why Suffering?—When Life Just Doesn't Make Sense is an appropriate read. So much doesn't make sense right now. In the same vein, my daily meditations seem to be focusing on my trusting God to get me through the daily trials, the sadness, the fears.

For those of you who are Kingsbury and Lewis fans of fiction, I purchased the novels that complete the 9/11 series, the Angels Walking series, and the Rose Trilogy. I keep plugging along, thanks to your donations.

Richard Paul Evans' The Carousel, a donation, is yet another book in the Christmas Box series. It is described as a real love story, in which the pair must confront "all" of life's demands.

College First's librarian invited me to go through some of the duplicates and two that I chose were authored by a 15-year-old Findlay home-school graduate, Christie Gerschutz. Now 23, she is involved in music ministry (singing and songwriting), speaking, and writing. The two books we own are KenTahTen and Absaroka.

Ron Hall, author of The Same Kind of Different as Me, spoke recently at City Mission. Only too late did I know that. It is a powerful book of how actions that come from true Christian caring speak volumes.

While you are at it, try reading the Bible in 365 days. Oh, all right, so it's not January first. I started last January and got a few weeks behind...does it matter that I am still reading the Bible. NO!. This is not a race. We have many translations of the Bible on both the cart and the counter inside the library. Help yourself. Take one for the year.

Finally, let's talk about prayer walking as described in The Complete Guide to Prayer Walking. (Don't look for it on the cart, I have it with me here in Florida.) Prayer walking is all about taking note of God's creation as you walk. It can be a walk anywhere: in the mall, the halls of a business or hospital, as well as outdoors. Prayer walking is noticing God's creation, being aware of all your senses, opening your mind to the memories evoked, the people remembered, the places recalled. It is mindfulness while you walk. Too much I see people here in the great weather, walking and riding plugged in to radios, talking on the phone, totally unaware of their surroundings. We "walk" the bridge here. Early in the morning one might seeing porpoise, jumping rays, sharks, friends walking. But not if we are attached to our technology. God is all around us...

So long for now. God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

READ

READ

READ

READ

READ

READ

READ

READ

READ

READ

MARCH

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell,
Pat Needles

COUNTERS

Tom & Pam Basinger

LSS DELIVERY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Mar. 7- Daryl Rotman
Mar. 14- Kylee Timbrook
Mar. 21- Pastor Chris Dittmar
Mar. 28- Tim Franks

Celebrations

Birthdays

Sue Baxter	3/1	Audrey Hicks	3/16
Sandra Burnside	3/2	Jaden Tabler	3/18
Audrey Leopold	3/4	Steve Roth	3/21
Robert Mitchell	3/4	Jonathon Bonnoront	3/22
Angela Nunn	3/4	Thomas Basinger	3/23
Linda Ried	3/5	Beth Bonnoront	3/24
Hannah Roth	3/5	Pamela Cochran	3/24
Jon Wilkins	3/5	Cynthia Napier	3/24
Lee Hardesty	3/6	Robin Wilkins	3/24
Mylie Mitchell	3/7	Lori Cox	3/25
Lynda Brancaleone	3/9	Jon Jones	3/25
Cameron Roth	3/9	Erin Rodabaugh-Gallegos	3/26
Drew Short	3/9	Robert Rodman	3/26
Jeanne Bartolomeo	3/11	Aaron Clark	3/27
John Huff	3/11	Dawn Franks	3/29
Clyde Mason	3/13	Evelyn Napier	3/31
Adelyn Tabler	3/13	Cam Taylor	3/31
Leslie Dudics	3/15		



Michael & Tracy
August
3/1/1997
24

Matt & Carol
Meyer
377/1998
23

Phil & Denise Burson
3/22/1975
46

Wayne & Nina
Dukes
3/24/1979
42

James & Beth
Maurer
3/26/1977
44

Daryl & Cyndy
Rotman
3/26/1983
38

Todd & Cindy
Thompson
3/28/1987
34

2021		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		28	1-Mar	2	3	4	5	6
7	Worship 10am Parking Lot	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Stewardship/ Evangelism 6:30pm Worship & Music	7pm *Book Club	Lenten Devotion Online 7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ Rhsl. 5:45pm Girl Scouts	9:30am Bulletin Assembly		
14	Worship 10am Parking Lot 11:30am Community Dinner	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Social Ministry	9am Martha Circle 1:30pm Rachel Circle 7:30pm Finance	Lenten Devotion Online 7pm Confirmation 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	4:30pm Organ Rhsl.	9:30am Bulletin Assembly		
21	Noisy Offering Worship 10am Parking Lot	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 12pm Newsletter Deadline 7pm Hannah Circle	1:30pm Staff Meeting	Lenten Devotion Online 7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ Rhsl. 5:45pm Girl Scouts 6pm BSA	9:30am Bulletin Assembly BSA All Day		
28	Worship 10am Parking Lot	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 7pm *Council Meeting	23	Lenten Devotion Online 7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ Rhsl.	9:30am Bulletin Assembly		
5	Palm Sunday Worship 10am Parking Lot	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study	30	7pm Confirmation	1-Apr Maundy Thursday Worship	Good Friday Worship 9:30 Bulletin Assembly	2	3 9:30am Lilly Set-up

جميع على

[All Aboard!]

the

STEWARD SHIP

Welcome to Cairo, Egypt!



Cairo
Egypt



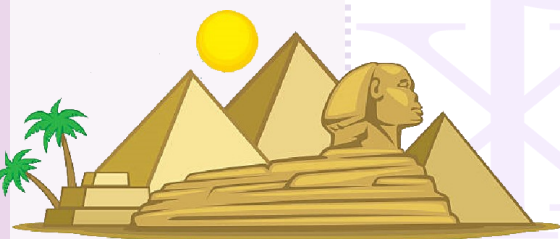
Cairo is an ancient city that also happens to be a modern metropolis—it's the biggest metro area in Africa and the Middle East and has the traffic and noise issues to prove it. But as long as you're not looking for solitude, Cairo—the City of the Thousand Minarets—is a splendid place to explore Egyptian history and culture. Don't miss the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx, the Egyptian Museum, Al-Azhar Mosque, and Old Cairo (Coptic Cairo). And, of course, enjoy the beauty and history of the Nile River as it flows majestically through the City.

When you think of Cairo, Egypt, I'm sure you think of the pyramids, Cleopatra and King Tut, and the Nile River. When I think of Cairo, I think of the Greek letters, **chi** (χ) and **rho** (ρ). These form the first two letters of Christ in Greek (Χριστός). The "chi rho" has long been a symbol for Christ in the Christian Church. So why do I think of something Christian when Egypt is predominately Muslim? Well, Jesus was a refugee in Egypt (see Matthew 2). Some of the earliest Christians, the Copts, still reside in Egypt and Ethiopia. These Christians, who claim to derive from the ministry of St. Mark in the earliest days of the Church, comprise 10% of the population of Egypt [9.5 million people]. Remember there are only some 4 million ELCA Lutherans in the U.S. As a minority in Egypt, the Copts have often been persecuted and treated unjustly, but have been an important part of Egyptian life for almost 2000 years. Remember, we as Lutherans are a far smaller minority in the U.S. but we can (and do) accomplish many valuable and life-changing ministries. We don't have to be big to do great things in Christ's



(Χριστός) name. And how many of us have wondered what our little offerings can do. Here's proof that our gifts go all over the world (like StARS), rescuing children and adults in Cairo. I always like to quote Mother Teresa, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

- Pastor Chris (χρῖς)



Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

- Matthew 2: 14-15

StARS
SAINT ANDREW'S
REFUGEE SERVICES

جميع على

[All Aboard!]

the

STEWARD SHIP



Did you know there is a church in Cairo served by **Rev. Christie Manisto**, an **ELCA missionary**? It is called St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo, providing pastoral care to refugees, those affected by COVID-19 and more. Her husband, **Steven Saari**, is also an ELCA missionary and serves as director of special education at St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS), the congregation's 40 year old refugee ministry. In addition to education, StARS provides refugees and asylum seekers with food, health care, legal counsel, psychological and psychosocial support, and more. StARS supports more than 35,000 refugees each year, with special emphasis on caring for unaccompanied children and youth. There is also a seminary in Cairo [Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo]. The ELCA equips the seminary with an additional professor. Some graduates are now serving in leadership positions at StARS or the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS). Others are even serving here in the ELCA. This is made possible in part by your giving every Sunday here at First Lutheran!



Children helped by StARS in Cairo

"When our neighbors in Cairo encounter these ministries [StARS, CEOSS] — ministries supported by your gifts to Global Mission, Missionaries, and ELCA World Hunger—they are met with safety and comfort. They receive critical physical and psychological care. They are welcome by a community ready to embrace and support them. They rediscover hope and begin to heal."

- Rachel Wind, Exec. For Development, ELCA



Cairo

the city of a thousand minarets



Endowment

Scholarship applications are now available on the church website and in the church office for two scholarship funds from the Endowment Fund, the Endowment General Scholarship and the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship.



The 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 \$4,329.40 for the General Scholarship and \$421.51 for the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship is available to be awarded. Any questions, please contact any Endowment committee member or the church office.

February 7th

A thank you to all that prepared and were outside sharing the meals and smiles. So appreciated.
Your brother and sister in Christ,
Don and Sue Mompher



*When I woke up this morning I asked myself:
What are some of the secret of success in life:
I found the answer right here in my room
The fan said: Be cool
The roof said: Aim high:
The window said: See the world:
The clock said: Every minutes is precious;
The mirror said: Reflect before you act:
The door said: Push hard for our goals;
And don't forget, the carpet said, Kneel and pray.*



*Light of life beyond all conceiving,
Mighty Spirit of our Lord;
Give us new strength to our believing,
Give us faith to live your word.*

Hymn 334 ELW

Newsletter Deadline
Monday, March 22nd
Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays by noon

Food Cart Requests

Shampoo, Deodorant,
Bath soap,
Canned Fruit.
All donations benefit
Lutheran Social Services
The cart is in the coat room.



first Lutheran
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Return Service Requested:



Mailed around
February 24, 2020

LENT



Lenten Series

To a Christian, "spiritual" =
"of the Spirit of God"

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 in Parking Lot