

Stewards of

# Grace

2019 Stewardship Emphasis

*"Stewardship is the management of life and all its resources for God and for the good of all."*

*- Kauffman*



This year's stewardship emphasis will focus on the reason we give: God's grace. We are "stewards of God's grace" according to St. Peter. ["Grace" refers to God's favor and goodwill towards us]. Therefore "grace-filled" stewardship means three things:

- **We are receivers of grace.** Everything we are and have is a gift, unmerited and blessed by God's grace and goodwill to us
- **We are bearers of grace.** Everything we have is a sign of God's grace and favor. Anything we give comes from a heart of gratitude and a response to this unmerited favor.
- **We are sharers of grace.** Whatever we give in time, talents or money comes out of a recognition that we are sharing God's grace in all we do and say.

What a wonderful way to understand stewardship! We give, not as an obligation, but as a response to grace. We share, not to pay bills, but to communicate grace to others. Stewardship is not a contractual affair, but as Peter said, it is to "serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." As we consider our gifts and tithes this year, let's consider this motivation first and foremost. It's all about grace!

**Sunday, October 14 (at 8:15 and 10:45) is Stewardship Sunday at First Lutheran. Use this opportunity to offer your 2019 gifts and tithes as an act of worship in thanksgiving and praise of God. 2019 "Stewards of Grace" commitment cards will be mailed to you. Please fill these cards in and bring them to worship October 14. You will be given an opportunity to bring them forward during Holy Communion. Extra cards will be available for teens and other household members. Remember that these cards will reflect your intention for the year. Of course, unforeseen circumstances may influence changes during the year, down or up!**



W. H. Greever said, "The *motive* [of stewardship] is love and gratitude...the *purpose* is to glorify God...the *guide* is the revealed will of God...the *measure* is the sacrificial spirit of Christ...the *efficiency* is the power of God's grace...the *reward* is a good conscience and the anticipated 'well done' of the Lord."

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## EPiC Youth



Oct. 7

Bible Study/Discussion, Games, 6:00

Oct. 14

EPiC Talent Show

Oct. 21

Bible Study/Discussion, Games, 6:00

Oct. 28

Swimming at the YMCA, 3:00

Confirmation, Wednesdays at 7:00

## Sunday School Fun





# Update on our Youth Pastor

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church council  
**MEETING**

All of our paperwork has been submitted to the synod. The listing that First Lutheran, Findlay, wants to call a Youth Pastor has gone out. Our synod liaison has been assigned, Sharon Stonerock, and she has contacted our Youth Pastor Call Committee members and a meeting is being arranged to discuss our congregation, what we are looking for in a youth pastor, and any other pertinent information that Sharon might need. Our call committee is:

Sally Hartzell  
Casey Cox, Council  
Karissa Welte, Youth

Paul Brooks  
Tim Franks, Council  
Sam Reid, Youth

Jennifer Treece  
Cynthia Napier, Council

I ask that you pray for our committee, for Sharon Stonerock, and our congregation as we move forward to interview and call a second pastor. There is no exact time frame for this process, but I will update the membership as we progress toward our goal. The membership voted to go forward and agreed to support this effort monetarily. Please remember this promise as the summer comes to a close.

Cindy Fitzpatrick, Council President

## Prayer Ministry

Besides the numerous requests on our bulletin prayer list, so many concerns have been raised this summer: travel mercies for the kids and chaperones to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, plus business trips, vacations, etc. Health and job concerns, our weekly attendance, Sunday School attendance.

A new Youth Pastor, Mark Batterson (The Circle Maker), describes "praying through" and "praising through". In other words never giving up those prayers, or praying without ceasing ( 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)!! So, as we enter the fall, let's pray and praise God for the new pastor He will bring to us in the coming months (wherever he or she may be!) And, please lift up Trinity and St. John's, who have been in line before us.

Thanks to all who made the Taize services in August and September possible, including help from Thrivent Financial. What a beautiful setting was created in which to bring our deepest feelings to God, both of prayer and praise. We hope you might join with our sister congregation Trinity Episcopal on the 3rd Sunday of each month (October-April) at 5 p.m. throughout the coming year. And join us for midweek Advent services.

*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*

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Calling all  
crafters, or  
just Highly  
Organized  
people



Social Ministry

After 21 years as the Project Linus chapter coordinator, I am retiring to the status of "blanketeer." I would love to be able to pass the coordinator's responsibility on to someone who will love this ministry as much as I have.

What does this job entail? A quarterly report which lists the number of blankets in and out, an annual report listing how many blankets went where, delivering blankets (and I have often recruited dear friends to help with this) to area hospitals, shelters, and disaster recovery efforts. Working with our churches, area 4-H groups, scouts, sororities, and school groups has been a pleasure. Receiving thanks from hospitals and or parents whose children received this much-needed comfort makes the effort so worthwhile.

In 21 years, our chapter has delivered close to 8,000 blankets, and, thanks to our local Kohl's Department store, there is over \$10,000 in our account at national headquarters to help groups buy fabric and supplies. You do not have to be a maker of blankets (I have knitted a grand total of 4!). So, I hope you will prayerfully consider becoming Findlay's chapter coordinator. Please give me a call at 419-422-9640 for more details. Yours in stitches, Jane Ebersole



Thanks to God's good sunshine and rain plus the efforts of our gardeners and cooks, the GNG has produced ample veggies and flowers, which were enjoyed at the Community Dinners and by parishioners. Plus, we have frozen about 7 gallons of soup base (tomatoes, onions, zucchini) for this month's Good News Garden Harvest Vegetable Beef soup, featured at the Community Dinner on October 7.

Along with the Riehm Farms veggies, we were also able to donate to City Mission and LSS. This year's addition of perennials and annuals beautified our Community Dinner's tables and our corner of Lincoln and Main. Many nice comments by passersby. So, as we put the garden to bed, we give God the glory in this year of prayer for the opportunity to help move our community one step closer to God. See you in the spring!

Have you ever needed a ride to church? Drivers are available to help you get to the 10:45 church service and back home again. Maybe you'd like to be a driver. Please call Jerry Bryant, at 419-422-0015 if you'd like to drive or need a ride. If you know of someone needing a ride, either a member or a friend who would like to attend a service, please call Jerry.



Need a Ride to Church?



Remember the Red Cross Blood Mobile will be here at First Lutheran on Oct. 25 from 12-6pm.

Donors are always needed to help others. Please consider being a donor. It only takes a little longer than an hour of your day. Food is served so lunch is not missed, or offered as your midafternoon snack or early dinner to finish out the work day. Appointments are preferred by calling 1-800-Redcross or online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Walk-ins are accepted also. Please consider helping by furnishing brownies or cookies for the donors.



Please check the altar Flower Chart in the hallway, across from the church office. There are still Sundays available for altar flowers to honor or remember those special people or events in your life.

Are you available to deliver the altar flowers to those that cannot make it to church on Sunday? If you are interested please contact Marilyn Dunn 419-422-0340 or [dunnm@findlay.edu](mailto:dunnm@findlay.edu). Flower delivery is for one month. If you are not able to commit for a whole month please consider being on the substitute list.



Continue to gather Box Tops for Education and place them in the drawer in the kitchenette. These are then shared with Lincoln School for items they need.

Riehm Farms will continue to use our parking lot twice a month during the winter. They will have produce grown during the winter harvest. If you would like to learn about their Community Supported Agribusiness please check online at [FunAcres.net](http://FunAcres.net).



A communion deacon schedule for October through May has been posted in the Sacristy and on the hallway bulletin board across from the office. Please contact Tad Schell if you have questions or concerns.

# Newsletter DEADLINE

Monday

October 22nd

Food Cart Requests



Deodorant, bath soap, pasta & sauces.

All donations benefit

Lutheran Social Services.

The cart is in the coat room.

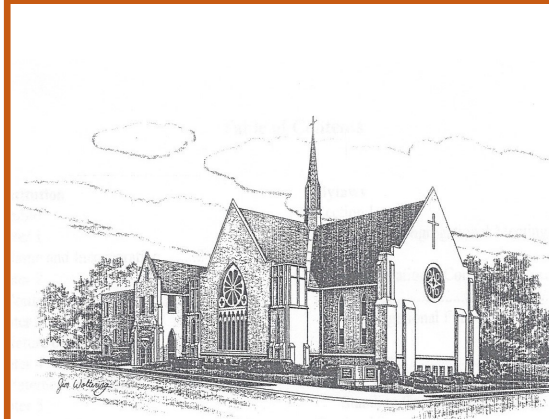
October's Noisy Offering benefits



".....To provide compassionate support to Hancock County cancer patients and families through their journey".

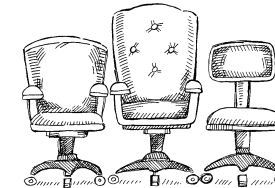


## WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



First Lutheran's 661 baptized members contributed \$379,090 in 2017 toward the ministries of this congregation. That's not including gifts to special ministries that are not part of the budget, including \$10,055 towards world hunger community dinners, Lutheran World Relief, Easter/Christmas trees, noisy offerings, etc. And don't forget that these gifts are not for our use only, but are given for local ministries, also to our synod and thus reach around the world (51% of our Synod Mission Share is given directly to the ELCA).

### Staff Salaries \$260,090 [69%]



Pastor, Assisting Minister, Administrative Assistant, Building Manager, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Organist, Choir Director, etc.

### Facilities and Admin. \$60,462 [16%]



Office, repairs, church house, office and supplies, etc.

### NWOS and Local Benevolences \$42,650 [11%]



Ten per cent of our budget goes to the Northwestern Ohio Synod -ELCA. Of that, 51% is sent to the ELCA in Chicago supporting synod, churchwide and global ministries. Local agencies: LSS, City Mission, HCCH, Chopin Hall

### Ministries \$15,762 [4%]



Various ministries include stewardship, evangelism, youth, Sunday School and youth, as well as social and pastoral ministries.





## Endowment

The Missionary Outreach account within Endowment has a very important purpose of providing financial support for Christian projects, education, and services to those beyond the physical confines of our church. So far this year, we have helped fund the Service Learning Day at the

2018 Youth Gathering in Houston by providing funds in the amount of \$1,575 for the 18 people that attended this event. Also, the fund provided \$5,000 to Salem Lutheran in Toledo for their TONY Adult Empowerment program to teach adults how to be self-reliant. These funds employed two interns for a year, helped with payroll expenses and provided supplies for the program.

The earnings from the investments made in 2017

provided our largest balance available for distribution in 2018. After the above projects, the fund still has \$9,563.48, to be distributed this year. If you know of a deserving project that meets the above criteria, please present your idea to a standing committee to have the request reviewed and presented to the Endowment Committee. Our committee meets the second Wednesday of the month. We hope to see deserving projects presented for requests as soon as possible.

## OWLS



### OWLS TO VISIT ENGLAND IN OCTOBER

On Tuesday, October 30th, the OWLS program, "ENGLAND SWINGS", will be presented by Pastor Chris Dittmar. In explaining the title, Chris wrote: "England swings like a pendulum do. Bobbies on bicycles, two by two. Westminster Abbey, the tower of Big Ben, the rosy cheeks of the little children..." to quote Roger Miller in his 70's song. Last month Pastor Chris, Julie, Pastor Bob and Pam took a trip to England (Chris's third time there). In the words of Miller, Chris says, "Take a tip before you take your trip; let me tell you where to go, Go to England, Oh!" Or if you can't, come to OWLS."

The program will begin at 6:00, following a 5:00 potluck supper. All adults are invited. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. If you need a ride, call Carol Bridinger (419-25-9104) by the day before.

## From our Librarian

Hello everyone. Good grief, Charlie Brown. It is the month of the Great Pumpkin.

Been working hard at cleaning Paul's mother's house. Oh my, the things she kept. Generations of paper, photos, books, letters, cards, dishes. It has been a treasure trove and a constant unveiling of my mother-in-law's life. I just wish she had shared stories and memories surrounding these items and I wish she had shared her thoughts of losing a brother in World War II. She kept it all buried deep inside herself and in the boxes of his things stacked in an upstairs bedroom.

Family secrets. Things we keep to ourselves. A similar topic of a recent book I read. Now it is not often that a piece of fiction touches me so deeply that I am brought to tears numerous times while reading. Such is the case though, with Home Front by Kristin Hannah, who has written many novels, including The Nightingale, The Great Alone, Firefly Lane, Winter Garden.

Jo Zarkades has been in love with Michael since she first met him 13 years ago. Michael, on the other hand, is getting restive in his marriage. His father, who shared the lawyer's practice with his son, has recently died. Without his father, Michael seems to be drifting, until he agrees to defend a Marine recently returned from Iraq, whose PTSD made him kill his wife.

One night, after an argument, Michael tells Jolene that he does not love her any more. The next day Jo learns that she and her best friend are being deployed to Iraq with their National Guard unit. In her military preparations to leave, there is no time to clarify or discuss Michael's comment. Jo's letters home are full of cheer and happiness and lies that swear she is far from any action. In reality, she has watched friends' helicopters crash and burn, lived with shelling day and night, and seen the many horrors of war.

At home, Michael is ever so angry that he is left with the household duties and the daily errands with the two children, (twelve and four) as well as his practice. Slowly he comes to terms with what Jo has been juggling in the home. Meanwhile, his Marine defendant is uncooperative, telling Michael nothing that will help the defense.

Jolene comes home early after her helicopter is shot down, killing one of the crew, seriously injuring another. Her friend is in a coma and Jolene herself is severely injured. She also brings with her the baggage of war...the truth of its ugliness, the pain, the horrors. Yet she pretends she is fine. But she too suffers from PTSD from the anger, guilt, fear and frustration. Only when the Marine opens to Michael does Michael begin to understand what is torturing his own wife. Only then does he first appreciate her position in the National Guard. Only then does he consider her a hero. Only then does he recognize his own selfishness.

So many times, the couple was content to misinterpret something said or done, so many lies were told in an effort to keep everyone happy, so many conversations were left unsaid. So much pain could have been avoided if all had been honest. And then there's that need to listen when one does talk. Neither was ever really listening to the other. The book is so much about what can go wrong of our own doing with a marriage. Likewise, it is a compassionate look at the effects of war on a person and on a family.

The book made me wish my brother-in-law would open up about Viet Nam. He still carries all that with him. And my uncle who died with his story still inside of being shot down over Belgium in World War II.

Family secrets. I will close on that note. Thanks for listening. God bless and keep reading.

Kathy Brooks (Kbrooks@Lrbcg.com)



## Fall Rummage Sale and Bake Sale

Friday, October 19, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Saturday October 20, 9:00am to 12 noon

You may bring your gently used items in and place them either on the stage in Fellowship Hall or in the Rummage Sale Room. Please, no TV's.

We will need lots of help the week of the sale. Set up starts on Tuesday, October 16th. Please put the dates on your calendar to come in and give a helping hand. You do not need to sign up for a particular time; just come in when you are able. We will also need help during the sale and for clean-up after the sale on Saturday. Any questions, contact Mary Lou McCann at 419-423-2226. This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial.



A Bake Sale will be held in the kitchen during the Rummage Sale on October 19th and 20th. Social Ministry is seeking donors of baked goods, pies, cakes, breads, candy, jelly, etc. The Bake Sale has been a success the last several years, and offers goodies to be served during the holidays. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for additional information.

Proceeds from the Rummage Sale/Bake Sale will go to the Hancock Co. Boot Project; Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem (Lutheran World Federation); and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for providing the seed money for these projects.

Offer to help...Get involved!



Oct. 9  
Martha Circle  
9:00 am  
Church Library

Oct. 9  
Rachel Circle  
9:30am, Church  
Lounge

October 15  
Hannah Circle  
7:00pm  
Church Lounge

October 16-18  
Set up  
Rummage Sale  
and Bake Sale

October 19  
Rummage Sale  
9:00am—5:00pm

October 20  
Rummage Sale  
9:00 am –12:00  
Clean-up  
following sale

October 28  
Cookie Sunday,  
Martha Circle



### LECTORS

Oct. 7  
8:15-Carol Bridinger  
10:45-Renee Smith

Oct. 14  
8:15-Acolyte  
10:45-Acolytes

Oct. 21  
8:15-Jeff Kamm  
10:45-Nina Dukes

Oct. 28  
8:15-Jenny Welte  
10:45-Kristen Johnson

### GREETERS

Oct. 7  
8:15-Cloyce & Janet Baker  
10:45-Renee Smith

Oct. 14  
8:15-Dave & Janet Wobser  
10:45-Kids of the Kingdom

Oct. 21  
8:15-Jeff & Jennifer Kamm  
10:45-

Oct. 28  
8:15-Bart & Jenny Welte  
10:45-Johnson Family

### ACOLYTES

Oct. 7  
8:15-Shelby Dale, Abbey Zawisza  
10:45-

Oct. 14  
8:15-Zach McRill  
10:45-Casey Leipheimer, Erin Meier

Oct. 21  
8:15-  
10:45-Tyler Volk, Reese Volk

Oct. 28  
8:15-Grant Welte  
10:45-Reese Volk, Casey Leipheimer

### SOUND ROOM

Oct. 7  
8:15-Sam Ried  
10:45-Alex Treece

Oct. 14  
8:15-Dave Gerber  
10:45-Todd Thompson

Oct. 21  
8:15-Tim Roth  
10:45-Jerry Bryant

Oct. 28  
8:15-Sam Ried  
10:45-Steve Roth

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Oct. 7-Bonnoront Family  
Oct. 14-Bev Yammine  
Oct. 21  
Oct. 28

Forms for your bulletin  
announcement are available  
on the bulletin board and at  
[1stLutheranChurch.org](http://1stLutheranChurch.org).  
Flowers need to be delivered to  
the church by noon on Friday.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS 8:15/10:45  
Oct. 7-Tim Cochran/Traci Roth  
Oct. 14-Pastor Chris  
Oct. 21-Daryl Rotman  
Oct. 28-Tim Cochran/Traci Roth

### 8:15 USHERS:

Dave Wobser  
Jim Schoerger  
Richard Ruehle  
Nick Thomas  
Ken Bahler

### DEACONS

Sue DeMoss  
Tad Schell  
Mike Zawisza  
Bob Schrinr  
Dean Bowser

### DRIVERS

Oct. 7-Jerry Bryant  
Oct. 14-Mike Zawisza  
Oct. 21-Aaron Ried  
Oct. 28-Pam Cochran

### ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell, Pat Needles

### COUNTERS

Carole Wittenberg, Bev Yammine

### LSS DELIVERY

Sue DeMoss

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Marilynn Dunn

### COMMUNION BREAD

Oct. 7-Pam Cochran  
Oct. 14-Devra Hall  
Oct. 21-Julie Dittmar  
Oct. 28-Cyndy Rotman

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Oct. 7-Bev Yammine  
Oct. 14/21-Brent & Peggy Fruchey  
Oct. 28- Karen Rose

### COOKIE SUNDAY

Oct. 7-Community dinner  
Oct. 14-Endowment/Finance  
Oct. 21-Property  
Oct. 28-Martha Circle





# Birthdays

Casey Cox	10/1	Timothy Cochran	10/12	Bradley May	10/21
Barbara Stacy	10/1	Mary Fleming	10/13	Linda Mitchell	10/21
Janet Wobser	10/1	Sharon Fraley	10/14	Sandra Rakestraw	10/21
Heather Nielsen	10/2	Tim Franks	10/14	Reed Blunk	10/22
Wendy Price	10/2	Marie Peace	10/14	Sandra Dale	10/22
Justin Shanahan	10/3	Wendy Short	10/14	Bartley Pardee	10/22
Andrew Westrick	10/3	Alex Treece	10/14	Marilyn Wilson	10/22
Miranda Westrick	10/3	Nancy Baxter	10/15	Jerry Hawkins	10/24
Karen Rose	10/4	Patrick Breen	10/17	Aaron Ried	10/24
Alexandria Cox	10/5	Joe Dudics	10/17	Devra Hall	10/25
Bree Stahl	10/6	Mark Rich	10/18	Roberta Howard	10/25
Tonya Thorbahn	10/6	Beulah Bishop	10/19	Gianna Masterlasco	10/25
John Eakin	10/7	Arlene Powell	10/19	Jean Wynkoop	10/25
Daryl Rotman	10/7	Michael Baxter	10/20	Michelle Frampton	10/26
Melody (Mel) Schultz	10/7	Kristin Johnson	10/20	Owen Smith	10/26
Paula Barkley	10/8	Jakeb Neiling	10/20	Laura Leopold	10/29
Zachary McRill	10/8	Jeffrey Nunn	10/20	Andrew Maurer	10/31
Kelly Troiano	10/8	Jenny Welte	10/20	David Rossman	10/31
Anthony Neiling	10/9	Beth Hardesty	10/21		
Steve Seibert	10/9				

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

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

Current Resident or:

 Mailed around  
September 25, 2018

# Baptisms

Kirsten Stevens	10/1
Michael Thompson	10/1
Brooke Peplinski	10/4
Phil Burson	10/5
Ella Zawisza	10/7
John Ried	10/8
Matthew Price	10/10
Julie Buck	10/12
Jodi Wilson	10/14
Jonathan Ruehle	10/16
Robert Cochran	10/17
Gregory Rossman	10/18
Jakeb Neiling	10/20
Kristen Buck	10/22
Tricia Cox	10/22
Parker Haudenschild	10/25
Bree Stahl	10/27
Adelyn Thorbahn	10/28
Arlene Powell	10/29
Owen Smith	10/29



# Anniversaries

John & Amie Biggs	10/1/2004	14
Ken & Nancy Bahler	10/6/1979	39
Brandon & Kristi Gerdeman	10/6/2012	6
Joseph & Candace Spoon	10/9/1993	25
Tad & Maria Schell	10/11/1980	38
Brian & Stefanie VanAtta	10/12/2013	5
Richard & Barbara Larick	10/14/1960	58
Doyle & Raelyn Sherman	10/16/1999	19
Matthew & Sadye Holbach	10/19/2013	5
Greg & Kristin Johnson	10/20/2007	11
Mark & Suzanne Kirk	10/25/1997	21
Richard & Mary Kondik	10/26/1957	61

8:15am Sunday Worship 10:45am



**First Lutheran Church**

419-422-2638 [www.1stLutheranChurch.org](http://www.1stLutheranChurch.org)