

What Is the Sound of One Hand Clapping?

Why Go to Church? Last month, I addressed the value of going to church to participate in the rite of "Confession and Forgiveness." The gathered people of God come together and confess as one that they are all sinners. Because of this, none of us need feel alone in our sinfulness. We may, and should, feel bad about the wrong we have done (and about the good we neglected to do), but we are not to feel ashamed of who we are. We are sinners, but we are also beloved children of a God who wants to forgive.

In the spirit of confession, then, I have something to confess. I have been asked why we don't, like many of our sister churches, livestream our services on Sunday mornings. There are many practical reasons for this: costs, technical obstacles, the inability to remove something unfortunate from the world wide web once it is placed there (we warn our teenagers about this all the time). But I have one more reason: I don't want our congregation to get used to worshipping at home. Other pastors have told me that people in their congregations have already told them that they will continue to watch church on Sunday mornings A.C. (After Covid) because of how much simpler it is. Many of these good folks are parents.

Now, believe me, as the eldest son in a family of seven, I know how difficult Sunday mornings are. Every family experiences at least one fight in the car on the way to church every Sunday! I imagine that mom and dad would have been thrilled to stay home, drink coffee, and let us wiggle on the couch to our heart's content. But there is a huge difference between watching church on Sundays and being the church on Sundays.

There is a huge difference between hearing people confess their sins, and watching them being absolved of those sins, and confessing and being absolved. We come to church to be greeted; to be forgiven; to be prayed for; to receive the Word of God in scripture, song, and sermon; to be communed; to be blessed; and to be sent. You can hear and see many wonderful, spirited things on television, but you can't touch the screen and receive all the corporeal (bodily) blessings worship together can bring.

One such blessing is the gift of being able to rise together as the body of Christ and confess one's faith in the Words of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." When we have had disagreements in the church on social and political issues, the question often arises as to how we can stay together when we disagree. We can stay together because we are bound by our confessions and creeds. What we believe in common turns out to be much more important than that on which we disagree. We believe in God, who created everything that exists.

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord." We believe that God became human, suffered, died, "ascended into heaven," and will return at the end of time. "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." We are united in our belief that God is with us now as the Holy Spirit, that there is one universal church, that sins can be forgiven, bodies can rise and never die again. With all of this in common, why would differences in how we view social issues and politics keep us apart?

It is one thing to believe in something in your heart; it is quite something else to confess it publicly. Faith only matters when we put it into action. Athletes are finding it harder to be motivated playing to empty stands. When the crowd rises as one, and the stadium erupts into cheers and chants, everyone is filled with spirit. When the faithful arise in church and declare together their faith in God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and the basic tenets of faith, the Spirit is stirred, in heaven and on earth.

Don't ask God to play to an empty stadium. Come to church on Sunday: we'll hold a seat for you.

*I believe
in God, ...
I believe in
Jesus Christ, ...
I believe in
the Holy Spirit...*

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Minute Happy Fall from the Social Ministry Committee! It's hard to believe that 2020 is drawing to a close. Our committee members have remained active throughout this difficult year with important outreach ministries. Whether serving Community Dinners to go, supporting the Red Cross Blood Drives, tending the Good News garden, participating in Habitat for Humanity builds or serving a variety of other local ministries, First Lutheran members continue to step up and step out.

This year, Social Ministry directed funds to local missions like the Fostoria Sharing Kitchen, Open Arms, Habitat, Christian Clearing House and the City Mission as well as contributing to the ELCA's COVID Relief Fund.

The Lincoln Elementary First Aid Kits that the adult Sunday School packed up last fall are ready for restocking and Social Ministry will be helping to fill that need.



Coats for Christmas is another opportunity to minister to those in our community. Be on the lookout for a collection box at church in the coming weeks, gently used coats as well as hats, gloves, scarves or blankets are welcome donations! As always, we welcome new faces at

our Committee meetings and we are hugely grateful for the generosity of First's church body supporting our ministry.



This year, we are trying a new Christmas outreach that may be of interest to you. Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child provides Christmas presents to children all over the world packed in a shoe box to spread the word about Jesus Christ. Social Ministry has committed First Lutheran to pack ten shoeboxes, though we certainly can pack more ;) More information will be posted on the bulletin board, but consider this as a great opportunity to bring the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children around the world. It's also a fun activity you can safely do in a small family group or social circle. Box packing tips will be provided, but generally:

- Pick a gender and age group
- Pack a "WOW!" Toy
- Stuff the box with hygiene items, school supplies or other small toys
- Pray for the child who will receive your gift

Boxes must be ready to go the week of Nov. 16!
Thanks,
Rob Leipheimer

THANKS to all who helped make the Habitat for Humanity "Apostle Build" a ministry success. We had a great day of construction and the home was officially dedicated on October 3. The family of five is thrilled with their new home. There is some unfinished business, however. We are still in need of \$1,750 to meet our goal of \$7,000. We are still waiting for a final church to commit to meet that goal, but if you might help us with that, we would greatly appreciate it. Simply make a notation that your gift goes for Habitat Apostle Build and place in your offering to the church. Thanks again! —Mike Thompson



Time to Celebrate!



Cloyce Baker and I (Nick Thomas) completed a Backyard Mission Trip project for Terry Hummel on Saturday 10/10.

After suspension of the BMT work day in April we were given the cautionary green light to move forward with projects we had scoped. This came with the condition that the homeowners were still interested and willing. We also agreed to comply with homeowners' requests for safety and social distancing as it applies to COVID19.

Mr. Hummel was delighted and so we scheduled our BMT day. Cloyce and I performed repairs on his front door jamb and back steps as well as trimmed bushes in his front yard. Terry and his wife have had some tough life challenges and will appreciate continued prayers for their health and well being. They belong to a non-denominational Christian church and are a delight to be around.

—Nick Thomas

175 FLC

**175th Anniversary
2021**

Our church will be 175 years old next September 2021. Council has designated October 2021 as our celebration month. If you would like to be part of the celebration committee, please email Karen Rose or me (Cindy Fitzpatrick) as we are developing a committee to begin planning the big event.

Cindy Fitzpatrick
cbrenfitz@aol.com

Karen Rose
krose13995@gmail.com

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

Library News

Hello, Friends.

As I take a break from what will soon be the last mowings of the yard, I realize that running over my landscape rocks has not been good to my mower blades. Once again, I am mowing in uneven strips. The final look of the yard: scalped in some areas and yet too long in others. Aaah, good thing I don't drive my car that way. And speaking of cars, my little blue "baby" went to the hospital this past month and I was blessed to drive the 3500 Dodge truck, the blue tank. I didn't realize how big it was until I noticed that the front hood is almost as tall as I am. Such fun climbing into it. Yet oh, so grateful I had something to drive.

On another note, I am not yet sure how we will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday this month. COVID 19 keeps us guessing on what is and what isn't a good idea for get-togethers.

And isn't it difficult to stay upbeat and positive with others when we are, many of us, on our last tether to sanity because of the virus? Just as I was getting out just a bit more - you know, attending book club, church services, Bible study, visiting a friend or two - our Brook is exposed to the virus. So, we quarantined him and, of course, someone needed to stay with him. Then I remember saying "I can't take any more."

Then, I sat down, or should I say, I "flounced down" on the sofa, picked up a stray book in my pile. It happened to be a gift sent shortly after Phil's death from a friend of mine - Everything Is Yours by Kris Camealy. By now you have figured out the rest of the story - that this book really speaks to me in a time of chaos and confusion, a time of trying to keep in touch with friends and loved ones, a time of masks, ZOOM meetings.

The author explains that moments of sharpened awareness of our own fragility such as we are experiencing now, come as an invitation to God's grace, for here, in the thick of trouble, we can experience God's presence by opening our hearts

and minds and trust in God. Unfortunately, many of us eagerly say we trust God but our fretful prayers and worried mumblings and sleepless nights reflect the truer status of our hearts. In other words, we give it to God...but then we take it back!

At other times, we try too hard. We push, we shove, we shout, we declare, we say every prayer we know. Yet all we really do is wear ourselves out and we travel further from God's grace. In reality, these moments in the thick of trouble can bring us into a head-on collision with grace: these moments teach us what it looks like to "let go and let God." After all, God created and ordered the world and He watches over his creation.

The more we surrender to God, the closer we approach an understanding of God's goodness. And...the better we travel through these very trying times.

In conclusion, I shall make a greater effort to get outside of myself. Pray for our children in school, pray for the President (whoever is elected), pray for the country.

Stay in touch by texting, calling, writing; thank others for what they do.

And every morning after morning prayers, I will recite the five Reiki principles: Just for today I will not be angry. Just for today I will not worry. Just for today I will be grateful. Just for today I will do my work honestly. Just for today I will be kind to all living things.

Let me know how you are doing. Tell me what you are reading. Give me suggestions for next year's book club readings. In other words, keep in touch. kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com or text me at 419-722-9227...and remember, "let go and let God."

Kathy

**Just for
today I
will...**

WELCA Calendar of Events for November

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

Martha Circle is in-service for the month of November.

- Nov. 10 Martha Circle, 9:00 am in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Judy Kipker, Leader: Miriam Gibson
- Nov. 10 Rachel Circle, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall
Hostess: Carole Wittenberg, Leader: Mary Lou McCann
- Nov. 15 Thank Offering Sunday
- Nov. 16 Hannah Circle, 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Pat Needles, Leader: Nikki Needles
- Dec. 2 WELCA Board – February Social planning meeting - 10 AM

Thankoffering
"... gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings."

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thankofferings.

What do our Thankofferings support?

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Our founders would be amazed to see what that covers these days!

Our ongoing ministries include our many online and printed communications channels, our justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, our constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of our grants and scholarship programs, all that goes into our triennial convention (the business meeting, that is), and so much more.

THANK YOU!

It's been shown time and again that gratitude is good for us – spiritually, mentally, and even physically. Making a Thankoffering is gratitude in action. And Women of the ELCA is grateful to you for taking that action. Thank you.



A gigantic thank you goes out to all that helped in anyway with our fall rummage sale. We raised \$1416.24. Proceeds went to Beam of Light, ELCA National Disaster Relief and ELCA Good Gifts. Seed money for the rummage sale was provided through Thrivent Action Teams. —Mary Lou McCann



Cancun is recognized throughout the world for its spectacular white sand beaches and its fascinating sea in turquoise blue tones. With unique natural places, Mayan culture, water activities and adventure. International cuisine, spectacular golf courses, sophisticated spa facilities; exclusive shopping centers, typical handicraft markets as well as shows, bars and nightclubs that give fame to its incomparable nightlife.

It's not unusual for churches to say "we can't!" "We can't afford it!" "We can't get enough people to help!" "We can't get a consensus!" "We have never done it and can't start now!" I've heard them all! As we sail into the port at **CAN**cun [actually it's at Cozumel!] I hope we can start to look ahead with hope and joy and say, "Yes! We **CAN**!" We **CAN** find the people. We **CAN** work together! We **CAN** come up with the money!" "With God's help, nothing is impossible!" Yes! We **CAN**! Our summer series on the book of Acts reminded me that the early church lacked funds, lacked equipment, lacked buildings, lacked a history, and lacked people. But they had the essentials: *they were anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power*. They really didn't lack anything! And St. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, reminded them that the Macedonians had very little, yet, Paul said: "... during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part." Paul teaches us, so that we can say with the Holy Spirit as our teacher and guide, "Yes! We **CAN**!" - *Pastor Chris*

Ever heard of **AMIMPARO**?

The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA's strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMIMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

COMMITMENT CARDS We are still hoping to receive your commitment cards for 2020-21! If you have turned your card in: thank you! If you have not as yet done so, please place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church. Good News! You can also use the online version located on the front page of the church's website [1stlutheranchurch.org]. We normally receive about 50% ...can we expect 60% this year?



PLEASE JOIN US

CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING

November 22, 11:00
Elect Church Council Members

On-line

Thanksgiving Eve

WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship On-Line with
Trinity, Findlay
First Lutheran
St. John's
November 25th, 7:00
Watch for details



Decorating the Church
November 28th at 9:30



Join WELCA in a new way to support our community. This Reverse Advent Calendar will be included in the bulletin on Thankoffering Sunday, November 15th. Anyone in the congregation can participate and the LSS Foodbank can be presented with the food!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

At First

8:30 &
10:00

Now is the time for
WORSHIP

Worship will temporarily be suspended when, and if Hancock County moves to Level 3 (red) on their "COVID-19 Risk Level." Level 3 indicates that everyone should "Limit attending gatherings of any number". This is very similar to the Snow Emergency policy we've been using for years.

LEVEL 1

Public Emergency
Active exposure and spread.

LEVEL 2

Public Emergency
Increased exposure and spread.

LEVEL 3

Public Emergency
Very high exposure and spread.

LEVEL 4

Public Emergency
Severe exposure and spread.

Do this in
remembrance
of me.

Holy
Communion
November 1
December 6
January 3



For your safety
and ours, masks
are required while
on these premises.

Thank you!

Food Cart Requests

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Soup

All donations benefit LSS
The cart is in the coat room



There are many Sundays left that you can choose to place flowers on the altar. This is the perfect way for you to honor, remember, or give thanks for those people and events in your life. The flower chart is in the hallway, across from the church office, where you can make your date selection.

Community OUTREACH



Concern

How Do We Care For Each Other?

How can we be better in our care for each other? Everything has changed. There is no "normal" and it looks like the "new normal" will be different in many ways. Communication with you, your family, a neighbor or friend, is now more important than ever.

If you have a concern, leave a note on the back of your yellow "Footprints" or call the church office or pastor. You may also email the office at FLCFindlay@gmail.com, or Pastor Bob at FLCPastor@hotmail.com. Pastor Bob and Pastor Chris are prepared to support you in times of change and adjustment.

Covid has been extremely hard for our shut-ins. To give them little boost, send them a card. An address list is available on the hall bulletin board next to the church office. Please feel free to take an address list and send a "comfort" card.

Please call the church office if you need an address for:

Ruthie Meyer	Pauline Streicher
Beulah Bishop	Sue Montgomery
Bev Yammine	Ken Otte
Marilyn Wilson	Paul & Donna Brockman
Mary Fleming	Sally Rice
Mike Meyer	Beth Hardesty
Jim Staschiak	Jack & Nancy Meek

Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.or



LET'S CELEBRATE!

HAPPY Anniversary!

Kevin & Karen Breen	11/7/1987	33
Jerry & Judith Luth	11/12/1966	54
Eddie & Erin Gallegos	11/22/2014	6

Happy Birthday

Ryan Nunn	11/1	Gary Woodruff	11/12	Donna Brockman	11/22
Jim Schoerger	11/1	Gabby Gomez	11/13	Christian Dittmar	11/22
Laura Corle	11/3	Beth Schriener	11/13	Jeffrey Short	11/24
Mary Beth Dillon	11/4	Paul Brooks	11/15	Wesley Rodman	11/25
Jeremiah Tatum	11/4	Sue Montgomery	11/15	Dorothy Freeland	11/26
Cindy Thompson	11/4	Kim Peplinski	11/15	Shirley Gerber	11/26
Gary May	11/7	Andrew Mains	11/18	Allison May	11/26
Carole Wittenberg	11/7	Carolyn Wilde	11/18	Emily Meier	11/26
Brent Fruchey	11/8	James Routson	11/19	Virginia May	11/27
Phoebe Treece	11/8	Larry Borger	11/21	Craig Meier	11/27
Steve Seibert	11/9	Kathleen Rodman	11/21	Sara Cleary	11/29
Dillon Timbrook	11/9	Timothy Roth	11/21	Arlene Schriener	11/30
Deborah Baker	11/11				



ALTAR FLOWERS

Nov. 1- Rotman/Yammine
Nov. 8- Mike & Chris Meyer
Nov. 15- Marilyn Dunn
Nov. 22-
Nov. 29-

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.

ALTAR GUILD

Julie Buck
Amber Leipheimer

COUNTERS

Randy & Julie Buck

LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sally Hartzell

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Nov. 1 - Pastor Chris Dittmar
Nov. 8 - Daryl Rotman
Nov. 15 - Pastor Chris Dittmar
Nov. 22 - Tim Cochran, Traci Roth
Nov. 29 - Tim Frank

SOUND ROOM

Nov. 1
8:00- Tim Roth
10:00- Jerry Bryant

Nov. 8
8:00- Tim Roth
10:00- Steve Roth

Nov. 15
8:00- Tim Roth
10:00- Alex Treece

Nov. 22
8:00- Tim Roth
10:00- Jerry Bryant

Nov. 29
8:00- Tim Roth
10:00- Falkyn Roth

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-Nov	2	3	4	5	6	7
All Saints Sunday 8:30am & 10:00 Worship 11:30am Community Dinner	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Worship & Music	4:30pm *Reihm Farm 7pm *Book Club	7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Noisy Offering 8:30am & 10:00 Worship	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Stewardship/ Evangelism 7pm Social Ministry	9am Martha Circle 4:30pm *Reihm Farm 7:30pm Finance	7pm Confirmation 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Thankoffering Sunday 8:30am & 10:00 Worship	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 7pm Hannah Circle	1:30pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm *Reihm	7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30am & 10:00 Worship 11am Congregational Meeting	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 12pm Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm *Council		7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship—Online 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	Office Closed 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal		9:30am Church Decorating
29	30	Dec. 1	November 2020			
8:30am & 10:00 Worship	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study	Newsletter Mailing				

first Lutheran
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

Current Resident or:

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



Mailed around
October 29th

Worship 8:30 & 10:00 Sunday Mornings

Give thanks to
the Lord
and proclaim his
greatness.
Let the whole world
know *what he has done.*
I Chronicles 16:8

Give Thanks

www.1stLutheranChurch.org

419-422-2638