

oh come
let us
adore
him

Christmas Eve Worship

**Family Candlelight
Worship 7:30 pm**
(Prelude to begin at 7:00)



Love and Memory Tree

For more than 10 years we have donated to our *Love and Memory Tree* in lieu of buying poinsettias. It is out of your grace that we are able to donate more than \$1,000 each season to our local Lutheran Social Services. LSS uses this donation to offer counseling to Hancock County residents and to fill the gaps in their local food pantry. What a great gift from our congregation to others in need.

Given by: (PRINT) _____

In loving memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

You may attach this form to your check and drop it in the offering plate
or mail it to the church office.



Stewardship Stew

The “secret” ingredients of good stewardship

Cheese-stuffed Chicken Breasts

Ingredients

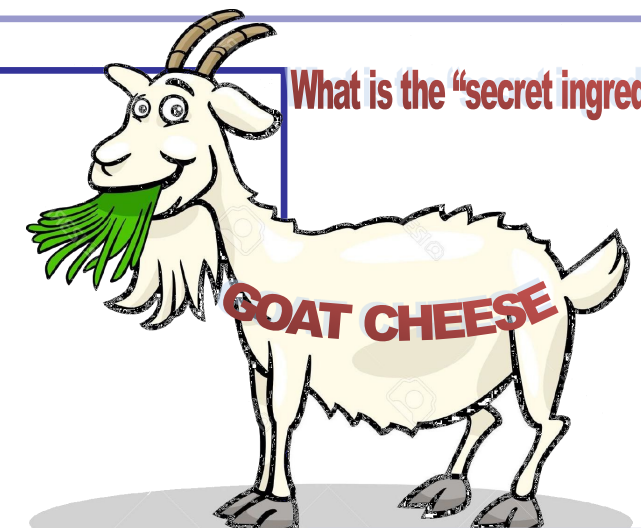
- 4 boneless chicken breasts
(halves, about 1 1/4 lbs.)
- 4 tablespoons goat cheese
(or 3 oz. cream cheese)
- 1/4 cup margarine (melted)
- 1/2 cup fresh breadcrumbs
- 1 jar tomato and basil sauce
- 16 ounces bow-tie pasta
(cooked and drained)

Directions

Preheat oven to 375°

Make deep 1-inch-long cut with knife parallel to cutting board inside of each chicken breast half to form a pocket. Evenly stuff pockets with goat cheese, then press edges together to seal. Dip chicken in margarine, then bread crumbs until evenly coated. On baking sheet, arrange chicken. Bake 20 minutes or until chicken is thoroughly cooked.

Meanwhile, heat sauce in 2 quart saucepan over low heat. To serve, arrange chicken on platter over hot bow ties, then top with sauce. Serve, if desired, with sauteed spinach.



What is the “secret ingredient”?

Looking for the perfect gift for Christmas?

You can buy a goat and a flock of chicks through the ELCA Good Gifts program. Cost: \$60.00. With this gift a family gains access to an ongoing supply of eggs from their chickens and protein-packed milk from their goat. Even better, extra eggs and dairy products can be sold at the market for a steady income. Great Christmas gift idea: send a card to family or friend, noting that you gave this gift in their name. A perfect gift, indeed!

ELCA.org/goodgifts

Check out the video about the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen at
<https://vimeo.com/293599869>

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." "
— Acts 20:35b

The Secret Ingredient for Good Stewardship: Joy

Inspired by the love of God, demonstrated in his Son, the Macedonian Christians (2 Cor. 8-9) exhibited determined generosity and abundant joy despite their adverse circumstances. Participation in the offering for Jerusalem was seen as a challenge by the Macedonian congregation. As they exceeded their own expectations and the expectations of others, through the generosity of their gifts, a spirit of joy and adventure bubbled up in the community, and spread throughout the congregation, inspiring even greater giving. The generosity of one inspired another until their exuberance overflowed. Like the proverbial snowball, each generous act built on another until the joy was unstoppable. The excitement was contagious. Scientists who study happiness have confirmed the truth of Paul's observation, attributed to Jesus: **"It is more blessed to give than to receive."** (Acts 20:35b) Giving contributes to a sense of purpose and connection in a way that possessing does not. A new purchase may bring a momentary sense of pleasure, but that good feeling is brief and shallow. Meaningful giving creates a more enduring positive attitude and greater long term happiness. Have you experienced joy in giving? Have you ever experience contagious joy? Numerous studies have confirmed that it is a sense of connection and meaning that characterizes the joy-filled life. Once basic needs are met, poverty and adversity may create hardship, but they cannot prevent joy from breaking through like a light in the darkness. When Jesus stooped down to wash his disciple's feet, he called them to a life of servanthood. The slave does not live for himself only, but lives to serve. Especially if the ties that bind are not ropes and chains but love. The life of love and generous self-sacrifice that Christ taught and modeled is not a call to dour self-deprivation, but ***opens the way to abundance and joy.*** Who knew?

- Rev. Serena Sellers

**Thanks to you who gave us stew.
 As we chew, help us to think what to do,
 for you love this world, too. Amen**



**A key ingredient to good stewardship is "The act of joy in giving what God has provided so that others might be blessed with God's love and grace."
 —Daryl Rotman."**

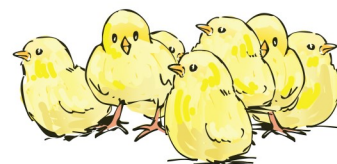
ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. These gifts are real examples from projects currently supported through ELCA churchwide ministries: the ELCA Fund for Leaders, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA New Congregations, ELCA Vision for Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Disability Ministries and Lutheran Disaster Response. Each of these programs is a long-term, partnership-based ministry that focus on the needs identified by local congregations and global companion churches and their communities.

**More than
 85%
 of your gift directly supports
 Programmatic work**

**YOUR GIFTS
 support work in**



countries



Giving Thanks to God—All Day, Every Day

Thank you to all the women who participate in and helped plan the Thankoffering service in November. Thank you to Pastor Sarah Schaff for her leadership & wonderful message.



Lessons from Shiphrah and Puah

- There are principles worth fighting and dying for
- Our vocation, whether at home, at the office, or on the battlefield are worthy of all we can give
- Our actions may reverberate for generations



Dear Women of ELCA,

I am writing to say "thank you" for your September gift to Lutheran Church Charities General Fund. God uses your gift in miraculous ways to make His love in Jesus alive and real for people experiencing the most challenging times of life. Your gift moves that ministry into the future. THANK YOU!

If you have a prayer request(s), please respond to this email, and I will gladly pray. I will pray that God will bless you as you continue to do the work He calls you to do so Satan continues to discover he is no match for God's people on the move.

God fill you with His peace and joy.
 Tom (Tews) Lutheran Church Charities



Reverse Advent Food Collection

WELCA is again sponsoring the Reverse Advent Food Collection. All families are invited to donate a box of food which can be placed on the stage. Donations will be taken to the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry.

Calendar of Events December

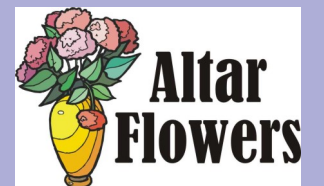
**Hannah Circle is
 in-service for
 December**

**December 1
 Reverse Advent
 Collection**

**December 14
 Rachel & Martha
 Christmas Brunch**

**December 13
 Hannah Circle
 Christmas Party
 7:00 at Maria Schell's**

**December 26
 Cookie Sunday
 Hannah Circle**



**The 2022 Flower
 Chart is up in the
 hallway, across from
 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 also
 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.**



December 26
One Worship Service
9:30



Old Millstream & LAKE PLAINS
 RINGERS Chorus

PRESENT

Christmas Remembrances

Sunday, December 12, 2021
at 5 p.m.

First Lutheran Church
 109 E Lincoln Street
 Findlay, OH

Free-will offering

Send A Card To Our Homebound!

Beulah Bishop

Sue Montgomery

Ruthie Meyer

Donna Brockman

**Jim & Doris
Staschiak**

**Mike & Chris Meyer
Beth & Lee
Hardesty**

**Jon Jones
Sally Rice**

Pat & Bob Stacy

Phil Bash

**Addresses are avail-
able in the church
office or on the hall
bulletin board.**



Library News

Merry Christmas! Wow! I hear cards will be late, packages will be late, the gifts we want to buy won't be on the shelves...who cares? Don't all these warnings of possible doom and gloom on Christmas Day just point us then to the real basis for Christmas? If that is true, then for all these issues I am grateful. Do I really need to press the point that gifts and cards and USPS, UPS, and FedEx aren't the major impetus behind the Christmas celebration.

First, I need to remind you of the Reverse Advent Calendar. If you are planning on preparing the box of goodies, get started. And while I am at it, I suggest you finish the calendar early so the food can be at the LSS office in time to be given to a needy family. Just a thought.

What else are you doing for Christmas? Wasn't the shoebox gift a fun action to startin to the spirit of gifting. Once again, my gifts were bigger than the box. I finally gave up and handed it to Paul..."Here, you make it all fit." And don't you know, he did!

And maybe this year I might also suggest we all just be kind to one another. Kindness goes a long way. Having spent the weekend on the road, I believe we could all stand to be kinder drivers. Wow, at times it appeared to be every person for him-/herself. And cars had to be passing me doing 80+ miles an hour. A smile in the grocery store wouldn't hurt either.

And now my gift to you - a favorite poem of Eleanor Roosevelt and, now, of me.

The Footpath to Peace

By Henry van Dyke – 1852-1933

To be glad of life,
because it gives you the chance to love
and to work and to play
and to look up at the stars;

to be satisfied with your possessions
but not content with yourself
until you have made the best of them;

to despise nothing in the world
except falsehood and meanness,
and to fear nothing except cowardice;

to be governed by your admirations
rather than by your disgusts;

to covet nothing of your neighbor's
except his kindness of heart
and gentleness of manners;

to think seldom of your enemies,
often of your friends
and every day of Christ;

and to spend as much time as you can
with body and with spirit
in God's out-of-doors

- these are little guideposts
on the footpath to peace.

Peace and love to all of you this holiday season. Thank you for putting up with my monthly ramblings. Take care with one another. God bless and keep reading.

Kathy Brooks (kathleen brooks15@gmail.com)



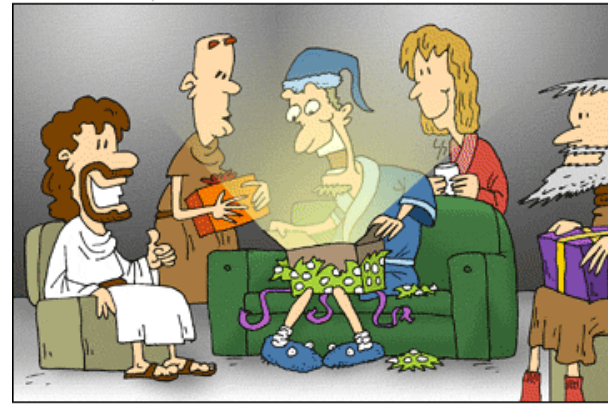
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 23rd at noon

**Recently Elected to
Church Council for 2023**

**Rob Leipheimer
Karen Rose
Diana Salisbury
Jeff Short**



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Andrew S.
ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS
JESUS!

12-21-2007

Kid's Program



December 12, 2021, during the 10:45 service, the Sunday School youth will be presenting the Christmas story through Bible readings and songs.



Christmas Train Ride for All!!!! December 12, 2021

Come one, come all and enjoy a Christmas train ride and light display at the Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation, 12505 County Road 99. Meet at the train station by 5:30 pm and enjoy for as long as you would like. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children.

CHOOCHOO

Where DOES First Go from Here?



members of First... "Where Do We Go From Here?"

After such a great month of October celebration for the 175th Anniversary, the committee challenged the members of First... "Where Do We Go From Here?" Over the next few months, we would like to review the suggestions and then ACT on them! One of the suggestions mentioned was revitalizing our Prayer Ministry. But what would that look like? Do we encourage prayer partners? Prayer chain? How do we make it more personal? And how to involve more members? All of those are valid questions.

For those of you who don't know, we do have Prayer Teams, but have lost a few members in the last couple of years. These members receive Pr. Bob's list of weekly prayer requests by e-mail, or if, there is an immediate emergency, a text or phone call/chain is employed. Currently there are 6 teams divided into 2 groups for calling/ texting. If you think this might be your interest, call Sue DeMoss @419-423-7109. We have not had prayer partners, but this is certainly something that would make the prayer list more personal.

Would you be interested in another Prayer Retreat, where styles of prayer might be explored? If this sounds interesting, call Jane Ebersole @ 419-422-9640.

This is just the first "salvo" of ways to be involved as we gear up for new leadership. Please be in prayer as to how you might be a part of the Prayer Ministry at First Lutheran.

Community Dinner Honorees in November and December

And the Honorees Are:

We are pleased to be back to in-person dinners on the first Sunday of each month. However, we have some real "holes" in the kitchen staff. John Adler was a staple in the kitchen as he meticulously dried each and every knife, fork, and spoon, and then would check to see if there was any pot or roaster insert he could scrub. Nathan has stepped up to the plate, and Diane is a regular. Having nearly the entire Adler clan was just a joy in November as we honored John.

Because Bill Chubb so enjoyed helping in the kitchen during our regular pre-pandemic dinners, we have missed his kind, smiling face in the kitchen, too. The family wanted to honor him by channeling all the memorials in his name to the Community Dinner, so December will be the dinner to honor Bill.

The thing that made these gentlemen such a special addition was their kind presence whether in the kitchen or sitting with our community guests for a chat. We hope you will come to December's dinner, maybe sign up for a salad, fruit, or cake, or just enjoy the meal and fellowship. It's what makes these events COMMUNITY DINNERS.

Newsletter



**Monday
Dec. 20**

Food Cart Requests

Laundry Soap,
cleaning
supplies,
potato mixes



All donations
benefit Lutheran
Social Services.

The cart is in the coat room.

Snow Emergencies

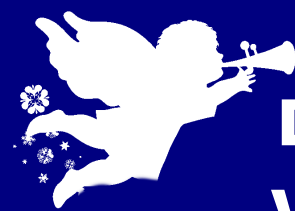
Level 1—Worship & meetings will be held as scheduled.

Level 2—Worship will be held—use your discretion; check with your chairperson to see if your meeting has been canceled. Please be safe.

Level 3— All worship & events are canceled.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1-Dec	2	3	4
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study		10am WELCA Board 7pm Confirmation	6pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 11:30am Community Dinner	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Stewardship/ Evangelism 6:30pm Worship & Music	7pm Book Club	7pm Confirmation 8pm Theology Pub	6pm BSA 6pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Noisy Offering 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 5pm Old Millstream Ringers Concert	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Hannah Circle 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	10am Martha/Rachel Christmas Breakfast 12:30pm NWO Synod 6:30pm Finance	7pm Confirmation	6pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 12pm Newsletter 7pm Council Meeting		No Confirmation	9:30am Bulletin Assembly 6pm Sr. Choir	Christmas Eve 7:00 Prelude 7:30pm Candlelight Service	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1-Jan
9:30am Worship	Office Closed		No Confirmation	6pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	



December Volunteers

*Newsletter Deadline
January 24
Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays by noon*

LECTORS

Dec. 5
8:15—Marilynn Dunn
10:45—Cyndy Rotman

Dec. 12
8:15—Tad Schell
10:45— Ryan Maas

Dec. 19
8:15—Kathy Brooks
10:45—Kristin Johnson

Dec. 24
7:30—Pastors

Dec. 26
9:30— Traci Roth

SOUND ROOM

Dec. 5
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Falkyn Roth

Dec. 12
8:15—
10:45— Jerry Bryant

Dec. 19
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Steve Roth

Dec. 24
7:30 Tim Roth

Dec. 26
9:30—Tim Roth

ACOLYTES

Dec. 5
8:15
10:45

Dec. 12
8:15
10:45—Ryan Maas

Dec. 19
8:15
10:45—Emily & Elyse Clark

Dec. 24
7:30

Dec. 26
9:30

DEACONS 8:15

Dec. 12, 19 & 29
Tad Schell
Need volunteer

10:45
Dec. 5
Kurt Ebersole
Nikki Needles

Dec. 12, 19 (10:45)
Kurt Ebersole
Dean Bowser

Dec. 24— 7:30
Tad Schell
Need Volunteer

Dec. 26 (9:30)
Kurt Ebersole
Dean Bowser

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 5
Dec. 12— Bev Yammine
Dec. 19—Pat Needles
Dec. 26— Cyndy & Daryl Rotman

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.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS 8:15/10:45

Dec. 5 - Pastor Chris
Dec. 12
Dec. 19
Dec. 24 - 7:30 Pastor Chris
Dec. 26—(9:30)

ALTAR GUILD

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick
Carol Meyer

COUNTERS

Jerry Luth, Cyndy Rotman

LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

FLOWER DELIVERY

Marilynn Dunn

COMMUNION BREAD

Dec. 5—Arlene Schriener
Dec. 12—Toni Poling
Dec. 19—Beth Bonnorant
Dec. 24—Susan Waltermeyer
Karen Rose
Dec. 26— Jennifer Treece

COOKIE SUNDAY

Dec. 5— Community Dinner
Dec. 12—Church Council
Dec. 19—Property
Dec. 26—Hannah Circle

DRIVERS

Dec. 5— Jerry Bryant
Dec. 12—Mike Zawisza
Dec. 19—Aaron Ried
Dec. 26—Pam Cochran (9:30)

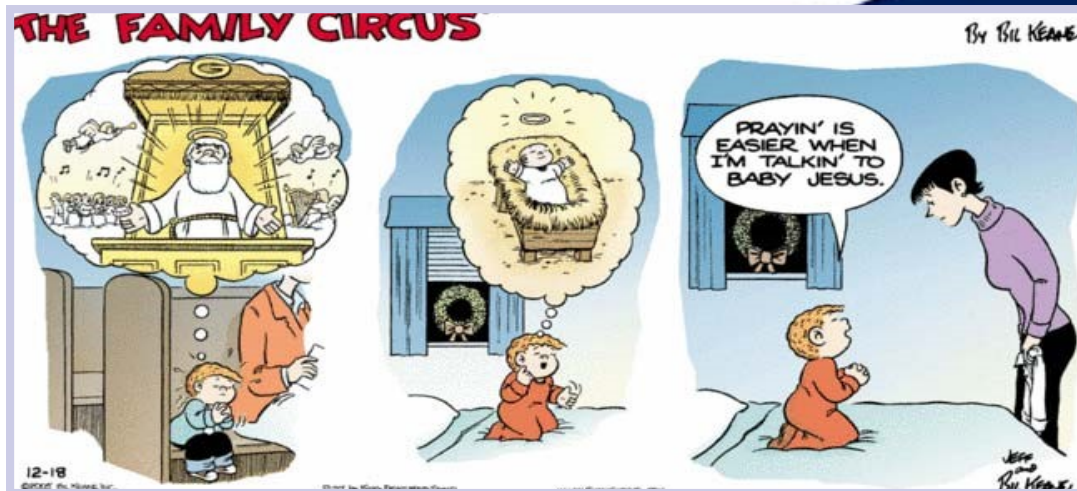
Birthdays

Amy Tabler	12/5	Brandon Maas	12/21
Jack Taylor	12/6	Ryan Buck	12/22
Margaret Meyer	12/8	Nikki Needles	12/22
Nick Thomas	12/8	Kurt Ebersole	12/23
Samuel Fruchey	12/11	Carol Peters	12/23
Gemma Cox	12/12	Merrill Maurer	12/24
Jax Cox	12/13	Al Stacy	12/24
Sally Hartzell	12/13	Cynthia Habegger	12/25
Carolyn Howe	12/13	Michael Meyer	12/25
Thomas Fitzpatrick	12/16	Jeff Wobser	12/25
Elizabeth Kutschbach	12/16	Nathan Adler	12/27
Pamela Basinger	12/18	Miriam Gibson	12/27
Rob Leipheimer	12/18	Robert Bower	12/28
Ann Fifolt	12/19	David Otte	12/29
Lesley Betts	12/21	Chris Dudics	12/31
Rebecca Huff	12/21	Joseph Spoon	12/31

Anniversaries

Michael & Sharon Thompson	12/19/1970	51
Larry & Virginia Borger	12/28/1968	53
Bartley & Beverly Pardee	12/29/1950	71
Aaron & Linda Ried	12/30/1994	27

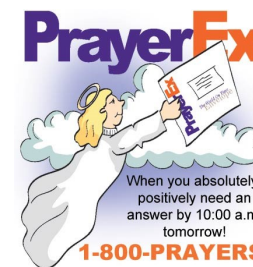
December Celebrations



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:



This newsletter was mailed:
December 7th
Give or take a day



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

Christmas Eve

Family Service of Candlelight at 7:30 pm
Prelude music to begin at 7:00 pm