

All worship services are suspended
until further notice.

Worship with us at....
www.1stlutheranchurch.org

Pray with us....

You are invited to come into the sanctuary to pray
between 8:30 & 6:00 Mon.—Thurs. and
Until noon on Friday

If you have not received any email updates from First
Lutheran Church, please send your email to
flcFindlay@gmail.com

The office will remain open from
8:30 – 3:00 Monday through Thursday and 8:30 and
Until noon on Friday.

If you have a question, please feel free
to call us at 419-422-2638.

Thank you and keep praying.



FROM THE PASTOR

The first thing to remember is that even when we are quarantined, cut off from physical contact with most of our family and friends, we are never more than a heartbeat away from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In times like these, God draws as close as your breath, as near as your thoughts.

But we were also made for human contact. I spent a year in Grayling, Michigan, where for six months out of every year, it snows every day except for when it is too cold to snow. People up there know how to deal with cabin fever. My favorite activity was the Au Sable Bridge Run. Modeled on the famous yearly Mackinac Bridge Run, it involved everyone gathering at the bridge over the Au Sable river. There were celebrations and t-shirts being sold that said, “I survived the Au Sable Bridge Run” and liquid refreshment of the hot and cold variety.

At the start of the race, the gun would sound and everyone would start off, across a bridge that was maybe 3-car lengths long! Cheers and screams would go up as everyone crossed the finish line. There were people in wheelchairs, dogs, and toddlers.

The best defense against the cabin fever we’re all about to contract is to keep one’s sense of humor. The second defense is to stay in contact. FLC Church Council met by teleconference on Monday, and we’ve decided to keep meeting every week until this emergency is over. Text us for any agenda items you’d like us to discuss (flcfindlay@gmail.com). Put “Council Agenda” in the Subject Line. Prayer Requests can also be sent in, with the Subject line, “Prayer Requests.”

Visit our webpage (www.1stlutheranchurch.org) and watch our weekly worship service, which is available on Saturday nights. We had over 230 “hits” last week. We only had half that many the first week. Many of those viewings are multiple, meaning that more than one person is watching.

Visit the church for quiet prayer time in holy space. The building is open from 8:30 - 6:00, Monday through Thursday. In the afternoon, you can poke your head in my office door and say, hi. If you’re coming after 5, please call me so I won’t leave early. In fact, call me anytime for spiritual comfort or just to relieve the boredom. I can’t visit, go to the hospital, or leave the office during office hours. (I can be here because churches are considered social service organizations for this crisis.) I have a lot to arrange but get no personal time except through the phone. I have been calling members every day just to make sure everyone is okay.

Continued

From the Pastor Continued

You could also be making calls to your fellow worshippers to check in and tell them that you care and miss seeing them. Isn't this what God would have us do in a time of crisis?

As far as future plans go, at this time, it doesn't seem likely that we will be able to gather for Easter. I am planning to include a consecration of the elements (bread and wine) in our weekly service and then waiting under the roof by the elevator door for you all to file by in your cars so that I can hand you wine and bread through your car window! We just can't have Easter without Communion.

We're looking for other creative ideas. It has been suggested that we gather in our cars in the parking lot while a few of us perform the service under the pavilion with loud speakers. This seems way-out, even for me...but what do you think?

What really matters is that you know how much we love you and miss worshipping and enjoying fellowship with you. We are here for you, and we are still working at our common mission of serving God and loving our neighbors. Our wonderful staff, worship leaders, Council and committee members, and active congregation members are working harder than ever to keep the church moving forward at a time when Satan would have us stop.

God bless you all,
Pr. Bob



Martin Luther Today



Most people know Martin Luther as a theologian and as the father of the Reformation but he also happened to have some pretty relevant advice for communities dealing with the coronavirus.

Back in 1527, a deadly plague hit Martin Luther's town of Wittenberg and he wrote a letter to a friend (Volume 43, Pg. 132: *Whether One Should Flee From A Deadly Plague – To Rev. Dr. John Hess*), explaining how churches should deal with such complicated circumstances.

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

2020 VISION for Stewardship



"Stewardship is about giving up the love of possessing and practicing a life of simplicity; of developing the habit of giving things away; of buying only what is absolutely necessary; of rejecting anything to which we are becoming addicted; of learning to enjoy things without owning them; of developing a greater appreciation of and respect for the natural world; of rejecting anything that will result in an injustice for others." - John Westerhoff

Examining

100% STEWARDSHIP

There is a medieval urban legend that tells the story of the baptism of the Gauls, a warlike group of Celts and Druids. As the story goes, when a warrior was baptized in a river or stream, he would hold one arm high in the air as the missionary dunked him in the water. The reason? When a skirmish broke out, he could use his arm to kill and maim, claiming that the arm was not baptized. Mark Alan Powell, in his book, *Giving to God*, says, that for many Christians *money* is the one thing most of us would like to keep dry.

While we in the Church are used to talking about giving God 10% of our income, or 5% or 2%, the Bible is concerned about how we spend 100%. We remember that everything belongs to God, and how we use the 90% is just as important and just as spiritual and faithful as how we use the 10%. How we use our money, *all of it*, should be pleasing to God [see quote on left by John Westerhoff].

Think about how you use your money. Can you say that how you spend it is pleasing to God? This doesn't mean that all of your money should be given away, to the Church or to some charity. But consider what you keep for yourself, for your bills, for your health, for your pleasure and entertainment, or for discretionary purposes. Are you using all of your money as God would want? What changes would you have to make to do that? Food for thought!



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.—Romans 12:2



Food Cart Requests

Laundry detergent, toilet paper, canned soup. Any food items

All donations benefit
Lutheran Social Services

The cart is in the coat room.

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today. Thich Nhat Hanh

CONTINUE to GIVE

God's mission through our church continues, even if our physical gathering together is limited/prohibited. The members of First have always been very generous, and we know we can count on your financial support of our ministry. During this crisis, the mortgage still needs to be paid, as do the utilities and insurance. Our staff will still be working to meet the needs of our congregation and help us to stay connected to one another and God's mission in this place. How can you give if you are not here?

- 1) Checks can be mailed to the church.
- 2) You can use online banking via your banking institution to make a digital payment.
- 3) You can go to the church website, www.1stlutheranchurch.org, and once there, go to "forms/gifts" to find information on how to give online.

GIVING TO GOD

START YOUR DAY WITH *Devotionals Daily*

Christ in our Home...

..... is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary.

The booklet for April, May and June is available on the bench in the east entry. Stop in and help yourself.

Face Masks Needed



You Can Make them at Home!!!

In speaking with the Chaplain at Blanchard Valley Hospital, the hospital is in need of face masks.

For how-to directions, visit www.Joann.com. A You Tube video as well as printable instructions are on their web page.

Masks will be accepted at 223 W. Wallace Street on Tuesday, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 11:00 to 1:00. This is not the hospital address but a remote office building. **Do not take them to the hospital.**

If you cannot make it to that address bring them to the east entry of the church and Nina will deliver them. Questions??? Call Nina at the office at 419-422-2638



To the family's who have had loved ones pass into the Church Triumphant.....

....Barbara VonStein Smith, who entered on February 28th.

....Paul Richard "Dick" Larick (Barb), who entered on March 12th.

....Mark A. Blunk (Kim, Reed, Dalton) who entered on March 20th.

May God comfort all who mourn the loss of a loved ones.

Scholarship Deadline Extended

The deadline for submitting applications and letters of recommendations has been extended until April 30th. The recipient(s) will be selected and notified on or before June 1st. . If you would like an application or have a question, please contact Cyndy Rotman at Rotman4@aol.com



Cross of Love
My Gift \$ _____

Your Help is Needed

Given by: _____

In Loving memory of _____

In honor of: _____

Please mail your gift to the church office (109 E. Lincoln St.)

Gifts will benefit Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry, Findlay



Library News

Happy April. Found this poem in a book donated to the library (Thank you, to the donor). The poem touched me and I just needed to share. Fill in your age in the blank.

Essence

____ years of age. I have survived wars, depression, hunger, unemployment, loss of father, mother, child. At last I am ready to live.

Now I see more clearly
The river of life flows onward.
People come and go,
Friends, children, family,
Like actors in a play.

What will tomorrow bring
Or yet today what may I see?
There will be storms, drought,
Heat waves, cool spring breezes.
Each will pass away.

The secret is revealed!
In each person, season, trial, and event
There is a lesson to be learned,
A quality to be savored.
Rejoice but do not cling too fast.

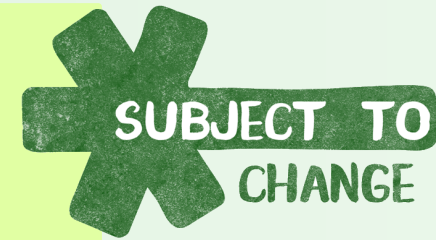
Seek the essence, find the joy,
Explore the exquisite pain,
Taste depression and delight,
As each will pass your way.
--Louise Ramsdell

*We are truly blessed. Thank you.
God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks
(kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)*

And with all this troubling news with the coronavirus, how about "30 ways to Smile More This April"?

- April 1 - Write a love note...to yourself
- 2 - Give three things to charity
- 3 - Drop a quarter for some happy kid to find
- 4 - Walk barefoot on the grass
- 5 - Book a plane ticket
- 6 - Blast your favorite song
- 7 - Wear a flower in your hair or a bow tie
- 8 - Change your Facebook profile pic
- 9 - Tell your kids a surprising childhood anecdote
- 10 - Females go bold with your lipstick; guys change your hair do
- 11- Dish out compliments like candy
- 12 -Wear your special occasion undies
- 13 - Mix up a new smoothie
- 14 - Whisper something nice to someone
- 15 - Shut off social media.
- 16 - Find money (Negotiate a bill, mail in a rebate, etc.)
- 17 - Swing on a swing set
- 18 - Call your oldest friend
- 19 - Plan a tea party. Or a discussion night.
- 20 - Pay for a stranger's coffee
- 21 - Watch a sunrise or sunset
- 22 - Try bold nail art or bold socks.
- 23 - Back up your photos
- 24 - Stretch for two minutes
- 25 - Create a list of goals
- 26 - Learn to spot a constellation
- 27 - Make breakfast for dinner
- 28 - Reread your favorite book
- 29 - Move furniture to face the window
- 30 - Take an impromptu family photo

And, finally, some info I need to share. WELCA donated money for those who joined the Church triumphant in 2019. I bought the following:
Lucky Ones in memory of Katie Otte
Hideaway in memory of Joanne Connor
Whisper in memory of Evelyn Wilkins
It's Not Supposed To Be This Way—Finding Unexpected Strength in memory of Dawn Arvy
The Prayer Box in memory of Elsie Helfrich



— (Check with your leaders to see if you will still be meeting)

WELCA Calendar of Events for April

- April 14 Martha Circle, 9:00 am, in the Church Library
Hostess: Carole Bridinger, Leader: Mary Ann Chubb
- April 14 Rachel Circle, 9:30 am, in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Carrie Howe, Leader: Barb Larick
- April 20 Hannah Circle, 7:00 pm, in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Pat Needles, Leader: Nikki Needles
- April 17, 18 Rummage Sale – Postponed.
Please do not bring in anymore items until a new date has been set.
- April 18 Central Conference Spring Gathering, St. Paul, Jenera
- April 26 Cookie Sunday – Rachel Circle

Scholarships for Lutheran laywomen and ordained ministry

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen provide assistance to Lutheran women studying for a career other than ordained ministry. General funds for this scholarship come from the Cronk, First Triennium Board, General, Mehring, Paepke, Piero/Wade/Wade, Edwin/Edna Robeck Opportunity Scholarship for Lutheran Laywomen along with funds for specific opportunities from Arne Administrative Scholarship, Schmieder Leadership Scholarship, Amelia Kemp Scholarship, Belmer, Kahler, Vickers/Raup Funds and Irene Drinkall Franke, Mary Seeley Knudstrup Funds.

The Herbert W. and Corinne Chilstrom Scholarship provides assistance to Lutheran women during their final year at an ELCA seminary. Candidates must be preparing for ordained ministry in the ELCA and must have been endorsed by their synodical candidacy committee.

Information on applying for these scholarships can be found at
<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/scholarships>,

April Celebrations

Baptisms

James Maurer	4/1
Merrill Maurer	4/1
Steve Brossia	4/2
James Clayton .	4/2
Samuel Fruchey	4/2
Jeremiah Tatum	4/2
Marie Peace	4/4
Drew Short	4/4
Sue DeMoss	4/5
Christian Dittmar	4/5
Barbara Larick	4/5
Sue Montgomery	4/5
Chris Zawisza	4/8
Emily Betts	4/9
David Wobser	4/9
Zoe Thompson	4/12
Steven Wilson	4/12
Donna Brockman	4/13
Victoria Cox	4/13
Hannah Roth	4/13
Phoebe Treece	4/13
Steven Treece	4/13
Sandra Burnside	4/14
Nancy Woodruff	4/14
Donna Mason	4/15
Nikki Needles	4/15
Janette Treece	4/16
Gregory Rakestraw	4/17
Tracy August	4/18
Gary Woodruff	4/18
Wesley Rodman	4/19
Robert Stacy	4/21
Maurine Denney	4/24
Linda Ried	4/25
Dorothy Freeland	4/29
Evan Pitt	4/29
L. Eileen Mains	4/30

Birthdays

Avarie Needles	4/1
Nick Thorbahn	4/2
Doug Bonnoront	4/3
Charles Crates	4/3
Jerry Bryant	4/4
Nick Muntzing	4/4
Harry Fifolt	4/6
Janice Bishop	4/11
Rhonda May	4/11
Wayne Dukes	4/12
Edwin Dunn	4/12
Hallie Mitchell	4/12
Doris Brand	4/15
Beth Meier	4/15
Caitlin Mathias	4/17
Alexis Thompson	4/17
Ken Bahler	4/18
Jack Haffelder	4/18
Anthony Sherman	4/18
Janette Treece	4/18
John Biggs	4/19
Karissa Welte	4/19
Cynthia Fitzpatrick	4/20
Robert Rodman	4/20
Patricia Needles	4/21
Robert Schriner	4/23
Harper Cleary	4/25
Oliver Cleary	4/25
Judith Mains	4/28
Gary Schultz	4/29
Gavin Haudenschild	4/30
Jack Meek	4/30

Anniversaries

John and Maureen Denney	4/3/1971	49 years
Clyde and Donna Mason	4/7/1980	40 yeas
Randy and Julie Buck	4/15/1989	31 years
Jeff and Lesley Betts	4/25/1998	22 years
Jason and Shelby Bower	4/25/09	11 years
Dean and Amy Bowser	4/26/1986	34 years
Alex and Jennifer Treece	4/27/2002	18 years

First
Lutheran
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Return Service Requested:



Mailed around
March 31, 2020

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Call us at: 419-422-2638