

2020 VISION for Stewardship

Probing a deep and difficult subject

Stewardship:

OBLIGATION or GRATITUDE?

I still remember those words in the *Service Book and Hymnal* (the old red book) that said, "It is our duty and our delight...to give thanks to you, O Lord..." Can we not also say that about giving our tithes and offerings? Certainly giving to God is a delight (we give cheerfully according to 2 Corinthians 9:7) but is it also not our duty to support of the ministry of this congregation? If we are members of this church and have pledged to support the ministry in and through this congregation, can we not say we are *obligated* to give?

The Bible is very specific about those ministries that we are required to support. For example, we are to care for those in need, the weak and the vulnerable. Deuteronomy 15: 7b-8 commands, "do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be." These were obligations and stated as duties. If the church is to fulfill biblical mandates to care for others, who will pay for it? How can we be in mission without mission support from our members?

Remember that the biblical tithe was seen as an obligation to support the religious establishment and other dedicated causes. In fact, the tithe in biblical times would mean giving away 10 percent of our income *over and above* what we give as responsible church members to support the life and mission of our local community.

We have stayed away from mandates and obligatory demands in our congregational stewardship emphases. We tend to be more gospel than law, much as St. Paul and even Jesus seemed to be. Remember it was Paul who said, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, *not reluctantly or under compulsion*, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7). Perhaps we can look at it this way: consider the pledge you make to God and the Church as a fulfillment of your proportionate share of the church's budgeted expenses. Then give an offering above and beyond your pledge. There you have it: law and gospel, duty *and* delight. – *Pastor Chris*

"... the Bible does present giving as something we ought to do (Romans 12:8, 13) and common sense dictates that people who belong to a congregation have some responsibility for supporting the body financially. The apostle Paul ...insists that we should not give 'reluctantly or under compulsion' (2 Cor. 9:7). People should not be pressured or manipulated into giving in a way that does not reflect their personal commitments. We give because we believe we should, not because someone else thinks we should." Powell– Giving to God

**Moreover, it is required of stewards
that they be found trustworthy.**

—1 Cor. 4:2

From Pastor Bob

First the good news: Hancock County has, so far, been blessed with a limited number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. But, like many of you, I was raised to believe that one should always "err on the side of caution" when it comes to matters of health. Jesus said to the devil, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" when Satan tempted him to throw himself off a tower so angels could catch him. We don't want to test God by coming back too early, but God's disciples are also not timid people of weak faith.

Many local churches (including Trinity Lutheran in Findlay) are returning to worship on June 14, and our Council feels that we could safely make that a target date...on two conditions:

- 1) We understand that this is a tentative date. If an outbreak occurs locally, we will delay starting services.
- 2) We take all precautions recommended by many agencies, including our Bishop, Governor, and local, regional, and national health departments.

The origin of the expression "err on the side of caution" was this: "err on the side of delicacy." Out of Christian love, we are called to approach each other with gentleness and compassion.

"But God has put the body together...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

1 Corinthians 12:24b-27

Out of love, we all want to worship together again, but out of that same love, we don't want anyone to experience great distress and fear out of worshipping together. The only way for us to accomplish this is to put aside for one hour a week our need to make political statements and need to be "right," in favor of being delicate with our brothers and sisters in the faith. God designed us to be one body: if one part of the body suffers, all parts suffer.

In order to trust God, then, without testing God, the First Lutheran Church Council recommends:

- 1) Areas of the Church not necessary to worship (basement, Nursery, 2nd floor, etc.) be off limits.
- 2) Summer Worship Times (**8:30 and 10:00 a.m.**) be utilized.

(continued on next page)

Tentative
Return to
In-person
Worship
June 14th
8:30 & 10:00

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**Corinthians
12: 24b**

In-Person Worship

- 3) Only the East Entrance and the Elevator Entrance be open.
- 4) Entrance Procedures:
 - a. While outside, families (those who have isolated together) stand by placed cones.
 - b. Volunteers will direct families inside one at a time.
 1. Hands are to be sanitized before entering the church.
 2. Face Coverings are to be worn at least until one is seated in a pew.
 - * Note: feel free to BYOS and BYOFC (Bring Your Own Sanitizer/Face Covering)!
 - c. For everyone's safety, it is best to move forward to the front-most pew available.
 - d. Every 2nd pew is taped off; no one may sit closer than 6 feet to a non-family member.
- 5) All hymnals/Bibles/envelops/pencils have been removed from the pews.
- 6) Bulletins will be already placed on the pews: used bulletins should be taken home or discarded into recycle bins.
- 7) Hymns/responsive singing will be sung by a cantor only.

The congregation may hum along and read the lyrics from the bulletin.

Note: Singing casts virus-laden aerosols even farther than 6 feet. A singer inhales more deeply and thus draws the virus more deeply into his/her lungs.
- 8) No collection will be taken: gifts/Footprints can be placed in a basket in the Narthex.
- 9) There will be no Communion, Passing of Peace, Pastor Greeting at the door.
- 10) Departing Procedures:
 - a. All trash and recyclables should be deposited in the Narthex.
 - b. No one should move into the aisles until the rows behind them are empty.
 - c. Social distancing should be maintained until the parking lot is reached.
 - d. Face coverings should be worn until the parking lot.
- 11) Cookie Sunday is suspended.

Whew! This is a lot of recommendations. Please be aware that we cannot force people to follow these procedures, and we really don't want to have to remove anyone from worship. What we are depending on is the lovingkindness and faithfulness of the people of First Lutheran. If these inconveniences would ruin worship for you or if, on the other hand, you are fearful to worship in these very unsettling times even with these precautions, please continue to watch services online (we will record one service each week) until the situation changes.

In the meantime, beginning today, I am going to "hoist" a new flag every Thursday to indicate that we are still on track to start worship on June 14.

Here is today's...Green for go!



Next Thursday, June 4, the flag will be white, meaning that we have one "lap" to go. On Thursday, June 11, I'll "wave" a checkered flag, meaning we're at the finish line!

Staying Focused

Hopefully by the time you read this we may be back to a "new normal". In the meantime, please continue to



.....**worship** with us online at www.1stLutheranChurch.org.



....**pray** in your home or in the church. The nave is open Monday—Thursday from 8:30 to 6:00 and 8:30 to 12:00 noon on Friday.



... **contact** us at 419-422-2638 or flcFindlay@gmail.com



Riehm Farm will begin bringing their CSA vegetables using the church parking lot in June. Social Ministry asks for help to take any vegetables not taken by

the customers to City Mission or given to someone in need or even by the volunteer. These are fresh homegrown vegetables and it's never known what might be available. I usually bring a large cardboard box to haul the vegetables away. The distribution will be on Tuesday and a volunteer needs to be there to pick up at 5:15pm. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please consider helping with this sharing. Any questions, call Carolyn Bryant, 419-422-0015. Ok to leave a message.

The winners for the EPiC youth guessing contest (before Covid 19) were: Pastor Bob—Buckeye, Miriam - Dog Treats; Jane Ebersole—Caramel Cremes; Mary Lou McCann—Cinnamon Almonds, and Kristi Gerdeman—Jelly Beans.



Birthdays

Crystal Clark	6/2	Amy Bowser	6/12	Kim Blunk	6/19
Chery Francis	6/2	Zarina Dillon	6/12	Virginia Borger	6/20
Mildred Thomas	6/4	Nora Cochran	6/14	Elaine Leonard	6/20
Dalton Blunk	6/5	Kyle Nunn	6/15	Kris Thomas	6/23
Megan Peplinski	6/6	John Dale	6/16	Matthew Zeto	6/24
Philip Roos	6/6	Greg Johnson	6/16	John Ried	6/25
Jim Buckingham	6/8	Jennifer Treece	6/16	MaryAnn Chubb	6/27
Mike Tabler	6/8	Beverly Yammine	6/16	Kelsey Dudics	6/27
Randall Eakin	6/9	Morgan Kirk	6/17	Zachary Short	6/30
Phil Burson	6/11	Carie Eakin	6/18		
Noah Routson	6/11				

Anniversaries

Jack & Nancy Meek	6/3/1955	65	Robert & Sara Cleary	6/20/2009	11
Richard & Susie Polder	6/3/1989	31	Clyde & Linda Mitchell	6/21/1974	46
Randy & Chery Francis	6/5/1998	22	Cloyce & Janet Baker	6/22/1958	62
Jason & Crystal Clark	6/10/2000	20	Mark & Karen Rose	6/22/1985	35
Thomas & Pamela Basinger	6/14/1980	40	William & MaryAnn Chubb	6/23/1951	69
David & Shirley Gerber	6/14/1958	62	James & Judy Routson	6/27/1992	28
Steven & Sally Rice	6/15/1969	51	Mike & Amy Tabler	6/28/1997	23
Jon & Sandra Burnside	6/19/1981	39	John & Diane Adler	6/29/1974	46
Kurt & Jane Ebersole	6/19/1976	44			

Congrats Seniors



From our 2016 Confirmation Class to
our 2020 Graduating Seniors

Back: Anthony Sherman, Cole Westrick, Aaron Clark
Front: Ellie Zawisza, Tanner Timbrook, Rebecca Huff;
Not pictured—Jordan Spoon

College Graduates
Ryan Price, Madison Kirk and
Falkyn Roth (magna cum laude)



MINISTRY & ACTION

Through various program areas, Women of the ELCA's community of women provide services in their churches, communities, and even the world.

- We engage in ministry; we take action through advocacy; we promote healing and wholeness, and we support one another in our callings.
- We offer anti-racism training; address domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking; and support families with special needs.
- We assist participants in their desire to discern God's call in their lives and to discover their spiritual gifts through workshops, retreats, resources, scholarships, and global education.
- We offer grants to not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women's emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.org



Library News

Who'da thought?????

At some point during our Florida adventure, I got caught up in a book of really useless yet very interesting information. Given all that we have been through lately, I thought I would share some of this info with you. Enjoy.

- James Garfield could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other ~ simultaneously.
- One of Queen Victoria's children gave her a bustle for Christmas that played "God Save the Queen" when she sat down.
- Leonardo de Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.
- Sigmund Freud had a morbid fear of ferns.
- Charlie Chaplin once won third prize in a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest.
- In high school, Robin Williams was voted least likely to succeed.
- According to Genesis 1:20-22, the chicken came before the egg.
- Lachanophobia is the fear of vegetables.
- Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth.
- A librocubiculast is someone who reads in bed.
- The ball on top of a flagpole is called the truck.
- The word lethologica describes the state of not remembering the word you want to say.
- When your sink is full, the little hole that lets the water drain, instead of flowing over the side, is called a porcelator.
- In 1990, there were an estimated seventy-five thousand accordionists in the United States.
- The Bible is the number one shoplifted book in America.
- Mozart wrote the nursery rhyme "Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star" at the age of five.
- Parker Brothers prints about \$50 billion worth of Monopoly money in a year. Every day, more money is printed for Monopoly than by the U.S. Treasury. The most money you can lose in one trip around the board is \$26040. The most money you can lose in one turn is \$5070.
- One in every four Americans has appeared on television.
- Every episode of "Seinfeld" contained a Superman reference somewhere.
- Beetle from the comic strip "Beetle Bailey" and Lois from the comic strip "Hi and Lois" are brother and sister.
- After the "Popeye" comic strip started in 1931, spinach consumption went up by 33 per cent in the United States.
- Tweetie used to be a baby bird without feathers until the censors decided he looked naked.
- During the chariot scene in "Ben-Hur", a small red car can be seen in the distance.
- A "walla-walla" scene is one in which extras pretend to be talking in the background - when they say "walla-walla" it looks like they are actually having a conversation.
- Guinness World Records hold the record for being the book most stolen from public libraries.
- The slash character is called a virgule, or solidus. A URL uses slash characters, not backslash characters.
- The symbol on the pound key is called an anoctothorpe.
- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is 'screched.'
- On average, there are 178 sesame seeds on each McDonald's Big Mac bun.
- There are more than one hundred chemicals in one cup of coffee.
- There are more brown M&M's in plain M&M's than in peanut M&M's.
- In 1983, a Japanese artist made a copy of the "Mona Lisa" completely out of toast.
- Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: spades - King David, clubs - Alexander the Great, hearts - Charlemagne, and diamonds - Julius Caesar.
- Each of the suits represents the four major pillars of economy in the Middle Ages: hearts - the Church, spades - the military, clubs - agriculture and diamonds - the merchant class.
- Every year, more than 8800 people injure themselves in some way with a toothpick.
- Most toilets flush in E flat.

From **The Book of Useless Information**
By Noël Botham and The Useless Information and
Kathy Brooks:)

Be Positive

Think
Positive
= Be =
Positive

**'In the Time of
Pandemic'**

**And the people stayed
home. And read books,
and listened, and
rested, and exercised,
and made art, and**

**played games, and learned new ways of
being, and were still. And listened more
deeply. Some meditated, some prayed,
some danced. Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed. And, in the
absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.**

**And when the danger passed, and the
people joined together again, they grieved
their losses, and made new choices, and
dreamed new images, and created new
ways to live and heal the earth fully, as
they had been healed. — Kitty O'Meara.**

**"When this Is Over, May We
Never Again Take for Granted..."**

**A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theater
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.
When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way — better
for each other
because of the worst."**

Laura Kelly Fanucci,

Happiness is the new rich

Inner peace is the new success

Health is the new wealth

Kindness is the new cool

Sherydah Kenter-Kloek

Dear Friends at First, Pastor Bob & Pam,

We thank God for all of you! Your generous offering to us has continued to bless many people during these difficult days. We at Redeemer [Toledo] continue to see the fall out of this pandemic and its economic implication for so many in our area. You have made this time of sharing God's abundance and witnessing in powerful ways that are truly making a difference to people from all different levels of need. Thank you for your partnership in showing God's grace. —Pastor Lori & the people of Redeemer [Toledo]



ONLINE giving

The finance committee of First Lutheran Church would like to thank the members of the congregation that have continued their weekly or monthly giving during the suspension of at the church services. We are blessed to have members that are cheerful givers.

As a reminder, you may mail your contribution to the church or drop it off at the office during office hours or use your bank bill pay option until we start meeting again. There are also 3 online giving option. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card.

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.1stlutheranchurch.org,
- 2) Click on the Forms/Gifts button,
- 3) Click on the online giving button under Vanco payment solutions
- 4) Click on sign in/Sign up Create Profile button, then
- 5) Create you Give+ account and follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Option 2 is Give Mobile.

- 1) Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone (available on the phone's app store for "GivePlus Church"
- 2) Make one-time or recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account
- 3) Log in or donate as a guest
- 4) Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

Option 3 is Give by Text

You can also contribute with a quick text message!

- 1) Simply send a text to 419-721-6921 with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: \$25.
- 2) Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information.
- 3) Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!

Good News Garden

Ready to Plant!

Master's gardener, Jerry Bryant, has tilled and retiled the mystery cover crop (wait for it....rye grass!), which we hope will enrich the soil and produce healthy plants! Now, if the rain stops for a while, we can plant our tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, and flowers. If you have other ideas for vegetables or flowers, contact Bryants (419-422-0015) or Ebersoles (419-422-9640). We try to use or give everything away either to City Mission, Community Dinner, or parishioners. In this time of pandemic, starting seeds is a good kid/family activity. Continue to pray that the Good News Garden might be used for God's glory. — The Garden Committee

COVID-19 Kindness

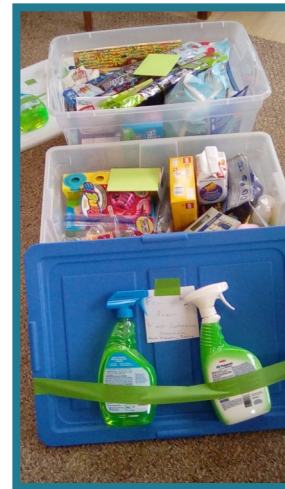
The Evangelism Team has been sending bulletins to parishioners who have no internet since Palm Sunday (please let Pr. Chris know if we have missed you). When I called to make sure that Arlene Powell had received her bulletin and would still like to receive them, she said, "No need to send me one, Judy Kipker has been calling me when she watches the service online, and I can listen to it with her over the phone!" What wondrous love! So, if you think of someone to call, maybe just for a short chat, don't hesitate to...."brighten the corner, where you are."



Outreach



If you or someone you know are needing a face mask, I would be happy to make them for you!



Here are two totes Social Ministry gave to the Family First Council for two families dealing with kids trying to cope. One family has two children with special needs and the other family has three boys being raised by grandparents.

Just send me an email, a text or a phone call and I'll make what you need. In your message, let me know if they are for a female or male and how I can get them to you. Miriam Gibson 419-615-8224 or mgibson@fairpoint.net



Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting ELCA synods and affiliated social ministry organizations around the U.S. in response to the pandemic, with special emphasis on vulnerable communities, e.g. unemployed, homeless, and senior populations.

- In Oregon, we are supporting the Oregon Synod's "Pandemic Neighbor-Love Action" program, a collaborative effort with ELCA congregations, ecumenical partners and other community partners to provide relief assistance to families most impacted during the crisis.
- In Illinois, we are contributing to Holy Family Ministries in Chicago to provide students and their families with basic school supplies and food vouchers. They are also assisting school staff to provide mental health checks to students.
- In Pennsylvania, we are providing grant funding to Lutheran Community Services-Liberty Lutheran to provide food and relief supplies to local food and shelter ministries in Eastern Pennsylvania who serve vulnerable populations. Additionally, we are supporting the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod to assist the urban ministries of six congregations in Philadelphia to provide relief to struggling communities.
- In New York, we are contributing to the Metro New York Synod to support the feeding ministries of 16 congregations in areas severely impacted by COVID-19.
- In New Jersey, we are supporting the feeding ministries of 12 congregations that serve ethnic minorities, undocumented workers, and communities under poverty in the most impacted areas in the New Jersey Synod.

Food Cart Requests

Shampoo, cleaning products, cereal.

All donations benefit LSS
The cart is in the coat room.



Instead of going afar on a Mission Trip, churches and community members will gather volunteers to do yard work, painting, and make house repairs in one day.

The 2020 Backyard Mission Trip has been rescheduled to **August 1st**. For more information, please contact Nick Thomas at: nthomas@thermatru.com.



109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Current Resident or:



Mailed around
June 1, 2020

Return to In-person Worship June 14th at 8:30 & 10:00

