



first Lutheran

Findlay, OH

March 2023



Wednesdays in Lent

Beginning March 1st

Soup Suppers 5:45

Worship 7:00



The theme of this year's midweek Lenten worship services is **"Wandering in the Wilderness,"** *Learning from Israel's Interim.* Each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 p.m. you are invited to gather in the church to pray the beautiful and popular Holden Evening Prayer. This year the service will include some of the beautiful evening hymns that we never get a chance to use on Sunday mornings.

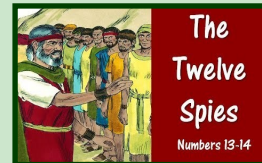
The time in the wilderness was like an interim for the people of Israel, a time between their life in Egypt and their life in the Promised Land. As First Lutheran Church goes through a time between called pastors, a time sometimes called the "interim," what can we learn about God's help and Israel's response during their interim time? How can God's Word shape our interim time?

Note: This year the midweek Lenten services have their own theme, and will not be a repeat and review of the Sunday message. Sundays will follow the themes in the usual Sunday church calendar.



March 1
"No Turning Back"
Israel's deliverance
at the Red Sea

March 22
"Detour"
Failure to enter the
Promised Land after the
report of the spies

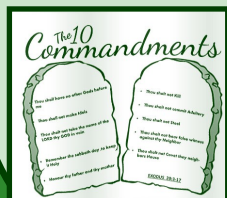


**The
Twelve
Spies**
Numbers 13-14



March 8
"Sharing the Load"
Jethro's advice to Moses

March 29
"End and Beginning"
Moses turns over
leadership to Joshua



March 15
"Where Are We Going?"
The covenant at Mount Sinai



Garden Committee Exciting News

The Church Garden Committee invites you to watch the PowerPoint presentation on the television screen in the hall outside of the lounge to see the proposed improvements to the landscape around the church. Some things have been completed and paid for – the Good News Garden, the Meditation Garden, inground lighting around the perimeter of the church, and the improvements to the rose garden and around the pavilion.

We are asking for your prayers and financial support. If you'd like to help financially, please see one of the committee members listed on the power point. Our goal is to make our church as welcoming on the outside as it is on the inside.



2023 Altar Flower Chart

The 2023 Flower Chart is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There are many Sundays that still need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

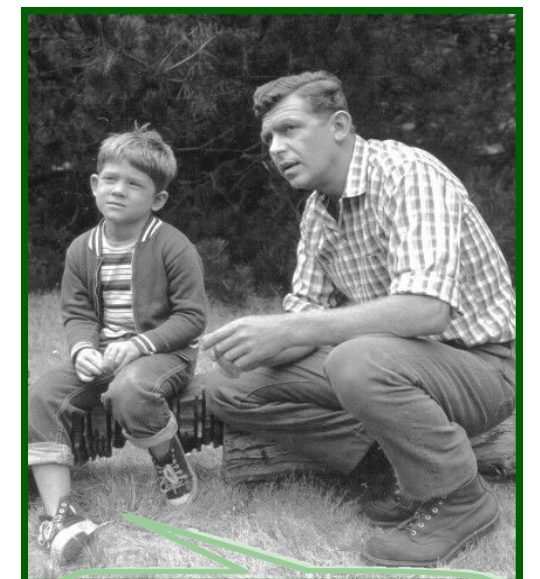
Military Update

Beverly Horn has received photos of two of our service members on our prayer list. We have addresses of three of our members. If you are connected with any of the service members listed on the prayer list please try to get photos and addresses to Beverly as soon as possible. The Sunday school has already begun a project of reaching out to those for whom they have addresses. They made Valentines and pictures with notes to send off to them.

If anyone would like to donate any goodies to send to any of our service members and/or get together to pack them to send off before Easter let's do this at least by March 11. That way we can get them in the mail in time to be received close to Easter.

Suggested donations of goodies could be hard candies, paper back books, puzzle books, comic books, home made cookies individually wrapped and packaged in popcorn to prevent breakage, any other things you may think would be fun or meaningful. You can check with family members too.

Thank you for your help and cooperation.



Pa, When is Jesus coming back?
I don't rightly know Opie. Ya see, we're not on the planning committee.
We are on the welcoming committee.

From Our Librarian



Welcome to March.

Just a few of the days celebrated during this month are National Grammar Day (4), National Dentist's Day (6), National Pi Day (14), International Women's Day (8), World Puppetry Day (21), World Poetry Day (21), and the first Saturday of every month is "Play Outside Day." (Good luck with that one.) Google "National Days for Month of March 2023". You will be amazed at some of the celebrations. They will make for good party themes.

And now sit back and let me wow you with useless knowledge I learned on my trip south to Florida from a book Along Interstate 75 by Dave Hunter, 2010 edition. (I picked it up from a rummage sale.)

In north Findlay, just above the Bigelow Avenue traffic lights where Main Street changes from two lanes to one "the House On the Hill" is on your left. David Copperfield used it as a setting for his spectacular "burning house" illusion, in his 1995 TV special. Catch it silhouetted in the setting sun. Unforgettable. Our Findlay airport was the final destination of Tex Marshall's historic flight in May, 1920, from Daytona, Florida to Findlay. He and his wife set off with inaccurate maps and their trip ended here.

If you had been able to travel I-75 in 1784, at exit 142 (Bluffton exit) going south you would be leaving Connecticut and entering Virginia.

Between exit 104 (Botkins) and 99 (Anna Minster) you cross the lost River Teays – a major North American river of pre-glacial times with a valley as deep as 400 feet below the position of I-75. The glaciers dragged enough rubble over the course of the Teays and eventually buried the valley.

Of course, the Wright Brothers schooled and ran their early businesses in Dayton, Ohio. Dayton inventors are responsible for parking meters, the parachute, cash register, pull tab and pop tab soda cans, microfiche, stepladder, cellophane tape, movie projector, ice cube tray, gas mask, to name just a few. And, by the way, Carillon Historical Park at exit 51 is a great day trip.

At Miles 20 to 14 you travel across the ancient bed of warm, shallow tropical seas from 400 million years ago (Paleozoic-Ordovician Period). Apparently, fossils still abound here. Mile 14 southward runs on the bed of the Miami-Erie Canal. Eleven miles of a 16-mile subway project, begun in 1916–including 2 miles of Cincinnati downtown tunnels - were completed and ready for the track-laying crews before the money ran out in 1927. The city of Cincinnati made its final payment on the original 1916 \$6 million bond issue in 1966! To the East of mile 1.5 is the "Over-the-Rhine" area. By 1900, here there were 30 German language newspapers, 48 German churches, and a number of beer gardens and singing societies!

Finally, because I am again running out of space, the border between Ohio and Kentucky is the northern Ohio River shoreline. Step foot into the river, and you are immediately in Kentucky.

I might finish the trip in April ... who knows what that part will entail. Thanks for traveling with me. God bless and keep reading.

kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)



WELCA Calendar of Events for March 2023

Martha Circle is in-service for the month of **March**

Tuesday, March 14

Martha Circle – 9:00 am
Church Library
Hostess: Miriam Gibson;
Leader, Jane Ebersole

Tuesday, March 14

Rachel Circle – 1:00 pm
Church Lounge
Hostess: Carolyn Bryant;
Leader, Jane Eakin

Monday, March 20

Hannah Circle – 7:00 pm
Church Lounge
Hostess: Pat Needles
Leader: Nikki Needles

Sunday, March 26

Cookie Sunday
Martha Circle



A big thank you to all who participated and planned the Snowflake

Social. Thank you to all who came and brought taxable items for Christian Clearing House.



The seventh Biblical woman on the cover of our booklet is

Trust Like Rachel!

Rachel's story can be read in Genesis 29-31. Rachel was Jacob's first choice as a bride, but her father switched her for her sister Leah. Without that move the 12 tribes of Israel would likely not have come into being. God had a plan and Rachel trusted that she would marry Jacob. Then she had to trust that she would have children. Even though Rachel had grief and tragedy she trusted God to provide. God provided sons, Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph went on to provide for his brothers, the 12 tribes, when famine came. God's plan needed the trust that he would provide.

L.I.F.T. - Living in Faith and Trust



L.I.F.T. will meet on Tuesday, March 21 at 11:30 for a brown bag lunch in the Church Fellowship hall. We will have a discussion on the book *Good Grief* by Granger E. Westberg.

If you need a copy please contact Marilynn Dunn. Please contact Sue DeMoss at 419-306-9994 or Marilynn Dunn at 419-722-8543 for more information or if you need a ride.

Snowflake Social





Calling All Women!

Come hear about the Women's Resource Center
Help for Today. Hope for Tomorrow

WELCA is sponsoring a regional Spring Conference
Gathering of the Central Conference at our church!

WHEN: Saturday April 15, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Right HERE at First Lutheran in Fellowship Hall

WHY: To have some girl time, worship, and learn about the Women's Resource Center

WHAT: There will be a light breakfast, a short worship service led by Pr. Art Wilde, and our speaker is Kaitlyn Kniss from Women's Resource Center to talk about their work in Hancock County, followed by a lunch and some fun.

Thrivent Financial and FLC WELCA will partner to provide food; there is no cost to churches or individuals. WE ARE ASKING FOR AN IN-KIND DONATION OF DIAPERS TO GO TO WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER. Plan to join us, to celebrate NEW LIFE, meet new people, and have fun. Watch for bulletin announcements and how to sign up.



"Stewardship is Heart Work" is the stewardship theme this year at First Lutheran. WELCA would like to again challenge the congregation to provide food items so that those that have a need will be able to feel our heartfelt generosity. As we enter into the 40 Days of Lent let us celebrate 40 days of giving, one item daily, 40 items total. Lutheran Social Services this year is

relying on generosity to fill their pantry. The panty provides a 3-day emergency food supply to their clients. As we enter into Lent, a time of reflection on God's abundant generosity in our lives, WELCA is asking members to please consider gifts to the food pantry.



Cross of Love

Benefits Lutheran Social Services, Findlay

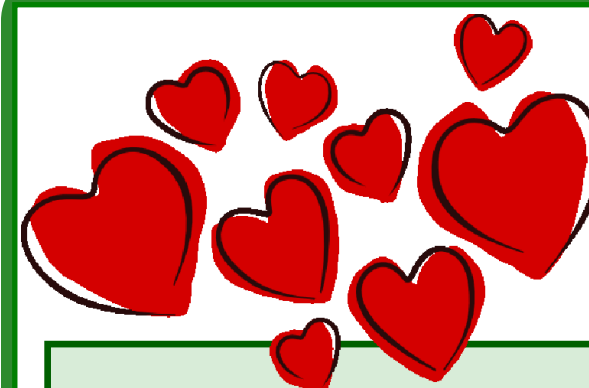
My Gift \$ _____

Given by: _____

In Loving memory of _____

In honor of: _____

Please mail to office or place your envelope in the offering plate. # _____



Stewardship is Heart Work!

Ever since I started attending First Lutheran with my grandfather (Jerry Hawkins) over a decade ago, I have been ensnared by the homeliness and genuineness that this church bestows. Recently, I have felt more as a member of the congregation, where others are getting to know me and I, them, and I could not imagine attending and serving another church. Each week, I enjoy attending, to sing hymns, to listen to a well-written message by a personable Pastor, and to hear beautiful organ music by a talented musician. I truly feel loved and cherished at First Lutheran.

—Evan Pitt

Thanks for all you do for First Lutheran and the ELCA! This congregation and I are blessed to have you at our church!

Pastor Chris



Heartwarming Stories from Ministries Provided by your Stewardship!

Genacross Lutheran Services improves people's lives throughout all stages of life's journey, serving many generations, and we are thoughtful in the ways we engage with people of different ages, backgrounds and faiths. Our services for seniors include affordable housing, independent living, assisted living, nursing care, complex medical care, memory support services, and more, but our most important offering to senior adults is respect for their dignity and worth as human beings. We also serve young people and their families by providing group homes; family counseling; individualized behavioral healthcare; and other programs that foster hope, healing and growth. All of our services are inspired by faith ... in our clients, in the Genacross team and in Christ.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.—2 Cor. 4:1

When doing God's work, the hope is that it spills over to inspire others to do the same. When a Family & Youth Services therapist signed up the twelve kids in her therapeutic behavioral group for water safety classes at a local business, she did not know how much the youth would benefit from it or how much the owners would embrace the opportunity. She worked hard to coordinate these classes into her therapy group, which included getting approvals from the guardians for all of the youth.

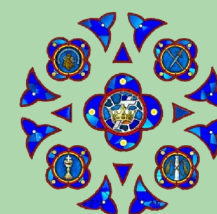


Each Wednesday for five weeks, the youth received water safety classes as well as nutritional and health tips. The owners even bought all of the youth swim gear, including goggles and swim caps. The owners also saw potential in three of the girls and asked that they get additional swim lessons, if they were interested, to prepare them for competitive swim.

On Sundays, two staff members came in on their day off to take the girls to these additional swim lessons. The youth enjoyed the classes and looked forward to Wednesday's activity each week. It was an opportunity for the youth to learn discipline and to interact with adults outside of Family & Youth Services, which contributes to the normalcy that the Genacross program seeks to provide its youth in care.

Heartwarming stories from ministries provided by your stewardship!

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.—2 Cor.



First Lutheran's Endowment fund becomes your living legacy and your testament to the Church's centrality in your life.

Your Endowment at Work

ANNUAL Scholarship Program

Scholarship applications are now available on the church website and in the church office/ bulletin board for two scholarship funds from the Endowment Fund, the Endowment

General Scholarship and the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship.

The deadline for submitting applications and letters of recommendation is March 31st. The recipient(s) will be selected and notified on or before June 1st. A total of \$7,149.41 for the General Scholarship and \$829.82 for the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss scholarship is available to be awarded. Any questions, please contact any Endowment committee member or the church office.

The Endowment Committee has distributed the funds for all Restricted accounts for 2023. The following funds were given to the appropriate committees:

- *Schlee Fund* for Special Maintenance \$1,128.07
- *McCracken Fund* for Candles, Worship and Music \$216.94
- *Bradley Fund* for Current Benevolence \$101.24
- *Yamine Fund* for Youth Activities \$1,412.85

First Lutheran appreciates all those who continue to support the current Restricted accounts and other funds within the Endowment guidelines to ease the financial needs of our church both physical and spiritual into the future. Any size gift is beneficial to these needs.



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March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1-Mar	2	3	4
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 11:30am Community Dinner	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 1pm WELCA 6pm Central Conf. Mtg Stewardship/ Evangelism 6:30pm Worship & Music	7pm Book Club	5:45pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship	4:30pm Organ Rhsl 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
	6	7	8	9	10	11
			5:45pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship 8pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	2pm SNAP Cooking Class 4:30pm Organ Rhsl 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Noisy Offering 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	9am Martha Circle 1:30pm Rachel Circle 7:30pm Finance	5:45pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship	1:30pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Organ Rhsl 6pm BSA 6:00 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly 6pm BSA	BSA All day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School	10:15am Prayer Group 12pm Newsletter Deadline 7pm Hannah Circle	11:30am LIFT	5:45pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship	2pm SNAP Cooking Class 4:30pm Organ Rhsl 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Council		5:45pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship	4:30pm Organ Rhsl 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	



March Volunteers



April Newsletter Deadline
Monday, March 20th
Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays by noon

LECTORS

Mar. 5
8:15 - Marilyn Dunn
10:45 - Gabby Cox

Mar. 12
8:15 - Elaine Miller
10:45 - Youth

Mar. 19
8:15 - Toni Poling
10:45 - Arlene Powell

Mar. 26
8:15 - Toni Poling
10:45 - Falkyn Roth

SOUND ROOM

Mar. 5
8:15 - Tim Roth
10:45 - Toni Poling

Mar. 12
8:15 - Tim Roth
10:45 - Falkyn Roth

Mar. 19
8:15 - Tim Roth
10:45 - Steve Roth

Mar. 26
8:15 - Tim Roth
10:45 - Jerry Bryant

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell, Pat Needles

COUNTERS

Tom & Pam Basinger

LSS DELIVERY

Carolyn Wilde

FLOWER DELIVERY

Cheryl Everitt

COOKIE SUNDAY

Mar. 5 - Community Dinner
Mar. 12 - Church Council
Mar. 19 - Social Ministry
Mar. 26 - Martha Circle

DRIVERS

Mar. 5 - Jerry Bryant
Mar. 12 - Jerry Bryant
Mar. 19 - Aaron Reid
Mar. 26 - Jerry Bryant

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15/10:45
Mar. 5 - Kylee Timbrook
Mar. 12 - Tim Cochran
Mar. 19 - Rob Leipheimer
Mar. 26 - Daryl Rotman

DEACONS

8:15
Mar. 5 - Marilyn Dunn
Reed Needles
Mar. 12 - Reed Needles
????
Mar. 19 - Marilyn Dunn
Janet Wobser
Mar. 26—????
????

10:45
Mar. 5 - Suzanne Kirk
????
Mar. 12 - ????
?????
Mar. 19 - Steve Roth
Judy Kipker
Mar. 26—Steve Roth
Judy Kipker

ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar. 5 -
Mar. 12 - Tad & Maria Schell
Mar. 19 - Carol Roessing
Mar. 26 - Daryl & Cyndy 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.



Helping Hands

MARCH Celebrations

Birthdays

Sue Baxter	3/1
Sandra Burnside	3/2
Audrey Leopold	3/4
Angela Nunn	3/4
Linda Ried	3/5
Hannah Roth	3/5
Jon Wilkins	3/5
Lee Hardesty	3/6
Linda Brancaleone	3/9
Cameron Roth	3/9
Jeanne Bartolomeo	3/11
John Huff	3/11
Clyde Mason	3/13
Adelyn Tabler	3/13
Leslie Dudics	3/15
Dianne Beekman	3/16
Audrey Hicks	3/16
Jaden Tabler	3/18
Steve Roth	3/21
Jonathon Bonnoront	3/22
Thomas Basinger	3/23
Beth Bonnoront	3/24
Pamela Cochran	3/24
Cynthia Napier	3/24
Robin Wilkins	3/24
Lori Cox	3/25
Erin Rodabaugh-Gallegos	3/26
Robert Rodman	3/26
Aaron Clark	3/27
Dawn Franks	3/29
Evelyn Napier	3/31
Cam Taylor	3/31

Anniversaries

Michael & Tracy August
3/1/1997 26 Years

Matthew & Carol Meyer
3/7/1998 25 Years

Phil & Denise Burson
3/22/1975 48 Years

Wayne & Nina Dukes
3/24/1979 44Years

James & Merrill Maurer
3/26/1977 46 Years

Daryl & Cynthia Rotman
3/26/1983 40 Years

Todd & Cindy Thompson
3/28/1987 36 Years

Food Cart Requests



Shampoo,
deodorant, bath
soap, & fruit

All donations benefit

Lutheran Social Services.

*The cart is in the
Coat/elevator room.*



"My parents are giving up desserts for Lent. So I'm balancing the family diet by giving up vegetables."



NewsLetter
DEADLine

Monday

March 20



first Lutheran
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Current resident or:

Mailed around
March 1, 2023

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Wednesdays

Soup Suppers 5:45

Worship 7:00

March

1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

Sunday Morning worship 8:15 & 10:45

Sunday School at 9:30