

## AUGUST MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



**Carol Castello,  
NWO Synod Hunger Coordinator**

- 1. What does a Synod Hunger Coordinator do?** For more than ten years, I have sought to get the information out about the needs of the hungry and the work of the ELCA to help alleviate it. I continue to train and gather information to share with congregations on how we can fight this scourge among us.
- 2. How much is given annually by individuals and congregations towards the alleviation of world hunger?** In 2016, \$21.9 million was given for global and domestic hunger through the ELCA World Hunger program.
- 3. How is the money given to the ELCA World Hunger program used?** The money given is distributed in the U.S. and around the world. Domestically, monies are used for community development, for education (prevention and alleviation of hunger), and advocacy. We encourage networking through congregations, and synods. In 2016, we supported 347 projects in 46 states. Globally, the ELCA works through its global partners and companion churches in 62 countries. The majority of monies collected goes toward grants for relief, advocacy and sustainable development projects. Only 8% of these contributions are used for program administration and fund raising.
- 4. Is this making a difference?** In 2016, there were approximately 800 million people who were suffering from a lack of food and from poor nutrition. *This is about 10% of the world!* The good news is that for ten years the number of hungry people has declined (21%). Worldwide 72 out of 129 countries have reached their MDG hunger target (halving the number of people who suffer from hunger). There has been a slight increase in the past two years. A lot depends on climate, economics and other issues, but the truth is, **what we are doing is making a huge difference worldwide!**
- 5. How much food is distribute globally?** Surprisingly, the ELCA does little in the distribution of food, but instead works with partner churches and organizations to support existing ministries in far-flung countries. We stress partnership and cooperation more than relief. Wherever there is a need, whether in America, Africa or Asia, we are there. Our gifts are making a difference!
- 6. Why do we support advocacy?** I just returned from the Hunger Leaders of the ELCA Gathering in Washington. We spent much time visiting legislators about the Farm Bill. There is power in the voice of our citizens. People of faith need to live out that faith and act on their beliefs. We can bring about change for the sake of the most vulnerable.

*While there is no budgeted item for world hunger, First Lutheran members give in various ways. In 2017, we gave \$750 to Lutheran Social Services, \$900 to City Mission, \$1500 to Hancock Christian Clearing House and \$1500 to Chopin Hall. We have given \$1747 to world hunger, \$3067 to the community dinner (much more has been donated!), and money has been given to LSS through our Easter "Cross of Love" and Christmas "Love and Memory Tree." We also gave \$400 to Lutheran World Relief. Through countless individual donations of money and food and through other projects like the 55 Boxes of Hope (in cooperation with the West Ohio Food Bank), we give much time, money and prayers for the hungry in our community, nation and world.*



**GRACE**  
*changes everything.*  
**LOVE**  
*changes everything.*  
**HOPE**  
*changes everything.*

These are the themes of the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas from June 27 to July 1.

Pam and I, along with Tim Franks and Leslie Betts, were privileged to accompany 19 of our youth down to Houston. The trip was framed with a 40-hour train ride down and a 38-hour ride back. We left Findlay at 2 a.m. and got back into town at 1 a.m. My luggage took an extra day on the train to visit Washington D.C., but that's another story!

For the adult chaperones, there were the challenges of sleeping on a lurching train that made long, hard stops to watch freight trains go past, walking long distances on hard surfaces, either laboring on service day or standing for hours to get reasonably good concert seats in the Houston summer sun, and having all of our senses constantly blasted by club music and shouting teens at the activity centers.

There was one constant on the trip that made all of this worthwhile: the gift that was the teenagers themselves. Oh, there were times when they behaved like...[gasp] teenagers! But there were times when the chaperones behaved like children (okay, maybe that was just me!), so we had no reason to complain. In fact, we had every reason to be thankful for the amazing young adults that God has blessed us with in this church.

Our youth played cards and interacted with each other (real conversations, away from their cell phones) all the way down to and back from Houston; they danced/sang/listened at the mass evening gatherings (31,000 youth in attendance!), Bible Studies, and synod day; worked hard on service day and played hard at the learning and game centers. They were merciful, kind, and respectful to their old pastor and other adults, and were friendly and loving to their fellow teenagers.

Grace, Love, and Hope do change everything, and I think our teens were given a lot to think about and have a new understanding for the value of Christian fellowship in a very uncertain world. We all want to thank our congregation for all the support we received to make this Christian pilgrimage possible. We especially want to thank you for the food money on our travel days: it was a lifesaver!



*Pastor Bob*





Train



Work Day



Work Day with Bishop Dan (NWOS)



Play



Arena



Synod Day



Bible Study!



Arena

## Social Ministry



Social Ministry has been active for the church:

- In June, 48 Food Boxes of Hope were distributed at the Community Dinner, and 50+ Food Boxes of ope will be distributed in August at the Community dinner.
- Clothing was donated to the Sexual Assault Nurse Educator program at the hospital.
- Items were collected to help with Stuff the Bus
- Reihm Farms has begun their distribution of CSA delivery by using our parking lot and then sharing vegetables not taken by customers with the City Mission,
- Meat is picked up at Chipotle three times each week and taken to City Mission, CHOPIN Hall or Salvation Army
- Jane Ebersole has continued to distribute Project Linus blankets, tending the Good News Garden and also planning meals for the Community Dinner
- Mike Thompson is coordinating the Habitat Build in September.
- News from Lutheran Disaster Response/Relief is posted on the bulletin board
- News about the local NAMI group is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

We will continue to help with ministry as we learn of needs. If you know of an area where the church can possibly help please keep us informed.

Thank you to anyone who helps in any way with awareness of needs in the community.



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

### Building A House to Be A Home

Once again, we as a congregation of God's people have a wonderful opportunity to help build a house for Habitat for Humanity. As with last year's project, we are working alongside several other ELCA churches.

The date is Tuesday, September 25. We are looking for folks to work either or both morning and afternoon shifts with cabinet installation and trim...much like we have done in years past. The morning shift is from 8am-noon. Lunch is served from noon to 1pm. Then the afternoon shift works until 5pm.

Also, we are looking for people to help with lunch for the crew. So, if you can help with any of this, call Mike Thompson at 419-422-2832. He is anxious to fill all the slots to help turn this house into a home for a special family. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this worthy project.

**WANTED**  
VOLUNTEER  
DRIVERS

Volunteers are needed to drive members to and from the 9:00 service during the summer or the 10:45 services beginning in September. Church members unable to drive still need rides to church and do benefit from this service.

We ask that anyone needing a ride be independent without a wheelchair or walker that would need to be lifted into the car. If you want to help as a driver or need a ride, please call Jerry Bryant, 419-422-0015 or the church office. Drivers willing to help would be put on a schedule not having to serve every Sunday.

Please call if you have any questions.



## Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed...Something Due!

As we finished the *Grounded in Prayer* and *Nehemiah* studies, our initial prayer group was inspired to create a Prayer Service for the congregation and our community.

We plan to hold a Taize style prayer service on **Tuesday, August 21** and

**Tuesday, September 18**, both at 7:00 .pm.

Taize involves music, readings, and time for meditation and prayer. No sermon, no offering! But we all have plenty of concerns and blessings to lift before God, so we invite you to come with a worshipful heart ....a

heart of thanks, a heart of praise, and to personally interact with God through music, scripture, meditation, and prayer.

For those of you who attended and enjoyed this year's Maundy Thursday service, we think you will find a similar format.



## Good News Garden Update!



If you look on the south side of the church, you will find the Good News Garden in full bloom and Production!

On July 22 Pr. Chris blessed our first fruits (and vegetables!) and we are looking forward to lots of zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes,

and peppers to use at the Community Dinners and to give away.

If you are interested in weeding, watering, picking, or cooking and freezing some of the produce, please call Jerry Bryant (419-422-0015) or Jane Ebersole (419-422-9640).

## Project Linus—Blankets Abounding!

The 2018 Northwest Ohio Synod Assembly in June called for crafters to bring blankets and blanket squares to be blessed for God's use. Caroline Guy reported that over 200 blankets were donated as well as an unknown number of knitted squares, which are currently being sewn into additional

blankets. Thanks to all who participated in this project from First.

We are in the process of hand sewing a Project Linus label to each before it can be placed in a hospital or shelter. If you would like to help with this process (and you live in a pet-free,

smoke-free home), please contact me at 419-422-9640. Thanks for making a difference in the life of a child.

Last year we placed over 400 blankets, and since 1997 the Findlay chapter total is close to 7,500 with national reporting over 7 million since 1995.



Dear Pastor Bob,

The City Mission is grateful to have generous donors who share in our mission to feed the hungry and provide refuge for the homeless. It is because of you that we can continue to minister to our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generous and continued support.

—The City Mission

First Lutheran Congregation,

On Behalf of the Findlay City School District Board of Education, I would like to thank you for the generous donation of \$139.69 to Findlay City School and the Lincoln Elementary School Lunch Program. Your gift was approved by the Board of Education at their regular meeting on June 25th. We appreciate your generosity to the students of Findlay City Schools.

—Edward P. Kurt, Superintendent

(To) Social Ministry Committee,

Thank you for purchasing clothing for the SANE program at BVH. Your generous donation will bring comfort to many survivors of sexual violence.

The SANE nurses appreciate your support and we will be sure to let our survivors know that they are supported in this community. It is often acts of kindness and support that help survivors be resilient. Thank you again. —Michelle Stratton

Mary Fleming sends her gratitude to everyone who prayed, brought flowers, visited and supported her during her recent stay at Heritage. Mary is now home.

Congratulations to Kristi and Brandon Gerdemen on the birth of their son Lawson Baden Gerdemen on May 31st.



## Our Christian Sympathies to the families of:



**Shirley Ruehle** who entered into the Church Triumphant on June 6, 2018;

**Carol Ruehle** (Richard) who entered into the Church Triumphant on June 8, 2018;

**Robert (Bob) Ferrell** who entered into the Church Triumphant on July 4, 2018;

Please check the Altar Flower Chart in the hallway, across from the church office. There are still Sundays available for altar flowers to honor or remember those special people of events in your life.

Are you available to deliver the altar flowers to those that cannot make it to church on Sunday? If you are interested please contact Marilyn Dunn 419-422-0340 or [dunnm@findlay.edu](mailto:dunnm@findlay.edu). Flower delivery is for one month. If you are not able to commit for a whole month please consider being on the substitute list.



## worship times

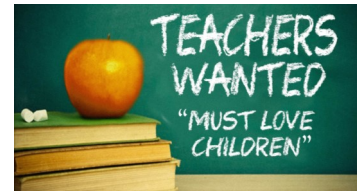
*We return to  
8:15 & 10:45  
worship times on  
Labor Day Weekend,  
September 2nd*

Women of the ELCA 

Aug. 9-10:00 am  
Verify 2018/2019 program books.  
Aug. 26- Cookie Sunday Martha Circle

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come join us for Sunday School starting Sept 9th at 9:30am. All are invited; ages 4 through adults. Ages 4 through 5th graders will study Bible stories, 6th through 12th grade to be announced. Pastor Bob's class will continue his Faith Walk series.



We are in need one or two teachers for the 6th through 12 grade class. Please pray about this and join this wonderful group of young people to help them strengthen their faith through their studies and fellowship.



Students: Please bring your backpacks to either service on August 18th for a backpack tag and blessing. This blessing reminds us that God is with us every minute of every day.

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

**Monday.  
August 20th**

### Food Cart Requests



Shampoo,  
cereal, cleaning  
products  
All donations benefit  
Lutheran Social Services.

### August's Noisy Offering will benefit:



Eliminate homelessness and alleviate poverty in Hancock County through individual and community education, affordable housing, and advocacy

## The Church Library

Hello and welcome back after a month off from the newsletter. I have missed you. Unfortunately, it has been a spring and summer of great sadness for Paul and me. I buried my oldest sister Joann, in May, Paul's Mother in June, and Joann's second born son, my nephew, in July. I am truly learning to give it all to God. Without God, right now I would no longer be functioning. Thank you to everyone once again, for your support, prayers, gifts, and cards. It means the world to us.

On May 22nd, PBS launched "The Great American Read" series, inviting Americans to vote for their favorite book or books from the list of 100 finalists. The list is worth taking a look. (PBS.org/GreatAmericanRead)

Now let's look at Ohio writer's; something I have want to do several tmes but have always run out of space and time.

Allan Eckert, famous for books like *The Frontiersmen*, attended University of Dayton and OSU. Thomas Berger, from the Cincinnati area, is responsible got *Little Big Man*. Sherwood Anderson is from The Camden/Clyde area and attended Wittenberg University before he penned *Winesburg Ohio*. Zane Grey of course is from Zanesville and wrote *Riders of the Purple Sage*. Harriet Beecher Stowe, also from the Cincinnati area, wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

R.L. Stine grew up in Bexley and wrote the *Goosebumps* series for 7—11 year-olds. His writing is heavily reliant on his upbringing in Ohio as the majority of his books take place in suburban Midwestern neighborhoods. His horror series for teens is *Fear Street*. Stine says kids like to be scared when they know they are really okay and that it will all end up okay. His writing career began with his editing the humor magazine (*The Sundial*) at Ohio State.

Toni Morrison (*Bluest Eye*) hails from Lorain. Fletcher Knebel (*Seven Days in May*) is from Dayton. Anthony Doerr (*All the Light you Cannot See*) graduated from the BGSU MFA program. J.D. Vance, from Middletown, penned *Hillbilly Elegy* and spoke this past March here in Findlay. Margaret Peterson Haddex is responsible for the *Shadow Children* series and is from Washington Court House. Dare we forget Mildred Wirt Benson who wrote as Carolyn Keene...the *Nancy Drew* mysteries. I read them ALL.

Finally the son of a good friend of Paul's, Mark Winegardner from the Bryan area was chosen from 36 established authors to write the next novels in the *Godfather* epic. Ohio not only raises Presidents but authors as well.

Quotes from here and there:

*The more cultures we know, and become comfortable in, the fuller and easier our lives become. All cultures have a piece of how celestial puzzle.*

*Have you noticed how awe is a natural reaction to the daily magic of life? When we are too busy to stop in awe, we may be too busy to do life. Remember, we are part of a vast universe that is beyond our understanding.*

*Is one of the reasons our society has become messy is that we are isolate from each other? Whenever I think I am not good enough, wish I were different, or believe I am not up to the job God seems to have given me, I am insulating God.*

Enjoy the remainder of your summer. God bless and keep reading.

Kathy brooks.

# Volunteers

Sept. Newsletter Deadline  
Monday, Aug 20th,  
Weekly Bulletin Deadline  
Wednesday Mornings

**LECTORS**

Aug. 5 - Jeff Kamm  
  
Aug. 12 - Arlene Schriner  
  
Aug. 19 - Kathy Brooks  
  
Aug. 26 - Kurt Ebersole

**GREETERS**

Aug. 5- Jeff & Jennifer Kamm  
  
Aug. 12- Arlene Schriner  
  
Aug. 19- Paul & Kathy Brooks  
  
Aug. 26- Kurt & Jane Ebersole

**ACOLYTES**

Aug. 5 - Shelby Dale  
  
Aug. 12 - Seth Franks, Emily Meier  
  
Aug. 19 - Zach McRill, Shelby Dale  
  
Aug. 26 - Kylee Timbrook

**SOUND ROOM**

Aug. 5-Steve Roth  
  
Aug. 12-Dave Gerber  
  
Aug. 19-Tim Roth  
  
Aug. 26-Sam Ried  
  
11:00 August-Tim Cochran  
(all month)

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Aug. 5 - Daryl Rotman  
Aug. 12 -Traci Roth  
Aug. 19 -Tim Franks  
Aug. 26 - Daryl Rotman

**ALTAR GUILD**

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick,  
Nancy Bahler

**COUNTERS**

Tom & Pam Basinger

**LSS DELIVERY**

Kathy Brooks

**FLOWER DELIVERY**

Jen & Ken Wynkoop

**COMMUNION BREAD**

Aug. 5 - Dawn Franks  
Aug. 12 - Renee Smith  
Aug. 19 - Janet Wobser  
Aug. 26 - Cindy Thompson

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Aug. 5/12 - Tom & Pam Basinger  
Aug. 19 - Kurt & Jane Ebersole  
Aug. 26 - Tim & Nora Cochran

**COOKIE SUNDAY**

Aug. 5 - Community Dinner  
Aug. 12 - Social Ministry  
Aug. 19 - Worship & Music  
Aug. 26 - Martha Circle

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Aug. 5 - Cam Taylor  
Aug. 12 - Elaine Ashley  
Aug. 19 - Maria & Tad Schell  
Aug. 26 -

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.

**DEACONS:**

Jerry Bryant,  
Nick Thomas  
Mike Zawisza  
Tim Franks

**9:00 USHERS:** John Adler, Cloyce Baker,  
Richard Ruehle, Aaron Ried



# Celebrations

## Birthdays

Matthew Price	8/1
Bart Welte	8/3
Randy Buck	8/4
Robin Bowman	8/6
Kimberly Groh	8/7
Carol Roessing	8/7
Rick Dudics	8/8
Gary Kapostasy	8/8
Steven Rice	8/8
SilverLyn Roth	8/8
Riley Biggs	8/9
William Chubb	8/9
Ryan Maas	8/9
Kathy Brooks	8/10
Carson Dale	8/10
Phillip Tuttle	8/10
Vickie Wright	8/12
Judy Routson	8/13
Barbara Larick	8/14
Jim Price	8/14
Robert Beutler	8/15
Alec Bonnoront	8/15
Nancy Meek	8/15
Jason Bower	8/16
Elyse Clark	8/18
Emily Clark	8/18
Jonathan Ruehle	8/18
Jane Eakin	8/20
Philip Maurer	8/20
Clyde Mitchell	8/20
Kristina Rodman	8/20
Corey Spoon	8/20
Robert Cochran	8/21
Lyla Gerdeman	8/25
Fred Makrancy	8/25
Laurel Beutler	8/27
Jeff Howard	8/27
L. Eileen Mains	8/28
Tanner Timbrook	8/29
Kenneth Wynkoop	8/30
Jim Fultz	8/31

## Anniversaries

Jack & Patricia Taylor	8/1/1976	42
Paul & Kathy Brooks	8/8/1992	26
Harry & Ann Fifolt	8/13/1966	52
Nick & Tonya Thorbahn	8/16/2008	10
Brent & Peggy Fruchey	8/17/1985	33
Timothy & Nora Cochran	8/19/1978	40
Steven & Jodi Wilson	8/19/1978	40
David & Dee Rossman	8/26/1973	45
Milton & Carol Peters	8/27/1960	58
Christian & Julie Dittmar	8/28/1971	47
Jerold & Bonnie Bosse	8/30/1959	59

## Baptisms

Thomas Basinger	8/1
Cam Taylor	8/1
Jessica Betts	8/3
Michelle Frampton	8/3
Benjamin Kapostasy	8/3
Elle Price	8/3
Kay Flick	8/4
Judith Mains	8/4
Dawn Wagner	8/7
Kenneth Otte	8/9
Sidney Hoover	8/14
Greg Johnson	8/14
Kathy Brooks	8/15

Erika Cunningham	8/16
Bart Welte	8/18
Morgan Kirk	8/19
Kristan Napier	8/19
Megan Peplinski	8/20
Patricia Stacy	8/20
Randy Waller	8/20
Dee Rossman	8/21
Zachary Short	8/23
Mary Kondik	8/27
Grant Welte	8/27
Richard Ruehle	8/28
Adam August	8/31

*first*  
Lutheran  
109 E. Lincoln Street  
Findlay, OH 45840

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ORGANIZATION  
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Current Resident or:



Mailed around  
July 31st

# Hello August!

## Sunday Worship

### 9:00 & 11:00