

2019 ELCA Year of Scripture

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin has sent an invitation to this year’s Synod initiative: *The ELCA Year of Scripture*.

The Year of Scripture will have a **three-fold focus**:

- **Bible Reading** as a daily discipline and habit
- **Bible Reflection** to help us become fluent in the language of sacred scripture and hear God actually speaking to us through His Word
- **Bible Study** to lead us to discover the depths of who God is and the breadth of what God does.

The Bible Project: Wait for it....yes, reading the Bible in a year as a Synod Wide Challenge much like we did in 2013-14 with *The Godsightings One Year Bible*. There are many options for accomplishing this challenge (it can be challenging, and you may need a New Year’s resolution. What could be better than devoting 15 minutes a day reading God’s Word?!).

Here are some options:

- *The One Year Bible*: This has a daily reading of Old Testament, New Testament, a Psalm, and a Proverb
- *The One Year Chronological Bible*: This puts all the readings in a timeline so you read the prophets when they were preaching to the kings; the New Testament books are in order as well.
- *The Book*: The Living Bible
- *The Message*: A modern sort of novel approach to the books
- *Lutheran Study Bible* (or the confirmands’ Bible)
- Your own Bible: Look at the number of pages and divide by 365 (e.g, 1,950/365=5.35 pgs. per day...not too bad)

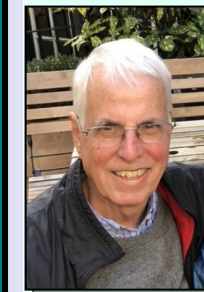
And if we could communicate with each other...there would be a community to support and hold accountable.... just like with an exercise or diet resolution.



STEWARDS OF GRACE

2019 Stewardship Theme

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.— 1 Peter 4:10



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

It’s a new year and a new stewardship theme. We will be exploring the various ministries of the congregation this year. Why not start with the sponsor of this emphasis: the Stewardship Committee?

What is the Stewardship Committee? According to the congregation’s Constitution, the purpose of the Stewardship Committee is “to promote Christian faith in daily living; to help others grow one step closer to God and in their relationship with Jesus Christ through the use of the time,

talents and treasures entrusted by God; to make the congregation aware of local, national and worldwide ministries; and to lead all its members to higher levels of generous giving for the Lord’s work.” Our committee members are Marilynn Dunn, Carol Bridinger, Jane Ebersole, Kurt Ebersole, Alex Treece (Council Liaison), and Pastor Christian Dittmar, Chair.

What is Stewardship? There are so many ways to express it, but I like what Dr. Mark Allan Powell says, “I like to say that *stewardship puts into practice our faith* in God as our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer.” Another voice, A.C. Conrad noted that “Stewardship is partnership with Christ, through the Holy Spirit, in *fulfilling the purposes of God in the world*.” That is a big task and responsibility. The members of our Committee take our work serious (but have fun too).

What are some of the things you do? Our major purpose for being is to teach good biblical stewardship to the congregation. We are not fund raisers nor financial planners. Our goal is to make each member of First a good steward of grace. This article is evidence of our major effort to keep stewardship in everyone’s mind regularly. So we practice *year round stewardship*. Our goal is that at least once a month we raise the awareness of what stewardship means for every Christian and for each individual. Hopefully, in the past few years you’ve noticed our monthly newsletter features, our bulletin inserts, numerous temple talks, annual emphases, and first-class letters mailed to each home.

What is this year’s theme? Our theme is based on 1 Peter 4:10. Peter says we are *stewards of grace*, which we understand to mean that whatever gifts we give, first of all we give to God in response to his grace, and then we grace others with our gifts, whatever they may be. The focus is not what we can receive but how we can use what we have received to serve others. Each month we will try to offer opportunities for grace-filled giving.

The Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 7 PM (usually bi-monthly). Would you like to be a part of this important work? Please contact Pastor Chris at (419) 425-5453 or cdit668995@aol.com





Happy New Year all. Hope you have a 2019 full of good health and happiness.

Thought I would share with you something I found going through Paul's Mother's papers. Cards entitled "No Excuses Sunday" were printed on 5x7 orange cards and apparently distributed at her church, North Creek United Methodist Church. Maybe it will help us examine why we are not always at church on Sunday.

No Excuses Sundays

Because we want to make it possible for everyone to attend church on Sundays, we have provided these **Necessities**:

- Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in."
- We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever went to church."
- Blankets will be provided for those who think the church is too cold and fans will be provided for those who think the church is too hot.
- We will have hearing aids for those who say the preacher speaks too softly and cotton for those who say he preaches too loudly.
- Score cards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present in church.
- Some relatives will be in attendance for those who like to go visiting their family on Sundays.
- There will be TV dinners for those who can't go to church because they have to cook dinner.
- One section will be devoted to trees and grass for all those who like to see God in nature.
- Finally, the sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them.

I end January's column with a huge THANK YOU to all of you who donated items for the Christmas giveaway. I received numerous thank you's from so many recipients. You made many Christmases happy.

God bless and keep reading.

Kathy Brooks
Kathy Brooks@Lrbcg.com

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January News

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New Members



**Matt and Carol Meyer
Margaret & Mitchell
(Calvin not pictured)**
15815 Oak Shade Lane
Findlay OH 45840
Matthew 419-779-6815
Carol 614-595-0851



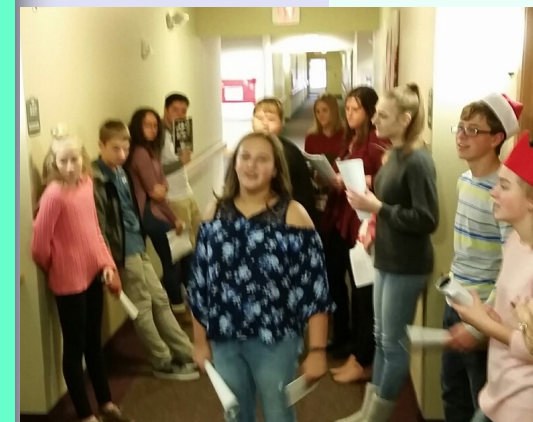
**Justin and Christi Volk
Tyler, Reese**
16152 Forest Lake Dr.
Findlay OH 45840
Justin 860-389-4560
Christi 860-389-4561



Throughout the year, please take the opportunity to send cards, visit, call, and pray for our "At-Home" members. For addresses or phone numbers please feel free to call the church office. An "At-Home" list is also posted on the bulletin board.



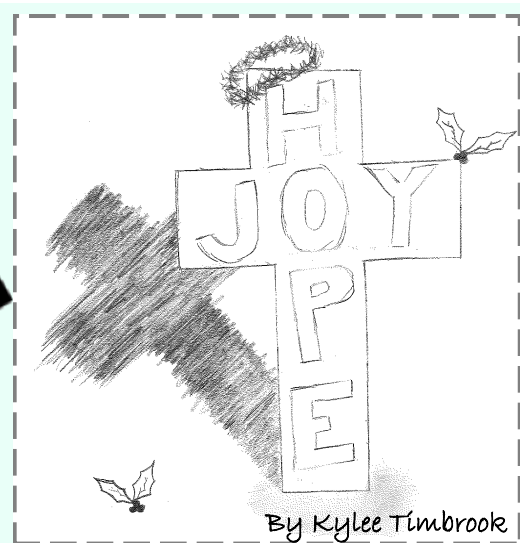
Dear Carolers,
What a joy to have the large group of carolers appear at our door. Bless you!
May each of you have a wonderful Christmas, and the abundant life Christ offers.
Rev. Harv and Gladys Feustal





Join us for
Sunday School

6th—12 grades
9:30 am
Youth Room.



Confirmation

January 2 (No class)

January
9, 16, 23, 30
@ 7:00

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Youth Calendar

January

6-Bible Study/
Discussion,
Games

13-Movie TBA
(May meet at
theater)

20-Lock-in

27-Service
Project
Cooking/Baking
for Community
Dinner

February

2- Make Suba
for 2021
Gathering;
Time TBA
3- Sell Subs

10--Bible Study/
Discussion,
Games

17-Bible Study/
Discussion,
Games

24-Bowling
@AMF 2-4

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of the ELCA Women



Martha Circle
and Rachel Circle
Christmas Brunch



A VALENTINE SNOWFLAKE SOCIAL

Calling all Mothers, Daughters, Aunts, Girlfriends, and Sisters

BEFORE you think you can't stand winter another minute--- you know, when it just seems cold, damp, and all the Christmas cheer seems gone, there's Valentine's Day! A time of pink cheeks, red noses, white doilies, cupids, and **HEARTS**!

Come and enjoy a time of fellowship or "girlship" with food and a lovely Valentine craft to take home presented by artist, Beth Maurer. Come share this time to prepare our **HEARTS** for our Lenten Walk to Calvary, where Christ's heart was centered for us all.

Who: All women and girls of the church
When: Wednesday February 6 from 6:30-8 p.m.
Where: The Fellowship Hall

We hope you will save that date and plan to attend our 3rd ever Snowflake Social (but with a Valentine "spin"!!) It has been wildly popular! Watch the bulletin for announcements ☺

Women of the
ELCA 

Jan. 8- Martha Circle, Library, 9:00
 Rachel Circle, Lounge, 9:30

Jan. 21- Hannah Circle Lounge, 7:00
 Jan. 27- Cookie Sunday, Martha

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.

Annual Meeting
 Sunday, January 27th
 12:00
 (Lunch Provided)

Agenda Items

- Approve 2018 Annual Report
- Approve 2019 Budget
- Elect Synod Assembly Delegates
- Elect 2019 Nominating Committee
- Other

NewsLetter
DEADLine

Monday
Jan. 21

Food Cart Requests



**Canned Meats,
 Packaged Dinners,
 package side dishes**

**All donations benefit
 Lutheran Social Services**

**January
 Noisy Offering will benefit**



TRINITY
 LUTHERAN
 SEMINARY

The Year of Prayer Goes On

a YEAR of Prayer

Doesn't end on

December 31, 2018

Just because our new initiative is Year of Scripture for 2019, you will still hear about the Prayer Ministry here at First. There will be a new (or two!) Grounded in Prayer groups in the spring. If you are interested in joining our prayer team, please contact Sue DeMoss (419-423-7109) or Jane Ebersole (419-422-9640) or look for a sign

up sheet; we will be updating our list of prayer warriors and are always looking for ways to include new people and new ideas.

There are SO many areas we could be of service in prayer (our pastors, council, staff, chronically ill, homebound, youth....the list goes on!) without having to attend a monthly or weekly meeting. And finally, there is a great, small book by Donald Whitney called *Praying the Bible*, which combines both reading the scriptures and praying them back to God (who spoke them to us in the first place!)

So, continue to lift our prayer ministry here at First! And consider PRAYERFULLY joining us.

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Have a question or concern regarding our congregation?

Send an email to....

2019 Council Members

Julie Buck
JaBuck67@hotmail.com

Casey Cox
caseycox72@gmail.com

Cindy Fitzpatrick
cbrenfitz@aol.com

Tim Franks
TFranks75@hotmail.com

Greg Johnson
GregJohnson05@yahoo.com

Rob Leipheimer
RLeip@sbcglobal.net

Cynthia Napier
NapierCynthia222@yahoo.com

Karen Rose
KRose13995@gmail.com

Daryl Rotman
Rotman4@aol.com

Jeff Short
JShort@bright.net

Alex Treece
AlexTreece@yahoo.com

Jenny Welte
JbWelte@frontier.com



How Do We Care For Each Other?

How can we be better in our care for each other?

By Communication! Please let the church office or a pastor know about a change in your life, such as a hospitalization, being confined to a home, even temporarily, the death of a loved one, etc.

If you notice the absence of a brother or sister from worship, leave a note on the back of your yellow "Footprints" or call the church office or pastor. Our pastors are prepared to support you in times of change and adjustment.

Serving Our Congregation:

Senior Pastor: Bob Cochran (419-788-0803) flcpastor@hotmail.com

Assisting Minister: Chris Dittmar (419-425-5453) cdit668995@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Nina Dukes (419-422-2638) flcfindlay@gmail.com

Building Manager:

Wayne Dukes (419-306-3358 *emergency only*) waynedukes@hotmail.com

Assistant Building Manager: Josh Leopold

Organist: Miriam Gibson

Sr. Choir Director: Jane Eakin

Brass Choir Director: Diane Adler

Kids Kingdom Directors: Sally Rice, Heather Nielsen, Jenny Welte

Financial Secretary: Daryl Rotman

Treasurer: Tom Basinger

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January Helping Hands



Newsletter Deadline
Monday, January 21st
Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays by noon

LECTORS

Jan. 6
8:15-Tad Schell
10:45- Dawn Franks

Jan. 13
8:15-Acolytes
10:45-Acolytes

Jan. 20
8:15-Paul Brooks
10:45

Jan. 27
8:15-Shirley Gerber
10:45

GREETERS

Jan. 6
8:15-Tom & Linda Mitchell
10:45

Jan. 13
8:15-Cloyce & Janet Baker
10:45

Jan. 20
8:15-Paul & Kathy Brooks
10:45

Jan. 27
8:15-Dave & Shirley Gerber
10:45

ACOLYTES

Jan. 6
8:15
10:45-Seth Franks, Kylee Timbrook

Jan. 13
8:15-Zach McRill
10:45-Abbey Zawisza

Jan. 20
8:15-
10:45-Tyler Reese

Jan. 27
8:15
10:45-Maddie Essman

SOUND ROOM

Jan. 6
8:15-Sam Ried
10:45-Alex Treece

Jan. 13
8:15-Dave Gerber
10:45-Todd Thompson

Jan. 20
8:15-Tim Roth
10:45-Alex Treece

Jan. 27
8:15-Sam Ried
10:45-Jerry Bryant

ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 6
Jan. 13
Jan. 20
Jan. 27

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.

ALTAR GUILD

Bob/Arlene Schriener
Elaine Timbrook

COUNTERS

Daryl and Cindy Rotman

LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

FLOWER DELIVERY

Karen Rose

COMMUNION BREAD

Jan. 6-Cindy Thompson
Jan. 13-Suzanne Kirk
Jan. 20-Jennifer Treece
Jan. 27-Sharon Thompson

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jan. 6/13-Mike & Chris Zawisza
Jan. 20/27-Joe & Candy Spoon

COOKIE SUNDAY

Jan. 6-Community Dinner
Jan. 13-Endowment/Finance
Jan. 20-Property
Jan. 27 -Martha Circle

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15/10:45
Jan. 6-Tim Franks
Jan. 13-Daryl Rotman
Jan. 20-Pastor Chris Dittmar
Jan. 27 -Tim Cochran

DEACONS

8:15
Tom Mitchell
Tim Cochran

10:45
Mike Zawisza
Steve Roth,
Joe Spoon

DRIVERS

Jan. 6-Jerry Bryant
Jan. 13-Mike Zawisza
Jan. 20-Aaron Ried
Jan. 27 -Pam Cochran

Birthdays

Shelby Dale	1/1
Madison Kirk	1/1
Jason Polder	1/2
Denise Burson	1/3
David Wirt	1/5
Donna Mason	1/7
Patricia Taylor	1/7
Brynlee Johnson	1/8
Jerry Luth	1/10
Kaelee Mains	1/10
Chris Zawisza	1/12
Andy Schriener	1/13
Voleta Willford	1/13
Nancy Woodruff	1/13
Ryan Price	1/14
Richard Polder	1/16
Lily Cox	1/17
Michael Fraley	1/17
Phillip Bash	1/18
David Gerber	1/18
Elizabeth Brossia	1/19
Mark Kirk	1/19
Jason Clark	1/20
Gregory Rakestraw	1/20
Marilyn Schweitzer	1/20
Susan Waltermeyer	1/20
Richard Kondik	1/21
Lynnette Rice	1/22
Emily Betts	1/25
Raeleigh Bower	1/25
Renee Smith	1/25
Steven Wilson	1/25
Jon Burnside	1/28
Amber Leipheimer	1/28
Kevin Breen	1/30
Madison Cox	1/30
Mitchell Routson	1/30
Nathan Routson	1/30
Tracy August	1/31

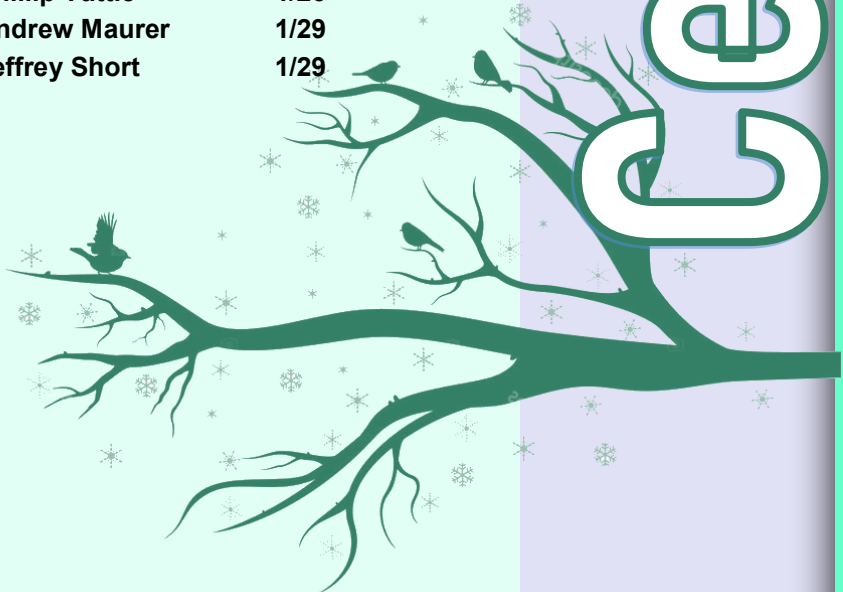
Anniversaries

Steve & Cheryl Seibert 1/21/1995 24

Baptisms

Nancy Baxter	1/1
Doris Brand	1/1
Carolyn Bryant	1/1
Jerry Bryant	1/1
William Chubb	1/1
Chery Francis	1/1
Alan Hartzell	1/1
Craig Meier	1/1
Margaret Meyer	1/1
Patricia Needles	1/1
Blaine Peters	1/1
Milton Peters	1/1
Sandra Rakestraw	1/1
Carol Roessing	1/1
Robert Schriener	1/1
Jack Taylor	1/1
Mike Waltermeyer	1/1
David Wirt	1/1
Kenneth Wynkoop	1/1
Laura Corle	1/8
Nina Dukes	1/12
Adelyn Tabler	1/12
Ryan Nunn	1/14
Michael Meyer	1/16
Karon Makrancy	1/18
Sandra Dale	1/21
Nolan Edward VanAtta	1/21
Gianna Masterlasco	1/22
Carie Eakin	1/23
Gage Fraley	1/26
Phillip Tuttle	1/26
Andrew Maurer	1/29
Jeffrey Short	1/29

Celebrations



first

Lutheran

109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Current Resident or:



Mailed around
January 3, 2019

January

Moving One Step Closer to God.

Sunday Worship 8:15 and 10:45 am
Sunday School at 9:30