

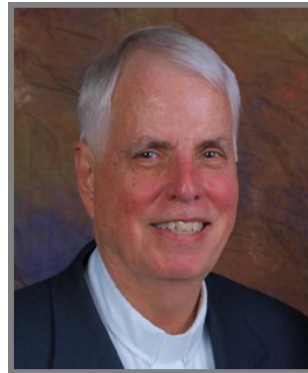


first Lutheran

Findlay, OH

New Year's Revelations

An Interim Partnership



The PROPHET Joel said, "Your old men shall dream dreams..." (Joel 2:28) Never in my wildest dreams did I envision serving Christ and his Church at 76 years of age! The Spirit is the Lord of surprises! As Pastor Bob retires, I have been asked by the Church Council to fill in as interim until the calling of a pastor or the availability of an interim. In the meantime, starting January 1, 2023, I will work 20 hours a week, fulfilling the work of a pastor, in the pulpit, classroom, at the hospital and wherever the need may be. This is a part-time agreement with the knowledge that I will be on call 24/7 for emergencies.

I am pleased to partner with Pastor Arthur Wilde in this venture. Pr. Art will be a sort of "vice-pastor", but will be available whenever I cannot. If I am on a trip or ill, he will fill-in. He may preach at times, assist me in worship or be available for other needs. For example, Pr. Art plans to design and lead the Lenten series of mid-week worship services. Please see this as a partnership. Both of us are congregational members. We wish to answer the Lord's calling but also we are motivated by the love of this congregation, where we have been members for several years.



Please understand that this agreement is a temporary one. If a pastor is called [the Call Committee is considering candidates as I write] or if the Northwestern Ohio Synod can find an interim, both of us will go back to being "retired."

It's hard to believe that Pastor Bob will no longer be with us. We will miss his laughter, his stories and his faithful and loving service. Mazey will be glad to have him home, but we will all miss him.

Pastor Art and I are grateful that we are able to be of service in this interim and continue to pray that the Lord will call a gracious and faithful leader who will be the pastor for all of us. In the meantime, Art and I will faithfully follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit who once again calls us to service. "For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." [1 Timothy 4:10]

Pastor Chris

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Stewardship is Work!

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ... For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.—2 Corinthians 4: 5-6

**Heartwarming stories of ministry in Ohio,
supported by your stewardship.**



When I came to Findlay and First Lutheran, I was broken in spirit from a divorce and attempted suicide. The music was what drew me in as well as the welcoming spirit of the members. I was very moved by the Adult Sunday School class led by Barb Brodbeck ("Angels and Demons"). That led me to service through the community dinners, Lenten soup suppers, VBS, youth overnights and helping with the rummage sale. So, as a "newbie" I was always grateful that Nina *always* remembered my name!

First Lutheran has always been "The Welcome Place" for me!
- Robin Bowman

Filling Homes of Napoleon *Part of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy*

Filling Homes of Napoleon is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate (along with Lutheran Social Services and Luther Home of Mercy, Williston (watch for them in the months ahead!)) and defines itself as a faith based provider serving individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Northwest Ohio. Combined, these Lutheran ministries in Northwestern Ohio provider services for almost 30,000 people annually. Through our prayers, donations and stewardship of *heart work* we support these vital ministries and help countless people.



FILLING HOMES

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All in a Day's Work

Whether it's riding a bike, planting in the garden or nurturing one's creative side, Filling Homes' direct care workers spend every day helping the residents they serve participate in activities that bring meaning and enrichment to their days.

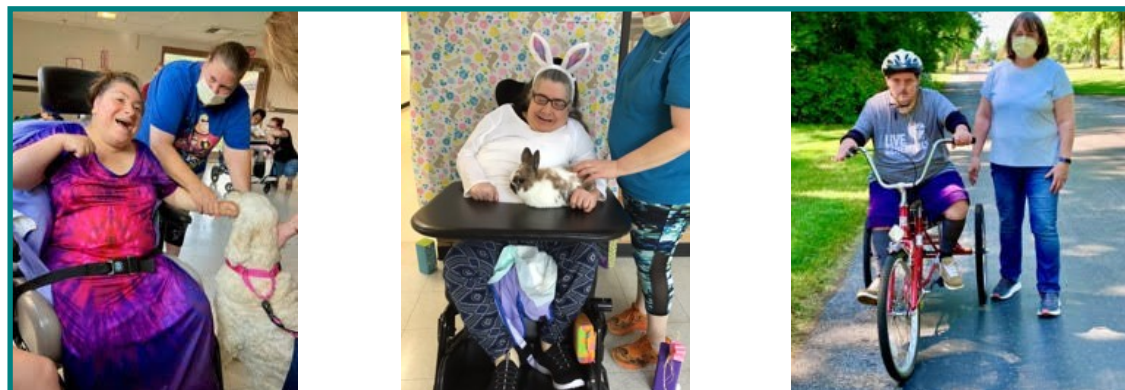
Kim Wright is one of those staff members. Kim has worked for Filling Homes at the Base Facility for more than 20 years. She feels and treats the residents as though they are family. In fact, her relationship with many of the residents for whom she provides care spans her entire career. That is a long time for any type of relationship:) She knows the residents well, and they know her. Her gregarious personality and curious nature make for very few dull moments in the living area.

One thing Kim is well known for is her love for animals. She and her five children have a veritable menagerie of small pets including rabbits, guinea pigs, turtles, fish, and of course, dogs and cats. Why wouldn't she want to share the animals she loves with the residents she loves? Kim is always looking for opportunities to share her pets with the residents and provide other experiences outside the Filling Home to see and learn more about them. One of those encounters takes the residents, one at a time, out into the community to engage with other animal enthusiasts.

Kim came across the Aquarium Society while searching in Facebook groups. The living area had a very small, 5-gallon aquarium that the residents enjoyed, so she decided to join as an avenue for residents to learn more about fish and meet others who share the same interest. The Society holds their meetings on Sundays. So, every other weekend, when Kim IS NOT scheduled to work, she and a resident pack a meal to cover supper and go to the meeting to participate in the educational presentation, livestock auction and general fellowship with other fish lovers. A different resident goes each time, so everyone who wants to go gets a chance. The residents (and Kim) have enjoyed it immensely! A lot about fish care has been learned and many fish have been purchased to build their census. You may be wondering how many fish can fit in that small aquarium. Well, thanks to the relationship that Kim has built between the Society members and the residents, TWO, 20-gallon aquariums have now been donated to the delight of the residents and staff!

This story of Kim Wright and the residents she works with is just one of many, many "mission in motion" stories that take place at Filling Homes every, single day. Our direct care staff are known for going the extra mile to make it special for the residents, but if you ask them, they say they're just doing their job.

-Thanks to Lori Siclair, Publica Relations Coordinator at Filling Home



Heartwarming stories of ministry through
your generous stewardship!

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2023 Resolution

Could yours be....???

HOW TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME

Most Christians firmly believe in the importance of spending daily time in God's Word and in prayer, yet, so many of us struggle to do either consistently. Perhaps it's because for us to consider them successful, we think every time with God needs to leave us feeling 100% peaceful or sure that we've received crystal clear messages from the Lord. That's not what happens every time, and that's okay.

"In the book of Psalms, David, who is called "the one after God's own heart," (1 Samuel 13:14) experiences the full spectrum of emotions as he prays fervently to God. He didn't hold back from pouring his authentic, messy heart out to the Lord, and we don't need to either. In fact, God welcomes it.

If you begin the spiritual discipline of spending seven minutes with God each day, you will soon find that it's impossible to stop there. An amazing thing happens—seven minutes become 20, and it's not long before you're spending 30 precious minutes with Him daily.

Do it for the right reason. Do not become devoted to the habit, but to the Savior. Spend time in the Word and prayer not because other people are doing it, not as a spiritless duty every morning, not merely as an end in itself, but because God has granted us the priceless privilege of fellowship with Him.

½ minute Preparing Your Heart

Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, "Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time."

4 minutes Listening to God (Scripture Reading)

Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

2½ minutes Talking to God (Prayer)

After God has spoken through His Word, then speak to Him in prayer. One helpful method is to incorporate four areas of prayer that you can remember with the word ACTS.

ADORATION This is the purest kind of prayer because it's all for God. Tell the Lord that you love Him. Reflect on His greatness.

CONFESSION "Confession" comes from a root word meaning "to agree together with." When we apply this to prayer, it means we agree with God's estimation of what we've done. Ask Him to cleanse you of your sin and help you turn from it moving forward.

THANKSGIVING Think of several specific things to thank Him for: your family, your business, your church—even thank Him for being with you in hardship.

SUPPLICATION This means to "ask for, earnestly and humbly." Ask for others, then ask for yourself. Include people around the world, missionaries, friends, and those who have yet to hear about Jesus.



THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED. To download a copy visit navlink.org/quiet-time
Adapted from *Seven Minutes with God*, 2012. Created by The Navigators. All Rights Reserved.

NEW YEAR, NEW BOOKS!

Happy New Year to all of you! I pray that all of you have a peaceful, healthy and happy 2023. And while I have your attention, don't forget the December giveaway for 2023 as you pack up your Christmas decorations and then begin spring cleaning (does anyone still spring house clean?) Any items you no longer need or want might be great items for others. Donate your Christmas items or your gift- like items for others to select at the next December giveaway. You can leave them in the library marked for the giveaway. The "shoppers" are very appreciative. Thank you.

Now, let's talk books. First, check out the book club selections for 2023 on the church bulletin board clip board. Join us the first Tuesday of the month in the church lounge for book discussion. Our discussions are not intimidating, although we seem to have better discussions when everyone dislikes the book.

A couple biographies I worked through in the past months include The Notorious RBG by Carmon and Knizhnik and The Queen by Catherine Ryan. RBG, or Ruth Bader Ginsburg, fascinates me. She worked tirelessly for gender equality, and not just for female rights. RBG herself had been the subject of gender discrimination early on and throughout her life. She was a well-respected woman on the Supreme Court. And then the Queen of course refers to Queen Elizabeth II. She too had issues as a female ruling a country. Interesting reads.

A State of Wonder, by one of my favorite authors Ann Patchett, involves some unusual drug research being conducted in Brazil. The drug will undo or postpone menopause so women can give birth throughout their lifetime. The initial research surrounded a vaccine that would prevent malaria; the ability to bear children throughout a lifetime was a side effect. And that's quite some side effect. Yes, it is a jungle adventure and yes, it does combine myth with the real. I haven't decided how I feel about this one.

Did I tell you about A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline (who also wrote Orphan Train)? She details in fiction form the creation of Andrew Wyeth's painting "Christina's World". I have read it several times and it still is a great read. Kline explains that she is "intrigued by the spaces between words, the silences that conceal long kept secrets, the complexities that lie beneath the surface." This statement also describes the atmosphere in families...the unspoken stories, the members of the family no one knows and never hears about...now you have some hint into my family while growing up! The problem with keeping generational secrets? The stories that the next generation creates can be even more outlandish than the real story. Anyway, the book is super.

Finally, I read If Nietzsche Were A Narwhal by Justin Gregg. Nietzsche is the philosopher who has been doomed by his so-called battle-cry that "God is Dead." After all these years, having graduated with a philosophy minor in college, I now learn that when Nietzsche died during the terror of Hitler, Nietzsche's sister rewrote his philosophy so she would be on the good side of Hitler. Hmmmmm. And so it goes. In this text, the author wants us to appreciate the simple cognitive skills of the animal and insect kingdom. For instance, Gregg writes of the crows who can make tools of twigs to help them fish out insects from inside a log. He supports that even the traditionally "stupid" animals, aren't actually stupid. And as many of us already know, man's intelligence is not always a good thing. Think about the great idea for packaging water and the consequences of the plastic "bottle". He ends his own review by stating that "it is not necessarily a good thing to think like a human. In fact, the simplicity of how insects think makes them far more wondrous.

Time to go. God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

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Library News

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Women of the ELCA

WELCA Calendar of Events for January 2023

Rachel Circle is in-service for the month of **January**

Tuesday, January 10 – Martha Circle – 9:00 am in the Church Library
Hostess: Sue Demoss Leader, Carolyn Wilde

Tuesday, January 10 – Rachel Circle – 12:30 pm in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Sharon Thompson Leader, Mary Lou McCann

Monday, January 16 – Hannah Circle – 7:00 pm – Church Lounge
Hostess: Cyndy Rotman Leader: Marilynn Dunn

Sunday, January 29 – Cookie Sunday – Rachel Circle

Wednesday, February 8 – Snowflake Social – 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Believe Like Mary!

The fifth Biblical woman on the cover of our booklet is *Believe Like Mary!* There are three prominent Marys of the New Testament specifically: Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany. Mary, the mother of Jesus, believed and opened herself to love, self-sacrifice and divine intervention in world affairs. Mary Magdalene, a once broken woman, spoke the most important news of all time to the world, Jesus had risen from the dead! Mary of Bethany stood with Jesus at her brother Lazarus' tomb and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." John 11:21-22. All three women had a powerful, unshakeable belief that Jesus was their savior.

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



L.I.F.T. will meet on Tuesday, January 17 at 11:30 for lunch at 50North. A table will be reserved so we can all sit together. 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 Mothers, Daughters, Aunts,
Sisters, and Girlfriends!



Come and enjoy a time of fellowship with a light pizza, veggies, fruit, and dessert supper. Beth Maurer, our resident artist, returns with a "snowy craft" to make and take, preparing our hearts for the Lenten journey.

WHO: All women and girls of the church

WHEN: Wednesday, February 8 from 6:30-8 p.m.

WHERE: The Fellowship Hall

HOW: Thrivent Financial will be sponsoring this "Free" event; however an in-kind donation of bath tissue, paper towels, diapers, hand or laundry soap, dish detergent, and shampoo is requested for the Caring Cupboard at the Christian Clearing House. Just bring your item with you that evening.

We hope you will save the date and plan to attend our 8th Snowflake Social. If you have attended, it has been wildly popular! Watch the bulletins for further announcements and a RSVP slip.

The WELCA Christmas Brunch was held Tuesday, December 13 at 10:00 am in fellowship Hall.

A very nice turnout of 30 ladies enjoyed a program of special music by Miriam Gibson and Jane Eakin, a Carol Sing, readings and prayers. Many taxable items of laundry and cleaning supplies, shampoo, etc. were collected and distributed to CCH and LSS.

— Sue DeMoss



"Taxable Items" being sent to Lutheran Social services and Christian Clearing House

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WINTERFEST

JOIN US FOR SOME WINTER FUN:

BINGO / WINTER CRAFT / PIZZA

JANUARY 15, 2023
4:00 - 6:00 PM
109 E LINCOLN ST.
FINDLAY, OH 45840
FELLOWSHIP HALL



www.1stlutheranchurch.org

NEW
address!

Pastor Bob and Pam Cochran
25 Castle Run Rd.
The Plains, OH 45780

This

&

That

Attention Students

6th – 12th grades and their parents

We will continue our studies to break free from life's hurts, cycles of destructive choices, shame, and guilt. Through open conversation and discovery, we will uncover what's at the heart of issues they're experiencing and find freedom through Jesus.

Relationships Community
Lifestyle Anger
Drugs and drinking Depression and suicide
Equality and diversity

We will also learn an overview of the books of the bible and yes, there will be Skit Guys videos. Parents will continue receiving an overview of each weeks topic and conversation prompts to spark deeper discussion at home.

The second Sunday of each month will be youth Sunday. The youth will perform a skit during the service and will help with greeting and ushering. Come and join us



Casey Cox
caseycox72@gmail.com

Tom Fitzpatrick
tfitzpa331@aol.com

Sally Hartzell
SaHartzell@aol.com

Karen Rose
KRose13995@gmail.com

Daryl Rotman
Rotman4@aol.com

Casey Leipheimer (Youth)
CLelip1428@gmail.com

Erin Meier (Youth)
Meier.Erin.E@gmail.com

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29th
12:00 (Lunch Provided)

Agenda Items

- Approve 2022 Annual Report
- Approve 2023 Budget
- Elect 2019 Nominating Committee
- Other

Food Cart Requests



Canned Meats,
Packaged Dinners,
package side dishes

All donations benefit
Lutheran Social Services

SNOW EMERGENCY

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.



Monday, Jan. 23

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Have a question or concern regarding our congregation?

Send an email to....

2023 Council Members

Julie Buck - Secretary
JaBuck67@hotmail.com

Casey Cox
caseycox72@gmail.com

Rob Leipheimer
RLeip@sbcglobal.net

Beth Meier
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Karen Rose
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Daryl Rotman— President
Rotman4@aol.com

Diana Salisbury
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Maria Schell
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Arlene Schriner
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Jeff Short—V. President
JShort@bright.net

Cindy Thompson
TThompson19@att.net

Janet Wobser
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Youth Representatives

Casey Leipheimer
CLelip1428@gmail.com

Erin Meier
Meier.Erin.E@gmail.com

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January Helping Hands



Newsletter Deadline
Monday, January 23rd
Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays by noon

LECTORS

Jan. 1
9:30— Traci Roth

Jan. 8
8:15— Marilyn Dunn
10:45— Cyndy Rotman

Jan. 15
8:15 — Tad Schell
10:45— Kristen Johnson

Jan. 22
8:15— Kathy Brooks
10:45— Arlene Powell

Jan. 29
8:15 -
10:45- Beth Meier

SOUND ROOM

Jan. 1
9:30

Jan. 8
8:15-
10:45-

Jan. 15
8:15
10:45

Jan. 22
8:15-
10:45

Jan. 29
8:15
10:45

ALTAR GUILD

Bob/Arlene Schriner
Elaine Miller

COUNTERS

Daryl and Cindy Rotman

LSS DELIVERY

Sharon Thompson

FLOWER DELIVERY

Karen Rose

COMMUNION BREAD

Jan. 1—Arlene Schriner
Jan. 8—Toni Poling
Jan. 15— Beth Bonnorant
Jan. 22—Susan Waltermeyer
Jan. 29—Karen Rose

DEACONS

9:30
1/1 - Paul Brooks
Marilynn Dunn

8:15
1/8- Paul Brooks
Marilynn Dunn
1/15- Sue DeMoss
1/22- Sue DeMoss
Kurt Ebersole
1/29- Mike Zawisza
?

10:45
1/8— Mike Zawisza
Steve Roth
1/15— Daryl Rotman
Kurt Ebersole
1/22— Mike Zawisza
Judy Kipker
1/29— Mike Zawisza
Judy Kipker

ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 1
Jan. 8
Jan. 15
Jan. 22- Janet Wobser
Jan. 29

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.

COOKIE SUNDAY

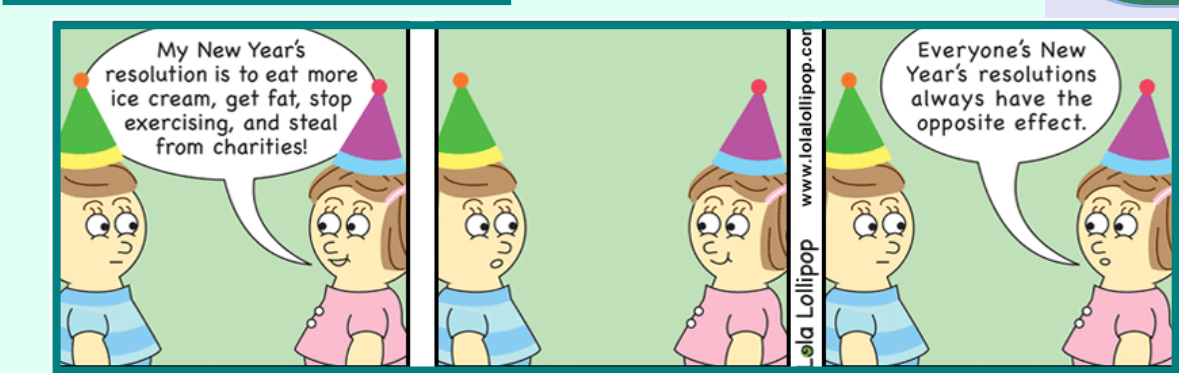
Jan. 1—Community Dinner
Jan. 8—Endowment/Finance
Jan. 15—Worship & Music
Jan. 22—Property
Jan. 29—Rachel Circle

DRIVERS

Jan. 1 - Jerry Bryant
Jan. 8— Mike Zawisza
Jan. 15— Aaron Ried
Jan. 22-



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Birthdays

Madison Kirk	1/1
Jason Polder	1/2
Denise Burson	1/3
Donna Mason	1/7
Brynlee Johnson	1/8
Lexington Sanders	1/9
Jerry Luth	1/10
Kaelee Mains	1/10
Chris Zawisza	1/12
Nancy Woodruff	1/13
Matt Morehart	1/14
Sharon Irons	1/15
Richard Polder	1/16
Lily Cox	1/17
Phillip Bash	1/18
David Gerber	1/18
Elizabeth Brossia	1/19
Shelby Dale	1/19
Mark Kirk	1/19
Jason Clark	1/20
Gregory Rakestraw	1/20
Susan Waltermeyer	1/20
Richard Kondik	1/21
Renee Smith	1/25
Steven Wilson	1/25
Bonnie Bosse	1/26
Judy Kipker	1/26
Jon Burnside	1/28
Amber Leipheimer	1/28
Kevin Breen	1/30
Mitchell Routson	1/30
Nathan Routson	1/30
Tracy August	1/31

Anniversaries

Steve & Cheryl Seibert 1/21/1995 28

Celebrations



109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Address Correction requested.



Mailed around
January 3, 2023



Moving One Step Closer to God.

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