

ELCA  
GOOD  
GIFTS

*This Christmas,*  
• GIVE ELCA GOOD GIFTS.

<https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts>



Advent, Christmas a busy but special time of year for most of us – planning, decorating, baking, buying gifts – all the while realizing God gave us a very special gift to all of us in Jesus, His Son.

Thinking of these happy times, I read about and see pictures of the devastation of the fires in California wondering how the people effected by the disaster will celebrate and cope with what they are experiencing.

How to help? By praying for them and also sharing any donation to Lutheran Disaster Response as this organization continues to aid people in many areas. Checks can be written to First Lutheran with LDR in the memo line and it will be sent directly to them to help in their recovery. It is so hard to imagine our whole town wiped out by such a disaster but we can help. Thank you in advance for any help you can give.

As a committee we have been so blessed to be a part of a congregation willing to share with others and help so many. We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas in thankfulness to God for His special gift.

Carolyn Bryant  
Social Ministry Chairperson

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**Prepare the Way of the Lord!**

## Christ Be Our Light - Taize

*"Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today."*

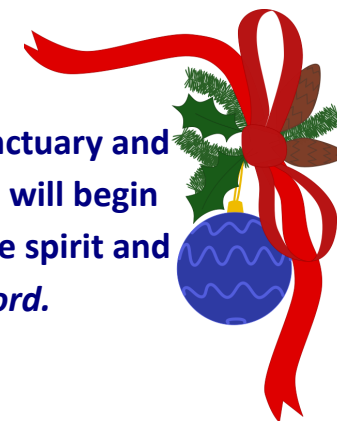


In addition to our Sunday services this season, Advent comes to First Lutheran this year in three midweek services. As a result of the ELCA Year of Prayer, the Evangelism Committee is sponsoring three Taize prayer services. Leave all the hubbub and join us for scripture, song, candle-light, peace, and quiet prayer as we prepare our hearts for the Savior.

*Services at 6:30 pm*

## *Join the Celebration.*

Help is needed to decorate the sanctuary and church on Saturday, December 1st. We will begin the festivities at 9:30. Bring your festive spirit and join us as we *prepare the way of the Lord*.



**Christmas**  
**CAROLING** for our At-Home members will be Sunday December 2nd. All are invited to enjoy lunch at our community dinner and then venture out at 1:00 to share the *Good News* with those confined to their homes.



# Come, Let Us Adore Him

## Christmas Eve Worship

Family Candlelight Worship 7:00 am

Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight Worship 10:30 pm

(Prelude music to begin at 6:30 & 10:00 pm)

## Love and Memory Tree

For over 10 years we have donated to our *Love and Memory Tree* in lieu of buying poinsettias. It is out of your grace that we are able to donate more than \$1,500 each year to our local Lutheran Social Services. LSS uses this donation to offer counseling to Hancock County residents and to fill the gaps in their local food pantry. What a great gift from our congregation to others in need.

Given by: (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate. You may attach this form to your check and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.





**EPIC Youth**

**Dec. 2**  
**Christmas Caroling after Community Dinner**

**Dec. 9**  
**Christmas Party**  
**Bring a donation of soap, deodorant, paper towels etc.**

**Dec. 16**  
**Bible Study/Discussion, Games, 6:00**

**Dec. 23, 30**  
**No EPIC—Merry Christmas, Happy New Year**

January  
6—Bible Study/  
Discussion/Games  
6:00

13—Movie Night TBA

20—Lock-in TBA

27—Service project  
Cooking & baking for  
Community Dinner

February  
2—(Saturday) TBA  
Make & sell subs for  
2021 Gathering

10—Bible Study/  
Discussion/Games  
6:00

17—Bible Study/  
Discussion/Games  
6:00

24—Bowling at AMF  
Sportsman's Lane  
2—4pm

Join us for  
Sunday School

6th—12 grades  
9:30 am  
Youth Room.

Confirmation

December

5, 12, 19

No Confirmation  
December 29th.



# Library News

I hope by now y'all have a copy of this year's **Preparing the Way** activity due by the Epiphany. Copies are available in the church library.

So now, welcome to my December newsletter full of all those articles I copied for use in the newsletter over this past year, but for which I had no space! I am cleaning the files. Here's what y'all get...a hodge-podge of information. **Oh...and it is time to turn in the Kindle readers you have borrowed so I can update and download new reads.** Thanks.

We all know the prayer that children use – “Now I lay me down to sleep...” But how many of us knew there was a second verse?

It goes like this:

*“Now I wake up to work.  
I pray the Lord I will not shirk.  
If I should die before the night,  
I pray the Lord my work's all right.”*  
New England Primer



The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you. Don't go back to sleep. – Rumi

Everyday habits that might harm your health:

**Reaching** for coffee first thing. Instead, hydrate first. Drink a glass of water.

**Getting** lazy with your toothbrush. Rinse your brush after each use, store it upright to dry, and occasionally soak it in antibacterial mouthwash.

**Consuming** hidden sugars. It is recommended that women ingest no more than 25 grams of sugar per day but the average American eats 82 grams. Some yogurts have as much 40 grams. Read the labels.

**Too** much texting. A prolonged head-forward posture can lead to “tech neck”. Discs become compressed, causing pain and a change in the spine's overall pattern. Try looking down at your phone with your eyes and not your head.

**Applying** sunscreen too sparingly. A T-shirt has an SPF of 8. If outside for extended periods of time, wear SPF-rated attire.

**Eating** lunch at your desk. Shut down your screens, chew slowly, and focus on your meal.

**Ignoring** stress. A good model of stress management is to be troubled; do something about it and get beyond it. A bad model is to avoid it and let it accumulate.

Spending as little as \$5 on someone else could make us significantly happier.

Physically joining in to do volunteer work is worth it. Acts of kindness toward individuals can reduce your risk of illnesses such as cardiovascular disease and rheumatoid arthritis. If you are thinking, “I just don't have the energy and the headspace to be like those cheery volunteers,” that's totally fine...but try anyway. With enough repetition, the benefits appear.

All of us in the Brooks Household wish you a joyous and blessed Christmas holiday and a New Year full of peace and good health.

Paul and Kathy Brooks, Phil Tuttle and Brook West



**Tuesday, December 4th**

**11:30 at Café Marie's**

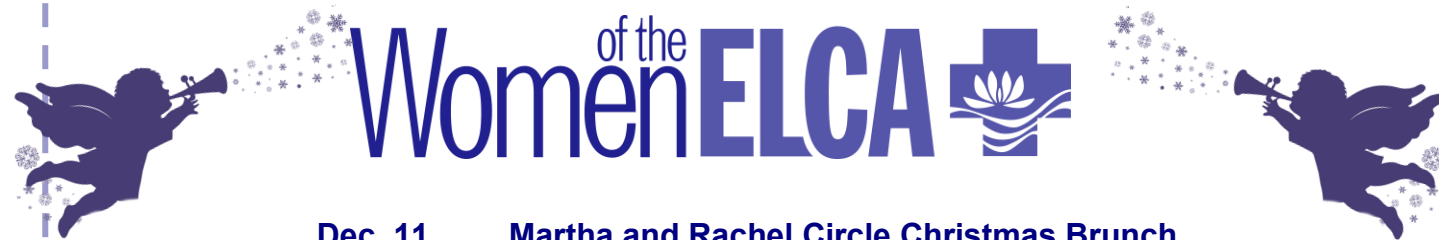
**All are invited to join the fun!**

### 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.



**Dec. 11 Martha and Rachel Circle Christmas Brunch**

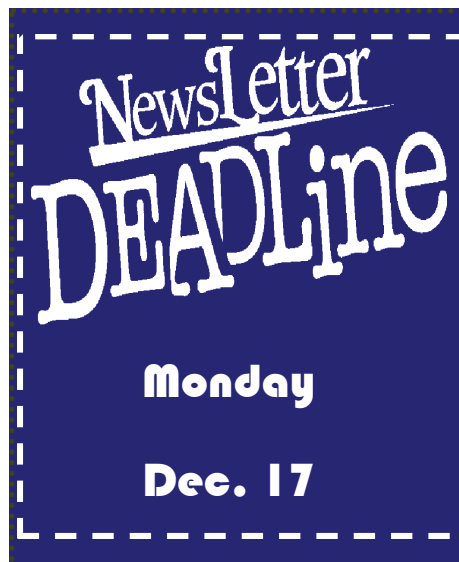
**9:30am Fellowship Hall**

**Dec, 17 Hannah Circle Christmas Party**

**Home of Maria Schell, 7:00pm**

**Dec. 30 Cookie Sunday, Hannah Circle**

I would like to thank all the women who took part in the Thank Offering Sunday.  
A job well done! *Eileen Mains*



### Food Cart Requests



**Laundry Soap,  
cleaning supplies,  
potato mixes**

**All donations benefit  
Lutheran Social Services.**

*The cart is in the coat room.*

**December's  
Noisy Offering benefits**



## Project Linus



After 21 years, as I told you in the last newsletter, I am retiring as the Project Linus Coordinator. There are a few folks who have expressed interest in this position, but we are still working out the details.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the many quilters, knitters, crocheters, and fleece tie-ers (of all ages!) who have contributed to the nearly 8,000 blankets distributed to surrounding hospitals, shelters, disaster relief efforts, and, sometimes, just individual children in need. That's what Project Linus is all about. So, from small beginnings at the Fall 1997 WELCA Salad Smorgasbord to now, thanks to all the blanketeers, whether you made blankets, sewed on labels, transported blankets to hospitals, participated in a Make a Blanket Day, or donated yarn or fabric, I couldn't have done it without all of you.

James says it best (James 2:18, 26) "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show my faith by what I do...As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." So, thanks to all my FLC Blanketeers! You have truly made a difference in the lives of children locally, nationally, and around the world. —Jane Ebersole

### Congratulations to our newly elected council members

**Tim Franks, Rob Leipheimer, Karen Rose and Jeff Short.**

#### Our 2019 Council members are as follows:

Julie Buck - JaBuck67@hotmail.com  
Casey Cox - caseycox72@gmail.com  
Cindy Fitzpatrick - cbrenfitz@aol.com  
Tim Franks - TFranks75@hotmail.com  
Rob Leipheimer - aleip@sbcglobal.net  
Greg Johnson - gregjohnson05@yahoo.com  
Cynthia Napier - NapierCynthia222@yahoo.com  
Karen Rose - karl3995@frontier.com  
Daryl Rotman - Rotman4@aol.com  
Jeff Short - Jshort@brigt.net  
Alex Treece - AlexTreece@yahoo.com  
Jenny Welte - jbwelte@ffrontier.com

#### Serving Our Congregation:

Senior Pastor: Bob Cochran flcpastor@hotmail.com  
Assistant: Chris Dittmar cdit668995@aol.com  
Administrative Assistant: Nina Dukes  
flcfindlay@gmail.com  
Building Manager: Wayne Dukes  
waynedukes@hotmail.com  
Assistant Building Manager: Josh Leopold  
Brass Choir Director: Diane Adler  
Kids Kingdom Directors: Sally Rice, Heather Nielsen,  
and Jenny Welte  
Financial Secretary: Daryl Rotman  
Treasurer: Tom Basinger  
Organist: Miriam Gibson  
Sr. Choir Director: Jane Eakin



# Christmas Eve

## Candlelight Worship

7:00 & 10:30pm

(Prelude Music begins 30 minutes prior to each service)

Sun	2	Mon	3	Tues	4	Wed	5	Thurs	6	Fri	7	Sat	8
													1-Dec 9:30am Christmas Decorating
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 11:30am Community Dinner 1pm Christmas Caroling 1pm EPIC Caroling	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Worship & Music	10:30am Pastors Lunch 4pm Riehm Farm 7pm Book Club 7pm Grounded in Prayer	11:30am NAMI 6:30pm Taize Prayer 7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Sr. Choir	5:30 Walker/Vollmar Rehearsal 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	12:30pm Walker/ Vollmar Wedding 1:30pm Member Event 3pm Sunday School Practice							
Noisy Offering 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Children's Program 11:45 Youth Committee 6pm EPIC Christmas Party	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Almost Home 7pm Social Ministry	9:30am Martha & Rachel Brunch 7pm Grounded in Prayer 7:30pm Finance	6:30pm Taize Prayer 7pm Confirmation 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	4:30pm Organ 6pm BSA 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly								
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 6pm EPIC Youth	12:00 Newsletter Deadline 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Hannah Circle	1:30pm Staff Meeting 4pm Riehm Farm	6:30pm Taize Prayer 7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly								
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School NO EPIC Youth	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7:00 & 10:30 pm	Merry Christmas Office Closed	7pm NO Confirmation Office Closed	4:30pm Organ 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly								
9:30 Worship No Sunday School No EPIC	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	Office Closed 7pm Book Club	9:30 Newsletter Assembly 11:30am NAMI 7pm NO Confirmation										

2018

## December Volunteers

### LECTORS

Dec. 2-  
8:15-Kathy Brooks  
10:45-Tim Franks

Dec. 9  
8:15-Acolytes  
10:45-Acolytes

Dec. 16  
8:15-Jeff Kamm  
10:45-Amber Leipheimer

Dec. 23  
8:15-Tad Schell  
10:45

Dec. 24  
7:00-Elaine Timbrook  
10:30  
12/25 9:30-Shirley Gerber  
Dec. 30 -

### GREETERS

Dec. 2-  
8:15-Paul & Kathy Brooks  
10:45-Franks Family

Dec. 9  
8:15-Dave & Janet Wobser  
10:45-Kids of the Kingdom

Dec. 16  
8:15-Jeff & Jennifer Kamm  
10:45-Leipheimer Family

Dec. 23  
8:15-Tom & Linda Mitchell  
10:45

Dec. 24  
7:00  
10:30  
Dec. 30  
9:30- Dave & Shirley Gerber

Newsletter Deadline  
December 17  
Bulletin Deadline  
Wednesdays by noon

### ACOLYTES

Dec. 2-  
8:15-Christian Nielsen  
10:45-Abbey Zawisza, Shelby Dale

Dec. 9  
8:15-Madison Essman, Zach McRill  
10:45-Margaret Meyer, Erin Meyer

Dec. 16  
8:15-Zach McRill  
1-:45-Abbey Zawisza, Shelby Dale

Dec. 23  
8:15- Madison Essman  
10:45-Seth Franks

Dec. 24  
7:00/10:30-Please call Pastor Bob

Dec. 30  
9:30-

### SOUND ROOM

Dec. 2-  
8:15-  
10:45-

Dec. 9  
8:15  
10:45

Dec. 16  
8:15  
1-:45

Dec. 23  
8:15  
10:45

Dec. 24th  
7:00  
10:30

Dec. 30

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 2- Surprise  
Dec. 9- Barb Larick  
Dec. 16-Mike & Chris Meyer  
Dec. 23-Todd & Cindy Thompson  
Dec. 30-Dennis & Toni Poling

Forms for your bulletin  
announcement are available  
on the bulletin board and at  
[1stLutheranChurch.org](http://1stLutheranChurch.org).  
Flowers need to be delivered to the  
church by noon on Friday.

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS 8:15/10:45

Dec. 2- Tim Franks  
Dec. 9- Tim Cochran  
Dec. 16-Pastor Chris Dittmar  
Dec. 23-Tim Franks/Traci Roth  
Dec. 24-Tim Franks/Traci Roth  
Dec. 30-Pastor Chris Dittmar

### DRIVERS

Dec. 2- Jerry Bryant  
Dec. 9- Mike Zawisza  
Dec. 16- Aaron Ried  
Dec. 23- Pam Cochran  
Dec. 30- Jerry Bryant

### DEACONS

Sue DeMoss, Tad Schell, Steve Roth  
Daryl Rotman, Dean Bowser

### USHERS 8:15

Dave Wobser, Aaaon Ried, Jim Schoerger,  
Richard Ruehle, Nick Thomas

### ALTAR GUILD

Fitzpatrick, Renee Smith

### COUNTERS

Jerry Luth, Cyndy Rotman

### LSS DELIVERY

Marty Schmidt

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Marilynn Dunn

### COMMUNION BREAD

Dec. 2-Karen Rose  
Dec. 9-Amber Leipheimer  
Dec. 16-Jennie Treece  
Dec. 23-Elaine Timbrook  
Dec. 24-Dawn Franks, Renee Smith  
Dec. 30-Janet Wobser

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dec. 2-Tim & Dawn Franks  
Dec. 9-  
Dec. 16-  
Dec. 23-Merry Christmas  
Dec. 30-

### COOKIE SUNDAY

Dec. 2-Community Dinner  
Dec. 9-Stewardship/Evangelism  
Dec. 16-Christian Ed/Youth  
Dec. 23-Council



## Birthdays

Amy Tabler	12/5
Jack Taylor	12/6
Nick Thomas	12/8
Samuel Fruchey	12/11
Chance Rossman	12/12
Sally Hartzell	12/13
Carolyn Howe	12/13
John Adler	12/15
Zachary Thompson	12/15
Thomas Fitzpatrick	12/16
Elizabeth Kutschbach	12/16
Pamela Basinger	12/18
Rob Leipheimer	12/18
Stefanie VanAtta	12/18
Ann Fifolt	12/19
Karon Makrancy	12/20
Lesley Betts	12/21
Rebecca Huff	12/21
Brandon Maas	12/21
Zoe Thompson	12/21
Ryan Buck	12/22
Nikki Needles	12/22
Kurt Ebersole	12/23
Carol Peters	12/23
Beth Maurer	12/24
Al Stacy	12/24
Cynthia Habegger	12/25
John Kapostasy	12/25
Michael Meyer	12/25
Jeff Wobser	12/25
Nathan Adler	12/27
Miriam Gibson	12/27
Glen McCann	12/27
David Otte	12/29
Chris Dudics	12/31
Ashley Rakestraw	12/31
Joseph Spoon	12/31

## Baptisms

Marilynn Dunn	12/9
Laura Leopold	12/10
Jon Burnside	12/11
Anthony Neiling	12/11
Harper Cleary	12/14
Oliver Cleary	12/14
Samantha Franks	12/14
Karen Rose	12/20
Judy Routson	12/20
Larry Borger	12/21
Martha Schmidt	12/22
Sara Cleary	12/23
Allison May	12/24
Toni Poling	12/24
Wendy Price	12/24
Jim Schoerger	12/24
Alec Bonnoront	12/25
Lindsay Elchert	12/25
John Eakin	12/27
Melissa Sanders	12/27
Cynthia Rotman	12/28
Cindy Thompson	12/28
Carole Wittenberg	12/28
Philip Maurer	12/29

## Anniversaries

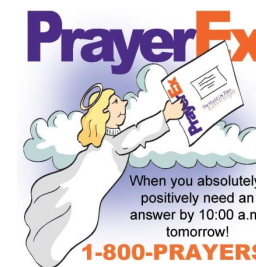
Michael & Sharon Thompson	12/19/1970	48
Larry & Virginia Borger	12/28/1968	50
Bartley & Beverly Pardee	12/29/1950	68
Aaron & Linda Ried	12/30/1994	24

December Celebrations

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

Current Resident or:

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



Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45am; Sunday School



This newsletter was mailed:  
November 27th  
Give or take a day



Taize Service of Prayer  
December 5, 12, & 19  
at 6:30



Family Service of Candlelight at 7:00 pm  
Prelude music to begin at 6:30  
Lessons, Carols and Candlelight at 10:30 pm  
Prelude music to begin at 10:00