



November 2023

### Bread of Life Series: From Scoffer to Baker

From discussing our spiritual diet to talking about scoffing through our days. The spiritual diet I wrote about last month pulled us into a mentality of how we are caring for our spiritual body/self, an often overlooked part of our beings. However, scoffing we surely know about in our lives. The little quips and intrusive thoughts that bounce around in our minds whenever we disagree with how someone is doing something, the way someone dresses, if someone does something worse or maybe even better than ourselves but we can not help but get annoyed. The scoffing is the release of our wounded pride or ego. It is how we deal with a perceived, often imagined, assault on our character and life. The other individual may not be focused on us at all and are just living their life, however, it comes across to us as a slight.

It can be difficult to live up to our own expectations and even more difficult to live up to our perceived expectations of Jesus and what it “means to be a Christian”. Too often do we create unrealistic rules and regulations for how someone has to live a life for Christ and through doing this we then create a version of Christianity that is perversely affected by our sin and our ego. At the core of our faith we are commanded to do three things from Jesus. Matthew 22:34–40; Mark 12:28–34; Luke 10:25–28 all give us the same two commandments that we are to hang all other laws and commandments on, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Jesus later, after his resurrection but before his ascension, changes the second commandment “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). Then we have the great commission from Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Christ calls us into three things, loving God, loving neighbor, and baptizing people while teaching them to love God and love their neighbor. We are not called to judge or condemn others. We are not called into a full time profession of scoffing at others or sitting in a cynical mindset for all our days. We are commanded to be optimists. To love without distinction and to teach others to love without distinction. Through this love we find freedom of the mind and heart from the bonds and chains of this world that seeks to weigh us down. Our sinful nature as humans pits us against us while our faith encourages us to unite. At the beginning I mentioned our unrealistic rules and expectations. We often think we should be “better” but God fully knows that we are sinful and broken. Rather than wallowing in our sinfulness let us realize that every single one of us is sinful so how great is it that God, in knowing that, gave us the free gift of grace, forgiveness, and redemption! Be filled with the joy of forgiveness and new life that we live into our three commandments from Christ, so that all people may know we are Christian by the love that we show which passes all understanding.

Pax et Bonum,  
Pastor Tucker

Three discussion questions to hold onto through the next month.

- 1) Are there any areas of life where you are prone to scoffing or cynicism?
- 2) How can you turn from it?
- 3) What could it look like to be full of the godly freedom that allows you to act with faith and good will toward the jobs God has given you to do and the people God put around you?



### New Members Are Joining

Please welcome new members who joined our family here at First on November 5th.

They are:

**Andrea & Chip Altman**  
Ethan and Amelia

**Carroll & Edna Gossard**

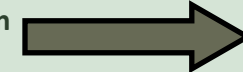
**Deb Kania**

**Mike Elwood & Melissa Sanders**  
Jacob

**Brent Warren**

Their contact information will be listed in the Church Directory soon.

If you do not have the online Church Directory on your phone, it is free, easy to download and extremely handy.



VIEW OUR  
**CHURCH  
DIRECTORY**  
ON YOUR MOBILE  
DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad  
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



Visit Our Website  
[www.1stLutheranChurch.org](http://www.1stLutheranChurch.org)

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# Library News

As I compose and type this contribution, I must point out that we actually turned on the heat throughout the house yesterday (October 8). As we did so, I was reminded of the goofy contest that my ex and his friends would have while I lived in Kenton – who can last the longest without touching the ON button for the heat in the house? The winner won nothing but admiration for being tough? I wonder if the other wives did the same as I...”This is silly. I’m cold. The heat is going on,” I would announce. I don’t think my ex ever won except for the year our thermo-couple needed replacement and we had no heat 😊

I have not done as much reading as I would have liked this past month. After my day with Cece, she sent me home with two books she loved and wanted me to read by Colleen Hoover, It Ends With Us and It Starts With Us. (I have always tried to read what my nieces, nephews and grandchildren are reading along with the recommended books by our adult “kids”.) These two books were quite eye-opening reads. The two books center around a woman who ends up in an abusive marriage. In the beginning, the dating was fun and the sex was thrilling. (Wow! I still cringe as I type that last part of the sentence. ) And then the abuse begins, always followed by make-up sex.

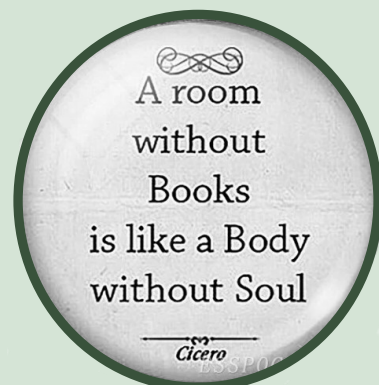
Are you getting uncomfortable with this book’s summary? You now know how I felt reading what my 14-year-old granddaughter wanted me to read. Yes, I finished both books; after all, so had she. And then the texts back and forth between us began. She and I talked about sex; that it is not always ripping off clothes in frantic passion; it is caring and loving concern for the other. We talked about love; the looking after the other; the concern. We talked about the care of self in a relationship; how to get help for the abuser and for self.

Okay. By now you have the general idea of my point in these paragraphs. No point ranting and carrying on about the “trash” she was reading. She had already read the books. All I could do was clarify. I prayed a lot, before, during, and after each text. She is still reading Hoover’s books, I bet, but, hopefully with a little adult wisdom. Thanks for “listening.”

Now I am reading The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride for our Toledo, Defiance, Findlay and now the state of Oregon book club. (Yes, sadly, one of our members moved to Oregon.) The novel “tells the story of Black and Jewish residents of the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown, PA. in the 1920’s and ‘30’s.” The story is indeed a “good read”. However, McBride’s

sentence structure is even more interesting; he can write a lengthy one sentence paragraph giving simple background into the event that begins the paragraph. All the clauses are joined by “if,” “and,” “however,” “because,” “while”... that one-paragraph sentence would be a diagrammer’s nightmare... or wildest dream. His style is easy to follow. The story is entertaining. Can’t wait for the book discussion next week.

**Just love everyone.  
I will sort them out later.  
-- GOD**



# Women of the ELCA

## WELCA Calendar of Events for November

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

**Tuesday, November 14** – Martha Circle – 9:00 am, church library

Hostess – Carolyn Wilde, Leader –Carolyn Wilde

**Tuesday, November 14**– Rachel Circle – 1:00 pm, church lounge

Hostess – Donna Mason, Leader – Shirley Gerber

**November 19** – ThankOffering Sunday

**Monday, November 20**– Hannah Circle – 7:00 pm, church lounge

Hostess – Arlene Shriner, Leader – Kathy Brooks

**Sunday, November 26** – Cookie Sunday – Hannah Circle

**Sunday, November 26** – Start Advent Food Collection

**November 29** – WELCA Board - 10:00 am – Planning for February Social

*A Big Thank you to all who donated new underwear for the NWOH WELCA Assembly.*



## L.I.F.T.

### Living in Faith and Trust

L.I.F.T. will meet on Tuesday, November 21 at **11:45**, please take note of the time change. Starting 15 minutes later will allow for those who want to attend the 11:30 Sacred Daily in the church chapel. Bring a brown bag lunch and relax before the holiday weekend.

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



A gigantic thank you goes out to all that helped in anyway with our fall rummage sale. We raised \$1,494.05. Proceeds went to Christian Clearing House to help fund their Sip Bowl Project, ELCA Disaster Relief for Maui, and the ELCA Good Gifts. Seed money for the rummage sale was provided through Thrivent Action Teams.

—Mary Lou McCann





WELCA is again sponsoring the Reverse Advent Food Collection starting December 1st. All families are invited to donate a box of food. Donations will be taken to the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. If you would like, buy multiple items of the same type, instead of one of each, example: 12 cans of beans and 12 cans of canned tuna or 6 boxes of stuffing, 6 boxes of mac & cheese and 6 boxes of crackers. Lutheran Social Services are serving more clients than before and appreciate all the items donated.



Wayne and Nina Dukes are planning to enter semi-retirement starting on January 2, 2024. This means the church office and building will only be open from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. If you need access to the church facilities after 12:00, please call the church office to make arrangements.

Nina's full retirement is scheduled for June 20, 2024, and Wayne's full retirement will follow on December 31, 2024.

We kindly ask for your prayers and support for Wayne, Nina, and the church during the year 2024 as they transition into



*It's a Girl*

Women and girls  
of the church are Invited  
on December 10th  
at 3:00 in Fellowship Hall  
for a baby Shower for  
Brittani O'Leary.



# Stewardship 101



## Herr Professor Schtuwardt's Tip

### Tithing

#### "My Tithing Test"

**"All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord."** (Lev. 27:30) This was the rule set down in the Old Testament law codes. Ten per cent of income was to be dedicated to the Lord.

But as the New Testament makes clear, in Christ we are free from the law's requirements. So how should we approach our offerings now that the tithe is no longer required?

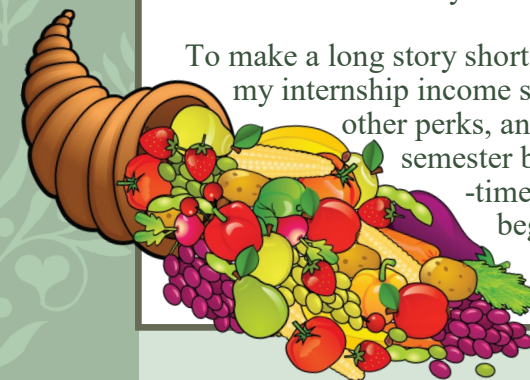
The principle of proportionate giving certainly still makes sense. **"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required,"** Jesus said (Luke 12:48). But what proportion is appropriate when we live in Christian freedom? Can it be any less than what the law required?

I faced this question the first time I had what might be called a steady income, during my year of seminary internship at a church in Topeka, Kansas. Actually, it was just called a "living allowance," but with it came the question: How much, if any, should I give back to the Lord through the church?

It would have been easy to say, "Not much." After all, my seminary years were lean years. I didn't even have a car when I moved to Topeka (got around town on a bicycle my first three months), and I had to save up for my last year of seminary tuition as well. But I thought, "If I'm going to preach about proportionate giving and encourage the tithe as a guideline, I should at least practice the same myself." So this was my test: I would give 10% of my living allowance back to my internship church. This amounted to \$5.00 a week.

To make a long story short, I got a good deal on a used car and was able to pay it off before my internship income stopped. People in the congregation were generous with meals and other perks, and I had enough resources to pay my first semester back at the sem. The problem was my second semester. I had a part-time on-campus job, but that wouldn't begin to cover the tuition. I began to think it had been a mistake to try tithing when I was still in the middle of paying for school.

*(continued on page3)*



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But in December I received a Christmas card from an elderly couple in the Topeka church, and in it was a check that was close to covering what I needed for tuition! It was several times more than what my tithe had been for that internship year. This couple never did anything like that again, but they said later that they had felt moved to give me a gift that year since they had no children of their own.

The prophet Malachi said, **"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."** (3:10)

I have found this to be true ever since that Christmas of my last year in seminary. We have not been what would be called "rich," but we have had all we need, and even more. It is a matter of trust. If we give our firstfruits to the Lord, in proportion to what the Lord has given us, we can trust that the Lord will make what is left meet our needs. In my case, the Lord passed the test.

- Pastor Art Wilde

**Yust imagine! Fragrant yeascht rolls baking in der hoven! Mmmmmm. Sehr gut! Dat ist vaht Gott's blessinks are like. Yeascht rolls! When we give to Gott, his blessinks offerflow and grow and echsphand into greater blessinks! And diese are fragrant and schweet too!! As you bake das rolls, tink of Gott's endless blessinks as we tithe!**

## November - Tithe

### Dinner Rolls

1 cup warm water

2 tbsp. sugar

1 tsp. salt

1 pkg. yeast

Combine the above and let stand 2 minutes

Combine with the following:

1 egg, 2 tbsp. melted. butter and 3 cups of flour; Knead - let raise once.

Punch down lightly and break off desired bun size and place on a greased baking sheet. Cover and let rise again. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Bruch tops with butter when fresh out of the oven.

Bun variations:

1. Make dough into a small bun-sized cake pan or pie plate. Let rise and bake as above.
2. Take a muffin tin and place three small balls of dough in each greased tin to make t-rolls. Let rise and bake as above.

**"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." (Malachi 3:10)**



# Worship & Music



Looking for 12 men or women who might be interested in taking a part in the Last Supper Reenactment during Holy Week. Anyone interested in helping out, please call Steve and Traci Roth at 419-722-5312 or email Traci at [dragonroth@gmail.com](mailto:dragonroth@gmail.com).



### We Need Your Help Manning the Sound Board

The sound system is an essential part of the church experience. We enhance the music and hymns, we magnify the Pastors, Assistants and Lecturers. Any Confirmed member of the Church, either young or old, can be taught how to run our simple system. The operation most Sundays is pushing the correct buttons to turn on the Microphones for the Pastor, Assistant, Lecturers and choir.

We are looking for help with 8:15 and 10:45 services. Please prayerfully consider signing up and help out with this essential part of our Worship service. For those interested, sign up on the bulletin board or call, text or email Tim Roth 419-957-1489 [deceptibot.tw@gmail.com](mailto:deceptibot.tw@gmail.com)

And the view from the birds nest (sound board) is quite amazing.

Social Ministry will again help with the collection of Coats for Christmas drive. The blue box will be in the hallway beginning Nov. 1 until November 29th when they will be taken for cleaning. Hats and gloves will also be collected. This year to help with the request for blankets to be given away we will also collect new or gently used blankets at the same time as the Coat drive. We learned there is a great need for blankets to be given to those in need.

Please help with these projects. Think how important staying warm means to you. Let us help others. This is another way of doing God's work with our hands.



**The Altar Guild  
Needs YOU!!**

Do you have about 30 minutes a week for one or two months a year? If you do, and you like to work with candles, altar paraments and dusters, then the Altar Guild is for you! The commitment for a member of the Altar Guild is to maintain our altar in the sanctuary and in the chapel with an Altar Guild partner for one month. The Altar Guild has NOTHING to do with Communion preparation or clean up! The members dust, fill the candles, and make sure the correct color of altar paraments adorn the altar. All this activity takes about 30 minutes a week and can be completed on Friday or Saturday. New members will be paired with an existing member for training. Husband and wife teams are very welcome!! Think about it and contact Cindy Fitzpatrick, Chairman, at 419-348-0410 or [fitzpatrick@findlay.edu](mailto:fitzpatrick@findlay.edu).



### Food Cart Requests

**Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Soup**

All donations benefit LSS  
*The cart is in the coat room*





# At First

PLEASE JOIN US

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
November 19 11:00  
Elect Church Council Members

**LUNCH with the PASTOR**  
Wednesday, Nov. 8th  
12:00 at Scramblers

**Advent**



Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 2nd, at 9:30 am. We will be preparing our church for the Advent/Christmas season. Come join us in decorating.

**Thanksgiving Eve** WORSHIP SERVICE  
Join Trinity, St. John's And First Lutheran  
November 22nd, 7:00  
At First Lutheran Church

**High School Sunday School**  
The High School Sunday School meets separate from the adults downstairs in the Open Tomb every Sunday at 9:30. The class is looking at challenges, setbacks, and struggles that students are likely to face over the course of the school year. And we have food and drinks, Come check us out. Questions??? Contact Randy Buck at [rlbuck2@frontier.com](mailto:rlbuck2@frontier.com)

**2023 Altar Flower Chart**  
The 2023 Flower Chart is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There are 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.

## SERVICE & CELEBRATIONS

December Newsletter Deadline  
Monday, November 20th  
Weekly Bulletin Deadline  
Wednesday Mornings

### ALTAR GUILD

Julie Buck, Amber Leipheimer

### COMMUNION BREAD

Nov. 5—Janet Wobser  
Nov. 12—Cindy Thompson  
Nov. 19—Suzanne Kirk  
Nov. 23—  
Nov. 26—Jane Ebersole

### COOKIE SUNDAY

Nov. 5—Community Dinner  
Nov. 12—Christ. Ed/Youth  
Nov. 19—Evangelism/Stewardship  
Nov. 26—Martha Circle

### COUNTERS

Randy & Julie Buck

### DEACONS

Nov. 5  
8:15—Paul Brooks  
10:45—Evan Pitt, Judy Kipker  
Nov. 12  
8:15—Marilynn Dunn  
10:45—Evan Pitt, Bob Schriner

Nov. 19

8:15 - Janet Wobser  
10:45— Judy Kipker, \_\_\_\_\_  
Nov. 23—7:00  
7:00—Paul Brooks

Nov. 26

8:15 Janet Wobser  
10:45—Evan Pitt, Pastor Art

### DRIVERS

Nov. 5— Jerry Bryant  
Nov. 12 - Mike Zawisza  
Nov. 19 – Aaron Ried  
Nov. 26 -Jerry Bryant

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Sally Hartzell

### LECTORS

Nov. 5  
8:15—Marilynn Dunn  
10:45- Beth Meier  
Nov. 12  
8:15— Elaine Miller  
10:45— Arlene Schriner  
Nov. 19  
8:15— Cyndy Rotman  
10:45— Cyndy Rotman

Nov. 26

8:15-Kathy Brooks  
10:45—Nina Dukes

### LSS DELIVERY

Carolyn Wilde

### SOUND ROOM

8:15—Tim Roth—all Month  
10:45  
Nov. 5- Jerry Bryant  
Nov. 12 - Falkyn Roth  
Nov. 19- Toni Poling  
Nov. 23—7:00 - \_\_\_\_\_  
Nov. 26—Steve Roth

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Nov. 5  
8:15—Tim Cochran  
10:45—  
Nov. 12  
P. Chris, P Tucker  
Nov. 19  
WELCA  
Nov. 26  
Daryl Rotman

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Nov. 5—Lee Hardesty  
Nov. 12—  
Nov. 19— Tad & Maria Schell  
Nov. 26—Daryl & Cyndy Rotman

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.

## Happy Birthday


Ryan Nunn	11/1
Jim Schoerger	11/1
Mary Beth Dillon	11/4
Jeremiah Tatum	11/4
Cindy Thompson	11/4
Gary May	11/7
Carole Wittenberg	11/7
Brent Fruchey	11/8
Phoebe Treece	11/8
Steve Seibert	11/9
Dillon Timbrook	11/9
Deborah Baker	11/11
Gary Woodruff	11/12
Gabby Cox	11/13
Paul Brooks	11/15
Kim Peplinski	11/15
Carolyn Wilde	11/18
James Routson	11/19
Larry Borger	11/21
Timothy Roth	11/21
Christian Dittmar	11/22
Jeffrey Short	11/24
Wesley Rodman	11/25
Dorothy Freeland	11/26
Shirley Gerber	11/26
Allison May	11/26
Emily Meier	11/26
Virginia May	11/27
Craig Meier	11/27
Sara Cleary	11/29
Arlene Schriner	11/30

## HAPPY Anniversary!

Kevin & Karen Breen	11/7/1987	36
Jerry & Judith Luth	11/12/1966	57



# November 2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed 1-Nov	Thu 2	Fri 3	Sat 4
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 8:15am & 10:45 9:30am Catechism 9:30am Sunday School 11:30am Community Dinner	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Worship & Music	11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Book Club 7pm Organ Lesson	11:30am Sacred Daily 12pm Pastor's lunch 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	11:30am Sacred Daily 2pm SNAP 4pm Organ Rhsl 7pm Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 8:15am & 10:45 9:30am Catechism 9:30am Sunday School	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	11:30am Sacred Daily 9am Martha Circle 1:30pm Rachel Circle 7pm Organ Lesson 7:30pm Finance	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily 2pm SNAP 4pm Organ Rhsl 6pm BSA 7pm Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
ThankOffering Worship 8:15am & 10:45 9:30am Catechism 9:30am Sunday School 12pm Congregational Meeting	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 12pm Newsletter Deadline 7pm Hannah Circle	11:30am Sacred Daily 11:45am LIFT 7pm Organ Lesson	11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship	Thanksgiving Day 11:30am Sacred Daily 4pm Organ Rhsl 7pm Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
26	27	28	29	30	1-Dec	2
Worship 8:15am & 10:45	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily	10am WELCA Board	11:30am Sacred Daily		9:30am Decorate Church

  
 109 E. Lincoln Street  
 Findlay, OH 45840

Current Resident or:

  
 Mailed around  
 October 31st

Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45

Sunday School 9:30



join us for  
**THANKSGIVING  
EVE  
SERVICE**  
 7:00 at First Lutheran Church

[www.1stLutheranChurch.org](http://www.1stLutheranChurch.org)

419-422-2638