

Vision

2020-21 STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS



All Aboard!

The Steward Ship

Ever wanted to go on a cruise around the world? Take a voyage to exotic ports of call, learning new things and experiencing the excitement and wonder of God's world? Well, this is your chance! Our 2020-21 stewardship theme is **"All Aboard the StewardShip!"** Come on aboard and join us for the trip of a lifetime! But first, you'll need to fly down to Miami, the Cruise Ship Capital of the World!

Miami ...is indeed the cruise ship capital of the world! Some 43 million passengers go through this port to points all over the world. But don't go from the airport to the port without seeing beautiful Miami and Miami Beach. Spend some time at the largest Art Deco area in America, South Beach. Stop in the magnificent Fountainbleu Hotel. Coral Gables, developed by George Merrick in the 20's, is the home of the Biltmore Hotel and also Venetian Pool. Take a trip over to Key Biscayne and enter Cape Florida, the site of the famous lighthouse built in 1825. Old you say? How about the Old Spanish Monastery in North Miami, built in the 12th century and brought piece by piece from Spain by William Randolph Hearst. But whatever you see, enjoy the palm trees, the sunshine and year round beautiful weather of Miami.

"When I was a young boy," I remember the temperatures got down to the 40s, and we were bracing for a hard winter. The Miami Herald declared, "My Am I" cold! That stuck with me. Now I hope it sticks with you, regardless of the weather! Think about Stewardship. Can we say we are looking forward to the new year with anticipation? Can we say **MY-AM-I** excited about Stewardship? Or **MY-AM-I** looking forward for my opportunity to serve? To give? To celebrate God's blessings and opportunities as a disciple? Can you say **MY-AM-I** glad to be a part of this Church that not only ministers to me but to people in Findlay and as far away as Africa and Asia and other places we cannot go? I hope that you will someday be able to go to Miami and then take a cruise to the Caribbean, Mexico or even Europe. But even more so I hope and pray that you will get on board the StewardShip of the Church of Jesus Christ and see what new and exciting opportunities God is opening for you and his people." - Pastor Chris

MY-AM-I EXCITED ABOUT STEWARDSHIP!



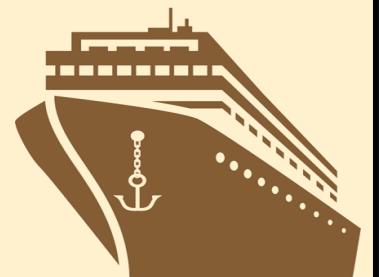
While in Miami, check out the work of the Lutheran Services of Florida. Like our own **Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio**, these organizations provide care and support for those in need, such as behavioral health and counseling, a food pantry and various other ministries. These organizations are among the more than 300 Lutheran agencies throughout the U.S. that form the **Lutheran Services in America**. In 1997, Lutheran social ministry organizations united—along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod—to form Lutheran Services in America. With over \$21 billion in annual revenue, Lutheran Services in America is now one of the country's largest nonprofit organizations. Lutheran Services in America members provide services to seniors, children, youth and families, refugees, people with disabilities, veterans and those affected by disasters—making a difference in the lives of one in 50 Americans every year. The work takes place in communities rural and urban and serves all—regardless of faith, race, ethnicity or background. And you, through your faithful stewardship, support these blessed ministries.

Are you **EXCITED** yet?

Sunday October 18 is StewardShip Sunday!

All aboard!

- 2021 Commitment cards will be distributed *by mail* to all members the first week of October. Please fill these forms out and bring them to worship on October 18 or 25. If we do not receive your card by October 31, we will send another card to you. Please help us by seeing that we receive all cards by Oct. 31.
- StewardShip Sunday will kick off our around-the-world tour of stewardship for 2021. Pastor Chris will preach on Matthew 22: 15-22.
- If you are not able to attend worship, please be aware that an electronic version of the commitment card will be available online.
- And as always, remember that this is an estimate of giving, not a pledge or contract. Circumstances in your life may change that will require a reduction in giving...or an increase!
- The tour begins in a few days. Are you ready? This DOES sound exciting!



All Aboard! The Steward Ship

Because of the fluid situation all dates, places, and times are subject to change.

WELCA Calendar of Events for September

Hannah Circle is in-service for the month of September.

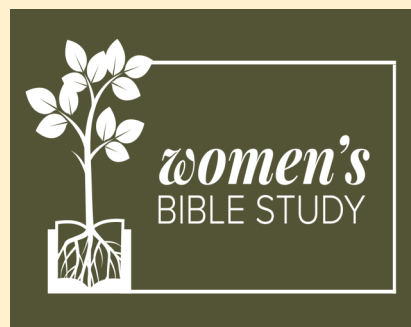
Oct. 5 WELCA Board – Thankoffering Service Planning, 1:00 pm

Oct. 13 Martha Circle, 9:00 am in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Sue DeMoss
Leader: Jane Ebersole

Oct. 13 Rachel Circle, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall
Hostess: Janet Baker
Leader: Joan Swisher

Oct. 19 Hannah Circle, 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Cyndy Rotman
Leader: Kathy Brooks

Oct. 25 Cookie Sunday in Pavilion after each service—Hannah circle



MINISTRY & ACTION – What WELCA Stands For



Through various program areas, Women of the ELCA's community of women provide services in their churches, communities, and even the world.

We engage in ministry; we take action through advocacy; we promote healing and wholeness, and we support one another in our callings.

We offer anti-racism training; address domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking; and support families with special needs.

We assist participants in their desire to discern God's call in their lives and to discover their spiritual gifts through workshops, retreats, resources, scholarships, and global education.

We offer grants to not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages

On our 25th wedding anniversary thirty-six years ago, Sue and I celebrated by traveling to the Holy Lands. I remember going to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem that covers the tomb of Jesus and has a large area for the worshiping congregation. Every Sunday the pastor of the congregation lights the Christ Candle in the tomb where it is believed Jesus was laid after the crucifixion and rose from the dead. The pastor of the congregation carries the lighted Christ Candle into the worshiping congregation. When I walked into this large building, there was a crucifix at least 12 to 18 feet tall. I remember the eyes of Jesus with His head bowed looking down on me, reminding me of His words from the cross: **"Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"** (Luke 23:34). This is grace, freely given.

The past several months I have heard the old Gospel Hymn, "Why Me, Lord?" sung by the Gaither Vocal Band. I thought it was a new hymn but it has been around for some time, sung also by Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, and Elvis Presley to name a few. I recommend that you listen to this amazing hymn sung by the Gaither Vocal Band. You can find it on YOU tube

"Why Me Lord"

Why me Lord, what have I ever done
to deserve even one of the pleasures I've known.
Tell me Lord, what did I ever do
That was worth loving you for the kindness you've shown.

C Lord help me Jesus I've wasted it so
Help me Jesus I know what I am
Now that I know that I've needed you so
Help me Jesus my soul's in your hand

Try me Lord if you think there's a way
I could ever repay all I've taken from you
Maybe Lord I can show someone else
What I've been through myself on my way back to you.

When I heard the Gaither Vocal Band sing this I was greatly moved, with tears filling my eyes. What have I done to deserve His grace? What have you done? No, we cannot do anything to repay Him, but having received this precious gift, we can follow Him and show others this grace. God's Grace calls for us to believe, and this faith calls for action. Look at the second verse again, "Maybe, Lord, I can show someone else what I've been through myself on my way back to you."

We hear the strong words of the pastor at the end of our worship service say one of these: "Go in peace; Serve the Lord," "...Share the good news," or "...Remember the poor," and our response is, "Thanks be to God." We are sent out to live what we have received. Pastor Dittmar challenged us in a recent sermon to live the forgiveness we have received by forgiving others. When we live with this amazing grace, forgiveness and mercy, then we come alive in Christ, our Lord and Savior. When we put on this wonderful gift and share it with others, this gift grows in us.

Peace my brothers and sisters,

Pr. Paul DeMoss



From Pastor Bob

Why go to Church?

For many of us, this was never a question that was asked on a Sunday morning or Saturday night, for that matter. Going to church together as a family was an expectation. One of my seminary professors said that a family that decides each week whether they are going to church on Sunday is a family that doesn't go to church. Church families went every Sunday unless there was a reason they just couldn't go. And it felt really strange to stay at home. It didn't feel like Sunday at all.

My father's father said that when he looked down the pew on a Sunday morning and saw his whole family sitting there, everything felt right in the world. And he was not what you'd call a religious man otherwise. But are there other reasons for going to church besides the feeling of family unity it provides? Yes, there most certainly are.

In Lutheran Churches, the service begins with music and announcements. The value of music deserves lengthy treatment, so I'll address this in a future letter. For now, let it be said that Martin Luther was a strong believer that music can communicate so much more than words. I can tell you that any time I've felt like I let the congregation down with my sermon, the music ensured that God was received by the people of God anyway.

Announcements may seem silly at times (especially when I deliver them), but they are the lifeblood of the community, the connective tissue that keeps us together as the body of Christ.

The first spoken part of Sunday service is usually the Confession and Forgiveness. The opening words of the Confession are powerful: "Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid..." Oh, my goodness, this is terrifying! Our hearts are laid open before God so that there are no desires or secrets that God cannot see. I don't know about you, but this pronouncement fills me with guilt and shame, guilt over what I have done and desire to do, and shame over what these desires and secrets say about me. I really am a sinner; there's no way of getting around it.

But the Confession doesn't stop here. "We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves." It's not just me; the human condition is this: we are slaves to sin who cannot by our own efforts save ourselves. There is a deep, humbling truth here. I am a lost sinner, and on my own, there is no hope of my being anything else.

And now the Confession moves from the general to the specific (uh, oh). We are commanded in the Holy Scriptures to "love the Lord your God with all your heart...and love your neighbor as yourself." But we confess that "we have not loved [God] with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves." We haven't just slightly missed the mark: we've failed completely to do what we were commanded.

*For the sake of
your Son, Jesus
Christ, have
mercy on us.*

"For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ have mercy on us." All that we can do is beg for mercy in our Savior's name. Only by the sacrifice of Jesus can we be forgiven. The most important thing for this discussion is that by Jesus' sacrifice, we can be forgiven. We confess and ask for forgiveness as a congregation, as the gathered people of God. We are all in this together. This is both a comfort and a responsibility. It is a comfort to know

that we are not alone in our sin, but we have a responsibility to all our brothers and sisters to bring all to know God's grace. We're in this together; we sink or swim together.

And then comes the miraculous part: "As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins...."

"Why go to church?" For one thing, it is in church that we are the gathered children of God. And wherever two or more gather, Christ is their midst. Even though I am a serial sinner, I have my brothers and sisters around me and my loving Lord in front of me, and I will be all right. I am not only a beloved child of God; I am made clean each week. Come to church on Sunday: we'll hold a seat for you.

Pastor Bob

Worship

8:30 &
10:00

Now is the time for
WORSHIP

LEVEL 1

Public Emergency

Active exposure and spread.

LEVEL 2

Public Emergency

Increased exposure and spread.

LEVEL 3

Public Emergency

Very high exposure and spread.

LEVEL 4

Public Emergency

Severe exposure and spread.

Worship will temporarily be suspended when, and if, Hancock County moves to Level 3 (red) on their "COVID-19 Risk Level." Level 3 indicates that everyone should "Limit attending gatherings of **any** number." This is very similar to the Snow Emergency policy we've been using for years.

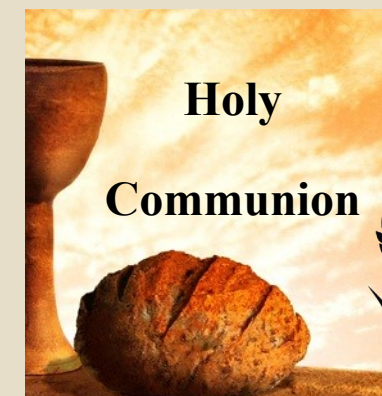


**For your safety
and ours, masks
are required while
on these premises.**

Thank you!

**Holy
Communion**

*Do this in
remembrance
of me.*



**October 4
November 1
December 6**



www.1stLutheranChurch.org

Library News

Oh my goodness, it is October already. Are you like me in that the year seems to be going by so fast because we are limited in what we can do. Is it just me or are there days when you think you can't take the masks, and the restrictions and the social distancing another day...and then you do? I pray a lot to stay calm with all this. How are you coping?

So, this month, I am giving you information found in an article from REAL SIMPLE magazine entitled "The Most Interesting Path to Lifelong Fitness". Walking is like a best friend – always there for you when you need it. Walk side by side with your kids or parents. Stroll with a coworker. Reconnect when you become empty nesters or busy couples.

Science says walking is a wellness elixir. Walking boosts the mood. It aids in the treatment of over 40 illnesses.

Sleep habits improve after four weeks. Walkers fall asleep more quickly, sleep longer.

Walking sends more blood to the brain. It enhances connections between key areas of the brain, as well as improves verbal memory and learning. Walkers are less likely to experience cognitive decline.

In a 12-week study, people who walked for 20 minutes five days a week took 43 percent fewer sick days than those who exercised one day a week or less.

In a four-year study, people with lower-body joint pain who walked for less than an hour a week were eight times as likely to have difficulty crossing a street before the light changed and twice as likely to be unable to perform everyday activities, like walking across the room.

Walking delivers cardiovascular health. Women who walked three or hours a week were 35 percent less likely to develop heart disease. Adults ages 60 and over who started exercising one or two days a week lowered their heart disease risk by up to 11 percent.

Walking stimulates innovative thinking. When people walk, they generate more ideas and increase communications.

A fifteen-minute stroll will help curb emotional eating. Walking can also help if you are trying to quit smoking.

Taking a walk with your partner may help resolve an argument. It reduces stress and improves mood. Strolling in step with another person can increase rapport and empathy.

Some Suggestions To Keep You Walking



Strive for a streak – how many days in a row can you walk?

Walk to the beat. "Sweet Home Alabama" allows a pace of 100 steps per minute and delivers walking's benefits. "Jessie's Girls" will help you reach vigorous-intensity zone (130 beats per minute).

Make it an outing. Combine exercise, fresh air, good friends and healthy food. (End the walk at a farmer's market.)

Tune in to little moves. Mindfully focus on your bodies while walking. Do a body scan, noticing sensations in your arms, then legs, then feet.

Join a virtual challenge. Log the length of real-life routes like the Appalachian Trail. Or invite family and friends to walk 1000 miles in a year.

Mix it up. Speed up for brief periods and then return to usual pace. Do intervals based on time, music, or landmarks.

So, my friends, start walking. God Bless and Keep Reading. As ever, Kathy Brooks



Church News



**October 15th,
Thursday, 12-6pm**

Don't forget, the Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at First Lutheran on Thursday, Oct. 15 from 12-5pm. Donors are needed to help with keeping an adequate blood supply for use in hospitals. Masks will be required and temperatures will be taken on arrival. Appointments can be made online at redcrossblood.org or by calling 419-422-9322. Be a First donor to help someone in need.

Two volunteers are needed throughout the day to help with registration and to take temperatures on anyone arriving. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



80th Birthday

My daughter surprised me with a large party for my 80th birthday September 6th. It was such a joy to see my friends from church at my home to celebrate with me.

Also for the friends that called me and for the ones that gave special cards and gifts.

I thank each and everyone from the bottom of my heart. I am so thankful I still have good health. I thank God everyday for that.

— Marty Schmidt.

Cookie Sunday



Join Hannah Circle for Cookie Sunday in the pavilion on October 25th after both services! Cookies are pre-packages but offered with "fresh-baked" love from our members! Follow all social distancing guidelines, but let's BE social!



Wood County Hospital

has a recycle program for disposing of used syringes and needles. Any container holding the used items can be taken to the ER dept at the

hospital and then to the outpatient lab. The employees there will take the container and give a new Sharps container in return. This keeps any used syringes and needles out of the landfill. Be sure to wear a mask and make sure the used items are in a safe container like a laundry bottle. Call Wood County Hospital 1-419-354-8923 if you have questions.

Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.org



Celebrations

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Ken & Nancy Bahler	10/6/1979	41
Brandon & Kristi Gerdeman	10/6/2012	8
Joseph & Candace Spoon	10/9/1993	27
Tad & Maria Schell	10/11/1980	40
Brian & Stefanie VanAtta	10/12/2013	7
Doyle & Raelyn Sherman	10/16/1999	21
Greg & Kristin Johnson	10/20/2007	13
Mark & Suzanne Kirk	10/25/1997	23
Richard & Mary Kondik	10/26/1957	63

Casey Cox	10/1	Joe Dudics	10/17
Barbara Stacy	10/1	Calvin Meyer	10/18
Janet Wobser	10/1	Beulah Bishop	10/19
Heather Nielsen	10/2	Mitchell Meyer	10/19
Wendy Price	10/2	Arlene Powell	10/19
Jodi Wilson	10/2	Kristin Johnson	10/20
Karen Rose	10/4	Jakeb Neiling	10/20
Alexandria Cox	10/5	Jeffrey Nunn	10/20
Bree Stahl	10/6	Jenny Welte	10/20
John Eakin	10/7	Beth Hardesty	10/21
Daryl Rotman	10/7	Bradley May	10/21
Melody (Mel) Schultz	10/7	Linda Mitchell	10/21
Paula Barkley	10/8	Sandra Rakestraw	10/21
Zachary McRill	10/8	Sandra Dale	10/22
Anthony Neiling	10/9	Marilyn Wilson	10/22
Timothy Cochran	10/12	Aaron Ried	10/24
Mary Fleming	10/13	Devra Hall	10/25
Tim Franks	10/14	Roberta Howard	10/25
Marie Peace	10/14	Gianna Masterlasco	10/25
Wendy Short	10/14	Jean Wynkoop	10/25
Alex Treece	10/14	Laura Leopold	10/29

Worship

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell
Pat Needles

COUNTERS

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick

LSS DELIVERY

Sue DeMoss

FLOWER DELIVERY

Martha Schmidt

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Oct. 4 - Pastor Chris Dittmar
Oct. 11 - Kylee Timbrook
Oct. 18 - Pastor Chris Dittmar
Oct. 25 - Tim Franks

Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Oct. 4 - Cindy & Todd Thompson
Oct. 11 - Maria & Tad Schell
Oct. 18 - Barb Larick
Oct. 25 - Stan & Shirley Phillips

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.

SOUND ROOM

Oct. 4 -
8:30 - Tim Roth
10:00 - Falkyn Roth

Oct. 11 -
8:30 - Tim Roth
10:00 - Jerry Bryant

Oct. 18 -
8:30 - Tim Roth
10:00 - Steve Roth

Oct. 25 -
8:30 - Tim Roth
10:00 - Alex Treece

Sunday School

Congratulations to Our 2020 Confirmands

On September 20th our 2020 Confirmation class affirmed their baptismal vows. Received as adult members of our congregation were: Casey Leipheimer, Gianna Masterlasco, Erin Meier, Margaret Meyer, and Grant Welte. We are blessed to be able to witness our youth move "one step closer to God".

Confirmation Classes to Begin

A parent/Student orientation for this year's Confirmation will be Wednesday, October 2st at 7:00. Student confirmation classes will begin on Wednesdays at 7:00 beginning on October 28th. For more information, please contact Pastor Bob at FLCPastor@hotmail.com.



How Do We Care For Each Other?

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

Everything has changed. There is no "normal" and it looks like the "new normal" will be different in many ways. Communication with you, your family, a neighbor or friend, is now more important than ever.

If you have a concern, leave a note on the back of your yellow "Footprints" or call the church office or pastor. You may also email the office at FLCFindlay@gmail.com, or Pastor Bob at FLCPastor@hotmail.com. Our pastors are prepared to support you in times of change and adjustment.

Food Cart Requests



Kleenex,
Laundry Soap,
Boxed Side Dishes

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



Don't forget out
At-Home
Members.

Please remember our
members who are
unable to travel to
church. Send them
a card. They
especially need to
know we think of
them.

A list of names and
addresses are on the
bulletin board.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 8:30am & 10:00 11:30am Community Dinner	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 1pm *Thankoffering Meeting 6:30pm Worship & Music	4:30pm *Reihm Farm 7pm *Book Club		4:30pm Organ	9:30am Bulletin Assembly 6pm Mayberry/ Thompson Rehearsal	4:30pm Mayberry/ Thompson Wedding Thompson Wedding
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Noisy Offering Worship 8:30 & 10:00	Pastor Bob Vacation 10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	Pastor Bob Vacation 9am Martha 9:30am Rachel 4:30pm *Reihm Farm 7:30 Finance	Pastor Bob Vacation 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	Pastor Bob Vacation 12pm Bloodmobile 4:30pm Organ 6pm BSA Eagle	Pastor Bob Vacation 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	Pastor Bob Vacation 10am Fruchey - FH
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Pastor Bob on Vacation Stewardship Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00	Dukes Vacation 10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 7pm Hannah 12pm Newsletter Deadline	Dukes Vacation 4:30pm *Reihm Farm	Dukes Vacation 7pm Confirmation Students/Parents	Dukes Vacation 4:30pm Organ	Dukes Vacation 9:30am Bulletin Assembly 12pm Budgets Due 4:30pm Gerken/Zeto Rehearsal	Dukes Vacation 4:30pm Gergen/Zeto Wedding
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Reformation Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00	10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm *Council	1:30pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm *Reihm Farm	7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ	6:00 Yammine/Fielding Rehearsal 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	3:30pm Yammine/ Fielding Wedding



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October 1**