

From Pastor Bob

So, where are we, Pastor Bob?

Well, we're not completely shut down, but we aren't even close to getting to where we'll be in 5 - 7 months. We're in a new abnormal trying to get to the new normal, whatever that is.

Why can't we get back to where we were? Do you think that anything was ever the same after the Great Depression/World War II? Were the 1950's anything like the 1920's? This Covid period hasn't been as dark as the Depression or as terrifying as the War, nor as long as either, but it has changed us.

It has shown us clearly the consequences of our trying to live as a divided nation.

It has made us realize that we can't just worry about our own end of the pool. What others do in their waters reaches us eventually!

There are families walking together at night in neighborhoods where no families walked before. Dad is carrying his daughter; mom is really talking to her son. This is a reversal of a trend that has been going on for a long time.

Summer services have been going very well, with more and more people trusting in the measures we've taken. Jane and Miriam have shined, the service we're doing is compact but powerful, the sermon series on the Spirit delivered by Pr. Chris and Pr. Art (and that other guy) has been new and fresh: we're covering many passages we've never looked at before in the pulpit. The Spirit is moving!

People continue to watch services online thanks to Sam Ried's recording them and Brian Fruchey's posting them so promptly and expertly. Ushers and Sound Board Operators and everyone else who make a service work are doing their parts.

We served Communion a few weeks ago and hopefully will do so again on every first Sunday of the month. It went very well, except that at 2nd Service the Presiding Pastor (who shall remain nameless) forgot to take Communion himself, so there was a bit of confusion as to when the bread should be consumed. But Christ chose to be fully present in the bread anyway, and everyone went home filled with his presence.

There have been weddings and funerals performed by that as yet unnamed pastor, and everyone has cooperated and made them powerful and poignant. The Blessing of the Backpacks (Aug. 23) and Confirmation Sunday (Sept. 20) are coming up, and there is much to plan to ensure that they are safe and meaningful.

Meetings are in person or on Zoom, visitation is by phone: if you'd like a phone conversation with me or Pastor Chris, please let me know via Yellow Footprints card, phone (419-788-0803), or email (flcpastor@hotmail.com).

Services will remain at 8:30 and 10:00 through at least September since we really can't start Sunday School yet.

So, where are we? We are where we need to be: riding on life's storms in the arms of a loving Savior.

To calmer waters ahead...Pastor Bob

So, where are we? We are where we need to be: riding on life's storms in the arms of a loving Savior.

Women of the ELCA

Women's Ministries 2020 – 2021 booklets will be available at your first Circle meeting.

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

WELCA Calendar of Events for September

Sept. 8	Martha Circle, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall,	Hostess: Pat Stacy;	Leader: Jane Ebersole
	Rachel Circle, 9:30 am, Church Lounge,	Hostess: Janet Baker;	Leader: Joan Swisher
Sept. 21	Hannah Circle, 7:00 pm, Church Lounge,	Hostess: Nina Dukes ;	Leader: Marilyn Dunn
Sept. 22-24	Set-up for Rummage Sale		
Sept. 25	Rummage Sale – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm		
Sept. 26	Rummage Sale – 9:00 am to Noon; Clean-up following sale.		

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



DID YOU KNOW!

It has been in all the papers so you probably already know that 100 years ago women won the right to vote. The 19th Amendment was ratified, giving women one of the biggest changes in their

lives. For not only could women vote, they were no longer considered property and could actually own their own property. Women could finally pursue their own interests and have a say in their own destinies. But did you also know that this year we also celebrate 50 years of women being ordained into the ministry of the ELCA? Sometimes change seems to take a long time, but as we have seen in the last 7 months change can happen very quickly! But we at First have adapted. We've found new ways of doing church. Bible studies and Circle discussions were held online until we could meet again being socially distant. We've learned how to adapt and still care for others. As the women that came before adapted and served, we have adapted and will continue to adapt so that we can continue to serve in new and imaginative ways.



FALL RUMMAGE SALE

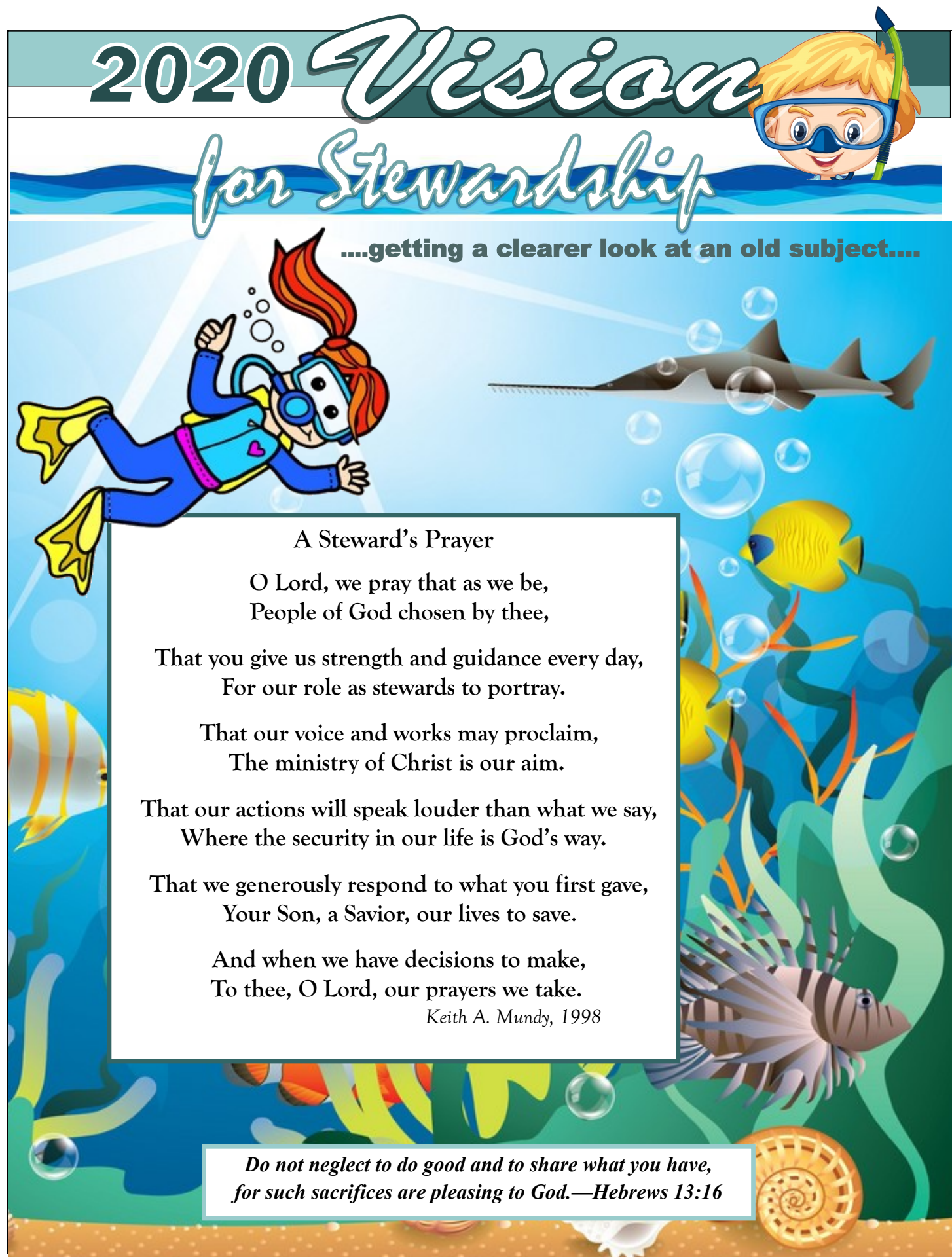
Donations are being accepted once again and may be brought to Fellowship Hall. No TV's please!

If able, please consider helping sort and setup most anytime Sept. 22—24 We also will need volunteers to work both days of the sale. Any questions, contact Mary Lou McCann at 419-423-2226. This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial.

Proceeds will go to The Beam of Light, Lutheran Disaster National Relief and ELCA Good Gifts, where needed most.

During the sale all guests and workers will be required to wear masks and social distance. We will be following protocol of the stores like Walmart with arrows on the floor for directions. If we at anytime between now and the sale go to "Red Level" the sale will be automatically canceled.

2020 Vision for Stewardship



....getting a clearer look at an old subject....

A Steward's Prayer

O Lord, we pray that as we be,
People of God chosen by thee,

That you give us strength and guidance every day,
For our role as stewards to portray.

That our voice and works may proclaim,
The ministry of Christ is our aim.

That our actions will speak louder than what we say,
Where the security in our life is God's way.

That we generously respond to what you first gave,
Your Son, a Savior, our lives to save.


And when we have decisions to make,
To thee, O Lord, our prayers we take.

Keith A. Mundy, 1998

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.—Hebrews 13:16*

Worship & Communion

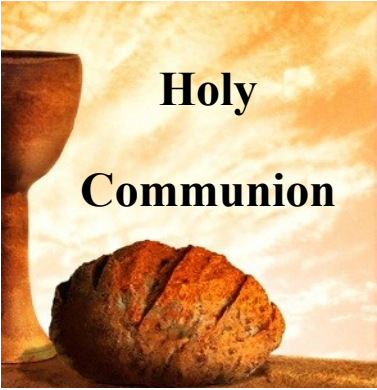
8:30 &
10:00



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.



**Holy
Communion**

**September 6th
8:30 & 10:00**

All baptized Christians who understand that Christ is truly present in the bread are welcome to join us for Holy Communion.


During the week, Pastor Bob will don a mask and gloves and will individually wrap wafers in waxed paper and put them in an envelope.

These will then be put in the envelope holders on the backs of the pews at the spots where members are permitted to sit.

The question might well be asked, "Is it permissible to take either the bread or the wine instead of our usual practice of consuming both?" The ELCA guidelines are in a book entitled "The Use of the Means of Grace (1997)." They say this, "For pressing reasons of health, individuals may commune under one element...Their pastor may assure them that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for them in, with, and under this one element."

This is, of course, a temporary response to a crisis. We are envisioning that we would commune in this way once a month and for special occasions.

*Do this in
remembrance
of me.*

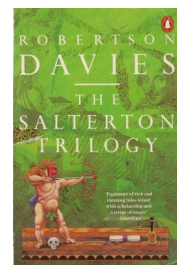


Library News



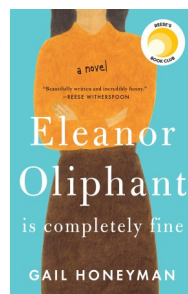
My opening thought for you. It's the best I could do today.

Now let's talk about books. I have read some strange ones in the past few months. For a book club of English teachers, we read The Starless Sea by Erin Morgenstern. A door appears out of nowhere - in an alley, a rock, any place where doors don't usually appear. If you open the door, when it is first presented, who knows what might happen. But our main character, returns later, as an adult to open the door and enters a topsy-turvy underground world where rooms are full of books, old and new, doorknobs hang from a ceiling, keys hang in another room, people walk through time, in and out of lives. Everyone seems to be looking for "the starless sea." I will let you know how the discussion goes, if you are interested.

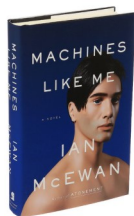


On my own I read The Salterton Trilogy by Canadian author, Robertson Davies, who was recommended to me by a book store owner in a Stratford Ontario, a store that you would picture in old novels with wooden floors, books stacked to the ceiling, people standing around reading, dark, a big window in the front of the store... apparently, Davies is a number one favorite in Canada. The three books center around an acting company settling for the summer in Salterton to produce The Tempest in an unusual outdoor setting. The books follow the actors, their loves, their enemies, their malice. Murder and mayhem in Salterton. I really enjoy Davies' works.

The church group also read Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. Eleanor's world is very structured. She has no friends. Then she wins a ticket to a concert. Slowly, very slowly, she opens up to one, then two, then others. The book preaches that we cannot remain all alone, yet really doesn't tell us how to make the first step.



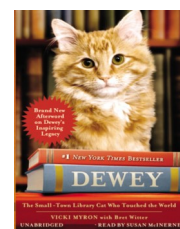
Another strange one for the same book club of English teachers is Machines Like Me (and People Like Us) by Ian McEwan. In an alternative 1980's world, 24 Adam robots and 25 Eve robots have been developed. Our main character spends all he has to own one; he meets with his Adam. The robot's empty mind begins to fill at a maddening speed. What he is missing is, you guessed it, all those qualities that make man human. Consequently, Adam does all that seems logical but infuriates those who know him. Machine learning can only get one so far. Just how wondrous is the brain.



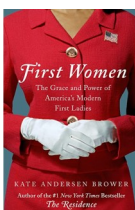
For our church book club, I read The Only Woman In the Room, a novel covering the life of Hedy LaMarr. (It is available on our church Kindle; if you are interested, let me know.) It covers several sides of her war effort as well as her personal life. Very good read.



Joan Swisher left me a copy of Dewey – The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron. Dewey, of course named after the Dewey of the decimal system, was dumped, at eight weeks old, in the book return in Spencer, Iowa. In the morning when the librarian thawed him out and cleaned him up, his fate was already decided. He lived IN THE LIBRARY for over eighteen years. (On the cat if you care to borrow.) Then I thought about a cat living in our church library. It was a delightful thought.



For August, the church book club read First Women – The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies by Kate Brower. The author chooses a topic and walks us through each of the first ladies usually beginning with Jackie Kennedy. Mamie Eisenhower is introduced in one section, and not very kindly, I might add. I found the book very interesting in its stories.



Adam, Eve, Hedy,
Ladies, Actors,
Elenore, and
Dewey...oh my.



Sunday School

We will be starting out offering Sunday School for PreK to 6th grade on Sunday, September 13th. Materials that go with the video will be mailed out. The video will be available on the church web site under Youth/ Sunday School. If you do not receive materials before September 13th and would be interested in receiving them, contact Julie Buck at jabuck67@hotmail.com.

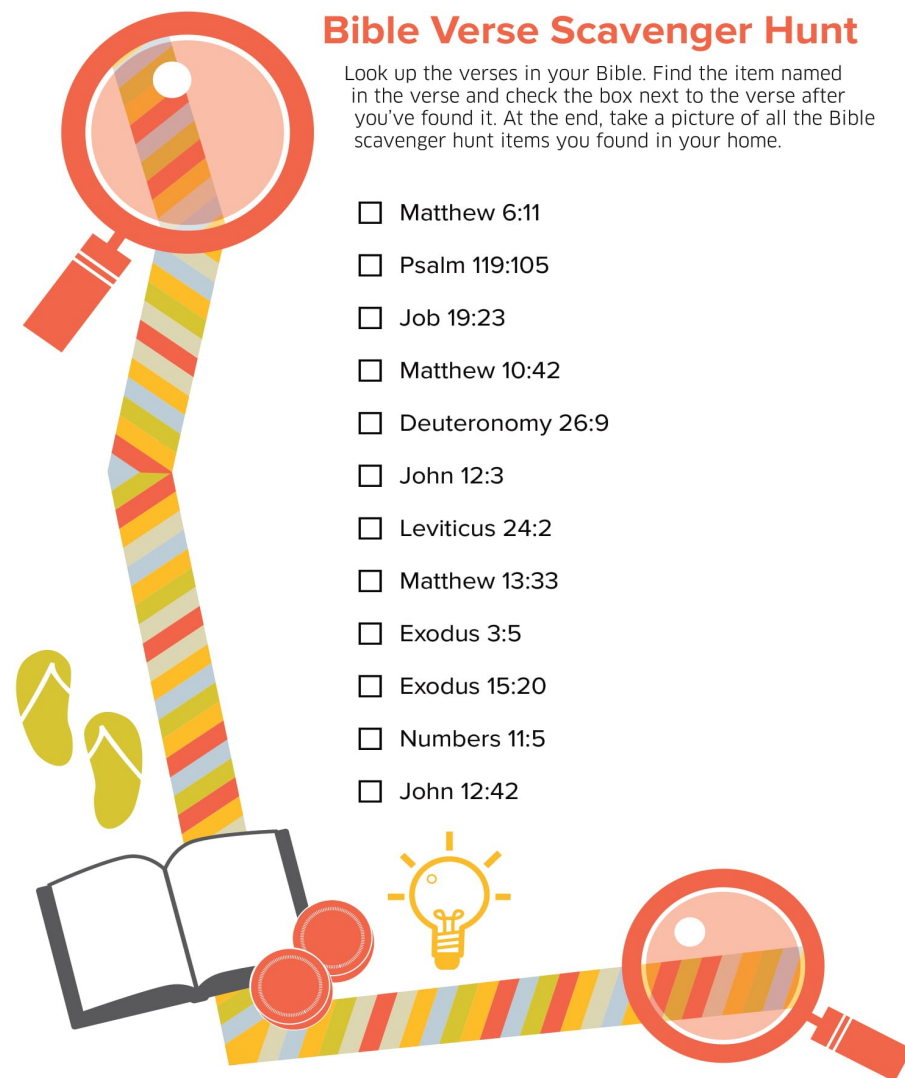
We will continue to evaluate returning to in person Sunday School and keep you posted. In the meantime, enjoy the scavenger hunt.



Bible Verse Scavenger Hunt

Look up the verses in your Bible. Find the item named in the verse and check the box next to the verse after you've found it. At the end, take a picture of all the Bible scavenger hunt items you found in your home.

- ☐ Matthew 6:11
- ☐ Psalm 119:105
- ☐ Job 19:23
- ☐ Matthew 10:42
- ☐ Deuteronomy 26:9
- ☐ John 12:3
- ☐ Leviticus 24:2
- ☐ Matthew 13:33
- ☐ Exodus 3:5
- ☐ Exodus 15:20
- ☐ Numbers 11:5
- ☐ John 12:42



This & That



There are many Sundays left that you can choose to place flowers on the altar. This is the perfect way for you to honor, remember, or give thanks for those people and events in your life. The flower chart is in the hallway, across from the church office, where you can make your selection.



Food Cart Requests

**Kleenex,
laundry soap,
boxed side dishes.**

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



“We’re in this together!” This has been America’s mantra since the beginning of the Pandemic. Christian Clearing house says THANK YOU to your entire congregation!

Over 25 years ago CCH was started in conjunction with churches in our community to help in distributing emergency aid to our neighbors. We appreciate you continuing to entrust us with your outreach dollars. We are proud to be good stewards of your funds. So many people out of work, struggling to keep food on their table, and pay their bills. That is where CCH comes into the picture—to be the hands and feet of Christ.

But even our normal stream of income has been affected - by cancellation of fund raisers and our churches not able to worship together, donations are way down. But through this all, YOU have stepped up and helped our neighbors who are experiencing hardships. We are praying that you are able to continue to give your time, gifts, and treasurers so that CCH can continue to help those in need. Please visit our website at www.cchsupport.org to donate and see how YOUR dollars are being spent in YOUR community. God bless you.

Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.org



Social Ministry



Habitat for Humanity's next home project is entitled "Apostle Build". Prayerfully consider this ministry as a number of churches from this community are providing volunteers to complete the home.

Area ELCA churches, along with ours, are working on September 23 with trim and cabinet work. Because of Covid precautions, masks will be required and there will be three rather than two shifts with 5 persons per shift. The shift times are 8am-noon; 1pm-5pm; and 5pm-8pm. There will be a light breakfast before the first shift; a lunch after the second shift and healthy snacks will be provided before the 3rd shift. There is a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board for those shifts. If you would like to provide some funding for this project, simply make a donation to the church office clearly marked "Habitat Apostle Build". The partner family is Allison Bowyer and her four children, Olivia, Camden, Bryson, and Briella. Their home is located at 1410 Logan Avenue. Registration tent and volunteer parking is off of Lagrange St on a vacant lot behind the new home construction. As always, tools and helpful instruction are provided...all we need is you. If you have any questions, simply call Mike Thompson at 419-422-2832. Thanks!

Community DINNER

How Are the Numbers?

As I told you last newsletter, the Community Dinners go on by grab and go. Our Friday/Saturday crew (Joe Spoon, Devra Hall, Judy, Jim, Mitchell, and Nathan Routson) are still delivering, bagging, prepping the Panera bread and treats, and then a crew of about seven (The Rotmans, Maria Schell, Robin Bowman, the Bursons, the Adlers,

the Ebersoles, Sam Ried) prepare 100 sack lunches before 11:30 on Sunday morning. You have probably noticed the orange directional cones placed on the morning of the dinner. We have had 100-135 drive, walk, ride a bike or motorcycle through the line. Carolyn Bryant usually passes out the lunches, and we rotate one person who brings up additional lunches. We have taken extra lunches to members, Kroger workers, and the Sharing Kitchen in Fostoria. Each of the churches report that our community folks look forward to returning to “in-person” meals in the church homes; they truly miss the fellowship. However, we continue to try to feed “the least of these” and get lots of smiles and thank yous!

Tomatoes, Zucchini, and Cukes, Oh My! And Sunflowers?!



We have had bumper crops of vegetables this year, but perhaps the most lovely thing has been the flowers; our sunflowers have reached 12 feet from just a little seed in the ground! It’s Biblical—1 Corinthians 15:37-38. How different those beautiful flowers look from the seeds placed in the soil 7 weeks back. A few weeks ago in the Blade, Jerry Bryant noticed an article by Mary Alice Powell about fresh cut flowers from a u-pick garden near Grand Rapids. So, look for small bouquets of our Good News Garden flowers appearing at a narthex near you in the coming weeks. We hope you will enjoy God’s bounty and tell our Good News by passing on a small bouquet to a neighbor or friend.

Church News



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

Save the date and time to be a Red Cross blood donor here at First Lutheran. The Red Cross is in need of blood donors due to the pandemic and they are taking extra precautions to keep everyone safe. Temperatures are taken when donors arrive, masks are worn and all surfaces are wiped down after any touching. The canteen area will be limited to only wrapped snack items. Please consider being the giver of life for another. Encourage your family or friends to be a part. Sign-up at redcrossblood.org. Two volunteers will be needed throughout the day to take temperatures and do the registration. A sign-up sheet will be posted closer to the date. Any questions, call Carolyn Bryant 419-422-0015.



Riehm Farm

Volunteers are still needed for Tuesday at 5:15pm. They use our parking lot for their

CSA customers and then share the vegetables left over for the volunteers to use or take to City Mission. The farm truck is usually finished by 5:40. They will continue to bring produce throughout September and part of October then begin Winter delivery twice a month, the first and third of each month beginning November 3.

All Saints Carrillon Project Complete!

About a year ago, our All Saints Carillon system by Chime Master was installed. Thanks to the many donors--small, large, and everything in between--the money was raised very quickly. On November 3, 2019, All Saints Sunday, we dedicated the carillon with chimes for the departed that year. The Evangelism committee hoped the chimes would give First Lutheran a voice in the community by chiming the hours of the day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with mini bell concerts of seasonal hymns at noon and 6 p.m. They are available to ring for weddings and funerals, and they continue to sound the call to worship on Sundays.



Who knew COVID-19 would close our worship services during Lent! Thankfully, the carillon rang an Easter Sunday concert of one hour, followed by 30 minute concerts each Sunday until we re-opened for in-person worship; bringing out 35-60 worshippers from our congregation and the community every week. And who could forget "No Chime to Waste" Bible Study by Pr. Bob!?



Eileen Mains would like to thank everyone who sent birthday wishes. It was nice to hear from everyone and your thoughtfulness helped make my birthday more special.

Celebrations

Anniversaries

Craig & Beth Meier	9/3/1994	26
Steve & Traci Roth	9/3/1994	26
Michael & Sue Baxter	9/5/1970	50
Jerry & Carolyn Bryant	9/11/1965	55
Robert & Arlene Schriener	9/11/1982	38
Robert & Kristina Rodman	9/14/2002	18
Gary & Virginia May	9/17/1987	33
Tim & Dawn Franks	9/19/1998	22
Gary & Debra McMillen	9/20/1968	52
Rob & Amber Leipheimer	9/21/2002	18
Robert & Patricia Stacy	9/23/1950	70
Mike & Chris Zawisza	9/26/1998	22

Birthday

Tricia Cox	9/1	Sharon Thompson	9/16
Peggy Fruchey	9/1	Abbey Haudenschild	9/17
Daphne Maag	9/2	Jordan Spoon	9/17
Rylie Reed Needles	9/2	Brian Fruchey	9/19
Tad Schell	9/3	Blaine Peters	9/19
Carol Meyer	9/4	James Clayton Sr.	9/20
Evan Pitt	9/5	Margaret Maag	9/20
Kristen Buck	9/6	Sally Rice	9/20
Martha Schmidt	9/6	Robert Stacy	9/20
Mike Waltermeyer	9/6	Samantha Franks	9/21
O. Ruth Meyer	9/8	Doris Staschiak	9/21
Shelby Bower	9/9	Lisa Cox	9/22
Carolyn Bryant	9/9	Alexandria Johnson	9/23
Makenzie Tatum	9/9	Shirley Phillips	9/23
Cynthia Rotman	9/11	Jeff Haudenschild	9/28
Elaine Timbrook	9/11	Michael Thompson	9/28
Alan Hartzell	9/12	Debra McMillen	9/29
Kimberly Fultz	9/16	Marilynn Dunn	9/30
Sidney Hoover	9/16	Suzanne Kirk	9/30
		Mary Lou McCann	9/30

Worship

ALTAR GUILD

Joan Swisher
Elaine Timbrook

COUNTERS

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick

LSS DELIVERY

Caroline Wilde

FLOWER DELIVERY

Martha Schmidt

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sept. 6 - Kylie Timbrook
Sept. 13 - Pastor Chris Dittmar
Sept. 20—Tim Cochran
Sept. 27 -Daryl Rotman

Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sept. 6 - Toni & Dennis Poling
Sept. 13 - Bev Yammine
Sept. 20— Marilyn Dunn
Sept. 27 - Janet Wobser

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.

USHERS

8:30 -
10:00 -

SOUND ROOM

Sept. 6

8:30—
10:00—

Sept. 13

8:30—
10:00—

Sept. 20

8:30—
10:00—

Sept 27

8:30—
10:00—

Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.org



SEPTEMBER

*Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1-Sep 4:30pm *Reihm Farm 7pm *Book Club	2	3 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	4 9:30am *Bulletin Assembly	5
6 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 11:30am Community Dinner	7 Office Closed 10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Worship & Music	8 9am *Martha 9:30am *Rachel 4:30pm *Reihm Farm 7:30pm *Finance	9 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	10 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	11 9:30am *Bulletin Assembly	12 7:30am BSA
13 8:30 & 10:00 Worship God's Work Our Hands Noisy Offering	14 10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 6pm Stewardship/ Evangelism 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	15 1:30pm *Staff Meeting 4:30pm *Reihm Farm	16	17 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal 6pm BSA	18 9:30am *Bulletin Assembly	19
20 Confirmation Sunday 8:30am & 10:00 Worship	21 10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 12pm Newsletter Deadline 7pm *Hannah	22 Rummage Sale Set Up 4:30pm *Reihm Farm	23 Rummage Sale Set Up Habitat Build	24 Rummage Sale Set Up 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	25 Rummage Sale 9:00—5:00 9:30am *Bulletin Assembly	26 Rummage Sale 9:00—12:00
27 8:30am & 10:00 Worship	28 10:30am *Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm *Council Meeting	29 4:30pm *Reihm Farm	30	2020		

* Denotes the meeting has been confirmed for a room; Please check with your committee for any changes.

Current Resident or:

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



Mailed around
Sept. 2, 2020

We care at First Lutheran Church

And want to see you again!

JOIN US FOR

Worship

8:30 & 10:00 Sunday Mornings

www.1stLutheranChurch.org

419-422-2638