



From the Sr. Pastor

# Saints Go Marching

A nursing mother and a pregnant slave, a great theologian and his mother, a monk and his favorite nun, a poet and a scientist – these are among the people God has chosen to be saints of the church. Martin Luther believed in the “priesthood of all believers,” that we are all called to be ministers, to serve the Lord with all our hearts and all our souls and all our minds, and even with our very lives if necessary.

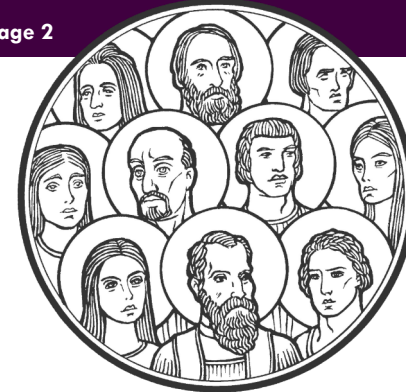
Why has this diverse group of Christians been singled out for sainthood? How were these fallible human beings able to rise above their limitations and become lions of the faith? What have they to teach us about God, and life, and purpose? What can they tell us about our calling?

Join us this Lenten season (Feb. 18 – March 21) for “Saints Go Marching,” a series of Sunday morning sermons and Wednesday night reflections on Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Augustine and Monica, Francis and Clare, John Donne and Nicolaus Copernicus. Learn everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask about these four faithful men and four courageous women. We can’t let the Roman Catholics have all the fun: we Lutherans love our saints, too.

As has been extremely popular for the last decade, we will once again be singing the Holden Evening Prayer Service on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. If you haven’t experienced it, you must. If you have, you will enjoy it even more the more you sing it. The Wednesday service itself is more casual than Sunday service and the sermon more conversational. For these reasons, these are the perfect services to invite friends, especially friends with minimal church background.

So, join us for the season of Lent as we prepare our hearts and minds and souls for the resurrection of our Lord!

*Pastor Bob*



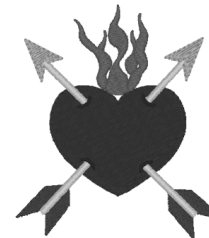
## 2018 Lenten Series

# SANTS GO MARCHING



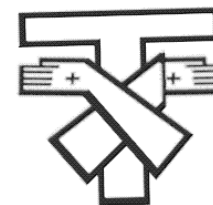
**February 18 and 21—PERPETUA AND FELICITY (c.202)**

The noble woman and nursing mother, Perpetua, a slave Felicity, and several other catechumens and believers were martyred in a Carthage amphitheater by being thrown to wild beasts. Her writings and narrative of her martyrdom are among the most revered of all Christian literature.



**February 25 and 28—AUGUSTINE (354-430) AND MONICA (331-387)**

Augustine, named one of the four great Doctors of the Western Church, is arguably the most influential Christian theologian of all time. His symbol recalls his sense of the believer’s heart aflame with the love of God. His mother, Monica, is remembered for the perseverance of her prayers towards her son’s conversion.



**March 4 and 7—FRANCIS (1181-1226) AND CLARE (1193-1253) OF ASSISI**

Francis is perhaps the most beloved of all the saints. He is founder of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) and took literally a verse from the gospels to live in complete poverty. Clare, inspired by Francis, established an order of women dedicated to contemplative prayer, radical poverty, manual labor, and extreme austerity. *“Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks and serve him with great humility.” Cantic of Brother Sun*



**March 11 and 14—JOHN DONNE (1572-1633)**

John Donne, dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, was an eloquent preacher. He is honored especially for his poetry, which exemplified the 17th century style of complex syntax and eloquent metaphors.



**March 18 nd 21—NICOLAUS COPERNICUS (1473-1543)**

Copernicus was a church administrator, working in politics, canon law, medicine and economics. Before his death he published his astronomical study, which demonstrated that the sun, not the earth, is the center of our solar system.

**“The memory of saints may be set before us, that we may follow their faith and good works, according to our calling.” - Augsburg Confession, Article XXI**



## FEBRUARY MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Erin Mitchell talks about Lutheran Social Services

*Erin Mitchell is a clinical therapist with Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio. She works in the Findlay office. She offers her thoughts about this vital local ministry:*

**1. Tell us about LSS. What are some of the services of LSS, especially in the Findlay office?** Lutheran Social Services' Findlay office currently offers counseling services for adolescents and adults. We are currently seeking to add a therapist who works with children to our team. We provide counseling for individuals dealing with depression, anxiety, life transitions, family issues, trauma, chronic pain, grief, anger management, substance abuse, and other issues. In addition to meeting with clients in our office inside St. John's Lutheran Church, two of our therapists provide counseling on site to clients (both individuals and groups) who live at St. Catherine's Manor in Findlay. Lutheran Social Services also operates an Emergency Choice food pantry at the Findlay office, which eligible Hancock County residents may utilize once a month.

**2. Where do your funds come from?** Lutheran Social Services is funded by the LSS Foundation through individual, church, and corporate donations. Gifts may be general or targeted for a particular office or ministry (such as Findlay Food Pantry.) LSS also receives reimbursement for counseling services through private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and self pay. The LSS Food Pantry is staffed almost entirely by church and community volunteers (and we always have room for more!)

**3. What is your position (and why did you choose to do this work)?** I am a clinical therapist with LSS. I chose to go into this field because I was helped by counseling at a very difficult time in my life, and felt that my calling was to help others in the same way. As a Christian, when the position at LSS became available I welcomed the opportunity to work for a Christian organization and incorporate clients' spirituality into the counseling process.

**4. What are some of the most pressing and serious issues, needs, problems, concerns in the Findlay area? How does LSS address these?** The opioid epidemic continues to affect our community significantly. PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) is more common than many people think, occurring in individuals affected by such traumas as rape, domestic violence, child abuse, and natural disasters, as well as in active duty and veteran military service personnel. Depression and anxiety are also prevalent in our community. All forms of mental health issues are in many ways a "silent epidemic," as individuals fear the stigma society still attaches to mental illness.

Food pantry clients must meet state and federal income guidelines for food assistance. Those who do not meet these requirements are referred to other community agencies for help with food. A large number of our counseling clients fall under Medicaid income requirements and many also receive food stamps or other assistance. We have a sliding fee scale to make our counseling services more available to those who are without any form of insurance. When a client has a need that our agency cannot address, we make every effort to refer them to other community agencies and connect them with helpful resources.

**5. Martin Luther said, "But know that to serve God is nothing else than to serve your neighbor and do good to him in love, be it a child, wife, servant, enemy, friend....If you do not find yourself among the needy and the poor, where the Gospel shows us Christ, then you may know that your faith is not right, and that you have not yet tasted of Christ's benevolence and work for you." How is this so at LSS?** Like Martin Luther's original followers, our clinicians, support staff, volunteers, and clients come from "all levels of society."

*Where do our offerings go? In 2017, First Lutheran budgeted \$750 for LSS. Our Cross of Love contributions totaled \$1151. The Christmas Love and Memory Tree totaled \$1680. We contribute to this vital ministry in many other ways, including personal gifts, volunteer hours by members and also by giving through our Synod Mission Share.*

## Sunday School News



## Classroom Fun

Little works, little thoughts, little loves, little prayers for little Christians, and larger and larger as the years grow. --Rev. Chas. H. Parkhurst.

## Adult Sunday School Bible Study



By Louie Giglio

Pastor Bob's Adult Sunday School has begun a 6-week study entitled **"Goliath Must Fall."**

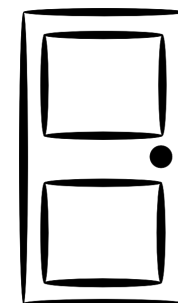
It's likely you have a threatening giant in your life... an adversary or stronghold that's diminishing your ability to live a full and free life. Frozen in the grip of rejection, fear, anger, comfort, or addiction, you've lost sight of the promise God has for your life. Demoralized and defeated, you've settled for far less than God intends.

God has a better plan for you – a plan for you to live in victory. That's why God has silenced your giant once and for all.

In this six-session video Bible study, Pastor Louie Giglio uncovers a newfound twist in the classic story of David and Goliath. He shows how the key to living free from our giants is not better slingshot accuracy, but keeping our eyes on the one and only giant-slayer: Jesus. Put your hope in him, and watch Goliath fall. This class meets in the Builder's Classroom upstairs.



## Sunday School Classrooms—*behind which door is your class?*



- Blue Door -Pre K
- Green Door—First & Second
- Yellow Door Third & Fourth
- Red Door—Fifth & Sixth



Jr. & Sr. High School  
Open Tomb



Builders Room  
(Upstairs)





Feb. 14th, 4:00 & 7:00

### Holden Evening Prayer Begins

Feb. 21st at 7:00



### Soup Suppers at 5:45

Feb. 21—Property    Feb. 28—Social Ministry  
Mar. 7—Youth        Mar. 14—Council  
Mar. 21—Pastor Bob's Sunday School Class

*Let everything I do this day and in this season of Lent come from God, be inspired by God.*

## Confirmation

Feb. 14—Ash Wednesday

Lenten Worship—Attendance Required

Feb. 21, 28,    March 7, 14, 21  
7:00 PM

Notes may be taken

April 25—Last Class  
8th graders and parents

April 29— Confirmation Sunday; 10:45



Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the following families whose loved one has passed into the Church Triumphant:

- † Paul Pepple on December 28th
- † Analiese Benjamin on December 31st,
- † Bill Freemyer in January 11th.

May God comfort all who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

Nolan Edward VanAtta received the gift of God's grace through baptism on January 21st. Nolan was born June 26, 2017 to Stefanie and Brian VanAtta



As you read last month, 2018 has been designated the **ELCA YEAR of PRAYER**. We were able to meet with Bishop Daniel on January 10, and he shared some very exciting ideas used at Stoney Ridge (his former congregation).

We discussed materials and ideas to enrich the prayer life at First. Please be praying for this process, and if you have ideas or want to be a part of the process, call Sue DeMoss or Jane Ebersole. Stay tuned for further updates:)

*Prayer is putting oneself into the hands of God.*

# Scholarships



Scholarship applications are now available on the bulletin board and in the church office for two scholarships from the Endowment Fund.

1. The Endowment General Scholarship is available for voting members and their dependents attending a Christian Theological Seminary, a Lutheran affiliated college or university regardless of major, or any Christian college or university if majoring in areas of Christian ministry.
2. The Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship was established for members of First Lutheran Church by Paul and Sue DeMoss in memory of their son, Jeff. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who is an active member of First Lutheran between the ages of 18 and 25, attending a nationally accredited college or university with a declared major in health, religion, and/or social work professions. Examples of professions include but are not limited to social work, counseling, psychology, nursing, medicine, youth work, ministry, and mental health. Applicants

must also be of good Christian character and be making use of their talents in a manner that is pleasing to God. No one person may receive the scholarship award more than twice.

Deadline for submitting applications and letters of recommendation is March 31<sup>st</sup>. The recipient(s) will be selected and notified on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>. A total of \$9,163.86 for the General Scholarship and \$866.07 for the DeMoss Scholarship is available to be awarded. Any questions, please contact any Endowment committee member or the church office.

## Finance Committee



**New  
Members  
Needed**

The finance committee is looking for new members to join our team. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of all months except February and June at 7:30 P.M. The finance committee is responsible for compiling and presenting the annual budget to church council and the congregation and then reporting the actual

expenses against that budget throughout the year. A knowledge of finances and budgets is helpful but certainly not required. If interested, contact Randy Buck at 419-348-1611.

The finance committee also conducts the annual church audit of both church bank funds and endowment funds. New individuals are

needed to complete this audit. The audit is mostly completed in one day, so the time commitment is 2 hours per year. This year's audit will be conducted on Monday March 12. Again, a knowledge of finances is preferred but not required. If interested, contact Randy Buck at 419-348-1611.

*"You can't have a perfect day without doing something for someone who'll never be able to repay you." — John Wooden*

# Repeat The Sounding Joy

“repeat the sounding joy” scripted across the front. Since then, I have thought about those words quite a bit. What do they mean? With nothing to do for a ‘minute’ the other day, I googled the phrase. Lo and behold, I found an article online entitled “Repeat the Sounding Joy” by Jamie Hughes that explores what the phrase meant to the shepherds and what it means to us today.

I am going to attempt to summarize Hughes article to help explain my sudden fascination with this phrase. So...the shepherds kept watch over their sheep that night as they always did. They probably spent the evening star-gazing. But this one night, the spot where they sat suddenly overflowed with the light of heaven and the glory of God. And “the angel of the Lord came upon them.” (Luke 2:9)

And the shepherds burst with joy. Did they remember the Old Testament prophecy or was the need to go to Bethlehem part of the message of that night? Either way, they, lowly shepherds, got to share the good news. They were God’s first tellers. They were chosen to share the “the good news of great joy.” (Luke 2:10) Just imagine, if you will, the shepherds’ visit with Mary and Joseph, new parents. The joy. The beauty, The glory.

The joy of that first night is also ours. We are “a people for God’s own possession.” (1Peter 2:9) An now our task is the same as that of the shepherds that first night, to “repeat that sounding joy.” Shout to the world the glory of God.

## Dream Big READ!

And what have I been reading lately? I just finished a novel entitled The Jaguar’s Children by John Vaillant. The story is sadly based on reality—a tanker truck full of illegal immigrants from Mexico is abandoned after it breaks down. To avoid suspicion the hole in the tank where the people had entered has been sealed shut so they are virtually prisoners in the heat of the day and the chill of the night. One young man tells their story as he talks to no one on a dead cell phone. The readers hear of the poverty and politics these desperate people are leaving behind.

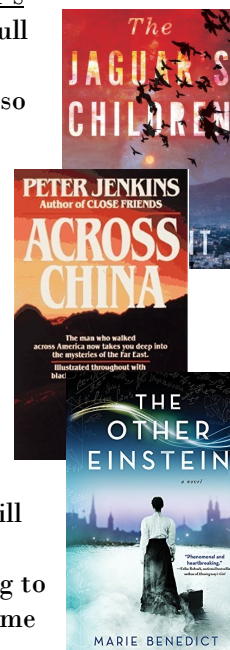
Woven throughout is also the story of corn, the single most important crop to Mexican farmers. Now the “big corporation” has introduced genetically-modified corn into the Mexican fields, a corn whose seed cannot be saved as in the past history of the country and then planted next year. At times the story is hard to process, for it is not a fun read. Eye-opening to say the least.

And I have begun, again I might add, The Walk Across China by Peter Jenkins. This time I will finish without interruptions...I last picked up the book when I was also reading The Summit, covering the climb of Mount Everest by a blind man. Once I realized Jenkins was also traveling to Everest I had to say “no way”. Now I can finish without everyone on Mount Everest at the same time!

And by time you read this article, I will have finished The Other Einstein by Mary Benedict for our church’s book club. Why not stop into the discussion sometime? The schedule is posted on the hall bulletin board.

God bless.  
Kathy Brooks.

Well, good day to everyone. How kind of you to take time to read my ramblings today. It is February and I am still thinking about Christmas. You see, a friend of mine gave me a beautiful snowflake ornament Christmas gift with the words



*Keep reading...and “repeat that sounding joy.”*



**God’s Work  
Our Hands**

## Let’s Get Social!

### Social Ministry Event

**Sunday, February 18, 2018**

**In the Lounge between Church Services**

Now that you’ve had a chance to hear or read about what the Social Ministry

Committee was up to last year, here’s an opportunity to learn more.

On your way to/from worship, venture into the lounge to see what

social service opportunities are available.

**Everyone is welcome to get Social!**

## How You Can Help?

### Food Cart Requests

 Toilet paper,  
dish soap, cereal  
All donations benefit

*Lutheran Social Services.*

*The cart is in the  
Coat/elevator room.*

### The February Noisy Offering will benefit:



.....an international non-governmental  
organization that focuses on  
sustainable development projects and  
disaster relief and recovery.

*Newsletter*  
**DEADLine**  
**Monday.**  
**February 19th**

Women of the **ELCA** 

February 13—Martha Circle, 9:00 am, library

Rachel Circle, 9:30 am, lounge

February 19—Hannah Circle, 7:00 pm, lounge


February 25—Cookie Sunday, Martha Circle

 **LUNCH**  
WITH THE PASTOR

**Tuesday, February 6th.**

**11:30 at Café Marie’s.**



 <div>“He fasted for forty days and forty nights...”</div>	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	3
	8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 11:30am Community Dinner 6pm EPIC Youth	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Worship & Music	11:30am Pastors Lunch 7pm Book Club	Hancock Hotel Training 7pm Confirmation	4:30pm Organ 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	1-Feb Bloodmobile 4:30pm Organ 7pm Sr. Choir 7pm Stewardship 8pm Brass Ensemble	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	2
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	BSA Staff All day	
	Noisy Offering 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Kids Choir Sings 11:45am Youth Committee 6pm EPIC Youth	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	9am Martha Circle 9:30am Rachel Circle	4:00 & 7:00 Ash Wednesday 8pm Theology Pub 8pm Endowment	4:30pm Organ 7pm Sr. Choir	5:00pm BSA Staff 9:30am Bulletin Assembly			
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 6pm EPIC Youth	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	1:30pm Staff Meeting	5:45pm Soup Suppers 7pm Lenten Worship	4:30pm Organ 6pm BSA Eagle Board 7pm Sr. Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly				
25	26	27	28	FEBRUARY 2017					
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 6pm EPIC Youth	10:30am Ladies Bible Study		5:45pm Soup Supper 7pm Lenten Worship						

# February

## Volunteers

March Newsletter Deadline  
Monday, February 19th,  
Weekly Bulletin Deadline  
Wednesday Mornings

### LECTORS

- Feb. 4  
8:15 – Jeff Kamm  
10:45— Alex Treece
- Feb. 11  
8:15— Acolytes  
10:45– Acolytes
- Feb. 18  
8:15— Shirley Gerber  
10:45– Cindy Fitzpatrick
- Feb. 25  
8:15— Jenny Welte  
10:45— Elaine Timbrook
- SOUND ROOM
- Feb. 4  
8:15 – Sam Ried  
10:45— Jerry Bryant
- Feb. 11  
8:15— Dave Gerber  
10:45– Todd Thompson
- Feb. 18  
8:15— Tim Roth  
10:45– Alex Treece
- Feb. 25  
8:15—Tim Roth  
10:45— Jerry Bryant

### GREETERS

- Feb. 4  
8:15 – Jennifer & Jeff Kamm  
10:45— Treece Family
- Feb. 11  
8:15— Cloyce & Janet Baker  
10:45– Kids of the Kingdom
- Feb. 18  
8:15— Dave & Shirley Gerber  
10:45– Renee Smith
- Feb. 25  
8:15— Bart & jenny Welte  
10:45— Franks Family
- WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
- Feb. 4  
8:15 – Tim Cochran  
10:45— Traci Roth
- Feb. 11  
8:15— Pastor Chris Dittmar  
10:45– Pastor Chris Dittmar
- Feb. 18  
8:15— Pastor Chris Dittmar  
10:45– Pastor Chris Dittmar
- Feb. 25  
8:15— Tim Cochran  
10:45— Tim Cochran

### ACOLYTES

- Feb. 4  
8:15 – Zach McRill  
10:45— E. Clark, N. Leipheimer
- Feb. 11  
8:15— Christian Nielsen  
10:45– Samantha and Seth Franks
- Feb. 18  
8:15— Karisa Welte  
10:45– Emily Meier, Lily Cox
- Feb. 25  
8:15— Zach McRill  
10:45— Emily Meier, Evan Clark

### ALTAR GUILD

Julie Buck. Amber Leipheimer

### COUNTERS

Randy & Julie Buck  
Daryl & Cyndy Rotman

### LSS DELIVERY

Jennifer Kamm

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Julie Buck

### COMMUNION BREAD

Feb. 4— Janet Wobser  
Feb. 11—Jennifer Treece

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Feb. 4—Mike & Amy Tabler  
Feb. 11—Mike & Amy Tabler  
Feb. 18—Eric/Elaine Timbrook  
Feb. 25—Eric/Elaine Timbrook

### COOKIE SUNDAY

Feb. 4—Community Dinner  
Feb. 11– Social Ministry  
Feb. 18– Worship & Music  
Feb. 25—Martha Circle

### DEACONS

8:15—Sue DeMoss,  
Tom Mitchell

10:45-Mike Zawisza,  
Steve Roth, Dean Bowser,

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Feb. 4—Bob & Nancy Mullahy  
Feb. 11 –Mike & Chris Meyer  
Feb. 18—Dick & Barb Larick  
Feb. 25—Schwartzkopf/Cunningham

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.

Birthdays

Seth Franks	2/1	Elliot Holbach	2/15
Joan Swisher	2/1	Dawn Arvy	2/17
Steven Rodman	2/2	Nancy Bahler	2/17
Erin Meier	2/3	Bayley Hill	2/19
Breanna Tabler	2/3	Samantha Hill	2/19
Dean Bowser	2/5	Yvette Mains	2/19
Nancy Haffelder	2/5	James Maurer	2/19
Janice Wagner	2/5	Kylee Timbrook	2/19
Amy Masterlasco	2/6	Michelle Dale	2/20
Seth Rakestraw	2/6	Cloyce Baker	2/22
Richard Ruehle	2/6	Steve Leopold	2/22
Janet Baker	2/7	Kenneth Howard	2/23
Barb Smith	2/7	Casey Leipheimer	2/23
Angela Huff	2/8	Nathan Leipheimer	2/23
Clarke Huff	2/8	Fred Parish	2/24
Erik Nielsen	2/8	Elaine Ashley	2/26
Steve Brossia	2/9	Traci Roth	2/26
Julie Buck	2/9	Doyle Sherman	2/26
Cheryl Seibert	2/11	Victoria Cox	2/27
Kathy Nusbaum	2/12	Taylor Polder	2/27
Jane Ebersole	2/13	John Taylor	2/27

Baptisms

Thomas Fitzpatrick	2/1	Mary Lou McCann	2/13
Debra McMillen	2/1	Kahle Thorbahn	2/14
Carson Dale	2/2	Yvette Mains	2/16
Voleta Willford	2/2	Reed Blunk	2/19
Denise Burson	2/7	Sarah Wilson	2/22
Elizabeth Kutschbach	2/12	Kendall Hoffman	2/24
Heather Nielsen	2/12	Jordan Spoon	2/24

Anniversaries

Tom & Mary Beth Dillon	2/14/1999	19
Richard & Marilyn Schweitzer	2/24/1957	61
Steve & Laura Leopold	2/28/1998	20

February Celebrations

Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am

Sunday School at 9:30 am

A season  
of spiritual  
preparation



February 14th, Worship at 4:00 & 7:00

Wednesdays of Lent—Worship at 7:00; Soup Suppers at 5:45



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

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

Current Resident or:



Mailed around  
January 30th

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

419-422-2638