



FROM A PASTOR

How Did We Get In this Mess?

You might wonder what I mean by this strange question. I heard it asked in a different way in our Sunday School bible study class. Are you happy with all the strife and discord we seem to have in this wonderful United States of America? We can no longer say that the U.S. is a Christian country. This was true before the pandemic, and it's even more true now. Look at 1 Cor. 3 10 ff.

... the God of Grace gives us a foundation to build on, Jesus Christ and His teachings.

According to the grace of God given to me (St. Paul), like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done.

If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

St. Paul is saying that the God of Grace gives us a foundation to build on, Jesus Christ and His teachings. You may think, "This foundation was alright for St. Paul and the other disciples he had called but not for me. I'm just a member of the church, and I like to come and sing and listen to the sermons and go home. What's this foundation stuff? Look at the last words of Jesus before His Ascension: Matt.28.18ff.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Jesus sends His disciples out with a foundation and authority to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to love their neighbors, to heal the sick and all the other things Jesus did and said. "Yes, well maybe that's okay for disciples but I'm just a member of the church." Oh, my brothers and sisters, you are today's disciples. Look it up in Webster's Dictionary. Yes, the God of Grace has given you a foundation, and Jesus says, "Go therefore with the Holy Spirit and make disciples." In addition to this, every Sunday or every worship service we attend, we hear these last words spoken by the presiding Pastor as we are dismissed or sent out from worship; "Serve the Lord" or "Share the good news" or "Remember the poor" or "Christ is with you," and these words are all preceded by the Pastor saying, "Go in peace" My brothers and sisters, we go in peace from the service to build on the foundation God has given us in Jesus Christ. In other words, we are sent from the service as His followers, His

(Cont. on Page 2)

I From A Pastor Cont. from Page 1

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disciples to be His care-takers or His evangelists, to be builders, to witness to others who are hurting or wandering in darkness or caught in the awful storms of life. We are equipped by the Holy Spirit to help them. We are equipped to show them God's amazing grace that brings them peace and hope.

We are in this mess because we believed what Satan has told us, "Oh you are to never talk about religion." Did you ever ask yourself, why? Yes, we may be uncomfortable, but the hurting person that the Holy Spirit has put us in contact with is really ready to hear the word the Holy Spirit is going to give him/her through us.

So many people say, "O I can't do that" or "I just don't know what to say." Listen, you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, and you will be surprised if you set fear aside and have the faith to talk and pray with the people with whom you come into contact. Believe me, the Holy Spirit gives you all you need.

I'm reminded of the first hymn I ever learned. [Hymn 595]

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

I can't even read the words without singing them. The refrain most of us know, but do we know the verses?

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong. Refrain**

**Jesus loves me He who died, heaven's gates to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in. Refrain**

**Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way;
When at last I come to die, He will take me home on high. Refrain**

Yes, Jesus loves us and gifts us with His Holy Spirit to help others to see His light and believe and become disciples so that they might also sing, "Jesus loves me."

There are many versions of this wonderful hymn all speaking this truth.: You are a blest, beloved, baptized, gifted disciple of God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paul DeMoss

JESUS
loves me
•THIS I KNOW•

"for the Bible tells me so"



What's Happening with the Community Dinner?! Are We Still Doing That?!

Yes, we **ARE!** We have been averaging 125-150 sack lunches every month for a WHOLE year! Thanks to a faithful group of volunteers who meet on Sunday to assemble and bag the grab and go's, Carolyn Bryant, Diane Adler, and Evelyn Napier who have braved the elements (and, actually the weather has been pretty cooperative) to interact with the community diners and pass out the lunches. Also, thanks, thanks to Maria Schell, Basingers, MaryLou McCann, and the Bryants for donations of oranges and bottled water and juice packs. Although we are beginning to return to in-person worship, we have not determined when we will be able to return to in-person dinners (casseroles, jello salads, and the works!) That decision will need to come from the Community Dinner Council in coordination with the other four churches. All of us have different facilities and thoughts. So, I will keep you posted.

Until then, **PLEASE, PLEASE** hang on to your plastic containers and lids. Until we return to casseroles, jello salads, green beans, oh my(!) we just don't have room in the pantry for all the various containers and lids. Carolyn Bryant just hauled 2 giant tubs of plastic to Litter Landing! Thank you, Mrs. Bryant!

Also, if you would like a lunch on the first Sunday of the month.....please call me (419-422-9640) to pre-order, or come down to the kitchen after early service or before late and pick one up. For the most part, although they are usually just hot sandwiches or burritos, they have been pretty yummy!

As always, thanks for your help!
J. Ebersole



So many thanks go to all who have been shopping for and donating to the Lenten 40 Days of Generosity food drive.

So many items of food and taxable goods that our clients don't always have the funds for have just "showed up" on the stage, in the shopping cart, or at the pantry. Volunteers and clients have been overwhelmed by your love and caring. I am reminded of St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians 2:4 *"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved."* Thanks for sharing God's love and extending his grace in this profound way. If you have missed out on this event, there is need all year round in many food pantries. So, don't hesitate to make a donation!



Riehm Farms has ended it's winter delivery of vegetables for their customers and will begin again June 1, 2021 with their weekly delivery.

Because they use the church parking lot we are given any left-over vegetables to share either with Community Dinner attendees, City Mission, CHOPIN Hall or friends. I will place a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office for volunteers to help with the pick-up of the vegetables.

Help is needed at 5:15 each week so many volunteers are needed. Any questions please ask Carolyn Bryant, 419-422-0015, leave a message if I don't answer and I will return your call. Watch for the sign-up sheet in May.



Good day, Everyone. I write this under sunny skies in Florida, yet when you read this, Paul and I will be wending our way home to Ohio. Such are the modern wonders of technology? I can say that it has been a restful vacation for these two snowbirds; sometimes I sit here and marvel at all the crazy errands and running around we do when home. Perhaps that is an area we should "work on" when we reach Township Road 72: more meaningful activities.

Today, I want to talk to you about an author that my sister's Catholic church has chosen several times for on-line study (this year's Lenten devotions) and for personal reading. The diocese first bought Resisting Happiness by Matthew Kelly to give to all the members. The theme centers around how we humans tend to sabotage those persons, places and things that could give us happiness and lead us to God.

However, the book which interests me today by Kelly is I Heard God Laugh. Kelly begins by reminding us that, no matter what age, we are who and what we are still capable of becoming, that we are both realized and unrealized potential. Reread that sentence. Think about it: we see endless potential in small children and young people, but at some point we stop thinking about it, including thinking about our own potential. Kelly reminds us that we are not finished until we reach eternity. One of the major ways to continue working toward our unrealized potential comes from keeping the soul in touch with God.

You see, there are four aspects of the human person: body, soul, will and intellect. Kelly maintains that our soul needs tending as much as does the body. That tending begins with daily prayer. He gives us permission to let our prayers be filled with questions: questions like "God, what do you think I should do?" and seeking the answer in God's time, not ours. If we have no "major" questions on a day, we can read a verse from the Bible and TALK with God about it: what do those lines mean to me?

Or we can talk with God about how to make the verse a part of my daily living. FYI: the daily meditation book Jesus Calling provides the Bible verse(s); we need only meditate and pray about the verses.



Another form of daily prayer is part of Native American philosophy. With this teaching, we do everything in a prayerful manner; as we go about our day, we observe, acknowledge, and let God in.

Finally, if we are still unsure how to talk with God, Kelly gives us his Seven Point Prayer Process:

1. **Gratitude.** Begin by thanking God in a personal dialogue for whatever you are most grateful for today.
2. **Awareness.** Talk to God about the times in the past twenty-four hours when you were and were not at your best. Discuss what you learned from them.
3. **Significant Moments.** Identify something you experienced today and explore what God might be trying to say to you through that person, place or thing.
4. **Peace.** Ask God to forgive you for any wrong you committed and to fill you with an abiding peace.
5. **Freedom.** Speak with God about how He is inviting you to change your life, so that you can be the best version of yourself.
6. **Others.** Lift up to God anyone you feel called to pray for today, asking God to bless and guide them.
7. **Finish** by praying the Our Father.

Paul invited us to "Pray constantly." Let's let all that we do become prayers in our lives.

God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Calendar of Events for April

Hannah Circle is in-service for the month of April

- April 13 Martha Circle, 9:30 am in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Linda Brancaleone
Leader: Carolyn Wilde
- April 13 Rachel Circle, 1:30 pm in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Carrie Howe
Leader: Cindy Fitzpatrick
- April 13 – 15 Rummage Sale Set-up
- April 16 – 17 Rummage Sale 16th; 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
17th – 9:00 am – Noon, clean up following sale
- April 19 Hannah Circle, 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge
Hostess: Nina Dukes
Leader: Julie Buck

Praying Boldly – A resource from Women of the ELCA

For some of us, praying is second nature, while for some; praying out loud is a bold step. If you're not used to praying as bold action, you may feel uncertain—or maybe even silly—about trying it. Trying new things is good. And praying with boldness is what we are called to do. It will change the world, and us. Here is a list of ways you might pray boldly.

Try doing a different prayer idea every day for a week, or try one new bold idea a week for seven weeks.

1. **Invite a group of friends** to pray with you.
2. **Pray for something that you think is completely impossible.** Journal about it and record what happens.
3. **Prayer-walk your neighborhood.** As you walk, look around at the houses you see and the people you pass. Pray for the people in your neighborhood. Prayer-walking is a great exercise all around— you get out and active, and your spirit gets moving boldly.
4. **Try praying aloud in a big group setting,** like your women's Bible study group or in church.
5. **Try a new prayer posture.** If you usually sit when praying, try kneeling. If you usually kneel, try standing and raising your hands.
6. **Pray over a meal out**—at school, work, or in a restaurant. Don't worry if others watch you; they may want to join you sometime.
7. **Share a song, a story, or a joke with God** as you pray. Or draw a prayer for God and color it beautifully! *Based on an idea from Jane Cline Rubicini, Kitchener, Ontario (2000)*

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive God's mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it. Hebrews 4:16 (New Living Bible)



April 16 & 17

Help is needed for setting up and working the days of the sale. Social distancing and masks are required. Set up will start Tuesday, April 13, We will have \$5 bag day both days of the sale, with customers bagging their own items. Some items will be marked and small purchases will be by donation. Cashiers will work from the kitchen window. We will furnish masks free of charge for shoppers who need one. If you are willing and able to help, please call Mary Lou McCann at 419-423-2226 and leave a message. If you don't call, you are always welcome to come and help. Donations may be placed on the stage.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2021 Flower Chart is up in the hallway, across from the church office.

Please consider signing up for flowers that honor or remember special people or events in you life. Not only are you sharing God's beauty of nature on Sundays, but you brighten your home or the home of a shut-in the following week. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His People.

What can YOU do?

At Home Members

Remember our At-Home Members during the Easter season by sending them a card. An At-Home list is available on the hall bulletin board. Feel free to take a list home.

Food Cart Requests



Toilet Paper, Soup
Laundry Detergent,

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



"DO YOU COUNT SHEEP TO GET TO SLEEP, GRAMPA?"

"NOPE... I TALK TO THE SHEPHERD."



Find us on:
facebook

Visit Our Website

www.1stLutheranChurch.org

Spring Weekday Bible Study Coming!

The Jerusalem Collection

Beginning May 5 and 6



"The Jerusalem Collection was a generous financial gift given by Paul's newly formed churches in Galatia, Philippi, and Corinth, to meet the needs of those experiencing hardship and poverty in Jerusalem. In addition to helping those in need, the Jerusalem Collection also served to break down long established barriers and bring unity to the Church of Jesus Christ. The spiritual practice of generosity is one of the gifts God uses to renew both the church and the world."

- Bishop Beaudoin

Two options for weekday Bible study will be offered in May. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 beginning May 5. The same six-session course will be offered Thursday mornings at 10:00 beginning May 6. The class will study "The Jerusalem Collection", a course prepared by Bishop Dan Beaudoin and others as part of the synod's 2021 Year of Generosity. It draws from references to this collection in the Book of Acts and in Paul's letters to the Romans, Corinthians, and Galatians.

Pastor Art Wilde will be the facilitator.

Since gatherings are limited to ten people, those who wish to attend must sign up in advance. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in church, or you may register by contacting the church office, 419-422-2638, or email at flcFindlay@gmail.com.

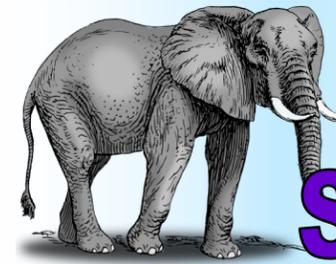
COVID-19 protocols about masks and social distancing in effect at that time will be observed. BYOB (Bring your own Bible, any translation.) The class will meet in Fellowship Hall.

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8)



**In-Person Youth Sunday School
Begins in-person on April 11, 9:50—10:10**

Sunday School for Pre-school (4's) to 6th grade will return to in person beginning April 11, at 9:50 am to 10:10 am in the basement (red door room). We will be studying bible stories, watching Whirl video, and doing activities that go along with the story. Come and join us!!!



Ndani yote!

"All Aboard"
(Swahili)

the

STEWARDSHIP



Welcome to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Nestled along a natural harbor on the Indian Ocean, **Dar es Salaam** ["Abode of Peace"] is a multicultural city of some 5 million inhabitants, home to African Tanzanians, Arabic and South Asian communities, British and German expatriates, Catholics, Lutherans and Muslims. This diversity in people is reflected in the culture: the city boasts international cuisine ranging from traditional Tanzanian barbecue and Zanzibari food to Thai, Chinese and American restaurants. Its vibrant music scene has witnessed a rise in Bongo Flava, a form of hip hop. While in Tanzania, climb Mt. Kilimanjaro [Africa's highest], go on a safari in the Serengeti National Park, take a boat trip on Lake Victoria or snorkel in the blue Indian Ocean off exotic Zanzibar.



"...you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others."

- 2 Corinthians 9:13

"To make people know Jesus Christ and have life in it fullness by bringing to them the Good News through words and deeds based on the Word of God ..." This is the mission statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) made up of 26 dioceses and comprised of 6.5 million members [the ELCA has 3.4 million members].

The Church focuses on propagating the "holistic" Gospel serving man through spiritual, social, economic and environmental ministries. Among these are:

The Tumaini University, Morogoro Lutheran Junior Seminary (LJS), three schools for deaf children, 23 hospitals and more than 140 health centers and dispensaries spread across Tanzania. It is engaged in HIV counseling, treatment and palliative care. ELCT has a number of water projects as well as poverty alleviation and environment protection projects.

The Berlin III Missionary Society, also known as the Evangelical Missionary Society for East Africa (EMS), was the first to send Lutheran missionaries from Germany who planted the seed that eventually formed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Their first missionary station was opened at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam in 1887.

On June 19, 1963, seven Lutheran churches merged to become the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanganyika. The following year, when the union with Zanzibar produced a change of the national name to Tanzania, the Church was renamed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

The ELCA has twelve missionaries in Tanzania whose task is to support the work of the ELCT.



ELCA Missionaries in Tanzania



These pastors may look familiar to you. They are **Mark Rich** and his wife, **Cynthia Holder Rich**. They are ELCA missionaries serving as lecturers in theology at Tumaini University Makumira, Tanzania. They may look familiar because Pastor Mark was formerly a member of our congregation, Pastor Cynthia, pastor at 1st Presbyterian, Findlay, and they both spoke at our church a while back. We also have supported their ministry financially as we do whenever we give an offering [they are supported by Global Missions of the ELCA]



The Dodoma Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church is Tanzania (ELCT) is one of 26 dioceses of the ELCT and is located in the middle of Tanzania.

From it's website, the mission of the ELCT is "to enable people to know Jesus Christ and gain eternal life."

The Dodoma Diocese has been a "companion synod" of the NWS for several years. The Northwestern Ohio Synod has multiple on-going missions and projects in the Dodoma Diocese.

Ndani yote!



STEWARD SHIP

NewsLetter
DEADLINE
Monday, April 19th

April Birthdays

ALTAR FLOWERS

Apr. 4
Apr. 11 - Marilyn Dunn
Apr. 18
Apr. 25- Confirmation
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.

ALTAR GUILD

Gerbers and Schriners

COUNTERS

Randy & Julie Buck

LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

FLOWER DELIVERY

Anniversaries

James & Maurine Denney
4/3/1972

50

Clyde & Donna Mason
4/7/1980

41

Randy & Julie Buck
4/15/1989

32

Jeffrey & Lesley Betts
4/25/1988

23

Dean & Amy Bowser
4/26/1986

35

Alex & Jennifer Treece
4/27/2002

19

Avarie Needles	4/1
Nick Thorbahn	4/2
Doug Bonnoront	4/3
Charles Crates	4/3
Jerry Bryant	4/4
Nick Muntzing	4/4
Rhonda May	4/11
Wayne Dukes	4/12
Edwin Dunn	4/12
Doris Brand	4/15
Beth Meier	4/15
Ken Bahler	4/18
Jack Haffelder	4/18
Cynthia Fitzpatrick	4/20
Robert Rodman	4/20
Patricia Needles	4/21
Robert Schriener	4/23
Maurine Denney	4/24
Harper Cleary	4/25
Oliver Cleary	4/25
Cecilia Maag	4/26
Paige Peplinski	4/27
Judith Mains	4/28
Gary Schultz	4/29
Gavin Haudenschild	4/30
Jack Meek	4/30



Cross of Love

My Gift \$ _____

Your Help is Needed

Given by: _____

In Loving memory of _____

In honor of: _____

Please mail your gift to the church office (109 E. Lincoln St.)

Gifts will benefit Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry, Findlay

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Palm Sunday Worship 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot	29 10:30am Ladies Bible Study	30 7pm Book Club	31 7pm Confirmation	1-Apr 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship (In-Person) ↔	2 9:30am Bulletin Assembly 7:30pm Good Friday Worship	3 9:30am Lilly Set-up
4 Easter Worship 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot 11:30am Community Dinner	5 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Stewardship /Evangelism 6:30pm Worship & Music	6 7pm Book Club	7 7pm Confirmation	8 4:30pm Organ Rhs.	9 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	10
11 Noisy Offering Worship 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot	12 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Social Ministry	13 Rummage Sale Set-up 9:00	14 Rummage Sale Set-up 9:00	15 4:30pm Organ Rhs. 6pm BSA	16 Rummage 9:00—5:00 9:30am Bulletin Assembly (6:00pm) BSA	17 Sale 9:00—12:00
18 Worship 9am In-Person 10:30am Parking Lot	19 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 12pm Newsletter Deadline 7pm Hannah	20 9am Martha 1:30pm Rachel 7:30pm Finance	21 7pm Confirmation Rehearsal	22 4:30pm Organ Rhs.	23 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	24
25 Worship 9am In-Person - Confirmation 10:30 Parking Lot	26 10:30am Ladies Bible Study	27 9:30Newsletter Mailing	28 7pm Confirmation Rehearsal	29 4:30pm Organ Rhs.	30 9:30am Bulletin Assembly	

First
Lutheran
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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

Current Resident Or:



Mailed around
March 23, 2021

April 1
Maundy Thursday
7:00pm In-Person



April 2—Good Friday
7:00 pm, In-Person
7:00 On-line at *Trinity Lutheran*
Facebook Page

Easter Worship

In-Person 9:00
Parking Lot Celebration 10:30

419-422-2638

www.1stLutheranChurch.org