

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Statement:

Sharing God's grace through prayer, witness, and service.

First Lutheran Church
208 West Sandusky Avenue
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311
937-592-7699
Website:
www.flcbellefontaine.org
Email: info@flcbellefontaine.org

First
Hand



2024

Pastor Larry Novak- lnovak@flcbellefontaine.org

Office Mngr., Rachel Gillespie- rgillespie@flcbellefontaine.org

Director of Music, Judy Vassar- jvassar@flcbellefontaine.org

Bell Choir Director, Stephanie Oaks- sloaks1737@gmail.com



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Easter, March 31st



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The season of Lent is a time when we return to our baptismal promises. It is a time where we are asked to seriously take a look at our lives and admit the sins we partake in that turn us away from God. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's resurrection, we are asked to make a commitment to repent of the ways we have turned from the Lord.

But what if, in so doing, we are so overwhelmed with the knowledge of our sinful nature that we fall into spiritual despair?

After all, there is no question that sin abounds in our world: mass shootings, political turmoil, war, famine, dictatorships, and other evils. It is so very tempting to throw our hands up and say "What is the point of working for justice and peace in the world? The evil we are trying to defeat is too great, and our proclamation of the Gospel seems so ineffective. What good can I, a sinful human being, accomplish?"

In July 1530, Martin Luther wrote a letter to his friend, Jerome Weller. Weller had previously lived in the Luther home, tutored his children, and was now struggling with spiritual despair.

Luther advised Jerome that the source of his despair was none other than Satan himself. Luther encouraged his friend to mock and despise the devil, rather than trying to argue with him. He also advised his friend to develop relationships with a Christian community and avoid being alone, "*for the devil watches and lies in wait for you most of all when you are alone.*"

The letter concludes with this powerful testimony:

When the devil throws our sins up to us and declares we deserve death and hell, we ought to speak thus:

"I admit that I deserve death and hell. What of it? Does this mean that I shall be sentenced to eternal damnation? By no means. For I know One who suffered and made a satisfaction in my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Where he is, there I shall be also."

Moses was a murderer. David committed adultery (possibly rape) and murder. Isaiah said he was a man of unclean lips. Peter asked Jesus to depart from him, for he was a sinful man. But God called all these people. The reality is that God knows our sinful nature and our weaknesses and calls us anyway.

Easter is coming. Easter is more than a celebration of an event that happened in the past. It is even more than a foretaste of our own resurrection in the future. Easter is the recognition that God has broken into our world in the here and now. It is the promise that God is working to reconcile not just humanity but all of God's creation to God. And God calls us to join him in that endeavor. The hard part has already been accomplished with Christ's resurrection. The devil has already lost. He just hasn't surrendered yet.

Yes, we are sinners. Yes, we deserve death and hell. What of it? Christ is with us. Christ redeems us. Christ reconciles us to God. Christ liberates us from the forces of Sin, Death, and the Devil. Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Larry



Director of Music

March 2024

Since the cost of vases and pots of flowers are kind of high, the worship team decided to try something new for Easter flowers. You are invited to bring in your own tulips, daffodils, lilies, and hyacinth. We ask you to please bring them to the church Saturday morning, March 30, or Sunday morning, March 31. We have a sign-up sheet asking how many you MIGHT bring just so we can plan.

This summer instead of voting for new favorite hymns I'm going to use the next 20 from last summer's vote.



May the shamrock bring you lots of luck

With the blessings of success.

Good friends

Good health

Good time to share



Has This Ever Happened to You?

You walk in the door and see the offering plate. You lean over and ask your spouse if she has the envelope? She replies that she left it on the table for you to put in your pocket. Ooops! No envelope to give this week! In the rush of getting off to church, we all forget the envelope occasionally. Check out an easier way to give. You can set up automatic bill pay from your bank account. Let them handle remembering the envelope.



February 28

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner Hosted by Council Serving Shredded
Chicken

March 6

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner Hosted by Property Serving Lasagna &
Garlic Bread

March 13th

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner Hosted by FLIRT Chef's Surprise

March 20

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner Hosted by Christian Action Bacon Ranch
Shredded Chicken &
Pulled Pork

The committees will also provide beverages along with the main dish. Those attending can bring a side dish, such as a salad or dessert to share.

All Lenten Services follow the meal at 7:00 pm



**EASTER BREAKFAST ON March 31st at 9:00 am
prior to the Communion Worship Service.**

**The breakfast will feature a variety of homemade,
traditional foods.**

**There will be sign up sheets posted in the near
future in the lower narthex.**



Holy Week & Easter



MARCH 24TH @ 10:00 AM



MARCH 28TH @ 7:00 PM



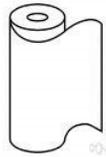
MARCH 29TH @ 7:00 PM



EASTER SERVICE
MARCH 31 @ 10:00 AM

FAITH CIRCLE WILL HOLD THEIR MARCH MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TUESDAY LUNCH IN THE COURTYARD ON MARCH 19TH. AT OUR MEETING WE WILL ALSO COLLECT OFFERINGS FOR OUR GENERAL FUND & PENNIES FOR HABITAT. BRING YOUR LUNCH AND JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AND GOOD CONVERSATION.

(SEE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR LENTEN PROJECT BELOW)



**MAKE
LENT
COUNT**

PRAY • ACT • GIVE

During the season of Lent, Faith Circle will be sponsoring a service project to benefit residents of Luther Community. Items collected will be:

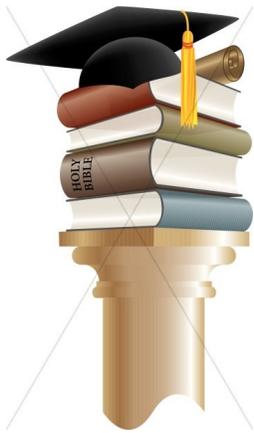
- liquid laundry detergent-
requesting smaller containers such as 37 oz to 55 or 65 oz as the larger ones are difficult for residents to manage and also this way more residents might benefit:

- liquid dish detergent
- paper towels
- toilet paper (2 ply, but please not the thick luxury brand as it is hard on plumbing)

A bin in the lower narthex will be available to collect the items throughout



“TUESDAY LUNCH” IN THE COURTYARD/LOUNGE WILL MEET AT NOON ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH AND MARCH 19TH. BRING YOUR LUNCH AND ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP.



The Christian Higher Education Fund Ministry Team is responsible for providing grants to worthy applicants from First Lutheran Church to assist in continuing their education beyond high school. Sizes of the grants are determined by two factors: number of applicants and available funds. Financial contributions are always welcome and greatly assist in our endeavors.

This year's applications are available in the church office and should be completed and returned to the office by April 15th.

The Ministry Team then meets in late April or early May to review the applications and determine grants. Current members of the Ministry Team are Chris Tillman, Cheri Comstock.



Thanks to all who help out at Our Daily Bread. We will be serving on March 18th at 4:15 pm and helpers are needed to serve the meals. Also needed are cookies, cupcakes or brownies. Please contact the church office if you plan to help.



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10th.
Remember to move your clocks forward 1 hour.



Please consider donating one and/or two vases of altar flowers. We still have numerous openings for 2024. The need for March, April, and May are as follows:

Mar 10 — 2 vases	Apr 14— 2 vases
Mar 17— 2 vases	Apr 21— 2 vases
Mar—24—1 vase	May 5—2 vases



Dear First Lutheran Church,

We are very appreciative of all of the support and resources that the congregation members and committees at First Lutheran offers to our residents at Luther Community Apartments. Thank you for all that you do to support elderly and disabled seniors in our community!

Staff & Residents, Luther Community



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the love and support that you have given us during Dad's passing. Thank you to Pastor Larry, Rick Ramsey & Brenda Shively for their visits to mom. We love you couldn't have gotten through this without our church family.

Love Misty Kipker



Thank you for your cards, prayers at the time of Janet Brunke's death.

Maxine Brunke



Thanks so much to our church family for reaching out with prayers, well-wishes, and concerns during my recent hip surgery and rehab. Thanks for driving help into OSU facilities for many pre-op appointments was instrumental in accommodating our needs. All is going well so far. It means a lot for your expressions of concern and support in prayer. Our family is so grateful.

Don Voorhies



My family at First Lutheran,

Thank you all for your prayers, cards and words of encouragement I so appreciate the visits at the hospital and Logan Acres. A big thank you to Carl Gillespie for the trips to the doctors and Pastor Larry for communion. I am so lucky to have a caring church family.

God Bless You All,

Gloria Kipker

SAVE THE DATE

LaComedia Dinner Theatre Springboro, Ohio

The Church Basement Ladies in “Plowin’ Thru”

Thursday May 16th

Tickets \$46 Includes Buffet Dinner and Show This is a noon matinee. We would be leaving from the church parking lot at 9:00 AM.
See Susan Wyckoff for more information and to reserve a seat.



The year is 1975 and all your favorite characters are back in the 9th installment of the wildly popular series. Whether this is your first visit to the basement or you've seen 'em all, you won't want to miss this brand new show!

It's been five years since Pastor left and the church is struggling. As Pastor comes back to fill in as interim, Karin has taken a leadership role in the church and Beverly, now a mother of three, is ready for a larger role in the kitchen.

Come along as the ladies don their polyester pantsuits and sing, dance and laugh their way thru this hilarious and touching new musical, ***Plowin Thru***.



**March Ministry Team Meeting
Date:**

- 3/9 9:00 am Property
- 3/19 7:00pm FLIRT Meeting
- 3/25 7:00pm Worship Team

2024 Church Council

- President-** Chris Hildreth Blair
- Vice-President-** John Bodin
- Secretary-** Carolyn Novak
- Treasurer** – John Belser
- Financial Secretary** – Judy Vassar
- Members-** Kathy Fultz, Brian Hogan, Gary Kauffman, Judy Lunz, Sue Neer, Brittany Porter, Liz Rose



Sunday Attendance for Jan

	<i>On site</i>	<i>Online</i>
Jan 7	55	52
Jan 14	48	55
Jan 21	74	24
Jan 28	65	40
<u>Average</u>	60	42



Ministry Team Highlights

CHEF

- Educational Grants

Christian Action

- Upcoming Spring Events

FLIRT

- Continued safety plan

NLCF

- Grant Requests

Outreach Ministry Team

- Developing new ways to reach neighborhood families—movies 1x a month

Property Ministry Team

- Building maintenance

Quilters

- 200 + quilts completed in 2023

WELCA

- Monthly Mission Projects

Worship Ministry Team

- Holy Week Services

Copies of reports from the monthly meetings of each ministry team is available for you to view in the Partners In Ministry Book located in the lower narthex.

During the past month we have remembered many in prayer. We remember in prayer all who are in need of God's presence and care ... especially:



Health Issues

Gloria Kipker

Carolyn Novak

Anna May

Jordan Banks

Margie Anderson

Walt Stephan

Megan Keckler

Gary Pitts

Surgery

Don Voorhies

Entered the Church

Janet Brunke



- 03/09 Lois Heintz
- 03/13 Barb Triplett
- 03/13 Tom Rose
- 03/15 Mike Adkins
- 03/21 Carol Smola
- 03/24 Linda MacGillivray
- 03/26 Dennis Latimer
- 03/27 Ella Swisher
- 03/30 Rhonda Bingaman
- 03/31 Emma Swisher



March 17th



- 03/23/2013 Cody & Dana Allen
- 03/11/1980 David & Ginger Buchenroth
- 03/13/1964 William & Lois Heintz
- 03/28/1981 Gary & Susie Shields



Articles for the April 2024 Newsletter will be due by Tuesday, **March 20th.**

Worship Assistant

3/3 Dick Griffith
3/10 Kris Shannon
3/17 Kris Swisher
3/24 Brenda Shively
3/28
3/31 Beth Harman

Communion Assistant

3/3 Gail Keck
3/10 Jean Wright
3/17 Sue Neer
3/24 Kris Swisher
3/28 Chris Hildreth Blair
3/31 Ray Swisher

Reader

3/3 Dan Shively
3/10 Bodin Family Member
3/17 David Buchenroth
3/24 Chris Hildreth Blair

Altar Guild

3/3 Cindy Weikart
3/10 Cindy Weikart
3/17 Carl & Rachel Gillespie
3/24 Carl & Rachel Gillespie
3/31 Cindy Weikart

Greeters

3/3 Stacie Jones
3/10 Sue Neer
3/17 Jean Wright
3/24 Ray & Cheryl Kramer
3/28 Dan Shively
3/29 Kathy Fultz
3/31 Max & Margie Bixler

Acolyte

3/3 Dane Reffner
3/10 Lottie Bodin
3/17 Lottie Bodin
3/24 Alexis Hogan
3/31 Alexis Hogan

Crucifer

Delaney Reffner
Brooks Bodin
Brooks Bodin

Ushers

3/3 Stacie Jones
3/10 Dave Vassar
3/17 Kathy Fultz
3/24 Mike Zoldak
3/28 Susan Wyckoff
3/31 Max Bixler

Communion Bread

Rita Iiams

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>25</p> <p>9:00am Fellowship Time 9:00am Sunday School Classes 10:00am Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:30am CORE Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Lenten Dinner 7:00pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>29</p> <p>3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed 10:00am ETB 11:00am Poor Peoples Campaign Rally, Columbus</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9:00am Fellowship Time 9:00am Sunday School Classes 10:00am Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Dulcimers</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Courtyard 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am Cluster Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Lenten Dinner 7:00pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am Homeless Shelter Board Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Office Closed 12:30pm Hunger Network of Ohio- zoom</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Office Closed 9:00am Property Meeting [Lounge] 10:00am ETB 11:30am ETB</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Fellowship Time 9:00am Sunday School Classes 10:00am Communion Worship Service 2:00pm ETB - Board Mtg. 2:00pm Go to the Movies -RH 4:00pm ETB</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>3:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Lenten Dinner 7:00pm Contemporary Lenten Service</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am Continuum of Care Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Confirmation Camp Office Closed</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Confirmation Camp Office Closed 6:30pm Dulcimers</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00am Fellowship Time 9:00am Sunday School Classes 10:00am Communion Worship Service (Mad River Dulcimers)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 4:15pm Our Daily Bread 6:00pm LCS Board Meeting @ Daily Bread</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Courtyard 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm FLIRT Meeting [Lounge]</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Lenten Dinner 7:00pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>21</p> <p>3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00am Fellowship Time 9:45am Sunday School Classes 10:00am Palm Sunday Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir 8:00pm Bells</p>	<p>28</p> <p>3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office Closed 7:00pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed 9:00am Easter Breakfast Prep 1:00pm ETB</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:00am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Easter Sunday Communion Worship Service 10:00am Noisy Money & CHEF Sunday</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 6:30pm Dulcimers 7:00pm Council</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>