



FIRST HAND

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

Mission Statement:

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

Vision Statement:

Connecting people to Jesus and one another



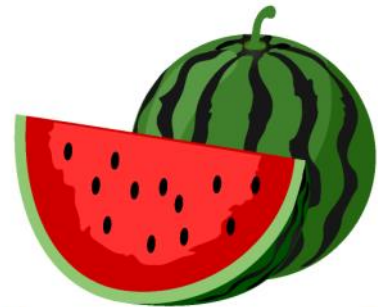
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Custodian — David Linebaugh

OUR WELCOME STATEMENT

At First Lutheran, all means all, and the gifts of God are free. We welcome, love, affirm, and include everyone in our faith community regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Here in this place, you will find a warm, loving Christian family which strives to faithfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all of God's children. We renounce racism, discrimination, and persecution in any form, in faithfulness to the gospel, and to the best of our ability, we promise to provide ministries and pastoral care to all who seek God in this place.

GOD WELCOMES ALL, AND SO DO WE



August

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The dog days of August are upon us. August is typically a quiet month for the church. We are still in the midst of “ordinary time”—the Sundays after Pentecost. No major holidays; no church socials, bible studies are still on summer break, the County Fair has come and gone. Maybe back to school shopping is beginning, but for the most part, it's a pretty slow month. Thankfully, August even provides us with a break from most political news, as Congress takes a break, the President normally takes a vacation, and the Supreme Court is out until the first Monday in October.

As for me, I have a week-long seminar in Gettysburg, PA the week of August 9-13, then Carolyn and I are leaving on a three-week vacation beginning August 17. We will be going to Branson Missouri for a few days, out to Oklahoma City, a trip to New Mexico to visit family, a trip to the Grand Canyon, a visit to Denver, then returning home. I am looking forward to the rest.

Rest...such a wonderful gift from God. The Third Commandment tells to rest on the Sabbath and keep it holy. The Bible gives two different reasons for taking a Sabbath. In Exodus 20:8-11, we read:

8 “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

We rest because God rested. But in Deuteronomy 5:12-15, we read:

2 “ ‘Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 14 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. 15 Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

As slaves in Egypt, the Hebrews were unable to rest. But now that God has rescued them from slavery, they are given the gift of a day of rest.

Our world today has us constantly on the go. We pop dinner in the microwave. We turn on our phones and get news in an instant. We almost feel guilty if we are not DOING something. It is important to remember the wonderful gift of rest that God gives us, so that we may refresh our bodies, our minds, and our souls.

I hope that this summer has provided you with an opportunity for rest and relaxation. Things will pick up again after Labor Day. But for now, give yourself permission to slow down, take in the beauty of God’s creation, and let God give you rest.

Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Larry



FINANCIAL SECRETARY

August – The problem (and power) of money

Wealth poses deep spiritual risks for the people of God. From Jesus' teachings we learn that money has the power to turn us inward on ourselves — away from loving God with all our heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves.



Director of Music

August Newsletter

In July we had special music by Kris Swisher and Chris Tillman with David Buchenroth and Larry Walker participating on July 5. July 12 was special music with Caroline Novak. July 26 was a park service in Oakland Square Park with special music by Stephanie Oaks. Thank you so very much for your time and effort.

August features music by Angie Wallace, Larry Walker, Alexis Hogan and Brian Hogan.

FAMOUS QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.” — Victor Hugo



Suggested Food Items for August

- canned meats such as tuna, chicken
 - pork 'n beans
 - crackers
 - canned veggies

There are several donation bins in the lower narthex always collecting something. However, there is one bin in particular that I've noticed has somewhat faded into the background. And that is the bin for LCS Food Pantry. In these difficult times, our donations are needed more than ever.

Christian Action Ministry Team is stepping up to bring more awareness to Food Pantry donations. There will be a monthly suggestion for donated food items.

As you are doing your weekly or monthly grocery shopping, consider throwing some additional food items into your cart. It doesn't take much and will provide much-needed food to our neighbors. **THANK YOU!**



The next evening, we will be serving Our Daily Bread is **Monday, August 17th**. If you can't help us serve, but would still like to help you could provide the dessert. Desserts needed are cupcakes, cookies or brownies. Volunteers are asked to arrive at Our Daily Bread about 4:15 pm prior to the serving time of 4:30 pm. If you are planning to help, please let the office know.



Quilt News

We are very thankful for the support of this congregation as well as the community. We welcome donations of fabric and sheets, especially sheets. We meet on Tuesday mornings and would welcome anyone who would like to join us. God's work.... our hands.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FOR June

	On Site	Online
June 7	52	94
June 14	51	112
June 21	57	96
June 28	<u>VBS Park Service</u>	
TOTAL	160	302
Average	53	100



TUESDAY LUNCH IN THE COURTYARD!

Lunch in the Courtyard will meet on Tuesday August 4th at noon.

Bring your lunch and lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, we'll meet in the Courtyard.

On Tuesday August 18th, we will travel to Young's Jersey Dairy in Yellow Springs for lunch and ice cream!

We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 to carpool.

This is a time for good fellowship. Come, Join Us! Women and Men, All are invited!

Christian Action Ministry Team will meet on Monday August 10th at 6:00 in the lounge.

We will be discussing and planning fall activities and events.
Come, join us to be a part of this fun, welcoming committee.



I would like to Thank everyone who sent cards, said prayers & visited me at Logan Acres. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Thank you to Pastor Larry for seeing me at OSU.

May God bless you all.

Alice Godwin

We apologize for the delay in sending this out. But, we would like to thank everyone for all they have done for us these past few months. We received so many cards, prayers and blessings. We also want to thank Pastor Larry (and Carolyn) for his visits. Everyone made us feel loved and cared for. We are so grateful for our church family. We are doing better. Brenda's wrist is healing nicely (not near as bad as the other wrist was 6 years ago). She has already started light physical therapy. Dan is doing better but is just slow at getting his strength back. He will have another procedure done the end of August where they will take out the stent in the liver bile duct. Then it will be repeated probably around 6 months later to make sure the mass doesn't come back. We are so thankful that it was not cancerous at this time. God's blessings to all! Brenda and Dan

Ministry Team Meetings

8/3	7:00 pm	Council
8/10	6:00 pm	Christian Action
8/10	7:00 pm	Faith Formation
8/18	7:00 pm	FLIRT
8/20	6:00 pm	Outreach

Church Council– 2026

President – Sue Neer

Vice-President– Brian Hogan

Secretary– Stephanie Oaks

Financial Secretary - Judy Vassar

Treasurer—Rita Iiams

Members—Amy Adkins, John Bodin, Marshall Blair Hildreth, Gary Kauffman, Judy Lunz, Jessica Morris, Kathy Fultz



Articles for the September 2026 Newsletter will be due by Monday, **August 20th**.



Highlights

- ***Christian Action***

Projects

- ***FLIRT***

Continued safety plan

- ***NLCF***

Continued grant requests

- ***Outreach***

Developing new ways to reach neighborhood families.

- ***Property***

Repairs

- ***Worship***

Special services

Contemporary Services

- ***WELCA***

Tuesdays in the Courtyard

Projects

- ***Quilters***

275+ quilts in 2024

- ***CHEF***

6 grants given in 2024

- ***FAITH FORMATION***

Sunday School

Youth Events

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 or Surgery

Connor Lee

Connie Regula

Marge MacGillivray

Entered the Church Triumphant

Terri Ransbottom

Bill Keck

08/01 Rachel Gillespie
08/05 Samantha Starkey
08/05 Sarah Starkey
08/06 Julie Zoldak
08/11 April Fultz
08/12 Joy Badenhop
08/14 Walt Stephan
08/14 Ray Kramer
08/14 Steve Heath
08/16 Peggy Dishop
08/18 Nicole Clifton
08/18 Margie Anderson
08/21 Alexza Clifton
08/28 Terry Lunz
08/29 Libby Zoldak
08/31 Rita Iiams

08/19/2023 Mike & Amy Adkins
08/26/1961 Ron & Judy Hadley
08/09/1957 Keith & Barb Krueger
08/24/1973 Ed & Deb Pulfer





LOGAN COUNTY'S COUNTYWIDE SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE IS BACK!



HERE'S WHAT WE'RE COLLECTING THIS YEAR

BOLD items are most requested by the schools.

- **BACKPACKS**
- Binders
- Colored Pencils
- Composition Notebooks
- Crayons
- **DISINFECTING WIPES**
- Dry Erase Markers
- **ELASTIC WAIST PANTS AND SHORTS**
- Erasers
- Folders
- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Hand Sanitizer
- **HEADPHONES (OVER-EAR)**
- Highlighters
- Index Cards
- Markers
- Notebooks (College AND Wide-Ruled)
- Paper
- Paper Towels
- **PENCILS**
- Pencil Bags
- Pens (Blue & Black)
- **POST-IT NOTES**
- Rulers
- Sandwich Bags
- School Boxes
- Scissors
- Socks
- Tissues
- Underwear
- Water Bottles
- Watercolor Paint



HELP OUT OUR LOCAL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS!

ITEMS COLLECTED WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO:



Bellefontaine City Schools

Mac-A-Cheek Learning Center



Benjamin Logan Local Schools



Calvary Christian School



Indian Lake Local Schools



Ohio Hi-Point Career Center



Riverside Local Schools



West Liberty-Salem Schools

STUFF THE BUS



Worship Assistant

8/2	Beth Harman
8/9	Brenda Shively
8/16	Chris Hildreth Blair
8/23 (Park)	Kris Shannon
8/30	Chris McKenrick

Communion Assistant

8/2	Amy Adkins
8/9	No Communion
8/16	Barb Triplett
8/23	Park Service
8/30	Ray Swisher

Reader

8/2	Margie Bixler
8/9	Jessica Morris
8/16	Brian Hogan
8/23 (Park)	Chris Hildreth Blair
8/30	Susan Wyckoff

Altar Guild

Stephanie Oaks

Greeters

8/2	Ray & Kris Swisher
8/9	Beth Harman
8/16	Don & Georgia Voorhies
8/23	Park Service
8/30	Jan Van Hoose

Acolyte

8/2	Brooks Bodin
8/9	
8/16	
8/23	Park Service
8/30	Brooks Bodin

Ushers

8/2	Ray Swisher
8/9	Jean Wright
8/16	Ray Kramer
8/23 (Park)	Dave Comstock
8/30	Chris Hildreth Blair

Communion Bread

Chris Hildreth Blair—8/2

Rita Iiams

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Park Service 2:30pm Green Hills Service	27 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	28 9:00am Quilters	29 3:00pm NA (RH) 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	30 3:00pm NA (RH)	31 Office Closed	1 Office Closed 10:00am Holland (RH) 7:05pm Clippers Game
2 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 2:00pm Bill Keck Visitation	3 11:00am Bill Keck Funeral 6:30pm Dulcimers (RH) 6:30pm Holland Rehearsal 7:00pm Council Meeting	4 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Courtyard 12:00pm Speakers Bureau (Zoom) 6:30pm Holland Rehearsal (RH)	5 3:00pm NA (RH) 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 6:30pm Holland Rehearsal (RH)	6 12:00pm Homeless Shelter Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH)	7 Office Closed 10:30am Carpet Cleaning - Downstairs	8 Office Closed
9 Pastor Out 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Worship Service	10 Pastor Out 6:00pm Christian Action Meeting 7:00pm Faith Formation	11 Pastor Out 9:00am Quilters	12 Pastor Out 3:00pm NA (RH)	13 Pastor Out 3:00pm NA (RH)	14 Office Closed Pastor Out	15 Office Closed
16 Congregational Meeting after service 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	17 Pastor Out 4:15pm Our Daily Bread	18 Pastor Out 9:00am Quilters 11:30am Lunch in the Courtyard @ Young's Dairy 7:00pm FLIRT Meeting [Lounge]	19 Pastor Out 3:00pm NA (RH)	20 Pastor Out 3:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Outreach Meeting	21 Office Closed Pastor Out	22 Office Closed Pastor Out
23 Pastor Out 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Park Service	24 Pastor Out	25 Pastor Out 8:00am Boiler Inspection 9:00am Quilters	26 Pastor Out 3:00pm NA (RH)	27 Pastor Out 3:00pm NA (RH)	28 Office Closed Pastor Out	29 Office Closed Pastor Out
30 Noisy Money/CHEF Pastor Out 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	31 Pastor Out	1 Pastor Out 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Courtyard	2 Pastor Out 3:00pm NA (RH)	3 Pastor Out 3:00pm NA (RH)	4 Office Closed Pastor Out	5 Office Closed Pastor Out