



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2023

First Hand

208 West Sandusky Avenue
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311
(937) 592-7699
www.flcbellefontaine.org

Mission Statement:

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

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



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.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We look at what is happening in Israel with a mixture of sadness and horror. So much death and destruction. We wonder why in the world that the people who live in that part of the world cannot live together in peace. Why are there groups that are opposed to the very existence of Israel?

Countries, denominations, communities, families: all of these entities frequently experience the pain of conflict and separation.

Countries are torn apart by civil war. Civil wars are happening today in several countries, including Syria, South Sudan, and Yemen. Of course, the United States had its own civil war over the issue of slavery from 1861 to 1865.

Half of all families are torn apart by divorce. Of course, divorce is just the end result of the true causes of separation: abuse, adultery, abandonment, addiction, and other matters.

Communities are torn apart by political differences that get so heated that those who disagree with us are seen as enemies.

Denominations are torn apart by differences in doctrine. The ELCA was formed just 36 years ago, and already there have been two major splits:

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ was formed in 2001 (in opposition to the Call to Common Mission agreement establishing full communion between the Episcopal Church and the ELCA)

The North American Lutheran Church was formed in 2010 (in protest of the social statement on human sexuality adopted at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2008).

In the past two years, twenty percent of congregations in the United Methodist Church have left the UMC to either become members of the Global Methodist Church or to become independent.

Lutherans of course are no strangers to separation and conflict. The Lutheran Church itself was formed when reformers like Martin Luther tried to reform the Catholic Church and were excommunicated because of it.

I believe that all the causes of division and brokenness in this world go beyond the sins of humanity. The powers of Sin, Death, and the Devil separate us from God and separate us from one another.

In the Apostle's Creed, we state that we believe in ONE holy, catholic, and apostolic church. But how can we truly confess ONE church when the people of God are so divided? Who can unite us? To whom can we turn?

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

² *My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

³ *He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.*

⁴ *He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

⁵ *The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.*

⁶ *The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.*

⁷ *The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.*

⁸ *The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. (Psalm 121)*

Only the Lord Jesus Christ can unite us: not King David or King Solomon; not Abraham Lincoln or any other president; not Martin Luther or Martin Luther King Jr.

Only Christ, through his death and resurrection, can redeem us and reconcile us to God. And only the Holy Spirit of Christ, working through his people, his church, can unite us and heal the wounds that divide us from one another. The Spirit of Christ working through us can heal this broken world.

Let us pray for peace: peace in Israel, Ukraine, and other countries raved by war; peace in our communities, in our families, and in our congregations. And may the peace of Christ, which passes all our understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Larry



The Missing Ingredient

. (Luke 18: 18-23; NRSV)

18 A certain ruler asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'
19 Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.
20 You know the commandments: "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother." ' 21 He replied, 'I have kept all these since my youth.' 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, 'There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' 23 But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich.
In Luke's account of Jesus' encounter with the rich ruler, we see a man who seems to have the recipe for an ideal life – power, money, and religious zeal. However Jesus informs him that his 'life recipe' is missing an ingredient – the formative experience of allowing God to redefine his purpose and to redirect the usage of his possessions. All of the man's statements point to what he has kept or wants to receive. But Jesus informs him that he needs to give to others and lose his will in God's will.



Director of Music

Please mark on your calendar the joint Thanksgiving Service at Galilee Lutheran Church 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.



I hope you can enjoy the music during the holiday season and find peace in your lives.

Thanksgiving Community Worship Service ***7:00 pm***



Galilee Lutheran Church
301 Lincoln Blvd.
Russells Point, Ohio
(937) 843-3906

All Saints Sunday

The Remembrance Book is displayed in the upper narthex for you to write down a loved one's name or someone dear to your heart, that passed away this year. These names will be included in our prayers during service on All Saint's Sunday, November 5th.



Members of First Lutheran Church, Thank you for the altar flowers, prayers, cards and Pastor Larry's visit to bring us communion. We are proud to be part of this caring church—Bless you all.

Gloria and Loren Kipker



Thank you to our Christian family for the cards, lowers, visits, calls and for your loving kindness and caring during my health issues.

Sally and Walt Stephan

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the card that you sent me! It means so much to have this wonderful congregation that I grew up in and still are supporting me to this day. I am so blessed to have all of you in my life.

Thanks again, Connor Rose





TUESDAY LUNCH LUNCH IN THE COURTYARD!

We will meet at noon on Tuesdays November 7th & 21st.
Bring your lunch and join us for fellowship and good conversation.

Faith Circle will hold their monthly meeting on **Tuesday November 21st** at noon in conjunction with Tuesday Lunch.

Bring your lunch

We will be signing up for Sunshine Bag items.

This will also be the last day to bring donations for the Thankoffering Project for Luther Community.

Items will be delivered to Luther Community following this meeting.

Anyone who can stay to help load & deliver would be appreciated.



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM THANKS EVERYONE FOR THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT OF FALL FEST.

IT WAS A GREAT TIME WITH GREAT FOOD AND LOTS OF FUN AND GAMES !

An Invitation to the WELCA Thankoffering Luncheon Sunday November 19, 2023

WELCA/Faith Circle invites everyone to a *Thankoffering Luncheon* following worship on Sunday November 19. This will be a sit-down dinner served to the congregation in love and thankfulness for the on-going support the congregation continually shows to WELCA by supporting our projects and ministries. We are always truly blessed by your support.

There is not a “ticket” to purchase, however a freewill offering will be collected to be sent to churchwide WELCA as representation of our participation and support to the national organization.

Watch for a sign-up sheet to note your attendance so we will know how many to plan for.

Again, thank you for your on-going support of WELCA and we look forward to serving you and sharing in thankfulness on the 19th!

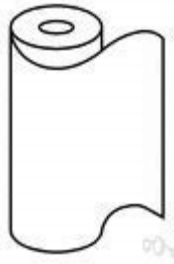


Mission Statement

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

WHAT IS THANKOFFERING? Thankofferings help Women of the ELCA to thrive as a responsive and mission-driven organization. They help support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women’s organization, including our triennial conventions, the work of the elected churchwide board, justice and advocacy work, and so much more!

A freewill offering will be collected on Thankoffering Sunday which you can include in your regular offering envelope specifying the amount to “Thankoffering”, or you may make a special offering with checks made to First Lutheran Church with Thankoffering on the memo line, given in the offering plate at worship, dropped off at the church office or placed in the collection basket at the luncheon.



WELCA Thankoffering Project - through November 21

A LOVE Collection of items for residents of Luther Community

- laundry detergent – smaller jugs of liquid detergent or laundry pods
- dish-washing soap
- “medium grade” toilet paper – 2 ply preferred, NOT thick like Charmin and NOT cheap 1 ply
- paper towels

A recent quote from a resident, “This saves me this month to not have to buy these necessities out of my pension”.

A box will be available in the lower narthex thru November 21st for this collection. Thank You!



DAILY BREAD

Monday, November 20th is our turn to serve Our Daily Bread

Arrive by 4:15 to help serve.

They will be accepting cookies, brownies and cupcakes to serve as dessert.



We will be ordering poinsettias again this year. However, the florist is not able to give dates as to when they can be ordered or what the price will be. They are to let us know as soon as they have the information. Once we receive the information we will make it available to the congregation.



Decorating the Church for Christmas

Please plan to help decorate our church for the Christmas Season. Decorating will be on December 10th following the worship service.

Come and be part of making our church beautiful for this beautiful season.

*Our thoughts
and prayers
Are with you*

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:

Jordan Banks

Gloria Kipker

Pastor Novak

Jim Donnelly

Betty Vondenhuevel

Jim Simpson

Carolyn Novak

Wayne Jervis

Loren Kipker

Jim Donovan

Sally Stephan

Surgery

Entered the Church Triumphant



November Ministry Team Meeting

Dates:

NLCF	11/8 @ 7:00 pm
Property	11/11 @ 9:00 pm
FLIRT	11/21 @ 7:00 pm
Worship	11/27 @ 7:00 pm

Church Council

President - Chris Hildreth Blair

Vice President - John Bodin

Secretary - Carolyn Novak

Treasurer - John Belser

Financial Secretary - Judy Vassar

Members: Ray Kramer, Judy Lunz,
Brittanny Porter, Liz Rose, Kris Shannon,
Brenda Shively, Ray Swisher

Sunday Attendance for September

	<u>On Site</u>	<u>Online</u>
September 3	65	41
September 10	36	(Park Service)
September 17	65	50
September 24	66	66
Average	58	39

MINISTRY TEAMS

Fellowship and Christian
Service & Mission Ministry
Teams

Faith Formation Team

Worship Ministry Team

Property Ministry Team

FLIRT

Outreach

Finance Ministry Team

*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.*





- 11/3 Lucas McKenrick
- 11/5 Brayten Swisher
- 11/6 Amy Heath
- 11/8 Maxine Brunke
- 11/10 Gail Keck
- 11/11 Ed Pulfer
- 11/12 Conner Gamble
- 11/12 Paul Karn
- 11/17 Carl Gillespie
- 11/22 Chris McKenrick
- 11/24 Keith Krueger
- 11/28 Brent Swartz
- 11/30 Brooks Bodin
- 11/30 Winnie Bodin



11/24/1991 Mike & Julie Zoldak

The deadline for newsletter articles for **December** is **November 20TH.**

SERVING IN WORSHIP

2023

Worship Assistant

11/5 Winnie Bodin
11/12 Chris Hildreth Blair
11/19 Kris Swisher
11/26 Kris Shannon

Communion Assistant

11/5 Ray Swisher
11/12 Cindy Weikart
11/19 Gail Keck
11/26 Misty Kipker

Reader

11/5 Brian Hogan
11/12 Bodin
11/19 Margie Bixler
11/26 Cindy Weikart

Usher

11/5 Kevin Miller
11/12 Kevin Miller
11/19 Susan Wyckoff
11/26 Kevin Miller

Acolyte

11/5 Lottie Bodin
11/12 Winnie Bodin
11/19 Alexis Hogan
11/26 Lottie Bodin

Crucifer

Brooks Bodin
Brooks Bodin

Brooks Bodin

Greeter(s)

11/5 Tom & Liz Rose
11/12 Chris & Jennifer McKenrick
11/19 Dan & Brenda Shively
11/26 Jean Wright

Altar Guild Cindy Weikart & Kathy Fultz

Communion Bread Cheri Comstock

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	30 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study	31 9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study	1 9:30am Cluster Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH)	2 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed 10:00am Extending the Branch
5 All Saints Day 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	6 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Dulcimers	7 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Park 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study	8 10:00am Zoom - Pt. in Time (Homeless) 12:30pm CORE Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm NLCF	9 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	10 Office Closed	11 Office Closed 9:00am Property Meeting [Lounge] 10:00am Extending the Branch 11:30am Extending the Branch
12 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 4:00pm Extending the Branch	13 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study	14 9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study	15 8:00am Logan County Pastor's Association Breakfast 3:00pm NA (RH)	16 12:00pm Northwest Conference Meeting (RH) 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	17 Office Closed	18 Office Closed 6:30pm Dulcimers
19 Thankoffering Sunday 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 11:30am WELCA Thankoffering Luncheon 3:30pm Hunger Network Board Meeting	20 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 4:15pm Our Daily Bread 6:00pm Daily Bread Board Meeting	21 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Park 7:00pm FLIRT Meeting [Lounge] 7:00pm Thanksgiving Community Service @ Galilee Lutheran Church	22 3:00pm NA (RH)	23 Thanksgiving Day 12:00pm Weikart Family Dinner 3:00pm NA (Lounge)	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed 1:00pm Extending the Branch
26 Christ the King Sunday 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	27 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	28 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Bible Study	29 3:00pm NA (RH)	30 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed 10:00am Extending the Branch