



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST HAND

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



2023



Pastor Larry Novak- lnovak@flcbellefontaine.org
Office Manager, Rachel Gillespie-rgillespie@flcbellefontaine.org
Director of Music, Judy Vassar- jandlv321@gmail.com
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

Jeremiah 1:4-5: *Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. And before you were born, I consecrated you. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.*

Psalms 139:13-14a: *For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

Luke 1:41-44: *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened, that the mother of my Lord has come to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy".*

This November, Ohioans will be asked to vote on one of the most controversial social issues of our time. We will be asked to approve an amendment to the State Constitution that will guarantee that women have a right to an abortion up until the time the fetus is viable (that is to say, able to live on its own outside the womb). After the point of viability, the state has the right to regulate or even prevent abortions, with the one exception being if it is necessary to save the life of the mother.

It is not my intention to tell you how to vote on this extremely personal and important issue, nor do I intend to tell you how I will be voting. But I do wish to provide you with some spiritual tools in deciding what you must do.

First, and I hope this is not too obvious: pray. Pray to God to let His spirit guide you in this matter. Pray for the young unmarried girl who got pregnant because she made a mistake and gave in to the pressures of her boyfriend who emotionally blackmailed her when he said: "If you love me, you will do this". Pray for the woman who already has three children and finds herself pregnant, even though she and her husband agreed they didn't want any more children. Pray for the couple who are desperate for a child and are medically unable to have one of their own, as they wait and wait to qualify as adoptive parents. Pray for the rape victim who finds herself pregnant by her rapist. Pray for the woman who finds that the father of her child wants no part of raising a child, and she is left alone. Pray for the couple who can barely make ends meet now and wonder how in the world they can possibly afford to have a child (or ANOTHER child).

Second, go to the ELCA homepage and look for the social statement on abortion. Although it is over 30 years old, it still holds up as a beautiful, nuanced, spirit-filled document. The basic argument of the statement is that, citing the above verses from the Bible and other verses, that God loves us and has plans for us even before we are born. Even unborn children are children of God. We seek to preserve life if at all possible. Yet we realize that in a broken and sinful world, terminating the pregnancy might sometimes be the best course of action; for women who find themselves with an unwanted pregnancy are ALSO beloved children of God, who need not only God's love, but the love of a community of faith.

No matter how the vote turns out in November, Christians must be committed to reducing the NEED for anyone to get an abortion. We must work to end poverty. We must work for justice and peace. We must work to make sure that everyone has access to birth control. We must encourage those with unwanted pregnancies to consider adoption. And we must work to build strong families; encouraging people to live by the church's ethic: Single people should be chaste, and married people should have intimate relations only with their spouse. If anyone cannot abide by that guideline, can we at least agree that we should encourage our children not to have intimate relations until they are adults? And if two adults choose to have intimate relations before they are married, to use birth control to avoid having or fathering children?

Finally, the church must never shame or cast out the woman who gets pregnant out of wedlock and finds herself alone. Instead, we offer love, support, help with food, diapers, baby clothes, babysitting, and any other need. And even if the woman decides that the best solution is abortion, we still do not shame or cast them out. Instead, we love them, cry with them, mourn their loss, and assure them that nothing separates them from the love of God.

In short, Christians are called to build a world where abortion is almost non-existent; not because it is illegal, but because it is unnecessary.

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Larry



A Heart For The Gospel

(Philippians 4:15-18; NRSV)

15You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. 16For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. 17Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. 18I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

In this passage, the Apostle Paul commends the Philippian believers for their giving. What is noteworthy about their work is that they gave before others gave, and they gave when others would not give. What made the Philippians special givers? Because they had a heart for the Gospel.

In like manner, we encourage you to please continue to support the ministry; please ask God to give you a heart for the Gospel.



Director of Music

There is still time to join Chancel Choir and/or Bell Choir before the holiday season. Just come to see what we do at practice.



All-Knowing Father, you know and direct my future. You make all things work together for my good. Help me to trust you as I think about my future. Give me peace of mind. Whatever happens, I know that you are working for my good and your glory. Help me to live with freedom, knowing that my future is in your mighty hand. I do not know what is around the corner but nothing can take you by surprise. I face uncertainty but I can be certain that you are in control and that you are good. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



TUESDAY LUNCH LUNCH IN THE PARK!

Lunch in Oakland Square Park (weather permitting) will meet at noon on Tuesdays October 3rd & 17th.

Bring your lunch & lawn chair and join us for fellowship and fun.

As long as the weather holds out, we will meet in the park. If it's too cool or rainy, we will meet in the courtyard.




Faith Circle

will meet on Tuesday October 17th at noon in conjunction with the Tuesday lunch.

Our mission project for October will be to collect a LOVE offering for the Weekday Religious Education Program of Logan County.

A general offering will be collected along with pennies for habitat and change for the Home of Peace Orphanage.

Come, be a part of Women of the ELCA and Faith Circle.



FELLOWSHIP and CHRISTIAN SERVICE & MISSION
MINISTRY TEAM

will meet Monday, October 9th at 7:00 pm in the church lounge.

We will be discussing and organizing upcoming events such as the

FALL FEST—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

We always need extra help!

Everyone Welcome



“HOMECOMING”

**ON OCTOBER 8TH WE WANT TO CELEBRATE
HOMECOMING FOR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH.
WE ARE REACHING OUT TO ANY MEMBERS WE
HAVE NOT SEEN FOR WHATEVER REASON.**

**WE LOVE YOU, WE MISS YOU, AND WE WANT
VERY MUCH TO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU AGAIN.**

**AFTER THE SERVICE ON OCTOBER 8, JOIN US IN OUR COURTYARD
FOR OUR HOMECOMING CELEBRATION. WE WILL HAVE A SMALL
RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE BEING WITH ONE ANOTHER.**



DAILY BREAD

Thanks to ALL who help at Our Daily Bread. The next evening we will be serving is Monday, October 16th. If you can't help to serve, but would like to help, you could provide a hand held dessert, such as, cookies, cupcakes and brownies. If you haven't had the chance to help at Our Daily Bread, please consider doing so. Volunteers are asked to arrive at Our Daily Bread about 4:15 pm prior to the serving time of 4:30 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office.



BEGGARS NIGHT, THURSDAY, OCT. 26TH 6:00 PM–7:30 PM

**WE WILL BE HANDING OUT CANDY TO
NEIGHBORHOOD GHOULS AND GOBLINS FROM HERE AT THE
CHURCH PARKING LOT.**

**DONATIONS OF CANDY WILL BE COLLECTED IN THE LOWER
NARTHEX THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.**

**EVERYONE WELCOME TO COME IN THEIR COSTUME AND HAND OUT
CANDY.**

A FUN TIME FOR SURE!!!!



Sunday October 22nd is Stewardship and Pledge Card Sunday.

We believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us.

For your convenience we accept electronic giving through VANCO or your financial institution. However, although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes.

2023

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



FALL FESTIVAL



Sunday, October 22nd, following worship

*Fun Fall
crafts & games*

**As part of admission,
everyone is asked to
bring 3 “white elephant”
gifts**

(More information on pg. 11)



*Fall
Foods*



*Pumpkins,
gourds &
cornstalks*



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*Wear your Fall Attire
or costumes*



Sign-up sheets and more information coming soon.

Sponsored by the Fellowship Ministry Team



“White Elephant” Gifts

Do you have “treasures” around your house that you are ready to pass on to someone else? We All Do! A “white elephant” gift is defined as an object no longer of value to its current owner but may be of value to someone else.

At our upcoming **Fall Fest, to be held Sunday Oct 22nd**, as part of your admission, we will be having a White Elephant exchange as part of our BINGO game. Everyone is asked to bring 3 white elephant gifts as part of your “admission” to Fall Fest. The value of the items need not be more than a few dollars. They may be silly, funny, inspirational, AND, please, ALWAYS tasteful and appropriate for all ages.

PLEASE DO NOT GO PURCHASE NEW ITEMS! unless items like candy bars, crackers, snacks, etc.

We ask that the gifts be wrapped in a plain brown paper bag. Paper bags will be provided in the weeks ahead in the lower narthex or in the church office.

Keep your gifts a surprise from others!

Some sample white elephant gifts might be: knick-knacks, craft items, holiday décor, card games, devotionals, etc.

Come, Join us for a Fun time!

Your Fellowship Ministry Team



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

Betty Vondenhuevel

Gloria Kipker

Cob Reames

Gretchen Banks

Sally Stephan

Gene Barger

Surgery

Robin Reames

Loren Kipker

Pastor Novak

Carl Gillespie

Sharon Kipker

Jan Lowery

Entered the Church Triumphant



BIRTHDAYS

10/1	Susan Wyckoff
10/3	Sophia Porter
10/6	David Carman
10/7	David Ackerman
	Susan Weikart
10/8	Gregory Jameson
10/13	Pam Pulfer
10/22	Lottie Bodin
	Ashley Hoy
10/23	Cindy Carman
10/28	Ryan Carman
10/30	Thomas Stoner
10/31	Judy Hadley



ANNIVERSARIES

John & Krista Belser	10/18/1997
Steve & Amy Heath	10/07/2000
Chris & Marshall Hildreth Blair	10/09/2014
Loren & Gloria Kipker	10/02/1971
Ray & Cheryl Kramer	10/13/1973
Larry & Jean Wright	10/06/1979

Sunday Attendance for August

	On Site	Online
August 6	62	104
August 13 (Park Service)	58	100
August 20	57	44
August 27	66	36
Average	61	71



Deadline to submit articles for the November newsletter is **October 23rd**

Worship Assistant:

October 1 Dick Griffith
October 8 Brenda Shively
October 15 Chris Hildreth Blair
October 22 Cindy Weikart
October 29 Confirmands

Communion Assistant:

October 1 Dave Comstock
October 8 Dave O'Brien
October 15 Dan Shively
October 22 Dave Vassar
October 29 Ray Swisher

Altar Guild:

October 1 Kathy Fultz
October 8 Rachel & Carl Gillespie
October 15
October 22
October 29

Communion Bread

Pastor Novak

Usher: Kevin Miller

Reader:

October 1 Jean Wright
October 8 Margie Bixler
October 15 Dan Shively
October 22 Susan Wyckoff
October 29 Carl Gillespie

Greeter(s):

October 1 Paul & Joann Karn
October 8 Betty & Kathy Fultz
October 15 Jan VanHoose
October 22 Kevin Miller
October 29 Tom & April Jameson

Acolyte:

October 1 Winnie Bodin
October 8 Lottie Bodin
October 15
October 22
October 29

Crucifer

October 1 Lottie Bodin

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	2 11:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Dulcimers 7:00pm Council Meeting	3 12:00pm Lunch in the Park 12:00pm Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study	4 9:30am Cluster Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH)	5 9:00am Homeless Board Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	6 "In Gathering" Quilts to Kettering Office Closed	7 Office Closed 10:00am Extending the Branch
8 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 10:00am Homecoming Sunday/reception 4:00pm Extending the Branch	9 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Chaplain MRH 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Fellowship & Christian Service & Mission Ministry Meeting	10 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Chaplain MRH 3:00pm NeerMeeting - RH 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study	11 11:00am Chaplain MRH 3:00pm NA (RH)	12 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet MRH 11:00am Chaplain MRH 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	13 Office Closed 11:00am Chaplain MRH	14 Office Closed 10:00am Extending the Branch 11:30am Extending the Branch
15 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 2:00pm Extending the Branch	16 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 4:15pm Our Daily Bread	17 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Lunch in the Park 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study	18 3:00pm NA (RH)	19 9:00am Homeless Board Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Outreach Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	20 Decorate for Fall Festival Office Closed	21 Office Closed 6:30pm Dulcimers
22 Stewardship Sunday 9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 11:00am Fall Festival	23 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	24 9:00am Quilters 3:06pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study	25 3:00pm NA (RH)	26 3:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Beggars Night (church parking lot) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed 1:00pm Extending the Branch
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 3:00pm NA (RH)	2 12:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Bell Practice	3 Office Closed	4