



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# FIRST HAND

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



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## **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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**The church office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd .**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We could hardly believe what we were seeing and hearing. It was July 13, 2024. Donald Trump was making a campaign speech at the Butler Farm Show Grounds near Butler, Pennsylvania. Suddenly, something that sounded like firecrackers rang out. We saw Trump grab his right ear, and suddenly the Secret Service was on top of him. The fireworks weren't fireworks at all. They were gunshots. Two people were seriously injured. One man, a firefighter, was killed. In just a few seconds, the gunman was killed as well, taken out by snipers in the Secret Service. Thankfully, Trump was not seriously hurt. But the Secret Service was called to account. This was the closest thing to a political assassination since 1981, when John Hinkley Jr. fired at Ronald Reagan. How was the gunman able to get so close? Congress convened hearings. Both Republicans and Democrats demanded answers. The head of the Secret Service accepted blame and resigned.

I spoke about the assassination attempt at the outdoor service the next day, on Sunday July 14. I did not express my thoughts correctly. As a result, I have spoken with people who were bothered by what I said. I spoke of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor who was sent to a prison camp in Germany, where he was hanged just a few weeks before the end of the war, because he participated in a plot to assassinate Hitler. To some people, my remarks made it sound like I was equating the two shootings and saying that both shootings were morally justified. That was not my intent, and it is certainly not my belief.

Bonhoeffer's case is clearly morally stronger. He had a legitimate justifiable argument for his actions. We were at war. Hitler's "final solution" was responsible for the deaths of millions of people. My point was that *even in Bonhoeffer's case*, many Lutherans are queasy about what Bonhoeffer did.

The man who shot at Donald Trump has no justification at all for his actions. None at all. Even if you believe Trump should not win the election, even if you think he was a terrible president, even if you believe that a Trump presidency would be disastrous for the country, Trump is no Hitler. And if anyone was disappointed that the shooter missed, that person needs a refresher on the Gospels.

The way of Christ is the way of non-violence. The way of Christ is to put away our swords, for those who live by the sword will die by the sword. The way of Christ is to love our enemies, and to pray for those who persecute us.

We need to be careful with what we say when we discuss politics and elections. We need to focus on policy, not on the personal. We need to stop seeing everyone on the other side of the political aisle as the enemy. It is perfectly acceptable to say, "I will never vote for Donald Trump" or, "I will never vote for Kamala Harris". It is NOT fine to say, "I hate Donald Trump" or "I hate Kamala Harris" or "I hate everyone who supports Trump" or "I hate everyone who supports Harris". Such inflammatory hate speech may have been partially responsible for causing that shooter to do what he did.

Remember the words of James, the brother of Jesus:

*How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell 7 For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8 but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.*

James 3: 5b-10.

As Christians, we are called to be in the world, but not OF the world. The world may engage in political mudslinging, but as people who follow Christ, we are called to set a higher standard. We are called to engage in civil debate without hate. We are called to speak to one another in love, and of course, we are called to condemn all acts of violence. We are called to worship a Savior who died and rose again so that all may be saved by grace through faith.

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Larry

## Financial Secretary

There is an old expression "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas". As noted by this text, and earlier version of that expression could have been "What starts in your heart, stays in your heart". The goal of supporting the work of God is not to be honored by others, but rather to demonstrate our honor for God.

So please continue to support the work of the church in a manner that pleases God. God does not want us to keep our resources in our hands, but He does want us to keep the giving of our resources in our hearts.





## Director of Music

Sept. 2024

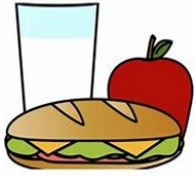
The Chancel Choir will resume practice on September 5th.

Michael Mallory , accompanied by David Buchenroth, will be providing special music on September 29th.



### *“Autumn Leaves”*

*Golden, crisp leaves falling softly from almost bare trees,  
Lifting and falling in a hushed gentle breeze.  
Slowly dropping to the soft cushioned ground,  
Whispering and rustling a soothing sound.*



**LUNCH +  
LAWN CHAIR =**



## **Tuesdays in the Park**

**1<sup>st</sup>** and **3<sup>rd</sup>** Tuesday of each month.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>** & **17<sup>th</sup>** will be the next lunches. Bring your lunch, lawn chair, and a friend. Any member of FLC and their guests are welcome to join in. We will enjoy the outdoors being able to sit over in Oakland Square Park, weather permitting

Come and join us for fellowship & fun.

(Meet in courtyard if inclement weather)



The last Park Clean up for 2024 will be on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

Bring gloves and tools and enjoy pizza after the clean up.

*Worship in the Park!*



The last service in the park for 2024 will be on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Fellowship Time at 9:00 am

Worship Service at 10:00 am

## **DAILY BREAD**

The next evening we will be serving is Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. 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. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 4:15 pm and serving begins at 4:30 pm. If you have a dessert and need to leave it at church we will make sure it gets to Daily Bread.



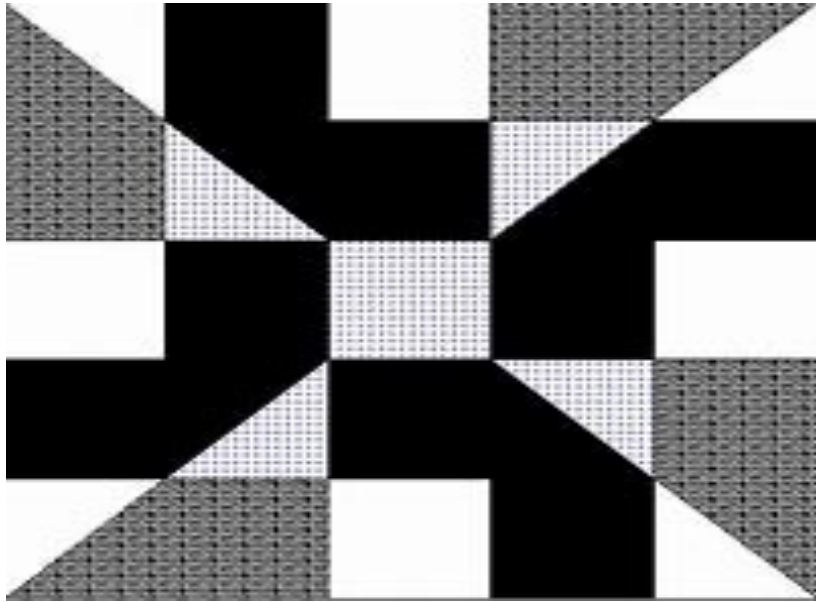
**THE FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY AND THE OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAMS ARE JOINING FORCES TO FEED THE NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**On Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, as part of the ELCA "God's Work, Our Hands" Day, we will be delivering groceries to our neighbors who live on Oakland Square Park, Brown Street, Elm Street, and Detroit Street.**

**But, we *need volunteers!* Please sign up to help us either in buying groceries, donating money to pay for groceries, help bag groceries or to help deliver groceries.**

**SIGN UP SHEET & LIST OF FOODS ARE IN THE LOWER NARTHEX**





***On Sunday, September 22nd, quilts again will adorn the pews at First Lutheran. This is the 14th year for the mission. This has been a very productive year and we have completed approximately 250 quilts. The batting cost is about \$6.00 for each quilt and there is a donation of \$2.25 for each quilt sent to Lutheran World Relief for their shipping costs. Any donations made to the quilt fund would be used to help with those expenses. Thanks in advance for your generosity.***

***We continue to be blessed with donations of fabric, sheets and crochet cotton and are so very thankful for the support of the congregation and the community.***

***We meet every Tuesday morning and would welcome new people to join us.***



*Faith Circle will hold their first meeting of the 24/25 season on Tuesday, September 17th, in conjunction with Tuesday Lunch.*

*We will preview & discuss upcoming events and mission projects. Our Mission Project for September is to collect a LOVE Offering for the Week-day Religious Education Program of Logan county. FLC has supported WRE for many years through monetary and material donations. The congregation is also being invited to aid in support of this mission. You may include your support in your offering to FLC designated to WRE.*

*Below is information about the WRE program.*



**FAITH CIRCLE  
MISSION PROJECT  
for September**

The overall purpose of the Logan County Weekday Religious Education Association, LLC is to provide a weekday Christian education program to guide boys and girls in an understanding of the basic truths of the Bible, without denominational bias.

Logan County WRE has been blessed to serve 3rd & 4th graders of Logan County, OH since 1955, and are grateful for our ongoing relationship with all four local school systems.

Through generous donations, Logan County WRE purchased its first mobile classrooms in 1974. They were replaced with handicap-accessible versions in 1998, and again in 2009. the newest classrooms are larger and equipped with ample storage and audio-visual equipment.

The program provides 3rd & 4th graders with 25-35 minutes of teaching about Jesus, the Bible, and the Christian faith, on a weekly basis. For many, this is the only formal Bible instruction they receive.



## Stewardship Month is Coming

### 2 Corinthians 9:7-

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

October is stewardship month, and this year, the stewardship committee would like to try something a little bit different.

Instead of taking pledges then crafting a budget, the plan is to try the reverse- present an outline of goals for the coming year, before we pass out the pledge cards.

The plan will be available on Sunday, October 6.

Pledge card Sunday is October 13.

# SAVE THE DATE



Join us for a church outing to Vandemark Farms  
2401 S. Vandemark Road, Sidney, Ohio 45365  
Saturday, October 12, 2024

We will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. and carpool to Sidney.  
\$12 admission per person includes Hayride, mini golf, petting zoo, corn  
maze, barnyard play zone, and bonfire. The church is paying for all  
children.

Extra charges for zipline and driving range  
Hot dogs and smores provided. Bring a dish for a potluck!  
Sign up in the lower Narthex-hope to see you there!

# ***SAVE THE DATE***



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A

# **RECITAL**

FEATURING

**Miriam Stoner, soprano**

**Daniel Colalillo, piano**

Saturday, the nineteenth of October

At Two O'clock in the afternoon

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

208 W. Sandusky Avenue

Bellefontaine, OH 43311

*light refreshments to follow*

**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



**Faith Circle (WELCA)**

- Discussing September Mission Project

**Faith Formation Ministry Team**

- Discussing upcoming events

**Christian Mission**

- Continuing Tuesday meetings

**Finance Ministry Team**

- Monitoring of church finances

**FLIRT**

- Security policies/concerns

**Outreach Ministry Team**

- Coordinating events with Faith Formation

**Property Ministry Team**

- Continue maintenance of building and grounds

**Worship Ministry Team**

- Special Music
- Discuss upcoming special 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 upper narthex.*



**September Ministry Team Meetings**

**9/8 Faith Formation 11:30 am**  
**9/11 NLCF 7:00 pm**  
**9/14 Property 9:00 am**  
**9/17 Faith Circle 12:00 pm**  
**9/17 FLIRT 7:00 pm**

**Sunday Attendance for July**

	On Site	Online
July 7	67	115
July 14 (Park Service)	41	
July 21	68	51
July 28	54	50
Average	58	54

**Articles for the October Newsletter are due on September 24th**



*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*

*Viola Bishop*

*Lucy Serr*

*Andrea*

*Eddy Comstock*

*Pam Pulfer*

*Tiffany Neer*

*Deb Hughes*

*Brittanny Porter*

*Larry Wright*

*Pastor Karen Torrez*

### *Surgery*

*William Gaither*

### *Entered the Church Triumphant*

*Randy Comstock*



## BIRTHDAYS

9/01 Deb Pulfer  
 9/07 Beth Harman  
 9/08 Judy Vassar  
 9/10 Georgia Voorhies  
 9/10 John Bodin  
 9/14 Larry Wright  
 9/14 Tina Keckler  
 9/16 Margie Bixler  
 9/16 Tod Johnson  
 9/17 Brett Belser  
 9/19 Scott Sebring  
 9/20 Susie Shields  
 9/21 Jennifer Mckenrick  
 9/22 Barbara Krueger  
 9/22 Ashley Hoy  
 9/22 Olivia Reasor  
 9/23 Carol Simpson  
 9/23 Jean Wright  
 9/23 Amber Weikart  
 9/26 Connie Regula  
 9/26 Rebecca Carman  
 9/27 Jacob Mckenrick  
 9/28 Kevin Boone  
 9/29 Jordan Keith  
 9/30 Brittanny Porter  
 9/30 Megan Keckler

## ANNIVERSARIES

9/05/1981 Rodney & Susan Allen  
 9/15/1984 Dave & Cheri Comstock  
 9/24/1955 Andrew & Barb Detrick  
 9/14/2002 Lori & Michael Horn  
 9/07/1974 Dennis & Elaine Latimer  
 9/22/1990 Kevin & Robyn Miller  
 9/05/1982 Pastor Larry & Carolyn Novak  
 9/01/2012 Josh & Brittanny Porter  
 9/09/1978 Dan & Brenda Shively  
 9/16/1977 Brent & Diane Smith  
 9/03/1994 Brent & Mariana Swartz



Thank you all for the cards and well wishes from my heart surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Larry for his visits. I have a very caring church family.

Sincerely,

Gloria Kipker



**Worship Assistant:**

September 1: Brenda Shively  
September 8: Chris Hildreth Blair (Park)  
September 15: Cindy Weikart  
September 22: Kris Shannon  
September 29: Winnie Bodin

**Communion Assistant:**

September 1: Jinny Fergus  
September 15: Jan VanHoose  
September 22: Connie Regula  
September 29: Barb Triplett

**Usher:**

September 1: Misty Kipker  
September 8: Dave Comstock (Park)  
September 15: Carl Gillespie  
September 22: Gail Keck  
September 29: Max Bixler

Altar Guild: Cindy Weikart

**Reader:**

September 1: Jean Wright  
September 8: Kris Swisher (Park)  
September 15: Beth Harman  
September 22: Bodin Family Member  
September 29: Dan Shively

**Greeter(s):**

September 1: Connie Regula  
September 8: Jim & Janet Donnelly (Park)  
September 15: Joann Karn  
September 22: Marge MacGillivray  
September 29: Kathy & Betty Fultz

**Acolyte:**

September 1: Dane Reffner  
September 15: Brooks Bodin  
September 22: Delaney Reffner  
September 29: Misty Kipker

Communion Bread: Pastor Novak

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Labor Day Office Closed 12:00pm AA (RH)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm "Lunch in the Park"</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30am Cluster Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00pm Peak of Hope Board Meeting 3:00pm NA 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Office Closed 12:30pm Hunger Network of Ohio Board Mtg. (zoom)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Office Closed 9:00am "Feed the Neighborhood" 11:00am Park Cleanup</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00am Fellowship Time in Courtyard 10:00am Worship in the Park 11:30am Faith Formation Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Chaplain MRH 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 11:00am Chaplain MRH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00am Chaplain MRH 12:00pm Personnel Meeting 3:00pm NA (RH) 7:00pm NLCF</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:00am Chaplain MRH 3:00pm NA 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Office Closed 11:00am Chaplain MRH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Office Closed 9:00am Property Meeting [Lounge] 10:00am ETB</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:45am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 4:15pm Our Daily Bread 6:00pm LCS Board Mtg.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 12:00pm "Lunch in the Park" including Faith Circle Meeting 7:00pm FLIRT Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00am Logan County Pastor's Association 3:00pm NA (RH)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00pm Peak of Hope Meeting 3:00pm NA 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Office Closed 5:00pm Community Night of Prayer (fairgrounds) 6:30pm Dulcimers</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Quilt Dedication Sunday 8:45am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am Quilters</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:00pm NA (RH)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>3:00pm NA 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Office Closed 1:00pm ETB</p>
<p>29</p> <p>CHEF &amp; Noisy Money Sunday 8:45am Confirmation Class 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00am Quilters 12:00pm "Lunch in the Courtyard"</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>



**September** has several United States and international holidays.

- **Labor Day** is the most well known holiday in September. It is observed every year on the first Monday in September.
- **Native American Day** is always celebrated on the 4th Friday of September.
- **Grandparent's Day** is observed in the United States on the first Sunday after Labor Day.
- **Constitution Day**, celebrating the ratification of the governing document of the United States, is observed on the 17th.
- **The autumn equinox**, which is the traditional transition from summer into fall, takes place on or around September 22nd, depending on the year.

There are lots of days dedicated to fun activities in September.  
for these days.

Look out

- September 5th: National Cheese Pizza Day
- September 9th: National Teddy Bear Day
- September 16th: National Play-Doh Day
- September 19th: International "Talk Like A Pirate Day"