



first Lutheran Church



October 2025

Listening Through Prayer

As we are in the season of “Listening” here in the North West Ohio Synod I thought I would tackle some views on Listening through our lives. A truly difficult task, I am coming to learn, for many individuals. I know many think of children first, which isn’t incorrect, however it is also quite perplexing the amount of adults who don’t listen at all to God let alone their neighbor. Listening requires so much from us and it can be easy to give partial attention.

When I was studying in Pine Ridge Reservation we talked about listening and hearing. How hearing grabs your attention but that can be passive attention like when a dog barks or a car horn. Someone may incline their ear to listen more or they may choose to ignore. Hearing gets us halfway there and is predominantly what most people do. We hear the plights of the destitute, unhoused, lost, forsaken, forgotten, and suffering but we don’t often take the time to listen intently to what they are asking for.

In prayer we often list out our thanksgivings, wants, needs, and a call for God to do something for us. I know that oftentimes I don’t leave space to listen to God. I make my petitions, cross myself, and go about my day. That prayer doesn’t even have a moment for me to hear! Instead I am focused on myself and not how God is working through me or others. There is a quote from the 2010 film *Tron: Legacy* that is rooted in Buddhist teachings, “Knock on the sky and listen to the sound”. In Buddhism this saying pulls the listener and proclaimer into a time of clearing their mind (Knocking on the sky) and patiently waiting for spiritual truth and direction (listen to the sound). This phrase calls the faithful into deeper spiritual practice of listening to how the world is flowing around them.

One Byzantine prayer (could be attributed to the Orthodox Church) comes to my mind when I think of this Buddhist teaching; “Serene light shining in the ground of my being, Draw me to yourself. Draw me past the snares of the senses, Out of the mazes of the mind. Free me from symbols, from words, That I may discover the Signified, The Word unspoken in the darkness That fills the ground of my being. Amen.” Yes one is looking up to the sky and the other the ground, however the concept is the same. In this prayer we ask God to pour into our lives and take away all that distracts us so we can focus on listening to how God is calling us.

In the noise of the world we need to find time for silence. For peaceful meditation and reflection, a quiet space like Christ searched for throughout his ministry. It may be unnerving at first, but just as we learn in 1 Kings 19:11-13 God is in the silence, beckoning us into relationship with the Trinity.

Pax et Bonum,
Pastor Tucker, n/OLF

2025-2026 Stewardship Emphasis



Living a

STEWARDSHIP Life

Since my money is God's money, every spending decision I make is a spiritual decision. – John Hagee

For some years now teachers in the church have been trying to get people to realize that stewardship is not *just* about money. Someone came up with the alliterative phrase ‘time, talent, and treasures.’ There is also the whole matter of ‘a stewardship of the earth,’ taking proper care of the planet that God has given us: conserving water, recycling plastic and aluminum, preserving wetlands and rainforests. And there is a ‘stewardship of our bodies’: getting exercise, eating right, managing stress, flossing our teeth. Or



we speak of ‘stewardship of our families’: nurturing our marriages, raising happy and healthy children, caring for elderly parents. We might even speak of ‘stewardship of the gospel’: preserving the life-giving message of what God has done through Jesus Christ and sharing that message with the world. In truth, stewardship may involve lots of things.

Properly speaking, stewardship is about all of life, about giving ourselves to God and using all that God has given us in grateful and appropriate ways.— Powell

“Stewardship is about giving to God. It is about turning total control of our lives over to God. It is about taking seriously the word that we so easily pray: ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.’ When we pray, ‘Thy kingdom come,’ we ask God to rule our lives.” – Powell, *Giving to God*

STEWARDSHIP Life SUNDAY



October 19, 2025 8:15 and 10:45

- ◆ **Our 2025-26 Stewardship Life Sunday is October 19. Mark your calendars!**
- ◆ **Commitment cards are included in this newsletter. Prayerfully and carefully fill yours in (one per giving unit). Bring yours to church that Sunday and place in the basket as you commune.**
- ◆ **Remember this is a commitment, not a pledge. This is an estimate of giving; your contributions can go up or down as the year progresses.**
- ◆ **The cards reflect the principles outlined in 2 Corinthians 8/9: contributing regularly, proportionately, intentionally, and gratefully [watch the newsletters for more on these principles].**
- ◆ **On this same day, members of the Stewardship Committee will be handing out Time and Talent sheets ["Timely Gifts"].**

Please fill in the Commitment Card below, clip it, and bring it to church on Sunday, October 19, 2025.

Sharing God's Gifts

For the Mission of First Lutheran Church—Year 2026



Living a

STEWARDSHIP

Life

*So that others may know God's grace and engage in God's work,
I/we plan to offer \$_____ per week/month/year (circle one)
to support Christ's mission through this congregation.*

_____ *This amount reflects a commitment to percentage giving.*

_____ *This amount reflects a 1% increase in giving*

_____ *As the Lord has blessed me/us.*

Name _____ Envelope No. _____

I understand my/our "support" is not a legal commitment and may be altered according to changes in circumstances. Your card may be placed in the basket in the nave on Sunday, October 19th, or returned to the church office personally or by mail. Thank you!



At the end of the month we will be celebrating our confirmation students and their faithful transition into being members of First Lutheran. I immediately think of the Gospel of Mark when Jesus is welcoming the little children. "People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of

God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16)" What does it mean to "receive the kingdom of God as a little child?" I like to think of having a child like faith. Where a child does not know everything but they believe. We encourage children to wonder. With that they ask questions and they are not afraid to. I see this weekly in Sunday school and the children's message. Having a child like faith to me is wondering about the world around me and getting curious about things that I do not know. My hope for the graduating confirmands is to always have wonder and curiosity in your faith like a child.

Youth and Family Events

- Oct 5 Youth Group- Cook Off 5:00-7:00
6th- 12th Grades
- Oct 12 Youth Group Jr 5:00-6:30
Kindergarden-5th
- Oct 19 Youth Group- 5:00-7:00
6th- 12th Grades
- Nov 2 Trunk or Treat 5:00-7:00
All are welcomed



**American
Red Cross**

Mark your calendars for the next Red Cross Blood Mobile here at First Lutheran October 23rd 12-5pm. Be a donor or offer to help in the kitchen that day.

Ministry Opportunities

Would you like to be more involved in your church? Still looking for what that ministry might be? I have something that any male or female might like to do. How about being a driver for members who do not drive anymore but would like to attend church service. It would be for late service and not every week. Sound like something you might like? Please contact Carolyn Bryant at 419-422-0015 and leave a message or see me at church. Prayerfully consider this, it is a special ministry! Thank you.



You're Invited

To adopt a military family for the year, please choose a service member who is not related to you/is not a close friend.

There are still a few left!!!

Pick an ornament from the service member tree and take it with you. Fill a small box with whatever you'd like and send it to your chosen service member and/or family. Remember to pray for and keep in touch with that individual for the year. You may send gifts as often as you would like. Sending newsletters and bulletins from church and other reading material is nice. Keep the ornament as a reminder of your new friend.



Questions call Beverly Horn:
(567) 305-0378

WELCA Calendar of Events for October 2025



Rachel Circle is in-service for the month of **October**

Wednesday, October 1 @ 10:00 a.m. – WELCA ThankOffering Planning meeting

Tuesday, October 14 @ 9:00 a.m. – Martha Circle will be helping set-up for the Rummage Sale

Tuesday, October 14 @ 1:00 p.m. – Rachel Circle will be helping set-up for the Rummage Sale

October 17 & 18 – Rummage Sale – 17th - 9:00 - 5:00, 18th - 9:00 - Noon

Monday, October 20 @ 7:00 p.m. – Hannah Circle in the church lounge
Hostess: Nina Dukes; Leader: Cyndy Rotman

Sunday, October 26 – Cookie Sunday – Rachel Circle

THE RUMMAGE SALE

A few reminders from the rummage sale team:

- 1 Donations will be open until Sept. 28th. After that, none will be accepted, and items may be thrown away due to space.
- 2 No more electronics and no more furniture are being accepted due to space and large amounts
- 3 The current needs for the team are: Medium–large boxes, masking tape, packing tape, and painter's tape.
- 4 Sign up sheets for volunteers are available on the bulletin board. If you have already expressed interest, please be sure to STILL SIGN UP so that they can account for all volunteers
- 5 A volunteer meeting will be scheduled soon.

Thank you!

L.I.F.T. - Living in Faith and Trust

L.I.F.T. will meet on **Tuesday, October 21st at 11:45**, please take note of the time change. Starting 15 minutes later will allow for those who want to attend the 11:30 Sacred Daily in the church chapel. Bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy a time of conversation.

Please contact Sue DeMoss at 419-306-9994 or Marilynn Dunn at 419-722-8543 for more information or if you need a ride.



WE'RE HIRING

Building Manager

The ministry of the Building Manager is to clean, maintain and preserve the properties of First Lutheran Church. The Building Manager shall be responsible for the day-to-day care of the church property. This also includes, but is not be limited to, scheduling needed contractors; coordinating volunteers for large, time-intensive projects; and maintaining the Church Property Budget.

Requirements :

- Cleaning (each room, every 30 days; the entire building, every year)
- Electrical / Painting / Construction / Light plumbing
- Mow lawn, trim shrubs
- Maintain security system / sound system (in nave)
- Equipment installation
- Maintain a maintenance history
- Provide in-house computer and network support
- Remove snow around immediate building, contract (with Property Committee) a snow removal contract
- Administer "Building Use Policy" and other tasks
- as deemed necessary by the Pastor(s), Church Council and Property Committee
- Ensure local and state inspections and certifications are up to date
- Provide in-house computer and network support
- Remove snow around immediate building, contract (with Property Committee) a snow removal contract
- Administer "Building Use Policy", and other tasks as deemed necessary by the
- Pastor(s), Church Council and Property Committee
- Ensure local and state inspections and certifications are up to date

SEND YOUR RESUME TO: flcfindlay@gmail.com

Property
Committee



Please fill out a Building Reservation Request form as soon as you can but no later than two (2) weeks prior, for any special events you may use the church facility for. Committee meetings and Church Council meetings are exempt. The Building Reservation Request form will provide the Property Committee with the information needed to provide for your needs at your event. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Daryl Rotman at 419-348-0054.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4

October

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin	
9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	7pm Book Club	7pm Endowment	7:30pm Sr Choir	7:00 Transitus Service	
11:30am Community Dinner	11:30am Sacred Daily		8pm Theology Pub			
5pm Youth Group	6:30pm Worship & Music					

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	Holiday—OFFICE CLOSED	9am Martha Circle	11:30am Sacred Daily	10am SAM Meeting	Rummage Sale	Rummage Sale
Noisy Offering	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily		11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin	
9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	1pm Rachel Circle		6pm BSA		
5pm Youth Group Jr	11:30am Sacred Daily	7:30 Finance		7:30pm Sr Choir		
	7pm Social Ministry					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin	
9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	11:45am LIFT		12pm Red Cross		
5pm Youth Group	11:30am Sacred Daily			7:30pm Sr Choir		
	12pm Newsletter Deadline					
	7pm Hannah Circle					

26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin	
9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study			7:30pm Sr Choir		
	11:30am Sacred Daily					
	7pm Council Meeting					



Ah, October. I love the smell of leaves on the ground, the new blue of the sky, the corn moon, the hunter's moon, sweaters, roasting marshmallows...

As I ready my notes for this month's newsletter, I realize I have started many a book and am on the way to finishing many a

book!

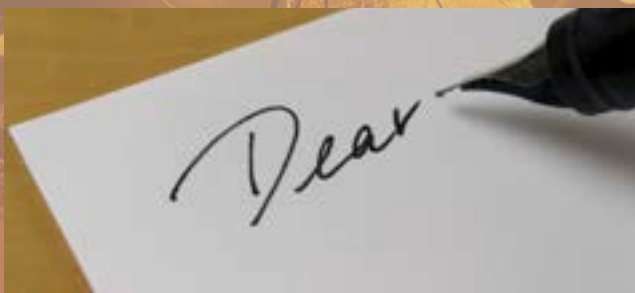
I am halfway finished with the slim but informative book The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning by Margareta Magnusson. As the text suggests, in Sweden there is a kind of decluttering called *döstädning*, *dö* meaning "death" and *städning* meaning "cleaning." The author writes with humor and wisdom on a topic that can be overwhelming if we allow it to take over our lives. If you have ever thought about purging as we tend to call it here, this text is a great read to go through the process for it suggests where to begin, the hardest part of purging. Just as a hint, don't start with clothing, books, or photographs. These items can be done a little at a time. My sister, for instance, turns the hanger in her closet when she rehanges an outfit. At the end of the season she examines what she has not worn and finds a new home for each outfit. If this title intrigues you, you might also read Magnusson's *The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly*.

Another book I am traveling through is Dylan on Dylan – Interviews and Encounters edited by Jeff Burger. The book is filled with conversations and journal entries. I am not far enough into the book to pass judgement or give a review. Sometimes Dylan doesn't sound too bright; but other times, he "waxes eloquently." I am reserving judgment.

I have also just started the reading of Great Speeches by Native Americans edited by Bob Blaisdell. The list of speeches begins with a 1540 refusal of a chief to meet with deSoto and closes with a twentieth-century United Nations address made by Russell Means. This won't be a text that I just sit down and read from beginning to end. A similar text that I may read as time permits is American Indian Healing Arts by E. Barrie Kavasch and Karen Baar. No, I am not going to begin using non-traditional healing remedies; rather I am interested in the information.

Finally, my friend and I not only read The God of the Woods by Liz Moore but for each get -together we are reading and discussing one essay from Maris Kreizman's I Want to Burn This Place Down. The first essay we have read is "She's Lost Control Again!" Her failing with her diagnosis of Type I juvenile diabetes is learning to live with its uncertainty. There is no time off, no vacation days. It then becomes, for her, a short step to working with the idea that certain things will always be out of control. Who knows where this book will end?

I am going to end with the famous words Sergeant Phil Esterhaus in Hill Street Blues would state at the end of daily roll call to his officers of Hill Street Station, "Let's be careful out there!" Today, as I drove into town from home, I witnessed three different drivers in the downtown area run red lights. Pay attention out there. God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks



Reaching Out to Our Members

Feel free to make use of our card-writing station in the hall outside of the Narthex! Cards are available and can be placed in the basket on the table to be mailed. On the table are also lists of addresses for At-Home members and birthday lists if you need any ideas for recipients.

October Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Oct. 5—Tad & Maria Schell
Oct. 12—Altmans
Oct. 19—Routson
Oct. 26—Bryant

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell, Pat Needles

COMMUNION BREAD

Oct. 5—Cyndy Rotman
Oct. 12—Carolyn Bryant
Oct. 19—Devra Hall
Oct. 26—Julie Dittmar

COOKIE SUNDAY

Oct. 5—No Cookies
(Community Dinner)
Oct. 12—
Endowment/Finance
Oct. 19—Worship & Music
Oct. 26—Rachel Circle

**It is important you use the
forms for your bulletin
Announcement; they are
available
on the bulletin board and at
1stLutheranChurch.org.**

Flowers need to be delivered to
the church by noon on Friday.



DEACONS

Oct. 5
8:15—Toni Poling
10:45—Steve Roth, Daryl
Rotman

Oct. 12
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Greg Johnson, Julie
Buck

Oct. 19
8:15—Marilynn Dunn
10:45—John Hartman, Chip
Altman

Oct. 26
8:15—Judy Kipker
10:45—Tricia Cox, Ali Cox

FLOWER DELIVERY

Annie & Amelia Altman

COUNTERS

Carole Wittenberg & Judy
Kipker

LECTORS

Oct. 5
8:15—Toni Poling
10:45—Elaine Miller

Oct. 12
8:15—Kathy Brooks
10:45—Cyndy Rotman

Oct. 19
8:15—Elaine Miller
10:45—Annie Altman

Oct. 26
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Kristin Johnson

BLESSING BASKET DELIVERY—

Carolyn Wilde

SOUND ROOM

Oct. 5
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Todd Thompson

Oct. 12
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Falkyn Roth

Oct. 19
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Toni Poling

Oct. 26
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Steve Roth

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Oct. 5
8:15—
10:45—

Oct. 12
8:15—
10:45—

Oct. 19
8:15—
10:45—

Oct. 26
8:15—
10:45—

Celebrate with

Happy Birthday!



Ken and Nancy Bahler	6-Oct	46
Judy Kipker and Ron Kipker	7-Oct	58
Joseph and Candace Spoon	9-Oct	32
Tad and Maria Schell	11-Oct	45
Gary Altman and Andrea	14-Oct	25
Doyle and Raelyn Sherman	16-Oct	26
Carroll and Edna Gossard	18-Oct	69
Matthew and Sadye Holbach	19-Oct	12
Greg and Kristin Johnson	20-Oct	18
Mark and Suzanne Kirk	25-Oct	28
Janann and Christopher Lishawa	25-Oct	11
Tucker and Brittani O'Leary	31-Oct	3

Casey Cox	1-Oct
Barbara Stacy	1-Oct
Janet Wobser	1-Oct
Heather Nielsen	2-Oct
Karen Rose	4-Oct
Ali Cox	5-Oct
Bree Stahl	6-Oct
Daryl Rotman	7-Oct
Melody (Mel) Schultz	7-Oct
Paula Barkley	8-Oct
Anthony Neiling	9-Oct
Timothy Cochran	12-Oct
Sharon Fraley	14-Oct
Tim Franks	14-Oct
Marie Peace	14-Oct
Alex Treece	14-Oct
Calvin Meyer	18-Oct
Beulah Bishop	19-Oct
Mitchell Meyer	19-Oct
Kristin Johnson	20-Oct
Jakeb Neiling	20-Oct
Jeffrey Nunn	20-Oct
Linda Mitchell	21-Oct
Sandra Rakestraw	21-Oct
Reed Blunk	22-Oct
Aaron Ried	24-Oct
Devra Hall	25-Oct
Roberta Howard	25-Oct
Gianna Masterlasco	25-Oct
Jean Wynkoop	25-Oct
Mark Powers	26-Oct
Joanne Stombaugh	26-Oct
Patricia Burks	29-Oct
Laura Leopold	29-Oct
Edna Gossard	31-Oct
Andrew Maurer	31-Oct



2024 Altar Flower Chart

The 2025 Flower Chart is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.



109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
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Current Resident or:

Mailed around
Sept 26th

All are Welcome

Join us on Sunday Mornings:

8:15 Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Service



Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.org