



first Lutheran Church



September 2025

Reflection on Death

Death is a subject that we don't always want to think about or talk about. We, as a western society, hate death. We create dyes, powders, tinctures, diets, pills, and concealers to hide our true age. To hold onto our youthfulness and to push death back another day. To push it back like the West does is very unhealthy for our end of life care. We have pastors, chaplains, nurses, and doctors that try to alleviate the news and create hope in a culture that is hopeless. However, it is in these times that I ruminate on death that I am thankful for Saints Francis, Clare, and Augustine. Francis viewed death as a long lost Sister that we meet on occasion throughout our lives but become personal at our last. Clare echoed this holy relationship we should have with death, and Saint Augustine pioneered a spiritual perspective of death somewhere in the early 400's.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, in North Africa preached, "It is inevitable that we should be sad when those we love depart from us by dying. Although we know they are not leaving us forever, that they have but gone a little ahead of us, that we who remain will follow them, nevertheless our nature shrinks from death, and when it takes a loved one we are filled with sorrow simply because of our love for the person... In the death of those who are close to us we experience both sadness at the necessity of losing them, and hope of getting them back. By the former we are distressed, by the latter consoled; in the one our weakness touches us,, in the other faith restores us. In our loss the human condition mourns, but through hope the divine promise heals" (Sermon 172).

Death will never be easy for us, especially if it is a being that we held immeasurable love for. Death brings the stark reality of loss to the forefront and shakes us into living without. Yet, we are given faith through grace as a gift from God. This grace, mercy, peace, and love can provide a hope that will aid us in continued faith, life, and work as we move forward. If we live to the glory of God everyday, if we strive to be God's hands and feet, if we continue to love our neighbors as Jesus loves them, then we have nothing to worry about. There is no concern for the kingdom to come and what it entails, because we will be making the kingdom of God here on earth.

Pax et Bonum,
Pastor Tucker, n/OLF



Stewards of God's Mysteries

Harper Hueling

Morgan Harper Hueling is a 6th grader at Glenwood Middle School. His interests are varied: he loves reading and is playing football at his school. He also is active in the congregation. I asked him about some of those interests...

Who is the person(s) who is a “steward of the mysteries of God” for you? “Of course I would have to say my (step) dad, Tucker. In the past I have been bothered by certain “idiots” at school. I usually have not responded well to their antics. But I watch my dad, how he treats other people. While I have sometimes been impatient and unkind, he has been the opposite. He has taught me what it means to ‘love your neighbor.’ Now I have learned to ask myself, ‘why do they act like this’? My dad taught me to pay attention to where they are.”

What does it mean to you to be a Christian in school? “I know a lot of people. It is hard to see where they are coming from sometimes. My faith helps me try to understand where they are, to see things from their point of view. Also, I have to deal with kids for whom Jesus isn’t real. One kid said, ‘Science! Science! Science!’ I responded with ‘Jesus loves you’—and I left!”

What do you like about being in catechism (Confirmation) class? I like the games and activities. I like using the ‘God Survival Kit.’ It’s a kinda game that reminds me what matters most.

You were baptized at 10. What does it mean to you that you are baptized? When I think that I am a baptized child of God, it makes me feel closer to Jesus and the faith.

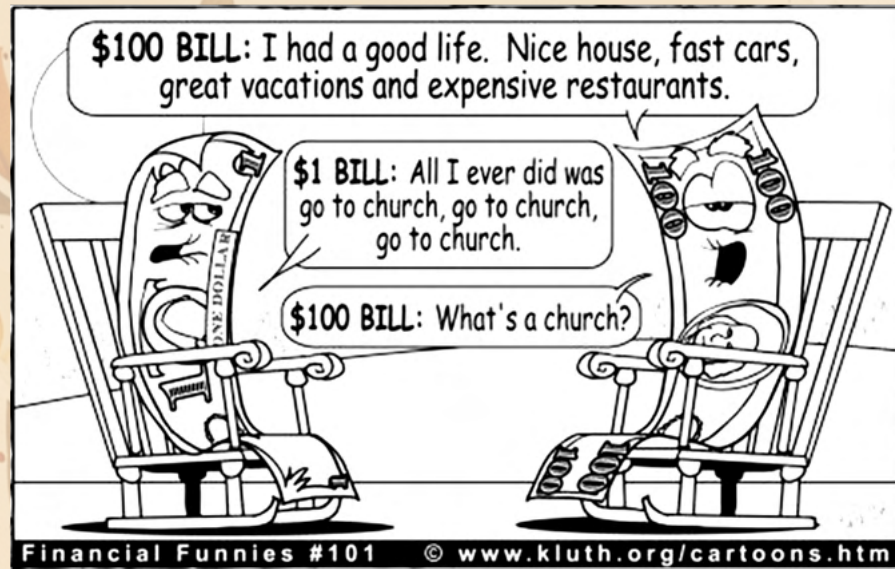
Many kids come to church because their parents make them come. Why do you come to church? I like being here. I am not forced to be here! I especially like to be active, to help where I am needed. I especially like serving at the altar. I like to be involved in serving.

What is it like being a Preacher’s Kid? It’s a good thing for me. I am always learning about God. But there is a negative side to it too. I am always forced to listen to ‘lectures,’ talks that seem to go on and on!

What makes your father a good pastor? My dad is a good listener. And not only a good listener, but when he listens, he understands. He is a cool dad!

What is the most important gift of the Spirit to possess? For me, it is so important to see people from their point of view. I believe the Spirit is helping me see this way.

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. - 1 Cor. 4:1



**What can God do with your extra
\$2.00 per week?**



SEPTEMBER EVENT SCHEDULE

September 7 5:00-7:00 Youth Group— Nerf Battle
Confirmation - High School

September 14 5:00-6:30 Youth Group Jr.
Kindergarten - 5th Grade

September 21 5:00-7:00 Youth Group - Game Night
Confirmation - High School

September 28 5:00-7:00 Family Bingo Night
Everyone is Welcome!!



Hello!

A prayer for students and scholars, God of Learning, “Let me be in this school, even in small ways, a bearer of love and light and reconciliation; which is to say, let me in humility be your child. God grant this child discernment and wisdom. Guard me from error. God grant this child knowledge and understanding. Lead me to truth. God bless the labors of this new season. Shape me for your service. Amen” This quote is taken from a liturgy for students and scholars, from the book *Every Moment Holy*. The book is one of my favorites that has different liturgies for all times in life. With it being time for the start of school though this is fitting. As this new season begins some of us will be starting school and others will have a child, grandchild or family member starting. Whatever it may be, the new school year brings a wild variety of emotions for all whether it be happiness, sadness, anxiety or any other emotion. Whatever it might be, we know that our God is always with us and will give us the strength to face the new year.

Other Events

September 13 11:00-1:00 Blessing in Bloom Cook Out

*This summer marked the launch of *Blessings In Bloom*, a cooperative ministry between First Lutheran, St. John's, and Trinity Lutheran in Findlay. Designed to build deeper connections in our community, this team listens, learns, and shares Christ's love through presence and service. We were also blessed to receive a synod grant to support this work! Our next event is the cookout that will be here at First Lutheran! If you have any questions or would like to see how you can be involved please talk to Cloe.*



**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 September 2025

Hannah Circle is in-service for the month of **September**

Tuesday, September 9 @ 9:00 a.m. - Martha Circle in the church library
Hostess: Judy Kipker; Leader: Roberta Howard

Tuesday, September 9 @ 1:00 p.m. - Rachel Circle will meet for lunch, place TBD

Monday, September 15 @ 7:00 p.m. - Hannah Circle in the church lounge
Hostess: Maria Schell; Leader: Kathy Brooks

September 26 & 27 - NW OHio Synodical WELCA Gathering - St. Mark's, Bowling Green

Sunday, September 28 - Cookie Sunday - Hannah Circle

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

WHAT IS WELCA?

It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Quite a mouthful! Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 4,500 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA.

Welcome back to a new year of study and fellowship! If you are not already involved in one of the circles, please consider joining, all women are invited.

Hannah Circle is using the book *When You Pray, a Study of Six Prayers in the Bible*, by numerous authors.

Rachel and Martha Circles are using the book *James: Faith in Action*, By Chuck and Winnie Christensen.

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

L.I.F.T. will meet on **Tuesday, September 16th 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 Marilyn 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.



Harp Trio to Perform at First Lutheran Church

Jan Kandel Bishop, her daughter Dawn Bishop from Chicago, and Mikaela Umbs a former harp student from Findlay will present a Harp Trio concert entitled *A Musical Journey Through the Year* on Sunday afternoon, September 21 at 3:00 pm at First Lutheran Church. The music highlights the major and minor holidays and some different events of each month of the year. Harp trios, harp duos, and solos will be performed along with some cameo appearances of flute, bells, viola, and readers. There will be a variety of music including classical, religious, patriotic, and familiar songs through the ages.

Please mark your calendar for this very special concert!



Much of the area around the church, the Good News Garden, the Meditation Garden, the Rose Garden and the perimeter areas have been helped along in this hot, humid weather by 2 couples and 3 singles. It has been a tough year dealing with the weather but we hope members of the church take notice of the beauty around the church. As we work so often people walking by will comment on the beauty.

The weeds in and around the playground were worked on trying to rid those unyielding thistles, that was a big job! On Friday, Aug. 15th members from UF Freshmen class arrived to help rake and shovel rubber mulch. A weed barrier was put in place and new mulch was put down. Hopefully by the time you read this it will be complete. We want to thank the UF Freshmen, Ben Stevens, Jay Clark, Melissa Mathias, and

Jeff Holdman who helped out with this project, pulling weeds or spreading mulch.

We are thankful to God for the rain when it comes. Anyone is welcome to help with our work, no matter how much time is given. The Garden group consists of Eric and Cheryl Huttenlocher, Kurt and Jane Ebersole, Cheryl Everett, Diane Adler, Carolyn Bryant. Contact any of them if you'd like to know more.



CHURCH

Library

And it is September again. We have been to the State Fair and the County Fair. The soybeans will be coming off soon. Halloween decorations have been on sale for several weeks. The cicadas are singing. And, oh yes, school is open.

Now as to reading this past month. I read one of the strangest put together novels ever - Cash by Johnny Cash. 400 pages...into 6 chapters. And oh so in need of editing.

Sometimes the number 2 was a capital Z. "The" was often spelled "die." Chapters were one paragraph long. Once you learned the code, though, the story itself was good and very honest. Cash wanders aimlessly for quite awhile through his life. Medical issues, drugs, alcohol. And then God re-enters his life.

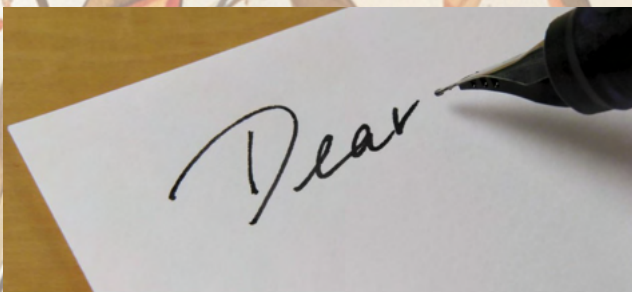
When the World Fell Silent by Donna Jones Alward, an historical fiction/ novel, covers the December 6, 1917 Halifax explosion. The French cargo ship *SS Mont-Blanc* collided with the Norwegian vessel *SS Imo* in the harbor of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The *Mont-Blanc* was moving high explosives (we are talking World War I); it caught fire, and exploded. The explosion completely leveled a district of Halifax..at least 1782 people were killed by the blast, debris, fires and collapsed buildings. An estimated 9000 others were injured. The novel follows those involved in rescue, relief, shelters, housing for the homeless. It was a very interesting well-written following of history.

If You Knew Her is a psychological thriller by Emily Elgar, that tells the story of Cassie Jensen, a hit-and-run victim, now in a coma. Frank, another patient in the ward, can hear and see but cannot move or speak. He knows so much more than anyone else suspects. Slowly the truth is revealed through several characters' admissions. I thoroughly enjoyed this read.

And another book on the list of banned books that I am reading is Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher. Wow! What a story. A teen commits suicide. Leaves behind a set of tapes explaining the 13 reasons why she took her life. All 13 reasons are actions taken by others who knew her. I can't imagine the other teens' reactions when they learn their parts in this senseless death. It was a very rough read.

I finally took the time to read a copy of She Did What She Could by Elisa Morgan; I kept finding copies of the text in remote places throughout our church. "I get it, God! I will read it!" Mary of Bethany breaks open the jar of perfume and pours it over the head of Jesus. The others are indignant, seeing this use of the perfume as a waste. Imagine how many poor could have been fed from the sale of the perfume. Jesus reminds them that she did what she could. And then the text reminds me "What if I do what I can?" I am still pondering what more I can do.

Join us in the church lounge on September 2 at 7:00 for a discussion of The Comfort of Crows by Margaret Renkl, 52 short chapters celebrating one backyard of nature and creatures. God bless and keep reading. (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)



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.

September Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sept. 7—
Sept. 14—
Sept. 21—
Sept. 28—

ALTAR GUILD

Elaine Miller, Kristen
Warren

COMMUNION BREAD

Sept. 7—Beth Bonnoront
Sept. 14—Annie Altman
Sept. 21—Elaine Miller
Sept. 28— Pat Needles

COOKIE SUNDAY

Sept. 7—No Cookies
(Community Dinner)
Sept. 14—Church Council
Sept. 21—Social Ministry
Sept. 28— Hannah 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

Sept. 7
8:15—Jon Hartman
10:45—Tricia Cox, Ali Cox

Sept. 14
8:15—Reed Needles
10:45—Art Wilde, Cloe
Smith

Sept. 21
8:15—Sue DeMoss
10:45—Julie Buck, Greg
Johnson

Sept. 28
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Toni Poling, Judy
Kipker

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sept. 7, 14— Maria Schell
Sept. 21, 28—Marilynn
Dunn

COUNTERS

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick

LECTORS

Sept. 7
8:15—Elaine Miller
10:45—Julie Buck

Sept. 14
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Traci Roth

Sept. 21
8:15—Kathy Brooks
10:45—Nina Dukes

Sept. 28
8:15—Marilyn Dunn
10:45—Arlene Schriener

BLESSING BASKET

DELIVERY—
Kathy Brooks

SOUND ROOM

Sept. 7
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Todd Thompson

Sept. 14
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Falkyn Roth

Sept. 21
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Steve Roth

Sept. 28
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Toni Poling

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sept. 7
8:15—
10:45—Daryl Rotman

Sept. 14
8:15—
10:45—

Sept. 21
8:15—
10:45—

Sept. 28
8:15—
10:45—Traci Roth

Celebrate with

HAPPY Anniversary

Craig and Beth Meier	3-Sep	31
Steve and Traci Roth	3-Sep	31
Michael and Sue Baxter	5-Sep	55
Robert and Arlene Schriner	11-Sep	43
Gary and Virginia May	17-Sep	48
Tim and Dawn Franks	19-Sep	27
Chuck and Beverly Horn	19-Sep	46
Rob and Amber Leipheimer	21-Sep	23
Mike and Chris Zawisza	26-Sep	27

Happy Birthday!

Peggy Fruchey	1-Sep
Tricia Cox	1-Sep
Rylie Needles	2-Sep
Daphne Maag	2-Sep
Tad Schell	3-Sep
Carol Meyer	4-Sep
Evan Pitt	5-Sep
Martha Schmidt	6-Sep
Mike Waltermeyer	6-Sep
Kristen Warren	6-Sep
Cheryl Everett	7-Sep
Carolyn Bryant	9-Sep
Makenzie Cox	9-Sep
Carroll Gossard	10-Sep
Cynthia Rotman	11-Sep
Elaine Miller	11-Sep
Sharon Thompson	16-Sep
Kimberly Fultz	16-Sep
Jordan Spoon	17-Sep
Abbey Haudenschild	17-Sep
Douglas Schriner	19-Sep
Scott Schriner	19-Sep
Margaret Maag	20-Sep
Samantha Franks	21-Sep
Jeff Gainsley	21-Sep
Lisa Cox	22-Sep
Bradley Mitchell	23-Sep
Alexandria Johnson	23-Sep
Jonathan Hartman	25-Sep
Teri Foor	27-Sep
Jeff Haudenschild	28-Sep
Weston Haudenschild	28-Sep
Debra McMillen	29-Sep
Mary Lou McCann	30-Sep
Suzanne Kirk	30-Sep
Marilynn Dunn	30-Sep



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
FINDLAY, OH
PERMIT NO. 338

Current Resident or:

Mailed around
August 28th

All are Welcome

Join us on Sunday Mornings:

8:15 Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Service



Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.org