



first Lutheran Church



November 2025

Listening through Meditation

Meditation is a difficult topic to have with many Christians and seculars. Many view meditation as a spiritual practice that is not tied to any religion. Due to this mentality many religions have worked it into their own spiritual practices and social communities have banked off of offering religious practices in a secular space and calling it spirituality. Yet, we are called not to judge but to listen, love, and learn.

Meditation is a religious practice that was first practiced (that we know from historical documents), but Hindus, Buddhists, and Janists 5,000 years before the birth of Christ. This practice encourages individuals to focus on the breath of life that we all share. To allow for the body to become still, the mind to become clear, and the soul to be open to the creator's influence. Depending on which of these three faiths a person practices they would receive a reward from their spiritual journey through the religious practice. It wasn't until the 3rd or 4th century that the Early Christian Mothers and Fathers began to bring those spiritual exercises back to Egypt from India and work it into our own religions practices and spiritual exercises.

Although I do not support calling it "Christian Yoga" or "Christian Meditation" I do believe that these Spiritual exercises, born from different religious practices, can help and guide us towards Christ. We are all made divinely different from one another and it is in this unique way that God formed us that we are able to be the body of Christ. No, Yoga and Meditation are not spiritual exercises that Christians created, but that doesn't mean that we can't benefit from what others have learned over 7,000 years.

Meditation is a wonderful spiritual exercise to practice and it is something that Christ did. Going to a secluded place, to center oneself in prayer, to clear out the "what if" and "should" from our minds, and to take intentional time to focus on God and how we are called into deeper relationship with God is always a good thing. However, within our tradition we have expanded on what Meditation means to us as Christians. Lectio divina: "divine reading," is an ancient Christian practice of slow, meditative reading of Scripture to foster communion with God; Visio divina: "divine seeing," is the practice of praying with a sacred image or work of art; Eco divina: "Divine Creation," is the practice of praying while in nature. There are many other prayerful practices that we have in the Church to pull us closer to Christ in a meditative style.

As we continue in our month I encourage you to find some time to step into Meditation. Focusing in a way that best suits your spiritual exercises whether that be; looking at a sacred icon, reading a passage of scripture, praying to God, moving through nature, or sitting perfectly still. Take the intentional time to check in with yourself and Christ.

Pax et Bonum,
Pastor Tucker, n/OLF

2025-2026 Stewardship Emphasis

Living a

STEWARDSHIP Life



Kids, Money and Stuff

It's not easy being a parent! Never was. Raising kids to be good students, to be people with integrity and respect for others, loving and resourceful, as well as healthy and with a positive self-esteem, isn't for wimps! Schedules are crazy these days, with school and work, homework and extra curriculars, like sports and music, families rarely have time to eat together. Then parents are constantly on guard against predators and problems, especially the internet, which, according to Jonathon Haidt, has produced *The Anxious Generation*. Although there seems to be little time for it, I beg parents to also put *stewardship education* in your kids' schedule!

Right now I'm talking about financial stewardship, using principles outlined in the Bible. Remember stewardship is based on the principle that everything belongs to God and our giving is always out of gratitude and given for the support of God's mission in Christ.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILDREN BECOME GOOD STEWARDS?

- Encourage a sharing attitude by providing practical opportunities for children to share.
- Involve children in decision making regarding giving projects.
- Share Bible truths related to stewardship. Use Bible stories to illustrate these truths.
- Emphasize the importance of giving in church and to congregational ministries.
- Weekly offerings. Consistently give children an opportunity to give weekly. Each week share one of the ways their offerings are being used—building maintenance, supplies and equipment, provision for specific ministries, etc.

I often look back to when my children were young, and I realize I didn't always do the above listed things. But every week I gave my kids their envelopes and put money in it. I always encouraged them. Giving is a part of the Christian life. May it be a part of our teaching and example to our kids

—Pastor Chris

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.—1 Peter 4:10

10 Stewardship *Principles*



Respond Gratefully

to what God has first given us. All that we do is a response to God's grace. Everything we are, have, and use comes from God. Best of all, God gives the gift of Jesus Christ and the community of believers. It all begins with God. Our confession of faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is not of our doing. Grateful stewards put God first.

"...but they gave themselves first to the Lord." - 2 Corinthians 8:5



November Events

- 2nd Trunk or treat 5:00-7:00
All are Welcome
- 9th Youth Group Jr 5:00-6:30
Kindergarden-4th Grade
- 16th Youth Group 5:00-7:00
5th- 12th Grade
- 23rd Youth Group Potluck 5:00-7:00
5th- 12th Grade

What are you thankful for? Is it for friends, family, pets and the list could go on. One of the things that I am thankful for is all the support that the youth program is getting from the congregation. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Paul writes "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" We all know rejoicing, praying and giving thanks is easy when things are going good and we are getting plenty but what happens when things are not doing as well and we are not getting an abundance. How do we respond? This is a hard question for adults, let alone kids. One way to answer this for kids is to take the time and teach them about prayer. Teach them that prayer is for all times especially in the hard times when they don't think they have anything to give thanks about. Then help them find the "little" good things that have happened to them. Whether it is they got a sweet treat or played with their favorite friend at school. Whatever it is, help them find the little things. Another thing to do is make sure that they know that Jesus is always with them and that he will never leave them. Tell them it's like a built-in best friend that even though they can't see Jesus he is with them. Helping children learn this at a young age will help them in the long run and let them know they should be "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess. 5:16-18a)

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.



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 November 2025



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

Tuesday, November 11 @ 9:00 a.m. – Martha Circle in the church library
Hostess: Phyllis Higgins; Leader: Judy Routson

Tuesday, November 11 @ 1:00 p.m. – Rachel Circle in the church library
Hostess: Sally Hartzell; Leader Cheryl Huttenlocher

Wednesday, November 12 @ 10:00 a.m. – Planning meeting for the Snowflake Social

Wednesday, November 16 @ 10:00 a.m. – WELCA ThankOffering Service

Monday, November 17 @ 7:00 p.m. – Hannah Circle in the church lounge
Hostess: Marilynn Dunn; Leader: Marilynn Dunn

Sunday, November 30 – Cookie Sunday – Hannah Circle

Sunday, November 30 – Start Reverse Advent Food Collection

Thank
you

A Great Big THANK YOU to Brittani O'Leary and Cheryl Huttenlocher for all their work putting together a wonderful rummage sale. And thank you to all the volunteers and those who donated items and time to make the sale a success!

Thankoffering Sunday is November 16, 2025. Offering envelopes will be provided in the bulletin that Sunday. Please make all checks out to First Lutheran Church and one check will be processed and sent to WELCA after all offerings are collected.

What do our Thankofferings support?

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Our ongoing ministries include our many online and printed communications channels (including this website), our justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, our constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of our grants and scholarship programs, all that goes into our triennial convention (the business meeting, that is), and so much more. All of the offerings given at the ThankOffering service go to the national WELCA.

National WELCA does not receive any funds from the ELCA, their total budget is through donations from churches like ours.

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
<i>November</i>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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	5pm D&D Group	7:30pm Sr Choir	7:30pm Young Adult	
11:30am Community Dinner	11:30am Sacred Daily				Game Night	
5pm Trunk or Treat	6:30pm Worship & Music					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	10:15am Prayer Group	HOLIDAY—Office Closed	11:30am Sacred Daily	10:30am Katie's Ladies	9:30am Bulletin	
Noisy Offering	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	9am Martha Circle	7pm Endowment	11:30am Sacred Daily		
9:30am Sunday School	11:30am Sacred Daily	1pm Rachel Circle		7:30pm Sr Choir		
5pm Youth Group Jr	7pm Social Ministry					
	7pm Property					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Welca Thankoffering	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily	9am Tree Commission	11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin	
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	11:45am LIFT	5pm D&D Group	6pm BSA	7:30pm Young Adult	
9:30am Sunday School	11:30am Sacred Daily	7pm Theology Pub		7:30pm Sr Choir	Game Night	
12pm Congregational Meeting	12pm Newsletter Deadline					
5pm Youth Group	7pm Hannah Circle					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	HOLIDAY—Office Closed	9:30am Bulletin	9:30am Christmas
9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study					Decoration
12pm Fellowship Hall Rental	11:30am Sacred Daily			7:30pm Sr Choir		
	7pm Council Meeting					
30						
8:15 & 10:45 Worship						
9:30am Sunday School						



So, I realize that this month I have read an even wider variety of topics than I did last month. I shall begin with the October book club read The Comfort of Crows — A Backyard Year by Margaret Renkl. The author begins with the first week of winter

and writes a very short chapter on waiting. Then, Renkl introduces the new year by declaring that the first bird one sees on the first day of the new year sets the tone for the next twelve months. Of course, one may then have to study the symbolism of that first bird! She reminds me that planting a tree is planting faith in the future. (I think of the time our Josh came home from school and said his sixth grade teacher had told the class all about the nuclear bomb, who could launch it, its massive destruction...he stopped and said “What’s the point? We could be dead tomorrow.” I remember answering him that I was still planting trees and I intended to be around to see them full grown.) I could quote for you so many beautiful passages from this book that reflect where we stand in the world of nature. Her book reminds us eloquently, to quote poet Mary Oliver, “To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work.” Definitely a must read.

I listened to The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai. The book revolves around a group of art dealers and procurers some of whom are experiencing the first fears of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980’s. The story weaves in Fiona’s search for her daughter in 2015; Fiona’s tale reflects the aftermath of the epidemic as her brother had been one of the first to die of AIDS in the earlier group. It was a rough read. I am not sure how it ended up on my “To Be Read” list.

I also listened to The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich, set in the Red River Valley of North Dakota. First off, one needs to understand that Erdrich in her many novels has created a family tree that is more complicated than that of the Olympic Gods. In her writing room, she must have the tree painted on a huge wall, for the sake of easy reference. The characters in the novel are all connected to sugar beet farming. The roots of her characters are Native American and the culture is important to the novel. The Mighty Red is all about teenagers and young love joined to the interference of adults and adult love. I enjoyed it. Not every one will.

Finally, I read The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt. This text is complete with charts, research, explanations and possible ways of correction. What is the topic? Primarily GenZ and its total takeover by the smartphone. The smartphone has created children that vicariously enjoy play instead of being active participants. This generation of children suffer anxiety and, according to Haidt, experiences mental illness and attempting suicide. To transition with reliance and competence into adulthood requires physical and mental milestones and i do not mean moving one level at a time on a video game. Haidt firmly believes that the smartphone has taken ;the place of all forms of socialization. GenZ members don’t connect with others well and do not know stillness. Constant use of the smartphone interrupts thoughts with useless trivia. This text was disturbing to say the least.

Come to the November book club meeting...we are discussing The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. See you then. Until then, God bless and keep reading.

Kathy

November Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Nov. 2—Jon & Sandra
Burnside
Nov. 9—Pat Needles
Nov. 16—Tad & Maria
Schell
Nov. 23—Chris & Julie
Dittmar
Nov. 30—Maria
Schwartzkopf & Erica
Cunningham

ALTAR GUILD

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick,
Kris Jensen & Rich Orr

COMMUNION BREAD

Nov. 2—Janet Wobser
Nov. 9—Jane Ebersole
Nov. 16—Cindy Thompson
Nov. 23—Suzanne Kirk
Nov. 30—Sharon
Thompson

COOKIE SUNDAY

Nov. 2—No Cookies
(Community Dinner)
Nov. 9—Property
Nov. 16—Christian
Ed/Youth
Nov. 23—
Evangelism/Stewardship
Nov. 30—Hannah Circle

COUNTERS

Jerry Luth & Cindy Rotman

DEACONS

Nov. 2
8:15—Toni Poling
10:45—Daryl Rotman, Art
Wilde

Nov. 9
8:15—Toni Poling
10:45—Greg Johnson, Julie
Buck

Nov. 16
8:15—Janet Wobser, Sue
DeMoss
10:45—Tricia Cox,
Makenzie Cox

Nov. 23
8:15—Judy Kipker
10:45—Bob Schriner, Chip
Altman

Nov. 30
8:15—Reed Needles
10:45—Bob Schriner, Steve
Roth

FLOWER DELIVERY
Sally Hartzell

LECTORS
Nov. 2
8:15—Toni Poling
10:45—Elaine Miller

Nov. 9
8:15—Elaine Miller
10:45—Julie Buck

Nov. 16
8:15—Kathy Brooks
10:45—Makenzie Cox

Nov. 23
8:15—Deb Kania
10:45—Traci Roth

Nov. 30
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Falkyn Roth

BLESSING BASKET DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

SOUND ROOM

Nov. 2
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Todd Thompson

Nov. 9
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Falkyn Roth

Nov. 16
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Toni Poling

Nov. 23
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Steve Roth

Nov. 30
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Steve Roth

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Nov. 2
8:15—
10:45—

Nov. 9
8:15—
10:45—

Nov. 16
8:15—
10:45—

Nov. 23
8:15—
10:45—

Nov. 30
8:15—
10:45—

WELCA is again sponsoring the Reverse Advent Food Collection starting November 30th. All families are invited to donate a box of food. Donations will be taken to the Blessings Basket at St. John's.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

December 1 - box of cereal
December 2 - peanut butter
December 3 - stuffing mix
December 4 - boxed potatoes
December 5 - macaroni and cheese
December 6 - canned fruit
December 7 - canned tomatoes
December 8 - canned tuna
December 9 - dessert mix
December 10 - jar of applesauce
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
December 12 - cranberry sauce
December 13 - canned beans
December 14 - box of crackers
December 15 - package of rice
December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 17 - package pasta
December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 20 - tomato soup
December 21 - can corn
December 22 - can mixed vegetables
December 23 - can carrots
December 24 - can green beans

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Happy Birthday!

Ryan Nunn	1-Nov	Paul Brooks	15-Nov
Jim Schoerger	1-Nov	Andrew Mains	18-Nov
Cindy Thompson	4-Nov	Carolyn Wilde	18-Nov
Jeremiah Cox	4-Nov	James Routson	19-Nov
Carole Wittenberg	7-Nov	Timothy Roth	21-Nov
Gary May	7-Nov	Christian Dittmar	22-Nov
Brent Fruchey	8-Nov	Jeffrey Short	24-Nov
Phoebe Treece	8-Nov	Dorothy Freeland	26-Nov
Phyllis Higgins	8-Nov	Shirley Gerber	26-Nov
Dillon Timbrook	9-Nov	Janann Lishawa	26-Nov
Steve Seibert	9-Nov	Emily Meier	26-Nov
Deborah Baker	11-Nov	Craig Meier	27-Nov
Gary Woodruff	12-Nov	Virginia May	27-Nov
Beth Schriener	13-Nov	Sara Cleary	29-Nov
Gabby Cox	13-Nov	Leslie Torny	29-Nov
Kim Peplinski	15-Nov	Arlene Schriener	30-Nov

Happy Anniversary!

Kevin and Karen Breen	7-Nov	38
Jerry and Judith Luth	12-Nov	59
Eddie Gallegos and Erin Rodabaugh-Gallegos	22-Nov	11
Leslie Torny and Hilda Auanna	24-Nov	13

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTIFICATION

November 16, 2025 after the Late Service
Meeting will be held in the church

A Congregational Meeting will be held November 16 after the late service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Council members for the next term. Those running for a three year term are: Casey Cox, Jon Hartman, Roberta Howard, Eric Huttenlocher, and Toni Poling. A preliminary budget will also be available at the meeting.



109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
FINDLAY, OH
PERMIT NO. 338

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