



# first Lutheran Church



March 2026

## Can Love Really Change the World?

As I read this initial question all I can think about is “Love Can Change the World” by Aaron Niequist. If you have not heard this song yet I encourage you to look it up. We actually have this as one of our hymns in the new addition to the Cranberry! The Purple (also known as All Creation Sings or ACS) Hymnal is supplemental to our Cranberry (Evangelical Worship Book or ELW) and gives many more songs for us to worship God with. We have used a number of them in our services over the years and I look forward to listening to new and different ways we can sing our praises together for our Lord.

I do believe that this is a fragile question. This question comes from a place of openness, worry, vulnerability, fear, and hope. We worry that the simple act of love won't change a hardened heart. We have maybe seen that before in our own lives and we realize how tenuous some of the situations in our lives can truly be. To be open and vulnerable in those moments of fear so that others can see the scars. See the truth, see how authentic Christ is and the Christian path. The prayer that we elevate is for others to then be filled with the hope of Christ. To see the joy, grace, compassion, and attentiveness of our Lord and Savior to the little things in our lives. This weeks Synod reflection was by Sarah Neal who is a lay leader at St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Academy in Bowling Green. She is currently a student in the Growing in Faith: Diakonia program. As we read this reflection from her she is in Kashasha, Tanzania. How amazing that she has felt the call of God to go half a world away to support our siblings in Christ. God's children who need an extra hand in getting projects done. Our neighbors that need to borrow some paint supplies and hands for labor and story sharing.

“We need to remember; we're not there to change or ‘fix’ anyone: they are not broken. We are there to help with what is truly needed like clean water and learning to grow their own food.” I think this excerpt from her reflection speaks volumes to “Can love change the world?”. We can't fix anyone nor can we save anyone. That is the work of the Trinity. We are called only to love. That task is difficult enough and means the most, “These three remain; faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love” 1st Corinthians 13:13.

A great challenge that I received years ago from my dad was to read through my bible and whenever it says ‘Love’ put in ‘God’, because God is love. I read a few sections in the new testament and was shocked by how well I could still read passages. God is indeed love and to believe that God, the creator of all things, can change the world is to believe that love will also save this world from its pain and sorrow. “My sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more” (It is well with My Soul).

Pax et Bonum,  
Pastor Tucker



## 2026 Stewardship Emphasis

**Living a**

**STEWARDSHIP**  
**Life**

**“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, *Giving to God***



### **Sheer Delight**

**A** Pentecostal pastor told me this story about giving. “When I was 8 years old, I lived in a small town and one day my mother sent me to the florist to buy flowers for the family table. I remember being embarrassed as I walked home with the flowers, worried that my friends might see me and make fun of me for carrying flowers. But I did it, because I was an obedient son—it was my duty.

“Ten years later, I was in love with a young woman who lived in that town. I went to the same florist, bought her flowers and walked some of the same streets toward her house. But now I wasn’t thinking about what anyone might think if they saw me. I was only Duty and delight thinking of two things: how happy she would be to get flowers, and how fortunate I was to be the one bringing them to her. “That is the difference between doing something out of duty—and doing it out of delight.” I think about this story every time the offering plates come around in church. It’s my duty to give money to support my congregation—and sometimes I do that just because it’s the right thing to do. But other times, I’m eager to give my offering: how pleased God is to receive whatever we offer, and how fortunate we are to be people who know God and love God and who can give to God out of sheer delight. - Powell

**“He is your praise; he is your God who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.” - Deuteronomy 10: 21**

# 10 Stewardship Principles

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## Share Abundantly

**as we have received. The purpose of these gifts is for the good of the community of God. We give to build up the body of Christ. We use and share our gifts for the benefit of all.**

**“...and God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”  
- 2 Corinthians 9:8**

# 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 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

**SEND YOUR RESUME TO:** [flcfindlay@gmail.com](mailto:flcfindlay@gmail.com)

**L.I.F.T. - Living in Faith and Trust**  
 L.I.F.T. will meet on **Tuesday, March 17th 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 and celebrate St. Patrick's Day!  
 Please contact Marilyn Dunn at 419-722-8543 or Sue DeMoss at 419-306-9994 for more information or if you need a ride.



# WEDNESDAY **SERVICES**

**DURING LENT**

**6pm Soup Supper**

**7pm Service with Holy Communion**

**February 25 - Trinity Lutheran Church**

935 Bigelow Ave, Findlay

**March 4 - First Lutheran Church**

109 E Lincoln, Findlay

**March 11 - St. John's Lutheran Church**

1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay

**March 18 - Trinity Lutheran Church**

18974 State Rt 12, Arcadia

**March 25 - St. John's Lutheran Church**

with NWO Synod Leading

1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay

*Led by your Findlay/Arcadia area ELCA Lutheran Churches*

### WELCA Calendar of Events for March 2026

Martha Circle is in-service for the month of **March**



**Tuesday, March 10 @ 9:00 a.m.** – Martha Circle in the church library  
Hostess: Judy Kipker; Leader: Carolyn Wilde

**Tuesday, March 10 @ 1:00 p.m.** – Rachel Circle in the church library  
Hostess: Cheryl Huttenlocher; Leader Mary Lou McCann

**Monday, March 16 @ 7:00 p.m.** – Hannah Circle in the church lounge  
Hostess Cyndy Rotman; Leader: Julie Buck

**Wednesday, February 18 - April 4** – 40 Days of Giving

**Sunday, March 29** – Cookie Sunday – Martha Circle



What a delightful evening we had on February 4<sup>th</sup> with this year's Snowflake Social! Around 80 ladies (our largest attendance in over 12 years !!) gathered and had lots of fun, food, and fellowship as they chatted and worked on a lovely creation designed by Beth. Each one received a small wooden house and could choose embellishments of wall paper, shutters, flowers, etc. to make each house their "home." Home and community were themes represented in thoughtful Bible verses to also decorated the little projects. **MANY THANKS** to Beth, her helpers, our WELCA team and THRIVENT for their giving of time, talents, and treasure for this event. The CCH Caring Cupboard will be nicely stocked at least for a little while.



Scholarship applications are now available in the church office or online at the church website for two scholarships from the Endowment Fund. From the website, forms can be downloaded, or the application can be submitted online. From the home page of our church website, click on Forms, then scroll down to Youth Forms and you will find the online and download option for each scholarship. If you submit online be sure and contact your letter of recommendation individual(s) with the correct timing of submissions that need to be mailed to the church office.

1. The Endowment General Scholarship is available for voting members and their dependents attending a Christian Theological Seminary, a Lutheran affiliated college or university regardless of major, or any Christian college or university if majoring in areas of Christian ministry.
2. The Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship was established for members of First Lutheran Church by Paul and Sue DeMoss in memory of their son, Jeff. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who is an active member of First Lutheran between the ages of 18 and 25, attending a nationally accredited college or university with a declared major in health, religion, and/or social work professions. Examples of professions include but are not limited to social work, counseling, psychology, nursing, medicine, youth work, ministry, and mental health. Applicants must also be of good Christian character and be making use of their talents in a manner that is pleasing to God. No one person may receive the scholarship award more than twice.

Deadline for submitting applications and letters of recommendation is March 31<sup>st</sup>. The recipient(s) will be selected and notified on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>. A total of \$12,745.86 for the General Scholarship and \$1,730.47 for the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship is available to be awarded. If you have any questions, please contact any Endowment committee member or the church office. Please be aware, each scholarship requires letter(s) of recommendation. Do not wait until the last minute to request these forms to be submitted by your selected individuals. **All forms are due in the church office by March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## HOW ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS HOLDING UP?

Maybe you thought you would read more scripture, try a new prayer method, or explore a new podcast. Well, if you're lagging a bit, here's something that might help with all three. A few years ago, Kurt and I were given a devotional called Daily Texts, a tool of the Moravian church and used by Pr. Tucker for the Sacred Daily. Each day there is an OT verse, a NT verse, and a prayer. Also, there are readings from the OT, NT, and the Psalms to get you through the Bible in one year or two years. We have chosen the two year plan. This year, however, we also decided to look into the podcast...what at our age!? Yes, ForgivinLivin.org has become part of our daily devotion. Speakers young AND old tell us what's going on in their part of the world...how God is calling ALL of us to share the Gospel. There's an "Awaken" group (seminary interns training for the ministry or missionary work), the THETA group from colleges around the states, even an Irish cast (always on Tuesdays) to tell how they see God in our world and how we might share that Gospel with friends, neighbors, or even strangers. Check it out on GroundUpGrace.com or www.ForgivinLivin.org

A sister in Christ, Jane Ebersole

## COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Hey, did anyone notice the two new bookcases in the church lounge? If you did, congratulations on your keen perception. Now let me explain. I have always wanted to expand the library outside the actual room. Books should be easily accessible. So as a start to my plan, a friend and I absconded with a small bookcase from the 2024 rummage sale. This past January we found the real bookcases we wanted. Once

Paul assembled them and moved them into the lounge, I filled one with all the books the library owns on Martin Luther, his family and some general works about him. The other case to the right of the fireplace has all non-fiction texts on death and dying, life after death and coping with grief. These books, outside the library, join those in the glass cabinet in the hallway. That cabinet holds all the books on prayer, daily meditation, and Bible readings...all great books for the Sacred Daily. All can be borrowed. No need to sign out; just return when finished.

The new books on the book cart have been purchased thanks to WELCA monies donated to the library in memory of the eight women, members of our church, who passed away in 2025...Patricia Burk, Jane Wise, Sally Rice, Doris Staschiak, Mary Kondik, Kathi Rodman, Pat Stacy and Sue Montgomery.

While I am thinking about it, the March book club text is *The Wife, The Maid, and the Mistress* by Ariel Lawhon on March 3 (whose book *The Frozen River* was just recommended to me by my Pilates instructor) and *The Widow* by John Grisham on April 7. Join us for food, fun and discussion about the book.

*The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple was the topic of book club for February. We had a great group in attendance and the discussion centered around the story of an old man trying to remember what it felt like to be young and a young boy trying to grow old. What a great read: conquering death, dealing with regrets, finding purpose in life, all part of the story. The humor of a 100-year-old man trying to cope with computers, email, texting; the poignancy of the old and the young coping with impending death.

I also read *The Cliffs* by J. Courtney Sullivan, a multi-generational novel focusing on Jane, a recently-fired Harvard archivist, hired to investigate the lives of women who inhabited an abandoned, haunted Victorian mansion near her childhood home. The storyline addresses in its own way mass trauma passed down from one generation to the next on a cellular level. A hint overshadows the story that perhaps the earth may be infected with trauma as well. I inhaled this novel. I will add it to the book cart if and when I remember!!!!

*The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Debra Dean centers around the women who worked in the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia., during the Siege of Leningrad in World War II. One such woman Marina helped wrap the artwork to be stored underground thus saving the manuscripts from confiscation by the Nazis. Marina had been a tour guide. She and another docent found, after mourning the empty frames, that they could imagine the paintings in their frames just by reciting their tour speech. The story is much more complicated and an excellent read.

While you are browsing in the library, check out the puzzles on the book cart. The puzzles come in, the puzzles go out. They belong to no one. Help yourself. When finished, pass it on or bring it back. Donate your own. My only ask is that the puzzles be whole, no missing pieces. Thanks.

God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks

# March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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	6pm Soup Supper	7:30pm Sr Choir		
11:30am Community Dinner	11:30am Sacred Daily		7pm Lenten Service			
	6:30pm Worship & Music					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Noisy Offering	10:15am Prayer Group	9am Martha Circle	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin	
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	11:30am Sacred Daily	7pm Endowment	7:30pm Sr Choir		
9:30am Sunday School	11:30am Sacred Daily	1pm Rachel Circle	6pm Soup Supper			
	7pm Property	7:30pm Finance	7pm Lenten Service			
	7pm Social Ministry					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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	6pm BSA	7:30pm Sr Choir	Hopewood Confirmation Re-treat	
	11:30am Sacred Daily	7pm Hannah Circle	6pm Soup Supper			
	12pm Newsletter Deadline	7pm Theology Pub	7pm Lenten Service			
	7pm Feast of St. Patrick					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:15 Worship	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin	FH—NYLT
9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study	12pm Red Cross Bloodmobile	6pm Soup Supper	7:30pm Sr Choir		
	11:30am Sacred Daily		7pm Lenten Service			
	7pm Council Meeting					
29	30	31				
8:15 & 10:45 Worship	10:15am Prayer Group	11:30am Sacred Daily				
9:30am Sunday School	10:30am Ladies Bible Study					
	11:30am Sacred Daily					

# March Volunteers

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar 1—Miriam Gibson  
 Mar 8—Carol Roessing  
 Mar 15—Tad & Maria Schell  
 Mar 22—Daryl & Cyndy  
 Rotman  
 Mar 29—Toni Poling

## ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell, Pat Needles

## BLESSING BASKET DELIVERY

Carolyn Wilde

## COOKIE SUNDAY

Mar 1—Community Dinner  
 Mar 8—Church Council  
 Mar 15—  
 Evangelism/Stewardship  
 Mar 22—Social Ministry  
 Mar 29—Martha Circle

## LECTORS

Mar 1  
 8:15—Marilynn Dunn  
 10:45—Elaine Miller

Mar 4 (Lenten Service)  
 7:00—Julie Buck

Mar 8  
 8:15—Janet Wobser  
 10:45—Tom Fitzpatrick

Mar 15  
 8:15—Elaine Miller  
 10:45—Julie Buck

Mar 22  
 8:15—Deb Kania  
 10:45—Makenzie Cox

Mar 29  
 8:15—Kathy Brooks  
 10:45—Traci Roth

## COMMUNION BREAD

Wafers for Lent

## COUNTERS

Tom & Pam Basinger

## DEACONS

Mar 1  
 8:15—Reed Needles  
 10:45—Toni Poling, Steve  
 Roth

## Mar 4 (Lenten Service)

7:00—Judy Kipker,  
 Marilyn Dunn

## Mar 8

8:15—Janet Wobser  
 10:45—Tricia Cox, Ali Cox

## Mar 15

8:15—Judy Kipker  
 10:45—Julie Buck, Art  
 Wilde

## Mar 16 (Feast of St Patrick)

7:00—Tad Schell

## Mar 22

8:15—Janet Wobser  
 10:45—Toni Poling, Daryl  
 Rotman

## Mar 29

8:15—Reed Needles  
 10:45—Steve Roth

**It is important you use the  
forms for your bulletin  
Announcement; they are  
available  
on the bulletin board.**

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

## FLOWER DELIVERY

Cheryl Everett

## SOUND ROOM

Mar 1  
 8:15—Tim Roth  
 10:45—Todd Thompson

## Mar 8

8:15—Tim Roth  
 10:45—Falkyn Roth

## Mar 15

8:15—Daryl Rotman  
 10:45—Toni Poling

## Mar 22

8:15—Daryl Rotman  
 10:45—Steve Roth

## Mar 29

8:15—Daryl Rotman  
 10:45—Toni Poling

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Mar 1  
 8:15—  
 10:45—

## Mar 8

8:15—  
 10:45—

## Mar 15

8:15—  
 10:45—

## Mar 22

8:15—  
 10:45—

## Mar 29

8:15—  
 10:45—

## Happy Birthday!

Gary Altman	1-Mar	Steve Roth	21-Mar
Sue Baxter	1-Mar	Jonathon Bonnoront	22-Mar
Sandra Burnside	2-Mar	Aleiah Dent	22-Mar
Bob Wolford	3-Mar	Gia Harrison	22-Mar
Audrey Leopold	4-Mar	Thomas Basinger	23-Mar
Angela Nunn	4-Mar	Beth Bonnoront	24-Mar
Linda Ried	5-Mar	Elyse Hartman	24-Mar
Hannah Roth	5-Mar	Cynthia Napier	24-Mar
Jim Burks	6-Mar	Robin Wilkins	24-Mar
Sheri Leatherman	8-Mar	Lori Cox	25-Mar
Lynda Brancaleone	9-Mar	Erin Rodabaugh-Gallegos	26-Mar
Cameron Roth	9-Mar	Aaron Clark	27-Mar
Drew Short	9-Mar	Dawn Franks	29-Mar
Clyde Mason	13-Mar	Beverly Horn	31-Mar
Dianne Beekman	16-Mar	Evelyn Napier	31-Mar
		Cam Taylor	31-Mar

### 2026 Altar Flower Chart

The 2026 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.

## Happy Anniversary!

Michael and Tracy August	1-Mar	29
Matthew and Carol Meyer	7-Mar	28
Phil and Denise Burson	22-Mar	51
Wayne and Nina Dukes	24-Mar	47
James and Beth Maurer	26-Mar	49
Daryl and Cyndy Rotman	26-Mar	43
Todd and Cindy Thompson	28-Mar	39

# 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.