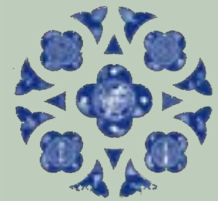




First Lutheran Church



April 2026

Won't Loving Everybody Make Me A Doormat?

The double love commandment expanded at Christ's ascension, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13: 34-35). As I have mentioned in a few sermons, and I am sure the confirmands are tired of me bringing it up, but language is a difficult thing! I did not have the privilege of a European education where students are taught multiple languages at an early age, geographically it makes sense that they have that curriculum, and so I am very impressed when people know more than one language. Jesus is a great example, it is historically believed that he knew at least three languages. He knew:

1. Hebrew - so he could read the TaNaKh (Torah, Nevehim, Ketuvim).
2. Greek - to read notices from the Roman Empire and to communicate with Centurions.
3. Aramaic - to communicate with his neighbors in and around Jerusalem.

It becomes very important for us to have grace for the translators and authors. Those who wrote the books of the New Testament did it years after Jesus' death and ascension because many of those early followers were illiterate. The scholars that prayerfully translate it from Hebrew and Greek do so hoping to understand a civilization that we are two thousand or more years removed from.

Yet amidst all of this confusion we are given the task to love. With his Hebrew background Jesus could have used;

1. Ahava (אהבה): The general, all-encompassing term for love used in modern Hebrew for romantic, familial, and general affection.
2. Hesed (חסד): Frequently translated as "lovingkindness" or "covenant love," it denotes unconditional, loyal love and mercy.
3. Rachamim (רחמים): Means "compassion," and is often used to describe deep, protective, or parental love.
4. Dod (דוד): Refers to a beloved, lover, or intimate partner, often used in romantic contexts such as the Song of Songs.
5. Chibah (חיבה): Indicates affection, liking, or fondness.
6. Chamad (חמד): Implies intense desire, longing, or coveting.
7. Met al (מת על) / Choleh al (חולה על): Literal "dead for" or "sick over," these phrases are used in modern slang to mean "I totally love [something/someone]".
8. Ahavat Olam (אהבת עולם): Means "everlasting love," frequently used in both religious and romantic contexts.

(Cont. on next page.)

In Aramaic he could have used;

1. Chav (ܟܘܒ / ܟܘܒܐ) Refers to unconditional, active, or, in some contexts, "fiery" love, often used to describe God's love for the world, such as in John 3:16.

2. Racham (ܪܚܡ / ܪܚܡܐ): Denotes compassionate, tender, or intimate love, often implying a completed or returned love (like a parent or beloved).

Hooba/Khuba (ܚܘܒܐ): Often identified as the general noun for love in Syriac Aramaic

In Greek he could have used;

1. Agape (ἀγάπη): This is the most common term used in the New Testament to describe God's unconditional, sacrificial, and volitional love for humanity.

2. Philia / Phileo (φιλία/φιλέω): Refers to deep friendship, fondness, and emotional affection between peers.

3. Storge (στοργή): Represents familial love, specifically the natural affection between parents and children or siblings.

4. Eros (ἔρως): Refers to romantic or passionate love. While not explicitly used in the New Testament, it is present in the broader Greek context of biblical times and recognized in Hellenistic literature.

With 15 different words to convey His love for us and how we are to love one another, the bible uses the word, Agape. A love that draws us out of the societal comforts we enjoy so much and into a vulnerable, open, expansive, and unconditional love that is freely given for us. We are not called to judge our neighbors as ourselves, to hold our neighbors to the same standards that we have, or to instruct them on how to 'properly' live. We are called into sacrificial love for our neighbor. I enjoyed this reflection by Megan O'Brien because she points out the truth. She doesn't know what the money, that she specifically raised for his hearing aid, went for but through believing the best in our neighbor and loving without distinction, she helped that family in ways she knows not but God certainly does.

Pax et Bonum,
Pastor Tucker

WELCA Calendar of Events for April 2026

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

Tuesday, April 14 @ 9:00 a.m. – Martha Circle in the church library

Hostess: Anne Marie Ice; Leader: Miriam Gibson

Tuesday, April 14 @ 1:00 p.m. – Rachel Circle in the church library

Hostess: Kris Jensen; Leader: Carolyn Bryant

Monday, April 20 @ 7:00 p.m. – Hannah Circle in the church lounge

Hostess Nina Dukes; Leader: Kathy Brooks

Sunday, April 26 – Cookie Sunday – Rachel Circle



10 Stewardship Principles

6

Give proportionately

is our way of giving in relation to our abundance. We are to give according to our “means” not according to an income or a budget.

“If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.”

-2 Corinthians 8:12

2026 Stewardship Emphasis

Living a

STEW- Life

“Christian stewardship has come to mean ‘what we do with what we have, all the time.’” - L. David Brown (1978)

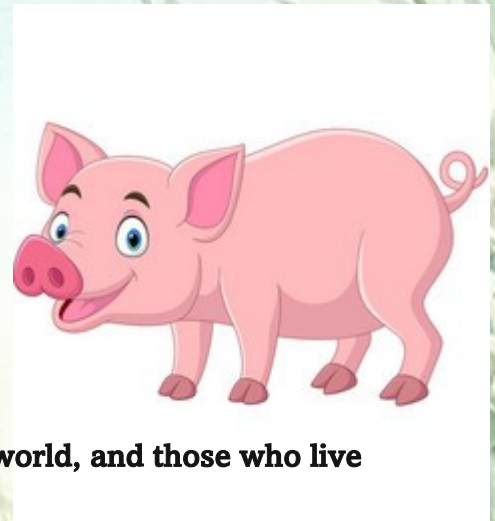
For God’s Purposes

Several years ago, while I was Pastor of St. John’s, we performed an ELCA stewardship musical entitled “To the Castle.” We had a little band, singers, costumes...and lots of pigs! Yes, pigs! Now you are asking: “what do pigs have to do with stewardship?” In the middle ages a “styward” was the keeper of the sty, hence, the pigs! A styward (or steward) was the manager of the Master’s property. It didn’t belong to him, but it was his job to keep care of all of it. It is a reminder of the biblical truth: “The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it...[Psalm 24:1].”

I like what Milo Kauffman said, “Stewardship is receiving and sharing God’s bounteous gifts and managing them *for the best promotion of God’s purposes* in the world.” When we think of stewardship we think about money. We think of giving to support the church’s budget. We are reminded that we are to give our time, talents and treasures to the Lord in worship. We know that giving involves more than just money. I wonder how often we think of the reason we give? Kauffman declares, we give “*for the best promotion of God’s purposes* in the world.” Everything we give is to proclaim the Gospel, care for God’s children, make disciples, and provide healing and peace throughout the world.

I think about those happy pigs lolling in the mud enjoying their wet and warm sty. But let’s not forget, we are the “stywards” who are working for the Lord of the farm (the earth). We are caretakers of all that is his. And as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to carry out his purposes in the world. Think about how your stewardship can support God’s purposes, in work, school or play, at home or even in Tanzania or Peru.

The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.—Psalm 24:1



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

L.I.F.T. - Living in Faith and Trust
 L.I.F.T. will meet on **Tuesday, April 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 fellowship! Please contact Marilynn Dunn at 419-722-8543 or Sue DeMoss at 419-306-9994 for more information or if you need a ride.





FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

“THERE ARE WORSE CRIMES THAN BURNING BOOKS. ONE OF THEM IS NOT READING THEM.” —JOSEPH BRODSKY

March winds are just blowing us all through the month. Wow, i have quit combing my hair before I walk out the door...why bother? Just hang on to everything I carry out before it is miles away in one big gust. :-) (Paul's and my world blows across T.R. 72, across the pasture and into Eagle Creek. Most of my missing holiday decorations have drowned over there as well.)

The landlord of my Reiki studio has been remodeling the upstairs unit, directly over my room, so I have had a couple weeks free time to avoid the noise of hammering. I have spent my time reading and cleaning.

During my hiatus from Reiki, I finished another book on my banned book list. Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher was a really good read!!!! An adopted multi ethnic teen who is anti-social. anti-organized anything 'plays the game' to help a multi—handicapped student in his class win a letter jacket from the school. Sound irrational? I just told you the the main character plays the game...and very well, I might add. I must have skipped over the offensive language...I don't remember any. So, if you should pick it up to read, be prepared. I obviously overlooked the reason for banning all.

I gave up on two books on the same list. Both were much too graphic for ME, I can't imagine how a young person would react...The Kingdom of Little Wounds by Susann Cokal and All Boys Aren't Blue by George Johnson. Wow.

One book I read on a "recommended to read" list on a calendar, for heaven's sake, is E.L Konigsburg's From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. What a delightful read! Claudia and James run away from home and spend their escape days in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. These two are very "McGyver-like" in their inventiveness. Their ideas for survival are cute and childish but they work. Of course, it is for young readers starting chapter books.

I finished The Frozen River by Ariel Lawson. The novel centers around an 18th-century midwife in Maine. The story involves murder wrapped in injustice to women. Apparently, as an author, Lawhon takes a person from history, well known or not and creates historical fiction surrounding that character. The history is manipulated a bit, the blanks in the history are filled in with guesses yet the read itself is interesting.

The Widow by John Grisham, another finished book on my list, strays a bit from his earlier legal novels. The main character Simon is not motivated by much more than greed, a not-so-typical Grisham lawyer. There were times that I wondered why the author was pelting us with so much information- trust me , it is all important to the story.

I just keep on reading as you all keep on recommending. God bless and you keep reading as well. Kathy (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because
by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world*

HOLY WEEK

SERVICE TIMES

Maundy Thursday (April 2):

3pm - Tradition Service - St. John's Lutheran
1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay

7pm - Service with Hand washing, reenactment
of the Last Supper - First Lutheran
109 E Lincoln, Findlay

Good Friday (April 3):

12pm & 7pm Trinity Lutheran, 935 W Bigelow, Findlay

5:30 pm - (Stations of the Cross)

St. John's Lutheran, 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay

7pm - First Lutheran Church 109 E Lincoln, Findlay
Tenebrae Service

Holy Saturday (April 4):

11am Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Lunch

St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay

First Lutheran Church
109 E Lincoln, Findlay
8:15am and 10:45am

**Your Findlay/Arcadia Area
ELCA Lutheran Churches
Sunday Worship Times**

St. John's Lutheran Church
1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay
9:30am

Trinity Lutheran Church
935 W Bigelow Ave, Findlay
9am

Trinity Lutheran Church
18974 State Rte 12, Arcadia
9:30am

ALL ARE INVITED TO AN

EASTER

EGG HUNT
& HOT DOG LUNCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH
11:00 AM

EGG HUNT (CHILDREN UP TO 5TH
GRADE), LUNCH, A VISIT FROM THE
EASTER BUNNY

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1701 TIFFIN AVE, FINDLAY, OH

If it rains this event will be Drive-Thru Style

The flyer features a vibrant, collage-style design with various Easter-themed elements. It includes several colorful Easter eggs: a large orange egg with a white flower on the left, a red egg with white flowers in the upper center, a blue egg with yellow and orange stripes and a white flower on the right, and a green egg with white flowers at the bottom left. The background consists of overlapping textured shapes in shades of green, orange, and red. The text is presented in a mix of bold, sans-serif fonts, with some words in white on orange or red backgrounds and others in red or black on white backgrounds. The overall aesthetic is bright and festive.

April Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Apr 5 (Easter)—
Jensen/Orr/Fitzpatrick
Apr 12—Marilynn Dunn
Apr 19—
Apr 26—

ALTAR GUILD

Todd & Cindy Thompson,
Bob & Arlene Schriener

BLESSING BASKET DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

COMMUNION BREAD

Apr 5 (Easter)—Jane
Ebersole, Cindy Thompson
Apr 12—Suzanne Kirk
Apr 19—Sharon Thompson
Apr 26—Arlene Schriener

COOKIE SUNDAY

Apr 5 (Easter)—
Community Dinner
Apr 12—
Endowment/Finance
Apr 19—Worship & Music
Apr 26—Rachel Circle

COUNTERS

Apr 5th—Daryl & Cyndy
Rotman
Apr 12,19,26—Bob &
Arlene Schriener

FLOWER DELIVERY

LECTORS

Apr 5 (Easter)
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Cynthia Habegger

Apr 12
8:15—Marilynn Dunn
10:45—Makenzie Cox

Apr 19
8:15—Elaine Miller
10:45—Cyndy Rotman

Apr 26
8:15—Kathy Brooks
10:45—Toni Poling

DEACONS

Apr 2 (Maundy Thursday)
7:00—Toni Poling, Judy
Kipker

Apr 5 (Easter)
8:15—Judy Kipker,
Marilynn Dunn
10:45—Toni Poling, Eric
Huttenlocher, Art Wilde

Apr 12
8:15—Marilynn Dunn
10:45—Chip Altman, Eric
Huttenlocher

Apr 19
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Greg Johnson, Eric
Huttenlocher

Apr 26
8:15—Judy Kipker
10:45—Toni Poling, Eric
Huttenlocher

SOUND ROOM

Apr 5 (Easter)
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Todd Thompson

Apr 12
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Toni Poling

Apr 19
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Steve Roth

Apr 26
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Falkyn Roth

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Apr 5 (Easter)
8:15—
10:45—Traci Roth

Apr 12
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Daryl Rotman

Apr 19
8:15—Makenzie Cox
10:45—Makenzie Cox

Apr 26
8:15—
10:45—Traci 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.

Happy Birthday!

Avarie Needles	1-Apr	Ken Bahler	18-Apr
Erin Muntzing	2-Apr	Anthony Sherman	18-Apr
Doug Bonnoront	3-Apr	Janette Treece	18-Apr
Charles Crates	3-Apr	Cynthia Fitzpatrick	20-Apr
Nick Muntzing	4-Apr	Patricia Needles	21-Apr
Leah Morehart	7-Apr	Madison` Daniell VanAtta	21-Apr
Avery Johnson	9-Apr	Robert Schriner	23-Apr
Rhonda May	11-Apr	Harper Cleary	25-Apr
Wayne Dukes	12-Apr	Oliver Cleary	25-Apr
Edwin Dunn	12-Apr	Cecilia Maag	26-Apr
Doris Brand	15-Apr	Paige Peplinski	27-Apr
Beth Meier	15-Apr	Judith Mains	28-Apr
L. Donovan Dent	15-Apr	Gary Schultz	29-Apr
		Gavin Haudenschild	30-Apr

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!

Clyde and Donna Mason	7-Apr	46
Randy and Julie Buck	15-Apr	37
Alex and Jennifer Treece	27-Apr	24
Gary and Melody (Mel) Schultz	30-Apr	59

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.