



first Lutheran Church



August 2026

What if Love Reveals Me to be a Hypocrite?

I do enjoy the shorter response from Pastor Marcus Lohrmann that we got this month. One of the reasons being that I could read it faster and write my article sooner, much like a sermon being done sooner so I can pass the peace. However, the other reason is because Pastor Lohrmann doesn't mince or mix his words to fit, fill, or flavor our perceptions. His response is rooted in truth, personal experience, messiness of humanity, and dripping with grace.

As I was reminded during Pastor Will Stenke's sermon at Pastor Jacinda's ordination, we are not called to be mirrors to society, reflecting what everyone already sees, but stained glass windows. That means being open about all the colors, emotions and realities that come with being a human. Stain glass windows aren't always pretty colored windows. Many of them portray a story or have a message behind them. Those meanings and stories are not always filled with gum-drops and sugar-plum-fairies. They are filled with the beatings, ridicule, and crucifixion of our Lord. Filled with the nails for his hands and feet, the coin purse of Christ's bounty, the spear that pierced his side, and some churches have more. From icons of the Saints and their Martyrdoms to artistic renditions that use imagery of fire and water to highlight the good and bad.

Amidst the hypocrisies of human love God still shines through. Using our broken pieces, our different times of anger, joy, sorrow, and peace to guide our path forward and illuminate paths for those around us. None of us will likely be the shining examples of Christian living that we pray to be or that we pray to experience. However, this isn't a bright shiny world! It's a world that is in pain, shadow, and grieving. As long as we follow Christ, His light will shine through us to guide others towards him and towards a kingdom of love and peace.

Can you identify a moment when you particularly felt the hypocrisy between your experience of yourself and your awareness of what God calls you to be, particularly in your relationship with others? Given St. Paul's words, what might you do with the feelings associated with that moment?

Have you experienced - or imagined- a time when your congregation could, by the power of the Holy Spirit, acknowledge its own hypocrisy with regard to a given situation and, claiming God's forgiveness in Christ, could forge a new beginning?

Pax et Bonum,
Pastor Tucker

2026 Stewardship Emphasis

Living a

STEWARDSHIP

Life



We are loved by a God who gives, and his heart is generous. In fact, the biblical narrative could be boiled down to one big story about our God who gives.

God So Loved the World He Gave...

Have you ever been to a birthday party with a piñata? One child is blindfolded and tries to smack the piñata while all the other little kids stand around watching and waiting for it to break open. And when it does, it's pure chaos. Kids start diving on the ground, pushing others out of the way, and desperately scraping together a hoard of candy. Inevitably, someone ends up in tears.

Well, it can be tempting to think of life like a piñata. We live as though we must fight and scratch to get the things that we need, the relationships that we want, and the opportunities we desire. We look at our bank accounts and expenses and are tempted to worry or hoard. We consider our schedules and the demands on our time and withdraw from others and responsibilities. But, for children of God, there is a better way. We have a different framework for understanding our money, our talents, our homes, our education, our gifts, our abilities, our bodies, and our families. In understanding this framework, we are freed from the constant grasping and fighting; instead, we live with open hands, ready to receive and to give to others.

We can view our lives with the lenses of abundance, not scarcity. If God were a tight-fisted Creator, his ownership of all things would not be good news. But God is wholly other than that! We are loved by a God who gives, and his heart is generous. In fact, the biblical narrative could be boiled down to one big story about our God who gives. He gave Adam and Eve every plant and tree for food. He gave Abraham offspring. He gave the people of Israel manna and quail and water from a rock during their time in the desert. He gave them a day to rest, and a land flowing with milk and honey. God gave them the law. He gave them priests to intercede for them, judges to call them to repentance, and kings to lead them in the way of God. And when they still didn't listen, God gave them prophets to help them hear. All along the way, God revealed himself as a God who gives and likewise along the way, God's people demonstrated their inability to receive these gifts. The pattern is impossible to miss throughout the Bible: God gave, and his people rejected his gifts in lieu of lesser things. You would think that God's giving spirit would have hit its limit.

But it didn't. John 3:16 shocks us with this truth: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." God as giver is most fully realized in Jesus. In the giving of His one and only Son, we most fully understand His love.

This is amazing news for us. God's love is not like a piñata. We do not have to scramble and scrape together pieces of God's love from the floor. He has already given us an immeasurable and infinite amount of love through Jesus. Our families, our abilities, our talents, our time, our money, our bodies, our friendships, and our jobs are all good gifts given to us by our giving God. We do not own anything but receive and then responsibly care for those gifts. And more than that, God's generosity never runs out! He does not withhold any good thing from his children; we know this because he has given us Jesus. Let us respond with joy and generosity, sharing with others what we did not create for ourselves but have received from our good and generous God. - Stephanie Formenti

10 Stewardship Principles

10

Accept a challenge

means recognizing the dynamic nature of our faith. As our faith grows so will our blessings, and our responsibilities. Paul writes,

“...the one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will reap bountifully.”

– 2 Corinthians 9:6



Wednesday, August 5 – Verify 2026/2027 Welca Program book – 1:00 pm

Monday, August 17 @ 6:30 p.m. – Hannah Circle – Dinner out at Logans

Sunday, August 30 – Cookie Sunday – Hannah Circle



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



L.I.F.T. will meet on **Tuesday, August 18th** 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.

ALL ARE WELCOME
JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY

WORSHIP AT RIVERSIDE PARK BANDSHELL

Sunday, August 9, 2026
@ 10:30am

SPONSORED BY FIRST LUTHERAN, ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN, TRINITY LUTHERAN, ARCADIA, & TRINITY LUTHERAN, FINDLAY CHURCHES

MUSIC  **FOOD**  **FELLOWSHIP**

Lunch and activities will be provided near the waterfall pavillion

WE'RE HIRING

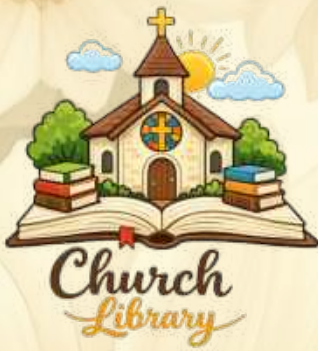
Building Manager

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



“Golden hours, warm skies, and new beginnings. Chapter 8 of 12. Let’s make August count.” How quickly the summer months fly by. Children will be back in the classroom soon...But we haven’t had enough picnics. Not enough days with the grands. Heavy sigh. The first of novels for today’s discussion is something called **Stone Mothers** by Erin Kelly. I listened to this one, so sometimes I may have missed a point or two especially considering the British accent of the narrator. So, Marianne runs away from home at 17 to escape her boyfriend and the body they buried. Thirty years later, she is back in town because her mother needs her and Jesse, no longer her boyfriend, is threatening to tell all. One review described the novel as “unputdownable” (I love made up words!)...perhaps because there are so many secrets constantly unfolding. I give it a 3.5 out of 5.

Next, I opened another Patricia Cornwall mystery, **Livid**. I really like to read her mysteries. Like James Patterson, she writes short chapters so my system of “do a little work; read a chapter; do a little work; read a chapter” sets up very well. Enough said - 5 out of 5.

Next up is **Theo of Golden** by Allen Levi. 86 year old Theo (no last name for most of the novel) shows up one day in Golden, Georgia; his first stop is the local coffee shop where he inspects on all the walls framed charcoal sketches of some of Golden’s inhabitants by a local artist. He is saddened to hear that so many of the subjects can’t afford to buy their sketches; he decides to buy a few at a time, gift them to the subjects in exchange for each person’s story. Theo listens, he pulls the hidden that needs airing, he is kind, he somehow in conversation reminds each that he or she is basically good.

The text which eventually makes the top of the New York Times Bestseller list began as a self published project of the 70 year old author, former lawyer, judge, singer-songwriter who just wanted to see if he could write a book. In the beginning, word of mouth and Facebook book clubs sold this book. I found the book both peaceful and spiritual. 5 out of 5.

On July 7, our church book club discussed **Isaac’s Storm** by Erik Larson. In 1900, Galveston was in line to be the big destination for tourists, the hub of ships seeking entrance to Texas. It was touted as the new frontier to the West. It held the moniker of the “New York of the Gulf”. In ten years the city population had grown by 30%. But all that notoriety is washed away when the early September hurricane hits Galveston with the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

So many things get in the way of accurate weather reporting on this hurricane...sibling rivalry, the US Weather Bureau’s need to improve its reputation, past hurricane history that left many Galvestonians feeling overly secure (“a Florida hurricane will never travel to Galveston”), a hurricane that did not follow the usual pattern, and just not enough knowledge yet of weather.

The text is descriptive enough...but then I “Googled” the hurricane. Oh my, the pictures of the aftermath are devastating. I can’t imagine surviving that hurricane in real life.

In my opinion, Erik Larson is a great writer. Other works of his include **The Splendid and the Vile**, a chronicle of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz; **The Devil in the White City**, a tale of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair interwoven with the story of a serial killer who used the fair to find his victims; **The Demon of Unrest**, an account of the month between Abraham’s election and the Confederacy’s shelling of Sumter.

The July book club attendees already have chosen Larson’s **Dead Wake**, the story of the sinking of the Lusitania, as a selection for next year’s reading discussion.

i just finished reading **Miss Morgan’s Book Brigade** by Janet Skeslien Charles, based on World War I history of Le Comité américain pour les régions dévastées or The American Committee for Devastated France (CARD). Anne Morgan of the J.P. Morgan family founds the CARDS to help Frenchwomen who have lost their livelihoods, homes, and husbands to enemy fire. These American women provide medical care, feed orphans, and even help rebuild communities. The French have one other request - books. One woman in the group takes the request one step further and works toward creating children’s libraries. A 5 out of 5 book. Worth your time.

Until next month...God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks

Ministry Opportunities

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

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.



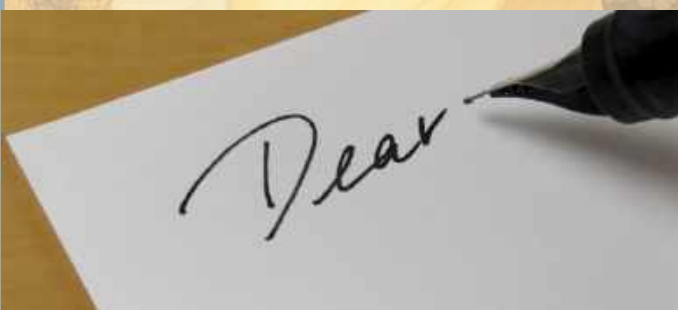
2026 Altar Flower Chart

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.

The Apostle Build will be September 23rd for house #71. Social Ministry will partner with St. John's Lutheran church to help finish trim at that house at 1664 Bishop Lane, Findlay. We will need 4 volunteers for each shift and helpers for Hospitality that day. Watch for more details as time gets closer.



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Findlay/Hancock County



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.

August Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Aug 2—Miriam Gibson
Aug 9—Church in the Park
Aug 16—Tad & Maria Schell
Aug 23—Todd & Cindy Thompson
Aug 30—Stan Wise

ALTAR GUILD

Todd & Cindy Thompson, Bob & Arlene Schriener

BLESSING BASKET DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

COMMUNION BREAD

Aug 2—Casey Bonnoront
Aug 9—Church in the Park
Aug 16—Jane Ebersole
Aug 23—Cindy Thompson
Aug 30—Suzanne Kirk

COOKIE SUNDAY

Aug 2—Community Dinner
Aug 9—Church in the Park
Aug 16—Christian Ed/Youth
Aug 23—Evangelism/Stewardship
Aug 30—Hannah Circle

COUNTERS

Aug 2—Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick
Aug 9, 16, 23, 30—Rich Orr & Kris Jensen

FLOWER DELIVERY

Judy Kipker

LECTORS

Aug 2—Makenzie Cox
Aug 9—Church in the Park
Aug 16—Falkyn Roth
Aug 23—Jane Ebersole
Aug 30—Tom Fitzpatrick

DEACONS

Aug 2—Bob Schriener, Toni Poling
Aug 9—Church in the Park
Aug 16—Greg Johnson, Art Wilde
Aug 23—Marilynn Dunn, Judy Kipker
Aug 30—Bob Schriener, Julie Buck

SOUND ROOM

Aug 2—Daryl Rotman
Aug 9—Church in the Park
Aug 16—Kurt Ebersole
Aug 23—Falkyn Roth
Aug 30—Steve Roth

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Aug 2—
Aug 9—Church in the Park
Aug 16—Pr Tucker O'Leary
Aug 23—Traci Roth
Aug 30—Daryl Rotman

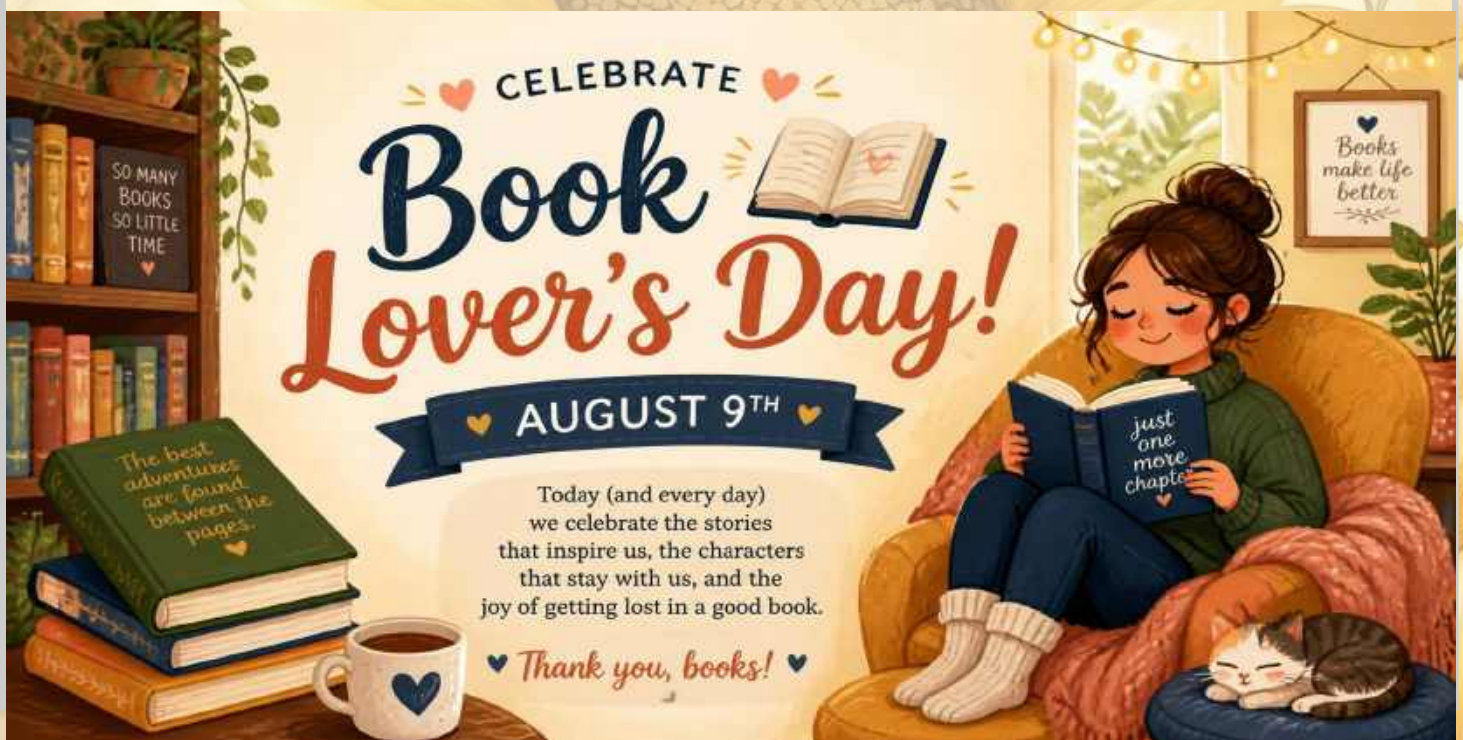


Happy Anniversary!

Jerold and Bonnie Bosse	30-Aug	67
Paul and Kathy Brooks	8-Aug	34
Timothy and Nora Cochran	19-Aug	48
Christian and Julie Dittmar	28-Aug	55
Brent and Peggy Fruchey	17-Aug	41
Reed and Nicole Needles	22-Aug	17
Milton and Carol Peters	27-Aug	66
Diana and Jeff Salisbury	4-Aug	53
Brent and Kristen Warren	12-Aug	3
Bob Wolford and Jayne	22-Aug	29

Happy Birthday!

Ethan Altman	3-Aug	Barbara Larick	14-Aug
Joseph Baker	4-Aug	Alec Bonnoront	15-Aug
Randy Buck	4-Aug	Ethan Patrick Schell	15-Aug
Robin Bowman	6-Aug	Elyse Clark	18-Aug
Kimberly Groh	7-Aug	Emily Clark	18-Aug
Carol Roessing	7-Aug	Adrienne Masterlasco	19-Aug
Steven Rice	8-Aug	Jane Eakin	20-Aug
SilverLyn Roth	8-Aug	Philip Maurer	20-Aug
Ryan Maas	9-Aug	Tom Mitchell	20-Aug
Kathy Brooks	10-Aug	Corey Spoon	20-Aug
Carson Dale	10-Aug	Laurel Beutler	27-Aug
Micah Fultz	12-Aug	Jeff Howard	27-Aug
Tucker O'Leary	12-Aug	Tanner Timbrook	29-Aug
Judy Routson	13-Aug	Jayna Routson	30-Aug
		Kenneth Wynkoop	30-Aug



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am Worship 11:30am Community Dinner	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 6:30pm Worship & Music	11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Book Club	10am WELCA Program Meeting 11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin 11:30am Sacred Daily		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30am OUTDOOR Worship @ Riverside Park	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	9am Martha Circle 11:30am Sacred Daily 1pm Rachel Circle 7:30pm Finance	11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Endowment	9:30am Bulletin 11:30am Sacred Daily		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am Worship Blessing of the Backpacks	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 12pm Newsletter Deadline 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Hannah Circle	11:30am Sacred Daily 11:45am LIFT 7pm Theology Pub	11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin 11:30am Sacred Daily		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am Worship	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Council Meeting	11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily	9:30am Bulletin 11:30am Sacred Daily 6pm BSA		
30	31					
9:30am Worship	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily					