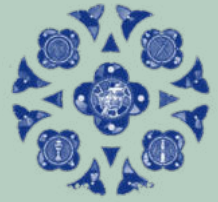




first Lutheran Church



October 2026

The Way of Love: How Can Love Overcome What Divides Us and Move Us Forward Together?

Pastor Deb Monnin

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:1-3)

Many of us hear this verse at funerals. It's comforting to know that Jesus is going ahead of us and is preparing rooms in our Father's house for our loved one and for us. It's a relief to know that we will one day be united with Jesus and with all who have gone before us, especially the loved one whom we are missing so much.

It's comforting to know that when we aren't sure what to expect, we will be greeted with love. And I wonder what would happen if we looked for these places right here, where we are right now?

When I was little, I did not like to leave what was familiar. I didn't want to go into church by myself (even though I had been there many times). I didn't want to go into the restroom at the restaurant by myself (even though Mom and Dad were at the table nearby). I certainly didn't want to go talk to the teacher or pastor by myself (even though I knew them). I would always make my little sister go with me; when she came along, it wasn't so scary.

Eventually I realized that Mom and Dad would not leave me - and I could go into these places without being so scared. Because we knew we were loved, my sister and I could go into unknown places together.

Jesus loves you...and you...and you...and you. We are all welcomed, and loved, and yet we are all different. I don't have the same ideas as you; you don't have the same ideas as your neighbor; and yet we are all beloved children of God, created in God's image, loved forever.

And also, we like to group together with others who are like us, going into places and rooms that feel comfortable to us... and often it is uncomfortable (and maybe sometimes scary) to check out another group (or place).

And always Jesus is going before us, making a room and a place for us all. We are all welcome in God's house, even the one here on earth with different rooms.

Could God be inviting us to take a friend (or little sister) and go check out those other rooms—to step across the divides that naturally form when we group together? I bet we'll find Jesus there!!

1. If we are all children of God, each having a place in God's house, why is it so scary to check out the other groups (or go into those other rooms) and meet other siblings in Christ?

2. Share a time when you met another beloved child of God, who seemed totally

different than you, or who had different thoughts and ideas than you. How did God's love give you courage to strike up a conversation, or work on a project together? Did you find anything in common?

Loving God, thank You for going before us and for preparing a place for us. When we are hesitant or afraid to see you in people that are different than we are, invite us into activities and projects where we can be united in Your love. Give us courage and wisdom so that we may notice You in places (and people) where we do not expect You to be. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us; fill us with Your love, shifting our perspectives and enabling us to follow You into a future we never could have imagined. Amen.

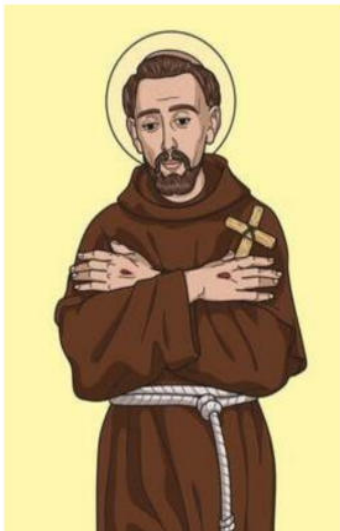


Fruitful in Every Good Work

“...walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.” – Colossians 1:10

The Stewardship of the Historic Saints

St. Francis of Assisi 1181-1226



October 3 marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis. October 4th is considered the feast day of the saint.

In 2013, I stood in the nave of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, in Francis' hometown of Assisi, Italy. It was a magnificent church, built in the 13th century. What was most impressive to me was the series of frescoes painted by Giotto de Bondone depicting the life and ministry of St. Francis. The fourth painting illustrated a most famous scene in the life of Francis. After his father denounced him, he said, “You are no longer my son,” to which Francis replied, “You are no longer my father. Henceforth I have only one father – he that is my heavenly father.”

He then took off all his clothes and handed them to his father. The bishop then covered Francis' nakedness with his own cloak. Striving to come to an understanding of his relationship with God, and his role as a disciple of the Lord, St. Francis tried to rid himself of all the things that might prevent him from discovering his role in the Kingdom. Early on, he embraced poverty as a way of life. By eschewing possessions, Francis maintained that his voluntary poverty gave him freedom, freedom from owing anyone other than God, and thus giving him the complete freedom to serve God.

Francis and the community he developed did not accept money — they worked for enough food to eat for that day, or for water, or for a place to sleep. His example coerces us to ask, “Are there possessions that restrict us, that hinder our ability to be a disciple?”

St. Francis dedicated his entire life to imitating the life of Christ and to carrying out the work of the Lord as he, Francis, perceived Christ would do it.

Francis was a steward of all creation. He believed that nature and what it represented was the “mirror of God.” Most representations we see of Francis have animals with him and surrounding him. He called all creatures his “sisters” and “brothers.” He had particular love of birds, and was known to preach to them. As a steward and a disciple of Christ, St. Francis viewed all people with love and respect. He said, “How can I be a friend of Christ if I do not cherish those for whom Christ died?”

It is difficult to assess all the ways that St. Francis has influenced our faith and our practice of it. His desire to be Christ-like provides a stewardship example to us that makes clear to us how to move toward the spiritual. Francis once prayed, “Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive.” Through stewardship, we give — and what we receive in return, just as was the case with St. Francis of Assisi, is beyond our comprehension. - Pastor Chris

Fruitful in Every Good Work



The Stewardship of Our Contemporary Saints

Pastor Art Wilde



“Why, after 18 years of retirement, are you still working and contributing your gifts in ministry?”

"Stewardship" means managing wisely the gifts and talents God has given to each of us. I have been blessed with the gifts of a theological education; support, encouragement, and growth from the various congregations where I have been called; and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And even though I do not have the stamina and energy of thirty years ago, I have been blessed with reasonably good health and a voice that still works. I can find no expiration date in the Bible when we can stop using the gifts God has given. So as long as these gifts endure, I feel it is my Christian duty to use them. Recently I have been doing this mainly as a supply preacher and choir member. This turns out to be not a burden but a joy (most of the time). I am thankful that at my age this service is still possible.

Pastor Art Wilde



***This is berry,
berry good news!
Indeed!***

Don't forget!

**Sunday, October 18 (8:15 and 10:45)
is**

Stewardship Sunday

**Commitment cards will be available in the
bulletin October 4, 11, and 18**

Ingathering will be on October 18.



God works within our community with our hands. The Missionary Outreach fund within Endowment has annual distribution monies to financially support any Christian project, education, expansion and service to those beyond the physical confines of our church. If you know of any worthwhile project, we could support this year, please present your request to a standing committee within our church to be evaluated and possibly approved to request funds from Endowment. The 2026 distribution funds must be approved for expenditure before the end of this year with flexible disbursement. Endowment meets the second Wednesday of each month. The Missionary Outreach Fund

has \$12,293.96 remaining to be distributed in 2026. First Lutheran has already sent funds to City Mission in the amount of \$3000 and Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build in the amount of \$4000. We hope our benevolence dollars can equip ordinary people with the funds to do extraordinary things in the name of Jesus so that all might see, hear, and experience God's love in tangible ways or partner with local community organizations to help care for the most vulnerable here locally and transform lives for Jesus. The Endowment Committee Funding Request is available in our box in the Communication room, online, or from Sarah in the church office.



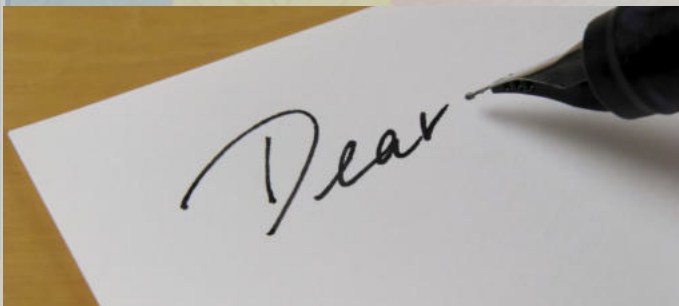
**American
Red Cross**

First Lutheran will again be hosting a Red Cross Bloodmobile in the Fellowship Hall on October 7th, 2026, Noon to 5pm. The need is great!! To set an appointment online, go to RedCrossBlood.org, type the zip code under "Find a Blood Drive", and click on "See Times" next to First Lutheran Church to pick an appointment slot.



November 15, 2026 after the ThankOffering Service

A Congregational Meeting will be held November 15th after the ThankOffering Service. There will be only one service that day. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Council members for the next term. There will be 4 open slots available to run for this year, and more information on candidates will be available soon on the bulletin board! A preliminary budget will also be available at the meeting.



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.

WELCA Calendar of Events for October 2026

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

Tuesday, October 13 @ 9:00 a.m. - Martha Circle in the church library

Hostess: Judy Routson; Leader: Jane Ebersole

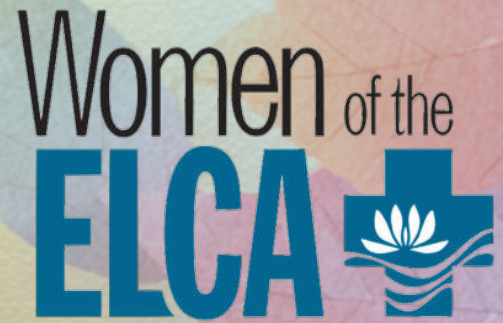
Tuesday, October 13 @ 1:00 p.m. - Rachel Circle in the church library

Hostess: Carole Wittenberg; Leader: Carolyn Bryant

Sunday, October 18 @ 12:15 p.m. - Central Region Lutheran WELCA Fall Gathering -- Blessings in Bloom - Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arcadia, Ohio - Cost \$7 - Collecting personal care items for women for the "Blessings in Bloom" agency in Findlay.

Monday, October 19 @ 7:00 p.m. - Hannah Circle
Hostess: Marilyn Dunn; Leader: Julie Buck

Sunday, October 25 - Cookie Sunday - Hannah Circle



RUMMAGE SALE 2027

Having a rummage sale in 2027 has been discussed. The type of sale has been changed to just household items, no apparel of any kind. If anyone is interested in being the lead coordinator for a rummage sale Fall 2027 please contact Marilyn Dunn or Cyndy Rotman.

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



L.I.F.T. will meet on **Tuesday, October 20th** at **11:45**. 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 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



I love October, probably because this year the month ends with the twins' tenth birthday party here. The boys have quite a plan for the games. Oh, and Theo has requested x-ray glasses for his gift. We looked at them online and found they cost between \$100 and \$600!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Scratch that one from the list. With or without X-ray glasses, it will be a fun day, rain or shine.

The first book I want to talk about is A Thousand Painted Hours by Barbara O'Neal. Elsie Turner is the daughter of a British civil servant in Nainital, India who shares her childhood with Tanveer Singh, a Sikh prince. And then her father is called to England. The two correspond less and less frequently, until after the Blitz of London, when Elsie's and Tanveer's worlds collide. I enjoyed this

read because it was a clear presentation of the issues surrounding the colony of India working toward freedom from England.

Then I jumped into Bill O'Reilly's Killing the Mob. Don't ask me why; I am not a fan of O'Reilly. But it may be because my Aunt Kate was secretary to Al Capone's lawyer when she and her twin sister lived in Miami. They were twenty years old. The book traces the general story of the likes of John Dillinger, Bonnie and Clyde, "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Al Capone. Some of the big questions are never really answered though, just hints at answers. The text also covers the mob's attempts to control Cuba, Las Vegas and Hollywood. The disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa is touched on. Killing the Mob joins the other 12 (!) books in the Killing series.

Shelby Tebow is a new mother who vanishes without a trace. A few weeks later Meredith and her six year old daughter Delilah disappear near where Shelby was last seen. The cases go cold for eleven years, with the only suspect Shelby's husband. Then Delilah reappears as a teenager. And the search for truth takes the author Mary Kubica's usual major twists and turns before this mystery is solved in Local Woman Missing. A great psychological mystery set in suburban Chicago. I also read It's Not Her by the same author. Another great psychological thriller worth reading.

I found Sam Szor Toledo's Mr. Music by Judy Szor in a Goodwill store. Born in 1930, Szor began to fascinate because the more I read the more I realized he reflected so much of my father's story. The only difference is my dad was born in 1913. Born to Hungarian speaking parents, both grew up on Caledonia Street in Toledo. They were members of and confirmed in the same church - the Hungarian Grace Reformed Church; today it is the Calvin United Church of Christ, where all the Hungarian history of the church is not only preserved but on display, including pictures of my dad. They both graduated from Waite High School. Of course their lives go separate ways after graduation...my Dad moved to Springfield with his brother Louis where Dad met my Mom. Meanwhile, Szor then graduated from University of Michigan and the book then relates all the music involvement ...he conducted Music under the Stars at the Toledo Zoo for 60 years, director of music at Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra, conductor of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra...these over and above teaching and working with the band at Woodward, Waite and University of Toledo. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Now the Green Glass House by Kate Milford takes pace in fictional Nagspeake on the East Coast at what has become known as an old smuggler's inn. Milo just wants an adventure with his friend Negret. It is Christmas week and Milo and Negret are on Christmas break. No one has made reservations during this usually quiet week. And then the snow begins to fall, and it snows and snows and snows ...and one by one an odd assortment of weary travelers sign in. The mystery begins. Milo and Negret begin to investigate. I loved this one and it is written for junior high /middle school chapter readers.

Kate Stockett (The Help) wrote The Calamity Club which is best summed up simply (ha!) by reviewer Chelsea Cauley...the book "is about two mothers seeking their daughters, and the impossible things women will do when every legal, moral, and social system has been designed to crush them." I can't say much about the book because I would end up giving away important events and actions. I enjoyed the book - all 600+ pages.

One quick final note...I read By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult. I cannot recommend this one by JP. I just wasn't very good.

God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks (It's almost time to rake those leaves!)

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.



2027 Altar Flower Chart

The NEW 2027 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.



Church Decorations

Come join us in preparing for the Advent/Christmas season. We will be decorating the church on Saturday, November 28th, at 9:30am. Come join in the fellowship!

[Also note: we will take down all the decorations on Saturday, January 9th, at 9:30am]



Social Ministry is trying to keep the Military Ministry active and going. Beverly Horn had given it up due to her illness. She is starting to feel better and is contemplating trying to pick it up again, but would appreciate help as she would not be able to take it on by herself. This would involve contacting families of our military and getting updated photos and addresses. Please pray about trying to help with this project and contact Beverly Horn (567) 305 0378 if you are willing to assist with this very valuable ministry. Thank you.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Come and Join Us!

18th October

4:00– 5:30 PM

**1st Lutheran Church
109 E Lincoln St.
Findlay Ohio**



October Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Oct 4—Marilynn Dunn
Oct 11—Bree Stahl
Oct 18—Routsons
Oct 25—Toni Poling

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell & Pat
Needles

BLESSING BASKET

Sue DeMoss

COMMUNION BREAD

Oct 4—Karen Rose
Oct 11—Beth Bonnoront
Oct 18—Annie Altman
Oct 25—Elaine Miller

COOKIE SUNDAY

Oct 4—Comm Dinner
Oct 11—
Endowment/Finance
Oct 18—Worship &
Music
Oct 25—Hannah Circle

COUNTERS

Carole Wittenberg &
Judy Kipker

FLOWER DELIVERY

Annie & Amelia Altman

LECTORS

Oct 4
8:15—Marilynn Dunn
10:45—Elaine Miller

Oct 11
8:15—Toni Poling
10:45—Diana Salisbury

Oct 18
8:15—Elaine Miller
10:45—Nina Dukes

Oct 25
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Falkyn Roth

DEACONS

Oct 4
8:15—Marilynn Dunn
10:45—Eric Huttenlocher,
Mike Heldman

Oct 11
8:15—Janet Wobser
10:45—Steve Roth, Julie
Buck

Oct 18
8:15—Reed Needles
10:45—Tricia Cox, Ali Cox

Oct 25
8:15—Judy Kipker
10:45—Eric Huttenlocher,
Toni Poling

SOUND ROOM

Oct 4
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Todd Thompson

Oct 11
8:15—Daryl Rotman
10:45—Gary Altman

Oct 18
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Falkyn Roth

Oct 25
8:15—Tim Roth
10:45—Steve Roth

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Oct 4
8:15—
10:45—

Oct 11
8:15—
10:45—Daryl Rotman

Oct 18
8:15—
10:45—Makenzie Cox

Oct 25
8:15—
10:45—Traci Roth

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

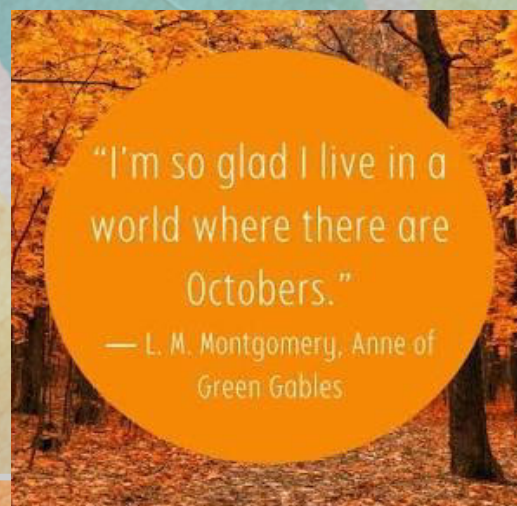


Happy Anniversary!

Clauss and Heather Nielsen	3-Oct	25
Ken and Nancy Bahler	6-Oct	47
Judy Kipker and Ron Kipker	7-Oct	59
Joseph and Candace Spoon	9-Oct	33
Tad and Maria Schell	11-Oct	46
Brian and Stefanie VanAtta	12-Oct	13
Gary and Andrea Altman	14-Oct	26
Doyle and Raelyn Sherman	16-Oct	27
Carroll and Edna Gossard	18-Oct	70
Greg and Kristin Johnson	20-Oct	19
Christopher Beck and Jessica	21-Oct	20
Janann and Christopher Lishawa	25-Oct	12
Mark and Suzanne Kirk	25-Oct	29
Tucker and Brittani O'Leary	31-Oct	4

Happy Birthday!

Barbara Stacy	1-Oct
Casey Cox	1-Oct
Janet Wobser	1-Oct
Heather Nielsen	2-Oct
Karen Rose	4-Oct
Ali Cox	5-Oct
Bree Stahl	6-Oct
Daryl Rotman	7-Oct
Melody (Mel) Schultz	7-Oct
Zachary McRill	8-Oct
Paula Barkley	8-Oct
Anthony Neiling	9-Oct
Timothy Cochran	12-Oct
Tim Franks	14-Oct
Alex Treece	14-Oct
Sharon Fraley	14-Oct
Calvin Meyer	18-Oct
Beulah Bishop	19-Oct
Mitchell Meyer	19-Oct
Jeffrey Nunn	20-Oct
Kristin Johnson	20-Oct
Jakeb Neiling	20-Oct
Sandra Rakestraw	21-Oct
Linda Mitchell	21-Oct
Reed Blunk	22-Oct
David Groh	23-Oct
Aaron Ried	24-Oct
Jean Wynkoop	25-Oct
Gianna Masterlasco	25-Oct
Devra Hall	25-Oct
Mark Powers	26-Oct
Joanne Stombaugh	26-Oct
Laura Leopold	29-Oct
Andrew Maurer	31-Oct
Edna Gossard	31-Oct



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				9:30am Bulletin Assembly 6:15pm Joyful Ringers Practice		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:15 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 11:30am Community Dinner	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Worship & Music	7pm Book Club	12pm Red Cross Bloodmobile 7:15pm Choir Practice	9:30am Bulletin Assembly 11:30am Sacred Daily 6:15pm Joyful Ringers Practice		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Noisy Offering 8:15 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School Fellowship Hall Rental	OFFICE CLOSED—Columbus Day 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	9am Martha Circle 1pm Rachel Circle 7:30pm Finance	7pm Endowment 7:15pm Choir Practice	9:30am Bulletin Assembly 6pm BSA 6:15pm Joyful Ringers Practice	Annual Budgets Due	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Stewardship Sunday 8:15 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 12pm Newsletter Deadline 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Hannah Circle	11:45am LIFT 7pm Theology Pub	7:15pm Choir Practice	9:30am Bulletin Assembly		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:15 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Council Meeting		7:15pm Choir Practice	9:30am Bulletin Assembly		