

# DISCOVER FIRST



We dedicate ourselves to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to prepare for outreach and service, and to respond to human needs.

**FEBRUARY 2019**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
287 West Main Street, Xenia, OH 45385  
372-7421

Interim Pastor Tim Swanson

E-Mail Address: [firstluthxenia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstluthxenia@sbcglobal.net)

Web Site: <http://www.firstlutheranxenia.org>

Worship with us on Sunday morning at 9:30am  
Sunday School for children during Sunday morning worship  
Adult Sunday School at 11:00am

Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm

## Words from our Interim Pastor...

The following is a poem I wrote a short time after witnessing the Northern Lights while camping with my young children and Sherry in the north regions of Upper Quebec Province. I was returning from the restroom causing me to get the others to come out and observe it with me. Right away, I thought of the Epiphany Season and the glory of God imaged in lights.

### CRYSTAL EPIPHANIES And the Glory of the Lord

It was Summer's August moment  
far north in Canada's regions  
Near the flowing waters of the Saguenay  
easterly from the shores of Lac St.-Jean.

Walking beneath tall pine trees  
where our camper lay nestled  
I gazed upwardly where I was greeted  
with a crystal haze of light across the sky.

No cities close enough ran through my mind  
to cast this laser show of layered beams  
Each orchestrated atop and next to another  
in polygonal patterns.

This was the crystal epiphany of God's robe  
filling the whole atmosphere as a temple  
Evoking within me the litany *Glory, Glory,*  
the whole sky if full of *Glory.*

The ascended Lord who had come in glory  
sits on the throne of the heavens  
Filling the earth with the crystalized edges  
of royal robes outlined in laser beams.

We are touched by the hem of the cloak  
descending from the seat of power  
The Spirit's laser etching the glorious cross  
on our baptismal brow.

And we too are filled with his glory  
creating a sense of awe that the holy one  
Who lights up the skies of creation  
can so touch us with his gracious Sun.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Tim*



## FISH SUNDAY February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Since 1994 the first Sunday of each month has been designated as FISH Sunday here at First Lutheran. Please bring an item or two to church on **Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Monetary donations are also accepted you can use one of the pew envelopes and mark "For Food Pantry." *Thank you!*

In addition to our first Sunday of the month food donation we are collecting food for the [Xenia Hunger Backpack Cuisine Program](#). For February we've been asked to bring in microwave Chef Boyardee 7.5oz pasta single servings. This is an ongoing addition to our FISH Sunday requests for food for the Food Pantry. Please place your donations into the box in the narthex marked for the Backpack Cuisine Program.

Requested items include:

Pop top can microwave Chef Boyardee 7.5oz single servings  
pop top cans of tuna 3oz  
individual oatmeal box of 8-10 single servings  
squeezeable jam/jelly 20oz  
cans of vegetables 8.5 oz  
gold fish and animal cracker snack paks  
cereal bars and granola bars box 8-10 single servings

Non-refrigerated puddings 3.5oz  
Dinty Moore beef stew 7.5oz  
10 pack fruit juices 5-8 oz  
pop top cans of fruit 8-9 oz  
pop top cans of chicken 4.5 oz  
Cheesy Mac 2-3 oz single servings  
peanut butter 18 oz containers

**Weather Cancellations**...now that winter is here please tune to television Channel 7 (WHIO), Channel 2 (WDTN), Channel 11 (WKCF) or radio channel WHIO 95.7/1290 for the possibility of any church service or activity cancellations.



## Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

More than 30 years ago on a Super Bowl Sunday, single youth group was inspired by a simple prayer. They started the Souper Bowl of Caring, a youth-led movement that is now an international event.

In 2018, 3,904 groups nation-wide raised \$8,242,468 in cash and collected many many pounds of food for charities in their areas. It is turning our nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving.

All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced.

Drop a dollar - or more! in the soup pot on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>** as you leave worship. Your donation will go directly to the [Xenia FISH Pantry](#).

We are on a mission to fight hunger and poverty. YOU can help.

***"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game,  
help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." "***



## JANUARY/ FEBRUARY SPICE OF LIFE

Mark your calendar for Noon, Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. A joint January/February Spice of Life is being held. All seniors in the congregation, 55 and older, are invited to attend these gatherings for friendship, fellowship and food. **Opal and Lee Snell** have volunteered to host this month. The menu will be bean soup and cornbread. You are invited to bring salad, veggies or dessert to share.

## NEWS

*From Our Parish*

- ✠✠ Please continue to remember members of our congregation in need of prayer: Gene Norris, Russ Kiser Judy Williams, Linda Blanton, Jean Akers, Betty Peppo, Barb Taylor and Kathy Teague
- ✠✠ Remember our homebound members in your prayers: Dottie Ripp, Nick Bowman and John Paul Saraga

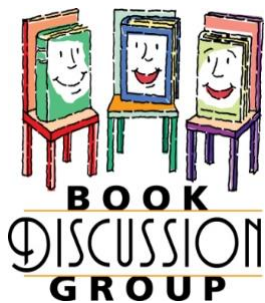


Children's Class at 9:25am with the series "One Room Sunday School"

### Adult Sunday School Class



- The Adult Sunday School meets following worship each Sunday. The next several weeks will be featuring the "Wired Word," a series of discussions engaging various contemporary issues and how we might reflect upon them from a biblical perspective. The sessions are moderated by Dr. James Will. Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussion.



We will be gathering on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm-7:30pm. The book for this month is "House Calls and Hitching Posts: by Dorcas Sharp Hoover.

Questions? Concerns? Talk with Adele Lerch. Don't forget to bring a friend! We do want the name of our book club to really represent who we are – First Lutheran along with our friends! Be ready for a fun and lively discussion! YOU are welcome to join us!



### BIBLE STUDY

We meet every Thursday from noon to 1:00pm. Bring a brown bag lunch and join facilitator Adele Lerch for an informal Bible study based on the *Upper Room* devotional booklet. Copies will be provided for all participants. No special Bible knowledge needed. This study is about what scripture means to YOU. Questions? Contact the church office at 372-7421.



*March 6<sup>th</sup>*

*Join us for Worship at 7:00pm  
with a Service of Imposition of Ashes and Communion*



At the January 8<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting new officers were elected for calendar year 2019.

**Rick McClelland**, Council President

**Neil Hoelle**, Vice President

**Re-appointed to serve for 2019**

**Dennis Nagel** as Church Treasurer

Linda Blanton as Financial Secretary

### Committee Appointments:

Congregational Care Barbara McKown

Education/Youth Jenny Napier

Evangelism/Worship Doris Nagel

Call Committee John Saraga

Outreach Barbara McKown/Doris Nagel

Property - Neil Hoelle

These folks can answer any questions you may have about their committee.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>...

A Mother-Daughter Banquet is in the planning stages



Have you ever wondered who changes the light bulbs, takes out the trash, does general fix-up and clean-up around the church and many other numerous things? Well, that would be the **First Maintainers!** If you are a retired man and have a couple of hours that you would like to share on Tuesday mornings you are invited to join us. Give us a call in the church office, 372-7421, with any questions you may have.

## Outreach Opportunities through the Congregation...



Volunteer to help on Thursday evenings at **The Caring Place**. Talk with Barb Swinehart Deb Baldwin about ways in which YOU can help serve others.



We continue to collect items for the FVPC here in Xenia. The following items are needed and appreciated: soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, lotion, combs & brushes, razors (like Bic), envelopes, lined writing tablets, pens & pencils, paperback books, coloring books & children's books. A donation basket is in the narthex. First Lutheran Church is showing the Xenia Community how, with God's help, our ministry programs benefit others.



Continue collecting **Campbell Product UPCs** for Oesterlen Home in Springfield. (Please be sure and save only the square UPC symbol on the label.)



## SCRIPTURES READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

### February 3<sup>rd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

### February 11<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

### February 17<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 99  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

### February 24<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

Genesis 45:3-11-  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38



If you have any address, phone or e-mail changes,  
please be sure and let us know in the church office.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION....

**The Pass it On Ministry** at Westminster Presbyterian is going through some changes. As of January 16, 2019 we are no longer able to match families with furniture.

The program has evolved to a primary mission of making sure people have a bed to sleep in. We feel that having a decent bed will change so many lives. You cannot function well if you do not get a good night's sleep. We especially are concerned about the children in Greene County that have no bed and unfortunately there are many. They need a good night's sleep to do well in school and in life. So we hope to meet those needs with our "**Operation Sweet Dreams**", a ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church at 990 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia.

If you or someone you work with needs one or more beds, please call our Pass it On number: (937) 372-7448 and leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. Please speak slowly; leave your name/telephone number/how many beds you need and why. We go on a case by case basis to fill the needs.

For furniture needs or donations we would recommend for you to call St. Vincent DePaul. They are reached through St. Brigid Church. The number is: (937) 372-3193, press #12. You must leave a message.

We hope your New Year is Joyful and wish you **Sweet Dreams**. -

Marlene K. Elliott, (937) 372-7889, [margo00@sbcglobal.net](mailto:margo00@sbcglobal.net)

## More Information...

Pastor Jim Metzger, who served First Lutheran from June 1954 to June 1963, is celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 16<sup>th</sup>, in Alliance, Ohio with his family and friends.

Since his wife, Lila's death, last September, Jim has lived at Copland Oaks retirement community in Sebring, Ohio

If you'd like to send him a birthday card his address is:

800 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sebring, Ohio 44672