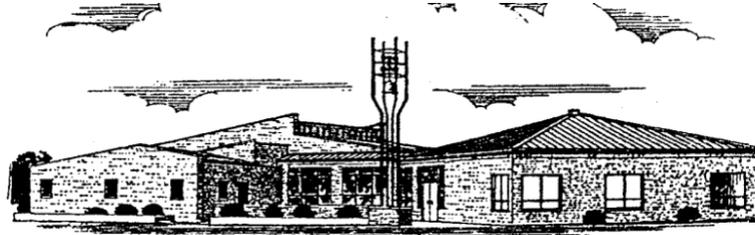


# DISCOVER FIRST



Empowered by the Holy Spirit, We Worship  
Reach Out, Share the Gospel and Serve

---

**November 2018**

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: [www.firstlutheranxenia.com](http://www.firstlutheranxenia.com)

"Like" us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/firstlutheranxenia](http://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranxenia)

Worship with us on Sunday morning at 9:30am  
Children's Sunday School during 9:30am worship  
Adult Sunday School following worship at 11:00am

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

Words from our



## "A Stewardship of Life"

**The Sixth Commandment commands us "not to steal".** The biblical meaning of the word "steal" contains the human aspect of "kidnapping". It belongs alongside the commandment "you shall not kill". Both deal with human life. Life is a gift of God. It is declared in *Genesis 2* that God took the soil of the earth and formed "mankind" like a potter on a potter's wheel. Then God breathed "life" into the nostrils and "mankind" received breathe" or "wind" or "spirit" or "life". The ending of life biblically, is when breath is returned to God. Hence, on the cross Jesus breathed his last. Every breath is receiving new life. Every breath is a breath of God. At the end, like Jesus, we commend our "spirit" to God and we breath our last.

**Life, being God given, is a gift.** It is put within a time frame. We measure our life by years and celebrate our birthdays accordingly. This is "chronos" time from which we get the term chronology. It is measured by time and space. In the scheme of things, each person receives an equal amount of time per day. How we use that time is our stewardship of life. We can offer our time to others; we can use our time to serve the community through our work; we can use our time to re-create (reading, walking hobby-ing); we can offer special time with those we love such as spouse and family; we can use our time by stopping to be a neighbor like the Good Samaritan. How we divide our time and how much we do this will also (like our budget of monies) define what we value.

Very importantly, however, is seeing time as "kairos" time. This kind of time is a special moment in which an event has broken into our "chronos" time that changes us. The birth of a child is a "kairos" moment that occurs within the context of a particular day and hour. A crisis can be a "kairos" moment that changes our lives. It can threaten to undo us. It can also cause life to be filled with anxiety and stress. This stage or moment of our "life" can be the fertile ground of "sin". We become uncertain. Fear overcomes our hope and our faith. At the moment of time, our life can be a reaction rather than a proactive force. Our quest for "survival" measured in "chronos" time becomes our emphasis. On the other hand, a crisis can cause us to come together within the context of this "kairos" moment and unite us to not only "preserve" life but also "honor" life.

Jesus Christ is God's "kairos" moment for us. God comes to us within the context of "chronos" time ("the word became flesh and dwelt among us"). For what purpose: that we may have "Life" in him. Paul reminds us that the life we live is the life we have "in" Christ. This "kairos" moment set within the context of our baptism where the "Spirit" of God joins us to this new life causes us to now live and walk in "newness of life" (Paul).

**Chronos time tells us the "where" and the "when" of how we spend our life. Kairos time set within the context of Jesus Christ tells us the "why" and "how" we share our life as Christians.** Without Christ, our "chronos" time is closed. It is spent selfishly. Christ opens our lives to the eternal. We

become free in Christ to use our time rightfully without being moralistic about it. It is the Holy Spirit which Jesus breathed on his disciples that is given to us in our baptism. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus directs us to love God, one another, and all of creation.

**Devotion is how we spend our "life"**. As Christians, our "chronos" week begins with our worship of God. Sunday is when we celebrate our new life in and through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Our life "in" Christ is not closed but open. Our week of spending our "life" begins and is centered in Christ. Our aim is not "to kill" or "kidnap/steal" but to "preserve" and "enrich" each others life in Christ. The "why" is because life comes from God and the "how" is discerned in Jesus' exhortation to "love one another as I have loved you". The "where" and "when" is the arena in which we find ourselves each day. Love God First. Love yourself because Christ loves you. Therefore, love each other and creation as our stewardship of life.

*Pastor Tim*



### **FISH Sunday November 4<sup>th</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 or three to church on **Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** or any Sunday - and place your donations in the FISH Food Basket in the narthex (Monetary donations are also accepted you can use one of the pew envelopes & mark "For Food Pantry.") **Thank you!**

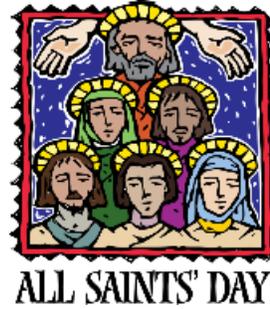
Our first Sunday of the month food donation continues to collect food for the **Xenia Hunger Backpack Cuisine Program**. For November we've been asked to bring in Dinty Moore beef stew OR individual oatmeal servings. Our donations are always appreciated. This is an ongoing addition to our FISH Sunday 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
Non-refrigerated puddings	3.5oz
Dinty Moore beef stew	7.5oz
10 pack fruit juices	5 -8 oz
pot top cans of fruit	8-9 oz
pop top cans of chicken	4.5 oz
cereal bars and granola bars	box 8-10 single servings
Cheesy Mac	2-3 oz single servings
pop top cans of tuna	3oz
individual oatmeal	box of 8-10 single servings
squeezable jam/jelly	20oz
cans of vegetables	8.5 oz
gold fish and animal cracker	snack paks
peanut butter	18 oz containers



Be sure to set your clocks **BACK** one hour before retiring for the night on **Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** Daylight Saving Times ends at 2:00am **Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**



**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**, during worship we will remember the saints who have gone before us and have entered eternal rest and glory with the Lord.



**Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

Take advantage of the privilege of your freedom and responsibilities as a citizen by voting. On every ballot are issues that will determine the quality of your community for good or ill. If you don't vote, those who do will be making decisions that affect your life and the lives of everyone in your neighborhood and country. Be part of the action and vote.



**SENIORS**  
GET-TOGETHER

**Spice of Life November 27<sup>th</sup>**

All seniors in the congregation 55 and older, are invited to attend the Spice of Life for friendship, fellowship and food. Adele Lerch is hosting this month. On the menu homemade lasagna, green salad & garlic bread. YOU are invited to bring salad, veggies or dessert.



**Commitment Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>**

This is when we make our commitment to God's work at First Evangelical Lutheran Church for the coming year so that we have an idea of how to budget for 2019. We are holding Commitment Sunday a little later than normal to stay away from Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday. While your financial contributions are important, this year we are asking you to consider nonfinancial gifts and talents the Lord has provided to you. Consider how the Holy Spirit might be calling you to use them at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Xenia, Ohio. Please prayerfully consider which of the gifts that God has provided to you that you will share with your church family.



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

is scheduled for Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> after worship for the purposes of electing members of the church council, voting on the proposed budget for 2019, and appointing a new member of the Memorial Committee. The proposed budget will be available to the congregation about two weeks prior to the meeting.



Sunday School

The Children's Sunday School meets at 9:25am in the downstairs Sunday School room with the "Deep Blue One Room Sunday School" series.

### Adult Sunday School Class



The Adult Sunday School class will continue its exploration of Isaiah 40-55. The November and early December sessions will focus on the poems in the latter half of the collection. The class is led by Dr. James Will. Come join the conversation!



### FIRST AND FRIENDS BOOK CLUB Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30pm

Book to read for November: *"This is Where I Leave You"* by Jonathan Tropper

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!



### BIBLE STUDY

Bring a simple brown bag lunch with you. We meet for an hour from noon to 1pm at the church every Thursday. BRING A FRIEND! You don't need any special Bible knowledge. This is an informal, fun, and inspirational discussion time that will lift your spirits and give you new insights into your faith. Upper Room devotional booklets will be provided at no cost to all participants. Our topics are different every week so ANYTIME is the right time to come! Questions? Contact Facilitator Adele Lerch or call the church office, 372-7421.



✠✠ Our **Sympathy** is extended to **Bill & Barb Taylor**. Bill's brother, Charles, passed away on October 21<sup>st</sup>

✠✠ Our **Sympathy** is extended to **former FLC Pastor James Metzger**. His wife, Lila, passed away September 27<sup>th</sup>. Pastor James live in Sebring, Ohio.

✠✠ Continue to keep our homebound members in your prayers: Dottie Ripp, Marge Lovett & John Paul Saraga

✠✠ Keep the following members of our church family in your prayers: Lee Snell, Judy Williams, Meredith Skeens, Linda Blanton, Jean Akers, Betty Peppo, Barb Taylor and Kathy Teague

## Notes from our Council President, Rick McClellan....

### CALL COMMITTEE SELECTED

The Church Council would like to thank everyone for their recommendations for our Call Committee. The names of approximately 20 members were submitted to the council for consideration. All of them were excellent candidates for the committee and the council had a hard time narrowing the list down to six members who represented the entire congregation from young to old and men and women. We ask for your prayers for the members below who the council selected and have agreed to be our call committee. Their hard work will begin in earnest after the first of the new year. The members of the call committee are:

Linda Blanton  
Adele Lerch

Joseph Burrell  
John Saraga

Gene Fasbinder  
Meredith Skeens

### CALL PROCESS UPDATE

The council would like to thank everyone who attended one of our small group sessions after worship in October, filled out one of the surveys, or provided input to one of the council members. The input we received was a varied as we all our, which frankly was no surprise. As we looked at the data a few trends became apparent particularly when like items were grouped together.

Those trends are:

For Ministry Tasks: Visitation, Preaching/Worship, Christian Education, Teaching, Spiritual Formation/Direction, Strategic Planning, and Growth

For areas of focus or interest: Visitation, Growth, Teaching, Community

For Gifts of Ministry: Visitation, Help people develop their spiritual life, Youth, Growth and development were all top priorities. Planning, Wider Church, Youth/children, Administration, Conflict resolution skills, using technology and media, and sharing leadership were considered helpful.

Several commented on the need for our new Pastor to live nearby, preferably in or very near Xenia.

The council will spend the next month using this information to complete the ministry site profile which the Synod will use to help find the best candidates willing to be considered for a call as our new pastor. The call committee can expect to get very busy once 2019. arrives.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING EVENT POSTPONED

First, I want to thank Ron Taylor for his efforts leading the Evangelism Committee to plan for the Strategic Planning event. They did a great job.

The council discussed their plans during our October council meeting noting that our president probably had not worked closely enough with the committee in the planning of the event to align its efforts with our call process. There was a consensus among the council that there were some areas related to our calling a new pastor and where we (all of us not just the council) want to take our faith family going forward. We were unanimous in the opinion that we needed more than a month to integrate these thoughts into what you have already planned so that we can have a meaningful event and to drum up more participation from the congregation. With that in mind we decided to move the Strategic Planning event to late January working the exact date between Pastor Tim's vacation and Ash Wednesday.



**With Pastor Tim**  
**Thursdays at 3:00pm and 7:00pm**

We began in August and continue through November and December. Conversations regarding our Faith questions will be discussed.

Thursdays, through November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Theme of Resurrection, Heaven, Creation and a New Creation within Scripture.

The Fifth Session will fall on All Saints Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>, when we celebrate the Communion of Saints, we will be at the moment of beginning to explore this theme as being the body of Christ in the World: Incarnation and Resurrection; Word and Sacrament; Worship-Mission-Evangelism; Vocation in light of Resurrection.

The Sixth Session will center on Pastoral Issues regarding Death and Dying; Grief and Celebration, etc. A full outline will be given later.

Thursdays, November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 20<sup>th</sup> Advent Themes and Worship



**Taize Evening Prayer Service 7:00pm December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Pastor Tim's Bible Study follows

Mark Your Calendar for a

**C H R I S T M A S**  
**Progressive Dinner**  
Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>



**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, during morning worship our choir is presenting  
"Bethlehem's Child" by Victor C. Johnson & Lloyd Larson . **YOU'LL** want to be here!



## Family Scouting Comes to First

If you come by the church between 6:30 and 7:30 on Tuesday evening you will find the members of Cub Scout Pack 69 in the Fellowship Hall having fun and learning about Scouting and how to be better members of our community. Pack 69 has been chartered to First Lutheran, is the newest Cub Scout Pack in Greene County and the only Cub Scout Pack in Xenia to fully embrace Family Scouting by inviting girls to join. If you know anyone in Kindergarten through fifth grades they are welcome to stop by any Tuesday evening or contact Rick McClelland.



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 (9:00am-noon) you are invited to join the group. Give us a call in the church office, 372-7421, with any questions you may have.

### Volunteers Needed...

Have you ever thought about serving the congregation as a LECTOR or as an USHER or as a BREAD FAMILY or maybe as an ASSISTING MINISTER?

If so, please contact one of the following individuals to volunteer or to find out more information about sharing your talents with the congregation. **Call the church office, 372-7421 for more informati**

Assisting Minister & Bread Families: Linda Blanton  
Ushers: Russ Kiser  
Lectors: Hoa Pham

### Opportunity in the Community...

**Bridges of Hope** is a nonprofit organization that focuses on serving Greene County's local homeless population. Since it's founding in 2016 BOH has been striving to meet a vast community need. According to the shelter administrator, prior to opening the shelter doors in December 2017, Greene County did not have a homeless shelter for single men or women. Financial contributions are always appreciated and also volunteers willing to provide a meal.

At the present time there is a need for:

- |                                  |                    |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| + gym shoes for men and women    | + new men's boxers | + new ladies underwear   |
| + local fast food \$5 gift cards | + large backpacks  | + jeans for men and women  |
| + flip-flops/shower shoes        | + hoodies          | + sweatpants/loose fitting pants/thermal underwear for men and women |

Donations may be dropped off between 2 and 7pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1087 W. Second Street or call 708-8053 with questions.

## Outreach Opportunities through the Congregation...



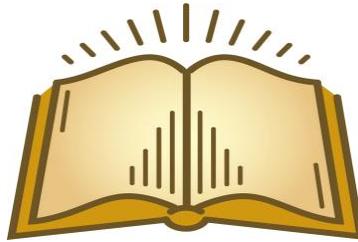
Volunteer to help on Thursday evenings at **The Caring Place**. Talk with **Barb Swinehart**, or **Deb Baldwin** about ways in which YOU can help serve others.



We continue to collect the items for the **Family Violence Protection Center** 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



Oesterlen Home has discontinued collecting Campbell Labels for Education. However, they still collect Box Tops for Education UPCs. in Springfield. (Please be sure and save only the square UPC symbol on the label. A basket is in the narthex.)



## Scripture Readings for Sundays in November

### November 4<sup>th</sup> (All Saints Sunday)

Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 24  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
John 11:32-44

### November 11<sup>th</sup> (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

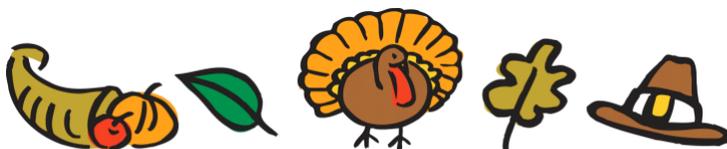
1 Kings 17:8-16  
Psalm 146  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

### November 18<sup>th</sup> (26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

Daniel 12:1-3  
Psalm 16  
Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25  
Mark 13:1-8

### November 25<sup>th</sup> (Christ the King Sunday)

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14  
Psalm 93  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37



SO MANY BLESSINGS