



first Lutheran Church



February 2024

Titles: Reverend v.s. Pastor



To many these titles are synonymous. They can be used interchangeably along with Father or Priest. However, to some there is a slight difference between these two titles. My pastoral supervisor when I was on internship instilled the difference within me and I appreciate his perspective. He had drawn my attention to the fact

that the title of Reverend is bestowed to those who have a masters degree of divinity, or is used for those who lead a congregation. I have a masters degree of divinity and I currently lead a congregation, so Reverend is a title that fits me. What sets a pastor apart is that they are called to be the pastor (administer of Word and Sacrament) of a congregation.

The difference is that one is called into the work. In our denomination it means that there was a lot of spiritual discernment that was done. It means that we pray and listen to how the Holy Spirit is calling a congregation and a pastoral candidate. A pastor encompasses more than just being the leader of a congregation. The title often holds a more closeness to our hearts, a sense of comfort and safety. When we have a visiting minister to our congregation you will notice it says "Rev." next to their name in the bulletin. It isn't because they are not equipped to be a pastor, it just means that this congregation did not call them to be their pastor. We just called them to give guidance on a Sunday that Pastor Tucker and Pastor Chris are not able to be there. Pastor Christ and I have been called, Pastor Chris not as formally as I, to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments to this community, while also caring for its members' spiritual needs. We are here for all pastoral concerns not reverend concerns.

I am very thankful for the title that I have here and I am overjoyed that this community has the personal relationship to call me Pastor.

Pax et Bonum (Peace and all Good)

Brother Tucker



JESUS is the
BREAD OF LIFE

**Bread of Life:
When the Manna Isn't
Quite What
We Were Expecting**

Being Christian should be one of the most uncomfortable aspects of our lives. A pretty bold sentence to start with, however it is one of the most true statements we can make about our faith. Jesus did not often follow the laws of his people or the ruling government. The Sadducees and Pharisees interpreted Levitical law and made sure that people followed it. They were constantly telling Jesus that he was disobeying the laws of his religion. Jesus created such a stir through his teaching and enabling of the poor and marginalized people that the Roman government had to get involved to crucify him. This man who was all about non-violence, peace, love, helping the poor, helping the marginalized, helping the widow, helping the outcast, and helping refugees is the bread of life.

Being Christian we face Jesus knowing that we don't live up to his image and standards. We fail to love our neighbor, to promote non-violence, treat the poor with respect, give shelter to the refugee, help the outcast, and bring peace to the whole world. Every day we fail to live up to this standard that Jesus set for us. We feel that we deserve more attention and focus from God because we do good things from time to time. We pat ourselves on the back because we didn't cut someone off in traffic when they made us mad. When we do the bare minimum, we feel that we have done a saintly act. If God gave us everything we wanted... I am sure it would have some globally positive things and also items or desires that are selfish.

However, amidst all of this God gives us a gift. The gift of Christ. The gift of a savior that even though we fail we can return to Christ to be

reoriented back toward right living and given strength to face our failings head on and do what is correct in God's eyes. It is good for us to remember that we are sinful and at the same time we must always remember that we are redeemed! We are saved! We are beloved children of God who are washed clean of our indiscretions everyday and pushed into the light of the cross to be examples to our neighbors of how to love one another. Will we mess up again? Yes. Will God's love, grace, and mercy poor back out into our lives to radically change us? Absolutely.

Jesus was not the Messiah his followers thought he would be. He didn't come with a sword in hand and a battle cry to run the Romans out of Jerusalem. Jesus is not the manna that we expect him to be, he is infinitely better. He teaches us how to care for this precious world that God created. He teaches us to take care of each other, our siblings that are made in the divine image of God. He teaches us to listen to how the Holy Spirit is calling us into a violent world to bring peace, forgiveness, and mercy. Let us learn to take a deep breath and listen to how Christ is calling us into the world around us. How we are called to eat the bread of eternal life. Especially the manna we aren't quite expecting.

*Let us learn
to take a deep
breath and
listen to how
Christ is
calling us ...*

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you respond when you don't get what you want? What do you think might happen if God did give you everything you want?
2. Are you offended by Jesus's claim to be the true bread from heaven that gives life?

Which is better: the thing you think you want or the gift of offensive bread that leads to eternal life? What would it look like for you to stop trying to control what gifts God offers you and instead receive Jesus for who he is?



Welcome to yet another month. As I drive home this afternoon on US 68, I pass the area being cleared for the flood mitigation reservoir north of our home in Eagle Township. I am saddened when I think of the beautiful perfectly-fine homes that

were destroyed for the reservoir. I mourn the loss of the age-old trees now being torn down for the same reason. Later, at home, in the mail is my Arbor Day newsletter which celebrates communities which are committed to sustaining the lives of trees which “provide residents with respite and reconnection to nature.” A program entitled the TeamTrees, along with the Arbor Day Foundation, planted 20 million trees around the world. I can’t wrap my head around the irony here. My perplexity was only furthered when I read “Our Ohio Nature” published by The Nature Conservancy. The mission statement of the conservancy includes tackling the destruction of nature. What are we doing here?

Moving into the readings I got into this past month included In the Garden: Essays on Nature and Growing by Bulley and Arboine. In many of the printed essays is talk of garden squares; the essays have a similar theme. To quote one essayist (Salter) “I want to create a place to think; a greenspace in which to clear my head in between recipes or to untangle a knotted sentence.” Our family has always escaped into nature by swaying in the hammocks throughout the yard. Even Brook unwinds in a hammock. Rest and relaxation in the Bishop’s “year of rest.”

I spent a little time with Mr. Dickens and His Carol in which Samantha Silva creates a possible scenario involving the writing of A Christmas Carol. The author surmises that characters’ names came from people and personalities he met on the street as he mulled over the need to write a Christmas story to pay his mounting entertainment bills.

An Abundant Place by Lipp was a donated devotional to the church library. Each chapter is a daily retreat that requires no travel. The daily reflections were spot on.

Where Three Roads Meet by Sally Vickers is a very interesting rewrite of the story of Oedipus from Greek mythology. Tiresius, the prophet (oracle), appears as a ghost to Sigmund Freud, who first entertained the idea of the Oedipus complex. The telling of the story focuses not just on Oedipus but also on the whole family involved in the tragedy.

Then, for all you Trekkies out there, I inhaled Making It So, Sir Patrick Stewart’s memoir. The text is well-written and very entertaining. Stewart has a handle on life as he came to terms with his father’s violence. Any of you Trekkies or fans of Sir Patrick who wish to borrow the book, let me know. I will gladly loan it

Finally, I read Andrew Wyeth – A Secret Life by Richard Meryman. If you remember I read A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline, a fictionalized story of Wyeth’s obsession with his painting “Christina’s World” and the woman who inspired the painting. The bio treats as well Wyeth’s preoccupation with death as a natural part of life.

As a P.S. I strongly suggest you check out <https://nwos-elca.church> for the daily calendar of ways to keep the “Year of Rest”. God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks

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Kathy Brooks is trying to find any information about the old Bible that resided on the church chapel pulpit. The inscription inside reads “To Amelia from Papa, Nov 27, 1879”.

SEASON OF LENT

*Ash
Wednesday*

Feb. 14th,
4:00 & 7:00



February 21, 28,
March 6, 13, 20
At 5:45

Lenten Worship—Wednesdays
Holden Evening Prayer
Begins Feb. 21st at 7:00

Worship Series—NWO Synod's Day of Rest
February 21st

"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it"

Exodus 20:11

February 28th

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"

Matthew 11:29



Scholarship applications are now available on the bulletin board, in the church office, and online under forms at the church website for two scholarships from the Endowment Fund.

1. The Endowment General Scholarship is available for voting members and their dependents attending a Christian Theological Seminary, a Lutheran affiliated college or university regardless of major, or any Christian college or university if majoring in areas of Christian ministry.

2. The Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship was established for members of First Lutheran Church by Paul and Sue DeMoss in memory of their son, Jeff. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who is an active member of First Lutheran between the ages of 18 and 25, attending a nationally accredited college or university with a declared major in health, religion, and/or social work professions. Examples of professions include but are not limited to social work, counseling, psychology, nursing, medicine, youth work, ministry, and mental health. Applicants must also be of good Christian character and be making use of their talents in a manner that is pleasing to God. No one person may receive the scholarship award more than twice.

Deadline for submitting applications and letters of recommendation is March 31st. The recipient (s) will be selected and notified on or before June 1st. A total of \$6,880.85 for the General Scholarship and \$843.13 for the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship is available to be awarded. If you have any questions, please contact any Endowment committee member or the church office. Please be aware, each scholarship requires letter(s) of recommendation. Do not wait until the last minute to request these forms be submitted from your selected individuals. All forms are due by March 31st.



Soup for Souls

Social Ministry would like to invite you to participate in our February community service event, SOUP FOR SOULS. We will be collecting canned soup/soup packets during the month of February. We will be disbursing the soups to community members in need at the March 3rd Community Dinner.

Starting February 4th, there will be a table and our handy blue collection box situated in the hall for you to leave your SOUP FOR SOULS donation. Our kids Sunday school class will be helping us by making the poster and with bagging up the soup for distribution. So, check your pantry and the sale ads and help us to make this event a success! Thank you for continuing to support our efforts to support our community where we can!

The Social Ministry Committee

40 DAYS
of Giving

“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”

is the stewardship theme this year at First Lutheran. WELCA would like to again challenge the congregation to provide food items so that those that have a need will be able to feel our heartfelt generosity. As we enter into the 40 Days of Lent let us celebrate 40 days of giving, one item daily, 40 items total. Lutheran Social Services this year is relying on generosity to fill their pantry. The panty provides a 3-day emergency food supply to their clients. As we enter into Lent,

a time of reflection on God’s abundant generosity in our lives, WELCA is asking members to please consider gifts to the food pantry. Here is a list of the needed items:

Canned meat
Paper towels
Salt & Pepper
Canned Soup

Coffee (11 oz. size)
Cereal
Saltine crackers
Boxed sides (potatoes, pasta, rice)

Tea
Oatmeal
Canned vegetables

Powdered milk
Wide Noodles
Canned fruit

Items can be brought in weekly and placed in the cart by the elevator. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to share your blessings with others.

Food Cart Requests



Toilet paper,
dish soap, cereal

All donations benefit

Lutheran Social Services.

The cart is in the
Coat/elevator room.



Tuesday, February 14th.

12:00 at Café Marie’s.

All are invited!

**March
Newsletter
Deadline**

Monday.

February 19th



Stewardship 101

Herr Professor Schtuwardt's

Sacrificial Giving

Pr. Chris asked me to write a paragraph or two on stewardship for this newsletter. Oh, my! Have you ever known me to confine myself to a paragraph or two in print or conversation? The theme, I'm told, is sacrifice, a word that strikes nearly as much terror into the hearts of modern Christians as its synonym, "give," a four-letter word that is never spoken in polite company.

We understand the concept of "no pain no gain," but our desire always is to reduce the first while maximizing the latter, thus pew cushions, convenient parking, casual dress, familiar hymns, and 7 minute sermons (I prefer all of these, so there you have it!), and "I'm sorry I didn't come to church last Sunday, but I'm so busy/tired/upset I knew I wouldn't get anything out of it."

Another synonym for sacrifice is "surrender." When I think back on our faith formation as a couple, nothing has brought Pam and me closer to God than pledging. It's one thing to say you trust God but quite another to promise a substantial part of your income to God's work in the world. We surrender a portion of the gifts we're to be given, trusting that God will provide for our needs in the upcoming year. God's faithfulness has grown our faith every year for the 25 years we've been married.

This year, let's keep on giving the gift that keeps on giving: faithful and faithful-filled stewardship. I miss you all, even here among God's green hills and forests. For 15 years, as your pastor, I found myself immersed in love, kindness, humor, joy, and a profound appreciation for your deep, abiding, spirit-filled generosity.

- Pastor Bob Cochran



¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. - Romans 12:1

AMG! Ach meine gosch! Laugenbrezeln (dat ist wast ve call dem) are delicious! We Deutsch luv dem, as you Americans du too. Ich Lieber der pretzel! But I also Lieber that der petzel reminds me to pray, folding meine hands over meine heart! “Danke, Herr Gott, for der gifts you give us. Danke for Jesus! And danke fur der pretzel!



Lent Pretzels

1 package dry yeast	1 ½ cup warm water
1 Tbs. sugar	4 cups flour
1 tsp. Salt	1 egg
Coarse salt for the tops	

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Combine yeast, water, sugar and salt. Add flour gradually, forming a fairly stiff dough. Continue kneading for 10 Minutes. Divide dough into 30 pieces or less (depending on how big you want your pretzels, larger pretzels will be softer). Roll each piece into a rope, then shape the rope like a pretzel. Place on lightly greased cookie sheet. Brush with beaten egg, sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake for 12-14 minutes.

In about 610 A.D. a very creative Alpine Monk decided to make use of the pieces of dough left over from baking bread. The Monk formed them into thin strips folded into a looped twist to represent the folded arms of children in prayer. This scrumptious treat was given to the children as they learned their prayers. They began calling the treat "Pretiola", which is Latin for "little reward".

Pretzel Prayer

Dear God, use these pretzels to remind us that prayer is an important way to keep in touch with you. Help us to find quiet times so that we may hear you when you speak to us.
Amen



We thank those who completed their Timely Gifts form and submitted them in November showing your interests of service in this congregation. Your information has been updated in Shepard's Staff and the information submitted to committee chairs and Church Council members, for them to contact you and invite you to their next meeting.

For those who missed that opportunity in November, we are providing another chance for you to review the Timely Gifts form (Newsletter insert) and indicate your interests of service at First Lutheran Church and support of its mission in this community and beyond. Please mail your completed forms to the church office or drop it off during business hours or place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings in February. We request all forms be turned in by Thursday, February 29. You can find the *Timely Gifts* as an insert in this newsletter.

Evangelism/Stewardship Committee



WELCA Calendar of Events for February 2024

Martha Circle is in-service for the month of February

 **Wednesday, February 7**

Snowflake Social - 6:30 - 8:00 pm



Tuesday, February 13

@ 9:00 a.m. – Martha Circle in the Church Lounge
Hostess – Judy Kipker; Leader – Sue DeMoss

@ 1:00 p.m. – Rachel Circle in the Church Lounge
Hostess – Kris Jensen; Leader – Jane Eakin

Sunday, February 14 – Start 40 Days of Giving

Monday, February 19

@ 7:00 pm Hannah Circle in the Church Lounge
Hostess – Pat Needles; Leader – Julie Buck

Sunday, February 25 – Cookie Sunday – Martha Circle



L.I.F.T.

Living in Faith and Trust

L.I.F.T. will meet on Tuesday, February 20 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.

We Lift
You Higher
1.45 hours

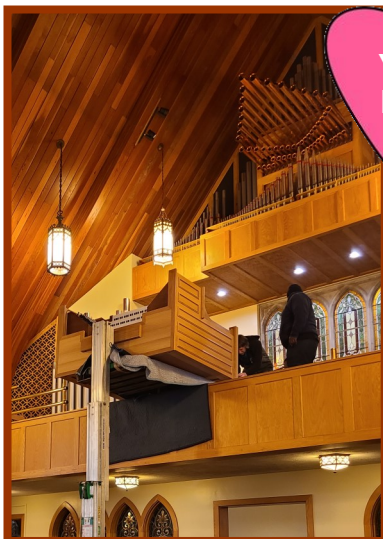
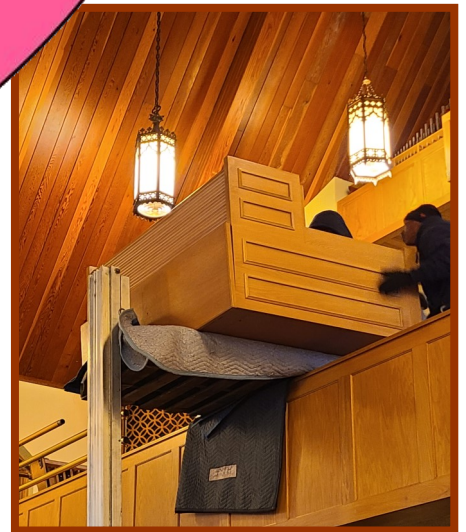


I Lift
My
Hands

If I Be
Lifted Up



Lift
Him
Up



You Lift
Me Up



We Are
Lifted

February

Volunteers

March Newsletter Deadline
Monday, February 19th,
 Weekly Bulletin Deadline
 Wednesday Mornings

ALTAR GUILD

Julie Buck, Amber Leipheimer

COOKIE SUNDAY

Feb. 4—Community Dinner
 Feb. 11— Christian Ed/Youth
 Feb. 18— Evangelism/Stewardship
 Feb. 25—Martha Circle

COUNTERS

Randy & Julie Buck

DEACONS 8:15 /10:45

Feb. 4—Dunn /
 Steve Roth, Mike Zawisza
 Feb. 11— Janet Wobser /
 Daryl Rotman, Mike Zawisza
 Feb. 18— Judy Kipker /
 Daryl Rotman, Evan Pitt
 Feb. 25—Janet Wobser /
 Toni Poling, Judy Kipker

DRIVERS

Feb. 4
 Feb. 11— Mike Zawisza
 Feb. 18—Aaron Ried
 Feb 25

FLOWER DELIVERY

Julie Buck

LECTORS

Feb. 4
 8:15 – Marilyn Dunn
 10:45— Alex Johnson

Feb. 11
 8:15
 10:45— Beth Meier

Feb. 14
 4:00
 7:00

Feb. 18
 8:15—
 10:45— Falkyn Roth

Feb. 25
 8:15— Elaine Miller
 10:45— Nina Dukes

LSS DELIVERY

Sue DeMoss

SOUND ROOM

Feb. 4
 8:15 – Tim Roth
 10:45— Todd Thompson

Feb. 11
 8:15— Daryl Rtoman
 10:45— Steve Roth

Feb 14
 4:00—Wayne Dukes
 7:00

Feb. 18
 8:15— Daryl Rotman
 10:45— Toni Poling

Feb. 25
 8:15—Tim Roth
 10:45— Falkyn Roth

Wednesdays 7:00
 Feb. 21 –Daryl Rotman
 Feb. 28—

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Feb. 4
 8:15 – Daryl Rotman
 10:45— Traci Roth
 Feb. 11
 8:15— Kylee Timbrook
 10:45— Kylee Timbrook

Feb 14

Feb. 18
 8:15— Pastors
 10:45— Pastors

Feb. 25
 8:15— Daryl Rotman
 10:45— Daryl Rotman

ALTAR FLOWERS

Feb. 4—
 Feb. 11 –Cam Taylor
 Feb. 18—Chris Meyer
 Feb. 25—

Forms for your bulletin
 announcement are available on the
 bulletin board and at
1stLutheranChurch.org

Flowers need to be delivered to
 the church by noon on Friday.

2024 Altar Flower Chart



The 2024
 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.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Joan Swisher	2/1	Jane Ebersole	2/13
Steven Rodman	2/2	Elliot Holbach	2/15
Erin Meier	2/3	Nancy Bahler	2/17
Breanna Tabler	2/3	Yvette Mains	2/19
Dean Bowser	2/5	James Maurer	2/19
Nancy Haffelder	2/5	Kylee Timbrook	2/19
Janice Wagner	2/5	Michelle Dale	2/20
Amy Masterlasco	2/6	Cloyce Baker	2/22
Seth Rakestraw	2/6	Steve Leopold	2/22
Richard Ruehle	2/6	Anthony Conner	2/23
Janet Baker	2/7	Casey Leipheimer	2/23
Erik Nielsen	2/8	Nathan Leipheimer	2/23
Steve Brossia	2/9	Traci Roth	2/26
Julie Buck	2/9	Doyle Sherman	2/26
Cheryl Seibert	2/11	Victoria Cox	2/27
Kathy Nusbaum	2/12	Taylor Polder	2/27

Anniversaries

Tom & Mary Beth Dillon
2/14/1999
25



The Schriners family thanks First Lutheran for the use of Fellowship Hall for their family gathering!

Looking for 12 men who might be interested in taking a part in the *Last Supper Reenactment* during Holy Week. Anyone interested in helping out, please call Steve and Traci Roth at 419-722-5312 or email Traci at dragonroth77@gmail.com.

Ash ✕
Wednesday

February 14th, Worship at 4:00 & 7:00

Wednesdays of Lent—Worship at 7:00; Soup Suppers at 5:45

*A season
of spiritual
preparation*



Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am

Sunday School at 9:30 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FEBRUARY			31	1-Feb	2	3
			11:30am Sacred Daily	11:30am Sacred Daily 4pm Organ Rhrl 7pm Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 11:30am Community Dinner	10:15am Prayer 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 6pm Stewardship/ Evangelism 6:30pm Worship & Music	11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Book Club 7pm Organ Lesson	10am Conference meeting 11:30am Sacred Daily 6:30pm Snowflake Social	11:30am Sacred Daily 4pm Organ Rhrl 7pm Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Noisy Offering 8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School	10:15am Prayer 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Social Ministry	9am Martha Circle 11:30am Sacred Daily 1:30pm Rachel Circle 7pm Organ Lesson	Ash Wednesday Worship 4:00 & 7:00 11:30am Sacred Daily 12pm Pastor's lunch 8pm Theology Pub	11:30am Sacred Daily 4pm Organ Rhrl 6pm BSA 7pm Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	7:30am BSA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 1st Communion	10:15am Prayer 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 12pm Newsletter Deadline 7pm Hannah Circle	11:30am Sacred Daily 11:45am LIFT 7pm Organ Lesson	11:30am Sacred Daily 5:45 Soup Supper	11:30am Sacred Daily 4pm Organ Rhrl 7pm Choir	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	
25	26	27	28	29		
8:15am & 10:45 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 1st Communion	10:15am Prayer 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Council Meeting	11:30am Sacred Daily 7pm Organ Lesson	11:30am Sacred Daily 5:45 Soup Supper	11:30am Sacred Daily 4pm Organ Rehearsal 7pm Choir		

2024