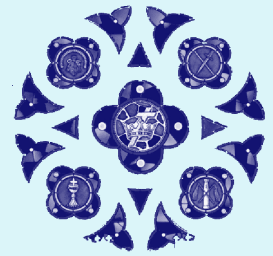




first Lutheran Church



January 2024

Titles: Part 1

Mother, Father, Sister, Friar



As we journey through life we will all encounter pivotal moments that change and define our lives. In many of these life changes we encounter a new way of identifying ourselves. Son or Daughter when we are born, Husband or Wife when we get

married, Doctor, Pastor, or Captain for jobs, Father or Mother when we become parents. These titles shift and grow with us as our lives change, becoming grandparents and great-grandparents at times. This is normal and usually doesn't bring about many questions, however, every now and then there is a change in title that seems odd or different to us. As I transitioned into becoming a novice I acquired the title, Friar or Brother. These two titles are synonymously used in religious communities for people to know who I am and how I live my life. More specifically it tells people that I have devoted my life to emulate the teachings and guidance of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.

A title is merely a recognition of what someone has done in their life. The acknowledgement of time passed, commitments made, or education completed. In these titles we recognize the time, gifts, resources, and personal struggles of another that were sacrificed to take the next step in their lives. Some titles are more comfortable because we know them well, Doctor, Parent, and Pastor all evoke an emotional and intellectual response of understanding and connection. However, how does Brother or Friar connect with us? In the following months I will be writing little sections to help understand more what it means for me to be a Friar/Brother. My hope is that our community will learn more about this order and me and come to find comfort in those titles just as we all have comfort in my title as Pastor. However, it is always good to remember that whether you call me Friar, Brother, or Tucker, I will always be your Pastor and will be here with you through the thick and thin of this beautiful life God has given us to journey together.

Pax et Bonum (Peace and all Good)

Brother Tucker

Bread of Life: The Wilderness Is for Sight and Sustenance

What do you think of when you read or hear the word “Wilderness”? What do you feel? Do you think of untamed shadowed trees, with vines, and red eyes lurking under bushes? Are you consumed with anxiety or fear at the prospect of the “Wilderness”? Or, does your mind begin to wander to memories of forests, glades, lakes, and oceans? Do you feel a sense of calm and quite, maybe even happiness in the presence of the Lord? We all have different experiences with “wilderness” and the implications that come with that term.

More often than not we equate “wilderness” with the untamed, the ruthless, the unknowns, or even sinister. The wilderness is where we meet adversity and problems. We may change the word ‘wilderness’ into ‘valley’ or ‘dark place’ yet that isn’t completely a wilderness. Truly, a wilderness is a place that is untouched by the makinations on humans. It is a place that is not under our control or isn’t tainted by our wants and desires. God placed us into this world to be stewards, which means to help and care for this world. This understanding goes against the mentality of Dominion over the earth. In dominion we get the notion of dominating or even controlling all that is within. This domination usually leads to reorganizing what is there for our own security. The forests are leveled so streets and buildings can be placed in. All are in grid lines and forms so we can compartmentalize better and see what is going on. However, that isn’t how God created it to be.

The wilderness has twists and turns, trees growing not in rows but in sporadic patterns that sustain themselves and what is beneath them or within the limbs or trunks. We look to a ‘wilderness’ and see chaos, God sees insight and sustenance. In the chapter this month a story was shared by the author of all the

difficulties they had with their child. The hospital visits, the late nights, the weeping, the pain, the exhaustion. We would look to this and see chaos, suffering, starvation, and wilderness. Pity and sorrow is placed upon the circumstances of the author for all the hardship that they went through. Yet the author reminds us that we have a God who sees. Who is observing everything and interacting with us in ways we least expect.

We are reminded that in the ‘wilderness’ God is there also. That just as Hagar was sent into the wilderness, just as Jesus was sent into the wilderness, just as the Isrealites were sent into the wilderness, so too are we sent into the wilderness with God right beside us. During

these happenings, and so many others, we enter into the wilderness thinking that we are alone yet God has never abandoned us. God is with us through these trials and tribulations to show us the beauty of creation, the complexity of life, along with the grace and love that our God has for us.

We may not understand God or the wilderness that surrounds us. But what we can rest easy in is the knowledge that our Lord is with us always. May we face this new wilderness of 2024 with the conviction and assurance that God is beside us in all things.

Pax et Bonum,
Brother Tucker

*We are
reminded that
in the
‘wilderness’
God is there
also.*

Discussion Questions

1. Have you been or are you currently in a wilderness season? What things are you being denied? What are you being given?
2. What is the greatest spiritual danger for you in this wilderness? What is the greatest spiritual provision?
3. How can you lean on and trust the God who sees you? How can you share with others what you’ve seen of the Lord and the deep lessons God’s taught you in the wilderness?



2024 Council Members

Casey Cox
CaseyCox72@gmail.com

Marilynn Dunn
mnndunn@gmail.com

Casey Leipheimer
CLEip1428@gmail.com

Rob Leipheimer
rleip@sbcglobal.net

Beth Meier
Beth.Meier@gmail.com

Erin Meier
Meier.erin.e@gmail.com

Evan Pitt
Evanpitt45840@icloud.com

Karen Rose
KRose13995@gmail.com

Diana Salisbury
DianaSalisbury51@gmail.com

Maria Schell
Biddy45@aol.com

Jeff Short
JShort@bright.net

Arlene Shriner
ollie2bob@aol.com

Cindy Thompson
TThompson19@att.net

Janet Wobser
WobserJR@aol.com



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 28, 2024

12:00 Noon

Lunch Provided

Agenda:

- Celebrate our Accomplishments of 2023
- Approve 2024 Budget
- Elect 2024 Nominating Committee
- Elect 2024 Delegates to the NWO Synod Assembly June 1st ; 9:00—5:00 At St. Mark's BG
- Thoughts and Ideas of Congregational Members

Staff:

Senior Pastor: Friar Tucker O'Leary
567-250-2868

PastorFLCF@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Nina Dukes (419-422-2638)

flcFindlay@gmail.com

Hours- 8:30-12:00)

Building Manager: Wayne Dukes

(419-306-3358 *emergency only*)

FLCBuildingManager@gmail.com

Organist: Miriam Gibson

Sr. Choir Director: Jane Eakin

Brass Ensemble Director: Diane Adler

Financial Secretary: Daryl Rotman

FLCFinancialSecretary109@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tom Basinger

FLCFirstTreasurer@yahoo.com



BEGINNING JANUARY 2, 2024, the church office/building will be open from 8:30 - 12:00. If you need access to the church facilities after 12:00 noon, please call the office ahead of time to make arrangements.

We value the involvement of each member of our congregation and want to ensure that everyone can continue to enjoy the use of our church facilities while accommodating this new schedule. If you have any concerns regarding the new schedule, please don't hesitate to reach out to the

Thank you!

Mary Ann Chubb would like to thank the Social Ministry Committee for the wonderful basket with all the neat items that were included. She would also like to extend a thank you to the Martha Circle and all who have taken the time to think of her during this Christmas season.

Women of the ELCA

Calendar of Events for January 2024

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

Tuesday, January 9 @ 9:00 a.m. – Martha Circle,

Church Lounge, Hostess: Miriam Gibson; Leader: Jane Ebersole

Tuesday, January 9 @ 1:00 p.m. – Rachel Circle

Church Lounge, Hostess: Sharon Thompson; Leader: Mary Lou McCann

Monday, January 15 @ 7:00 pm – Hannah Circle

Church Lounge, Hostess: Nina Dukes; Leader: Marilynn Dunn

Sunday, January 28 – Cookie Sunday – Rachel Circle

Wednesday, February 7 – Snowflake Social  

Hello First Lutheran,



It has been a hot minute since I last wrote in the newsletter. For those who do not know me my name is Evelyn Napier, I am a third year at Capital University. Since my first semester at Capital, the church has awarded me with a scholarship. This money has helped me more than I could ever express to you all. When I went to Capital, I was a political

Science major with a women's studies and history minor on a pre-law track! I am now an English Literature major with a creative writing and public relations minor hoping to work in Book Publishing.

Because I have been fortunate enough to have scholarships, like the church one, I have been able to explore a liberal arts college to its fullest. I was able to take a wide range of classes that helped me figure out what I wanted to do. It has also allowed me to be involved in a wide variety of activities on campus. The organization I am most involved in is my sorority, Delta Phi Epsilon. I served as the Vice President of Programming this past year and had two record-breaking philanthropy events. I helped raise over \$600 for Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders this past February and in November I raised \$2,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. This position taught me organization, philanthropy work, and leadership team management. After serving in this role, I have gone on to be Vice President of Operations, where I handle the budget and behind-the-scenes work for the sorority.

I am so excited to learn more about finances and the operation of a business because I eventually want to own a bookstore! Without the support of this church, I would not have been able to explore multiple different parts of me. I appreciate all that this church has done for me to further my education. I cannot wait to see you all this Christmas season!

Best,
Evelyn Napier



A VALENTINE SNOWFLAKE SOCIAL!!

**Calling ALL Mothers, Daughters,
Aunts, Sisters,
and Girlfriends!**

BEFORE you think you can't stand winter another minute--you know, when it just seems cold, damp, and all the Christmas cheer seems gone, there's (ta da!) Valentine's Day!! A time of pink cheeks, red noses, white doilies, Cupids, and our 4th annual Snowflake Social!

Come and enjoy a time of "girl-ship" with a light supper and a lovely craft to take home presented by our wonderful resident artist, Beth Maurer. Come share this time to prepare our HEARTS for our Lenten Walk to Calvary, where Christ's heart was given for us all.

WHO: All women and girls of the church

WHEN: Wednesday February 5
6:30-8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Fellowship Hall

Thrivent Financial will be sponsoring this special event and helping the WELCA Circles provide the craft and light supper, so **SAVE THE DATE.**

You can show **YOUR HEART** by bringing an in-kind offering of bath tissue, paper towels, diapers, hand or laundry soap, dish detergent, and shampoo. All will benefit the Christian Clearing House's Caring Cupboard.



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

L.I.F.T. will meet on Tuesday, January 16 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 relax before the holiday weekend.

Please contact Sue DeMoss at 419-306-9994 or Marilyn Dunn at 419-722-8543 for more information or if you need a ride.

Food Cart Requests



**Canned meat,
Packaged Dinners,
Side Dishes**

All donations benefit

Lutheran Social Services.

The cart is in the elevator lobby.

NewsLetter DEADLine

**Monday.
January 22nd**

Removing the Decorations

**Saturday, January 6th
at 9:30.**

**For more information,
please call Diane Adler
at 419-894-6954**



All are invited to a no-host lunch with pastor Tucker on Wednesday, January 10th. You may meet with him at Scramblers at 12:00 noon. See you there!

Altar Flowers



The 2024 Flower Chart is up in the hallway, across from the church office. January and February are in need of 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.

RUMMAGE SALE News

Cheryl Crossman Huttenlocher and Cheryl Everett are the Co-chairs for the 2024 Rummage Sale.

We've already met with Mary Lou McCann, past years' Chair for this sale and we thank her for all the info she shared with us. She will continue to be a resource for us as we all work together for a successful sale: the date in October is yet to be determined.

We remind everyone that as you are cleaning out closets this winter we have lots of space in the basement room/rooms designated to hold items until the sale. If you need assistance with the elevator and unloading, please let us know. We are here to help you! Also please remember the new church office hours starting this month.

If anyone has ideas concerning the sale, please share with us. We want to hear from you.

Thank you,
Team Cheryl

Cheryl Huttenlocher
724-433-1338

Cheryl Everett
419-307-8362

Stewardship 101



Herr Professor

www.thelearningsite.info

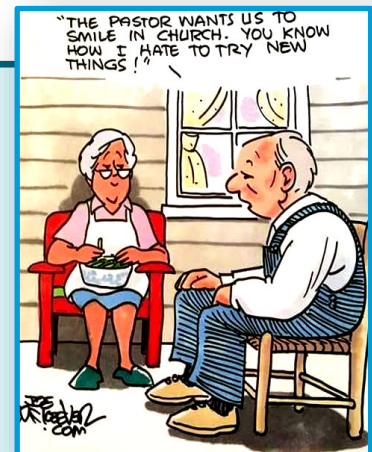
A Cheerful Giver

I've heard it said so many times, "All that church does is ask for money!" I saw a cartoon once with two men stranded on a tiny little island, with sharks swimming around it. One said, "Nobody will ever find us." To which the other replies, "Don't worry. I pledged \$100,000 to my church; my pastor will find us." Many are turned off by the mere suggestion of stewardship, as a sour and depressing subject. Yet the Bible sees it differently. For Paul the thought of giving money for ministry is a cheerful subject which gives rise to gratitude, inspiration and, well, joy! Yes! Stewardship! When I think of how far my money goes when I give my offering, I get sorta giddy. My money goes to support our local ministry but much farther. My offering goes around the world. We support Young Adults in Global Mission, sending 24 young adults (18-35) to nine countries as "missionaries" around the world. What a happy thought! We also have 131 missionary families serving in 45 countries! Oh joy!

At home your gifts have given scholarships to 1000+ students in their seminary training to become ELCA pastors through the Fund for Leaders program. You are helping support the development of 340 ELCA new-start ministries in the United States and the Caribbean, as well as numerous ethnic-specific ministries, such as indigenous, Hispanic, and African American ministries.

We all support hundreds of social ministry agencies (such as Lutheran Social Services and others in our area). One person in 50 throughout the United States are being served by Lutheran agencies. I see what Paul is saying: This all makes me glad and happy and very proud. And it makes me very cheerful when I give to this world-wide ministry of love in Christ. *-Pastor Chris*

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" - *Acts 20: 35*





Dis is enough to make you schmile! Monkey Brot! Ach du lieber! Can you imagine? A barrel of monkeys. Monkeys in der zoo all clinging to tree limbs. All laffink und playing und happy as a ...monkey! Vat about schtuardschip? Dus dat make you schmile? Are you happy ven you give to Gott? Or do you frown and say, "Ach! Ver does da money come from?" Make sum Monkey Brot (vit your kinder iffen you got sum). And give to Gott. It will make you happy as a bunch of monkeys!

Monkey Bread*

3 tubes refrigerated biscuits

1 Tbsp. cinnamon

2 cups brown sugar

1 stick Margarine

Cut the biscuits into 4 pieces each. Shake pieces in a mixture of 1 cup brown sugar and cinnamon. Place pieces in a buttered tube pan. Melt margarine and 1 cup brown sugar.

Pour mixture over biscuits in pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

**This is a great recipe to make with children.*



"...there is the joy of loving God and of expressing that love through sacrificial gifts that demonstrate our praise and adoration of the great God who is so good to us. The Bible speaks of believing in God, serving God, and obeying God, but above all it speaks of *loving* God. ... So, we express our love for God when we take generous portions of our money and give it away, cheerfully and sacrificially. We not only *express* our love; we *increase* it. In some mysterious way what we do with our treasures actually affects our hearts such that the cheerful sacrifice bonds our hearts to God and helps us love God more. Generous, faithful stewards typically have hearts overflowing with love for God and the joy of the Lord becomes their strength (Nehemiah 8:10)." —Mark Allen Powell *Giving to God*

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

— 2 Corinthians 9: 7





Well, well, well. Happy New Year. I pray that 2024 is filled with blessings for you and yours. Although, I am not

certain that I have even survived the Christmas holidays completely. :)

With the new year comes a new reading list for the First Lutheran book club. You are all invited. We eat potluck food and talk about the month's book selection. At the first meeting of the year, January 2, we are meeting at Bev Yammine's home for a viewing of A Star Is Born, starring Lady Gaga and Brad Cooper. We aren't talking about the movie, just watching and enjoying an evening of friendship.

Now the February meeting on the 6th, will get to the heart of At the Coffee Shop of Curiosities by Heather Webber. A couple of years ago we read Webber's Midnight at the Blackbird Café, and we all agreed that we would read another of her books when we could (unlike Jane Austen's book Persuasion that did not charm anyone but Kathy and Mary Ann!) Once again, I invite you all to attend. See you at 7:00pm in the church lounge. Bring a dish to share.

I already read in December a book on the new list...The Lost Bookshop by Evie Woods... I did not know it would be one of the book's chosen for 2024. I can't wait to be there for the discussion. It was a very interesting read – I am including here no spoilers. I also read The Library by Bella Osborne, free on Kindle. I chose it cuz I always wanted to be a librarian and now I read lots of books about libraries. I think the book was written for Young Adults but it was still a good read about a young girl and a retiring librarian saving a library doomed to demolition.

And then I got caught up in four books by Alice Hoffman. I have always appreciated her writing and these books on magic were no different. I think Practical Magic was the first I read. The “witches” in the book were descended from the Salem “witches” or some of their friends; they practiced a form of magic today that people might refer to as aromatherapy and the study of herbology; they help the sick and they heal the wounded. The stories go back in time, and forward, and back again in the other novels – Magic Lessons, The Rules of Magic and The Book of Magic. I found it doesn't matter in what order you read them. The earliest history, which goes back to the Salem trials, is the last book written. I don't know why, but I found these books entertaining.

I was given a book several days ago by the woman with whom I share the studio downtown. She and her husband were donating some of their Christian non-fiction to our church library and he suggested giving How to Run Your Business by THE BOOK – A Biblical Blueprint to Bless Your Business by Dave Anderson to me. Thought maybe it would be a help to my Reiki business. To say that I am intrigued is to put it mildly. I will keep you posted, whether it helps or not.

God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks



Librarians are like better, nicer, versions of Google.



Dear Members,
Thank you so very much for all the love and generosity that you have shared with us these past few months. We are immensely grateful for the recent baby shower and the overwhelming generosity that we have felt from it. Brittani is still reeling from the love she's felt from you all. Thank you again, from both of us, so much.

Sincerely,
Brittani & Pastor Tucker

On Monday December 11th, The Social Ministry Committee met to work on a service project for our at home members. We gathered useful items such as a First Lutheran mug, a word search, assorted snacks, teas, socks, a Lutheran prayer booklet, lip balm, hand lotion and hot coco.

The Congregation helped to make this project a success by signing cards and writing notes that were included in the baskets. A total of 16 baskets were made. They will be delivered by members of the committee in the next week.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to our church family for stepping up to help us with this project .

We as a committee and our church family, are committed to helping our community by providing support and assistance where it's needed.

We would also like to remind our members of our participation in the Kroger community rewards program. We are listed as a charity thru Kroger community rewards and we receive funds from them quarterly. The committee has earmarked these funds to help provide care packages to military personnel from our congregation and also that of family members of our congregation.

Please think about joining us on this mission. Feel free to ask any member of the Social Ministry Committee for help. We would be happy to help you navigate the Kroger app to take part in the Kroger community rewards program.

Thank you again for supporting our efforts!

The Social Ministry Committee





"Hats Off" Volunteers

February Newsletter Deadline
Monday, January 22nd.
Weekly Bulletin Deadline
Wednesday Mornings

ALTAR GUILD

Elaine Miller, Linda Mitchell

COMMUNION BREAD

Jan. 7 - Julie Dittmar

Jan. 14—Toni Poling

Jan. 21—Susan Waltermeyer

Jan. 28—Karen Rose

COOKIE SUNDAY

Jan. 7—Community Dinner

Jan. 14—Worship & Music

Jan. 21—Property

Jan. 28—Hannah

COUNTERS

Daryl & Cyndy Rotman

DEACONS

Jan. 7

8:15—Janet Wobser

10:45—Evan Pitt, Steve Roth

Jan. 14

8:15—Toni Poling

10:45 —Evan Pitt, Steve Roth

Jan. 21

8:15—Janet Wobser

10:45 —Evan Pitt, Steve Roth

Jan. 28

8:15—Toni Poling

10:45—Evan Pitt, Judy Kipker

DRIVERS

Jan. 7—Jerry Bryant

Jan. 14—Mike Zawisza

Jan. 21—Aaron Reid

Jan. 28—Jerry Bryant

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sharon Thompson

LECTORS

Jan. 7

8:15—Marilynn Dunn

10:45—Elaine Miller

Jan. 14

8:15—Kathy Brooks

10:45—Falkyn Roth

Jan. 21

8:15—Toni Poling

10:45—Cyndy Rotman

Jan. 28

8:15—Elaine Miller

10:45—Kristin Johnson

LSS DELIVERY

Karen Rose

SOUND ROOM

Jan. 7—

Jan. 14—

Jan. 21—

Jan. 28—

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Jan. 7

8:15—

10:45—

Jan. 14

8:15—

10:45—

Jan. 21

8:15—

10:45—

Jan. 28

8:15—

10:45—

ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 7- Diana & Jeff Salisbury

Jan. 14

Jan. 21

Jan. 28-Tad & Maria Schell

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.



Level 1: Worship & meetings will be held as scheduled.

Level 2: Worship will be held - use your discretion; Meetings—Check with your chairperson to see if your meeting has been canceled. Please be safe.

Level 3: All worship and events are canceled.

January

Birthdays

Kris Jensen	1/1
Madison Kirk	1/1
Jason Polder	1/2
Denise Burson	1/3
Donna Mason	1/7
Brynlee Johnson	1/8
Lexington Sanders	1/9
Annie Altman	1/10
Jerry Luth	1/10
Kaelee Mains	1/10
Niko O'Leary	1/12
Chris Zawisza	1/12
Nancy Woodruff	1/13
Richard Polder	1/16
Lily Cox	1/17
Charles Horn	1/17
Phillip Bash	1/18
David Gerber	1/18
Mark Kirk	1/19
Jason Clark	1/20
Gregory Rakestraw	1/20
Susan Waltermeyer	1/20
Richard Kondik	1/21
Bonnie Bosse	1/26
Judy Kipker	1/26
Jon Burnside	1/28
Amber Leipheimer	1/28
Kevin Breen	1/30
Mitchell Routson	1/30
Nathan Routson	1/30
Tracy August	1/31

Anniversary

Steve & Cheryl Seibert 1/21/95 29

HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR

NWO Synod *Year of Rest* 2024 Bible Study

It's true! Bishop Daniel has designated 2024 as the *Year of Rest*....So, just sit around and do nothing?! I doubt it.

At this writing the Bishop and his staff are completing the Bible Study for The Year of Rest along with the Daily Bible Reading passages. So, look for the 2024 Daily Bible Reading Program, coming to a bulletin board near you!

Meanwhile, you could begin with Genesis 1: 1-2:3 because we know God "rested" after the Creation. Just saying...and Happy New Year. What could be happier than a new Daily Bible Reading Program!



Celebrations