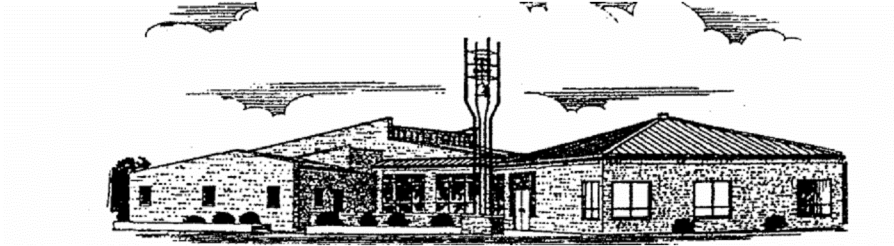


# DISCOVER FIRST



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

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**JUNE and JULY 2016**

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
287 West Main Street  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
372-7421  
Pastor Alicia Nierman**

E-Mail Address: [firstluthxenia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstluthxenia@sbcglobal.net)  
Web Site: [www.firstlutheranxenia.org](http://www.firstlutheranxenia.org)

Worship with us on Sunday morning at 9:30am

Summer Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm



*Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17*

Genie Stoker writes, "I remember a troubling incident from my childhood. Hearing a great ruckus of chirping on the lawn, I discovered that a flock of sparrows had surrounded an albino sparrow. Ferociously, they pecked at the unusual bird, screeching and hemming him in. The birds on the edge of the group flapped about - waiting their turn to attack - as the albino crouched, helpless. I ran clapping my hands and yelling, "Stop that!" The other sparrows flew away, twittering among themselves. The albino hesitated for a moment, dazed and injured, then flew to the nearest bush.

That experience made an impression on me because I had witnessed bullying in school. Back then, adults often shrugged off rude words or aggressive behavior as "kids just being kids." But these days, people take seriously the hurtful words and actions that can affect children for a lifetime." *The Upper Room, April 3, 2016*

When I read Ms. Stoker's words they touched me. Bullying is an ugly, brutal thing. Many of you may have been bullied as children or teenagers. The pain and humiliation leaves a lasting mark on a young person's psyche that can do damage over time.

My catechism class and I have discussed many issues over this last year; but the one that the youth seem to bring up most often is bullying. It is clear to me that this is an important and disturbing topic for them. They either have experienced bullying themselves or have seen it happen to friends or other students. With modern technology, "cyber-bullying"- that is, bullying using email or social media, makes it even easier to torment someone, and to reach a much wider audience with their malicious belittling.

Our own Joseph Burrell recently addressed the subject of bullying in a video. Joseph was a winner in the 2016 *NO BULL's Global Video Contest*. He won "Best Message PSA" (Public Service Announcement). I encourage all of you to view Joseph's video by going to [www.nobullchallenge.org](http://www.nobullchallenge.org) and clicking on "2016 Winners." Scroll down to "Best Message PSA, Bullying Awareness - by Joseph Burrell." The video is absolutely excellent. Congratulations, Joseph on a job well done!

However, if we believe that bullying is only perpetrated by children and youth, we are sadly mistaken. The workplace is rife with gossip and disparagement. An office can be a place of daily ridicule for many, causing mental and emotional anguish so severe that persons leave their jobs, or worse. Family members can be downright cruel and violent to one another.

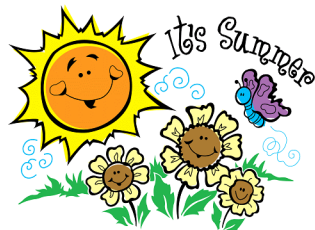
Did you know, however, that bullying also takes place in the church? If we have an issue with another of our brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to address it by lovingly confronting the person with whom we have a problem and talking with them. Instead we often talk to anyone *but* the one with whom we have the issue. In so doing, we've just made that person the object of ridicule or scorn.

The prophet Isaiah expresses the wishes of God in our relationship to others. "Learn to do good;" he says, "seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." In other words, we should not bully; and we should defend the bullied.

Yet there is another from whom we need to hear. This one is Jesus, who tells us, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

The Holy Spirit can and will help us prevent cruelty and practice compassion in all areas of our lives. By so doing, we make the world a better place. Have a happy and safe summer season.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Alicia*





## FISH SUNDAY June 5<sup>th</sup> and July 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, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. As has become 'normal' at the FISH Pantry the volunteers will accept any food items you would like to donate. (Monetary donations are also accepted, you can use one of the pew envelopes and mark "For Food Pantry.") *Thank you!*

Our first Sunday of the month food donation is collecting food for the **Xenia Hunger Backpack Cuisine Program**. This group is attempting to provide food to Xenia children who receive discounted and free lunch during the week but have little or nothing to eat on the weekend. This will be 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. **(For June & July we've been asked to bring in Chef Boyardee 7.5oz Pasta single servings.)**

### Other requested items include:

Non-refrigerated puddings 3.5oz  
pop top cans of tuna or chicken 3oz  
Dinty Moore beef stew 7.5oz  
individual oatmeal box of 8-10 single servings  
10 pack fruit juices 5-8 oz  
squeezeable jam/jelly 20oz

pop top cans of fruit 8-9 oz  
cans of vegetables 8.5 oz  
gold fish/animal cracker snack packs  
cereal bars or granola bars - box of 8-10  
Cheesy Mac 2-3 oz single servings  
peanut butter 18oz containers



Our Children's Sunday School program is taking a summer hiatus during June, July and August. We want all of our Sunday School teachers to know they are appreciated!

**Thanks** to our teachers this past year: **Karen Burrell, Jane Cross, Jen Napier, Leah Pham, Lisa Szwec, Tonya Robinson, Meredith Baldwin-Skeens**

We hope to see all the children back for Rally Sunday in September.

**Thanks** also to **Jim Will** for leading the Adult Sunday School Class.



resumes on September 18<sup>th</sup> following worship

The fall session, entitled, "The Way, the Truth, and the Life," will focus particular attention on Ravi Zacharias's book, *Jesus among Other Gods*. Advancing a compelling and vigorous defense of Christianity, Zacharias highlights the singular significance of Jesus Christ, and shows us why we ought to be traveling the road with Him. Don't miss this opportunity to develop and deepen your understanding of and commitment to the Gospel. There is no fee to participate. Sessions are led by Jim Will.



## SENIORS

**GET-TOGETHER**

**Spice of Life** meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, September through May. All seniors in the congregation, 55 and older, are invited to attend these gatherings for friendship, fellowship and food. At our May gathering a sign-up sheet was passed for volunteers to host the meal September, 2016 through May, 2017. If you were unable to attend the gathering, the months of November and January are still available! If you would like to volunteer, give us a call in the church office, 372-7421.

## NEWS IN THE PARISH...

✝✝ On Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> we welcomed **Geneva Vaughan** into our First Lutheran Family. Geneva is joining the congregation by way of Affirmation of Baptism. (Geneva is Mike Burrell's aunt.)

✝✝ On Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, we say "Farewell and Godspeed" to Annika (Anni) Hamann, who has been living with **Neil & Julie Hoelle** this past year as a foreign exchange student at Greeneview HS. We have been blessed by her presence this year and we will miss her.

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

✝✝ Continue to keep in your prayers our members & friends in the military: Charles Lovejoy, Mark Anderson & Christopher Rogers. As well as all the men & women in the United States military.



## FIRST AND FRIENDS BOOK CLUB

*Meeting Dates: Tuesdays, June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> at First Lutheran*

*Meeting Time: 6:00 to 7:30pm*

*June Book: "All the Light You Cannot See" by Anothony Doerr*

*July Book: "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck*

Come to our gatherings after you've read the book. Be ready for a fun and lively discussion! We meet from 6 to 7:30 pm, the last Tuesday of each month so you'll have approximately a month to read each selected book. We're a general interest, non-theological book club. We'll be reading both fiction and non-fiction. Many of the books we choose may be available at the library. Others may be audio books or e-books, paperback or hardcover. Everyone is free to choose the format of each book that works best for them and to purchase or borrow each book selected. Questions? Concerns? See Adele Lerch or Pastor Alicia. 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!

### **For your information...**

the book selection for August is "Lila" written by Marilynne Robinson

the book selection for September is "The Longest Ride" written by Nicholas Sparks

## **Upcoming Events at First....**

- **Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00am A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Dick Jacobs** will be held here at First Lutheran. Visitation before the service will be from 10:00-11am. Linda Blanton is planning a luncheon for family and friends following the service. Please check with Linda about how you would be able to help out.
- **Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, during our morning worship, the Kettering Community Chorus**, under the direction of Marv Hileman, will present "Sermon in Song." There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers willing to bring in snack type items for a time of fellowship following worship.

### **Opportunity in the Community...**

The Greene County Public Health District is hosting the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Greene County Family Fitness Challenge on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at Central Park 222 S. Central Ave, Fairborn 12:30-2:30pm**

The Greene County Healthy Lifestyles Coalition is a countywide initiative aimed at helping Greene County youth, adults and families become more physically active. This FREE annual event is designed to get kids and families moving for fitness as well as making healthier choices. This year there will be an inflatable obstacle course, healthy food demonstrations, fitness stations information booths and more.

Reservations are NOT needed, everyone is welcome!



The women of the congregation would like to **thank Carl Elliott & his hard working crew** for all their hard work, planning, setting up, serving and clean up at this year's Mother - Daughter Banquet. Our *thanks* also to Julie & Neil Hoelle for lining up "Ethos" the A Cappella Group from Wright State University to provide entertainment.



My Sincere Thanks!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to **Lisa Szvec, Jim Will and the church choir** for a wonderful season of inspirational sacred music. The choir also plays a key role in leading worship. We ask God to bless them as God has blessed us through them.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Alicia*

### **Opportunity in the Community....**

**"Pass It On"** a Household Goods Ministry at Westminster Presbyterian is available to our congregation. They match up donors with clients needing furniture, baby items, household items and appliances. Call to give items or to request items. Any items that you can donate will be greatly appreciated and you will make a big difference in someone else's life.

Larger items needed include: stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, beds, dressers, couches, chairs, lamps, tables w/chairs and end tables. Call Marlene Elliott, 372-9443, for more information. If you have a truck and would like to volunteer to transport items that have been donated to clients, please call Marlene.



The last choir rehearsal of the season was on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Summer will be here before we know it, and, since the choir will be taking some time off YOU have an opportunity! If there is something you'd

like to sing this summer--or something you'd like to play--stop by and see Jim over the next couple of weeks and we'll work out the details.

*Jim Will*



### **A NOTE ON PHONE CALLS**

If you try calling the Pastor at home but the answering machine comes on - don't hang up! Don't assume no one is there. Please leave a message. (Same goes for at Church.) Sometimes it is not possible to reach the phone before the machine begins. Also, please call the church, or Pastor directly, if you are in or going to the hospital.



### **SUNDAY SCRIPTURES DURING JUNE**

#### **June 5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**

1 Kings 17:17-24  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 1:11-24  
Luke 7:11-17

#### **June 12<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**

2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15  
Psalm 32  
Galatians 2:15-21  
Luke 7:36-8:3

#### **June 19<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**

Isaiah 65:1-9  
Psalm 22:19-28  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

#### **June 26<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21  
Psalm 16  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9: 51-62



### **SUNDAY SCRIPTURES DURING JULY**

#### **July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**

Isaiah 66:10-14  
Psalm 66:1-9  
Galatians 6:7-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

#### **July 10<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 30:9-14  
Psalm 25:1-10  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

#### **July 17<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**

#### **July 24<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**



Genesis 18: 1-10a  
Psalm 15  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

Genesis 18:20-32  
Psalm 138  
Colossians 2:6-15  
Luke 11:1-13

**July 31<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost**

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23  
Psalm 49:1-12  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

**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 items for the FVPC here in Xenia. The following items are needed and appreciated: soap, conditioner, shampoo, toothbrushes, tooth- paste, mouthwash, deodorant, lotion, combs & brushes, razors (like Bic), envelopes, lined writing tablets, pens & pencils, paper back books, coloring books & children's books. A donation basket is in the narthex.



**Continue saving your old prescription glasses**, they will be taken to Africa by Betty Peppo's son, Dr. Roger Pacholka and his mission team.



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



**The Emergency Housing Shelter at Christ Episcopal has closed.**

A church member from Christ has been providing a noontime meal for the homeless from a tent/shelter she sets up behind the Cash Advance store next to McDonald's. Local churches have been invited to help out by providing different food items. Our donation list includes: **protein bars, fruit cups or peanut butter crackers.** A box for these items is in the narthex. Please bring an item or two on Sunday.



***32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Music Series 2016***  
***"Tuesdays at Trinity"***

***You are cordially Invited! Free parking. Freewill offering.***

***Gloria Dei Worship Center, Trinity Lutheran Seminary***  
***2199 E. Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43209***

**Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm Tom Battenberg & Friends Jazz Quintet**

Tom Battenberg and Friends Jazz Quintet will entertain with a variety of jazz favorites - Duke Ellington, Thelonius Monk, Hoagy Carmichael and Tom Battenberg. Performers include Tom Battenberg, trumpet & flugelhorn; Michael Cox, saxes & flute; Erik Augis, piano; Terry Douds, bass; and Jim Rupp, drums.

**Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> , 7:30pm Ladies of Longford with Irish Dancers**

Ladies of Longford is an exciting, all women, contemporary Celtic band offering fresh new arrangements of centuries old traditional Irish and Scottish melodies. They are known for their beautiful harmonies and excellent musicianship. Under the direction of Hilda Doyle, vocals/guitar, the ensemble includes Heather Doyle Fraser, vocals/djembe (drum); Stephanie Doyle Gamber, vocals/bass; Elizabeth Blickenstaff, fiddle. An evening to remember.

**Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30pm Brass Band of Columbus (Brian Stevens, director)**

"High class brass...a championship concert band, capable of great power and subtlety...For the players, it expresses an open and honest love affair with great music. For audiences, it offers a spectacular display of fine concertizing and a resounding good time." – *Columbus Monthly*