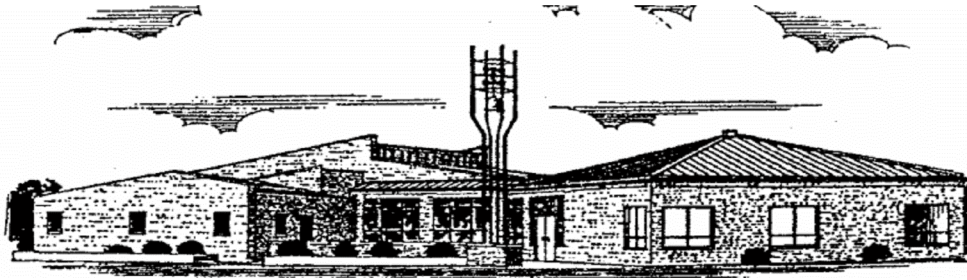


DISCOVER FIRST



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE WORSHIP,
REACH OUT, SHARE THE GOSPEL AND SERVE

MAY 2016

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

E-Mail Address: firstluthxenia@sbcglobal.net
Web Site: <http://www.firstlutheranxenia.com>

Worship with us on Sunday morning at 9:30am
Sunday School for children during Sunday morning worship through May 15th
Adult Sunday School at 11:00am through May 15th
Catechism Class 11:00am (no class May 1st & May 8th)

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



the message of about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18

There's a story about a logging foreman who sold a farmer a chainsaw guaranteed to cut down fifty trees in a single day. A week later, the very unhappy farmer came to report that the saw must be faulty - it averaged only three trees a day. The foreman grabbed the saw, pulled the cord, and the saw promptly went, "Bzzzzz." The startled farmer shouted, "Hey! What's that noise?"

So often we assume we know what to do in a given situation, so we just take control without even bothering to read the directions. Then we find out we've done something as simple as forgetting to turn on the power.

St. Paul was dealing with a problem like this with the church at Corinth. The people thought they possessed a particular knowledge that rose above Paul's proclamation of Christ crucified. To them Paul wrote, "the message of about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Paul was telling these folks they were preaching a hollowed-out Gospel, one that had been cut-off entirely from the source of its power - the power of God, which is made known to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul was telling them if they take away the message of the cross they unplug the Gospel from its source of power.

For us it's no different. If we don't embrace the message of the cross, we, too are removed from the power of God. This power increases our faith, strengthens us for service, comforts us in times of trial, transforms us into loving individuals and changes our lives for the better.

This message can only be found in one place - the Holy Bible - the word of God. The message of the cross is the word of God. Yet how many actually open the book and read it?

We are now in what many analysts are calling the "post-Christian age." In 1990, only half of the adults interviewed nationwide by the Princeton Religion Research Center could name any one of the four Gospels, and that most who do read the Bible do it in a very haphazard way. The same study reported that 65% of adult Bible readers have never read the complete New Testament. What happens to us when we are cut off from the word of God, our source of power? We shrivel spiritually, wander aimlessly, and flounder hopelessly.

On June 2, 1960, 8-year-old Walter Sedor, was found sitting on a rock in a lake 12 miles north of Flin Flon, Manitoba. He had been stranded there for 15 days after he and his father suffered a plane crash in which his father was killed instantly. For fifteen days the boy had been without food and his emaciated and weakened condition showed that starvation would shortly have overtaken him. The ironic thing about this accident was that near the plane was a survival kit containing 24 day's rations. It had been thrown clear when the plane crashed, but the boy didn't know what was in it.

How many of us are like this child, our starved souls suffering from being cut off from our source of power when it is at our disposal all the time? The Bible contains the spiritual food we need.

If we but ask the Holy Spirit, the Spirit will give us the will and power to seek out God's word daily. The prophet Isaiah said, God's word does not go out and return to God empty. It will accomplish what God intends for it. It will connect us with the message of the cross - the power of God.

Peace be with you, *Pastor Alicia*



Sunday, May 1st FISH Sunday, Xenia Hunger Backpack Cuisine Program

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, May 1st**. 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 May we've been asked to bring in 10 pack fruit juices, 5-8oz size)**

Other requested items include:

Pop top can microwave 7.5oz 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
Cheesy Mac 2-3 oz 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
cereal bars & granola bars box 8-10 single serve
peanut butter 18 oz containers



SPICE OF LIFE

Mark your calendar...we will be meeting at **Noon on Tuesday, May 24th**.

All seniors in the congregation, 55 and older, are invited to attend these gatherings for friendship, fellowship and food. **Carl Elliott & Roberta Rathweg** have volunteered to host the gathering. We will be 'savoring the summer for fun'. On the menu: hot dogs, hamburgers w/various toppings, and baked beans. You are invited to bring a picnic type side item (veggie, salad or dessert) to share.

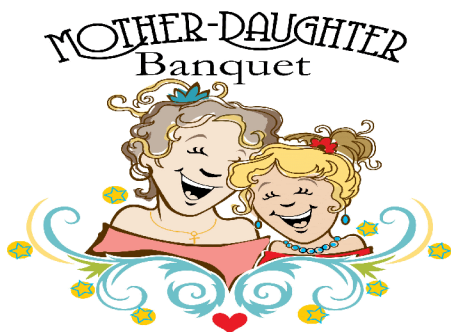


The last choir rehearsal of the season will be Wednesday, May 18th.

Looking for an opportunity to sing a song, either as an individual or a group, for our worship services? Summer will be here soon, and that is the best time of the year to schedule special music. If you have ideas or suggestions for music

you would like to do, please contact Jim so that we can arrange for rehearsal time and get you on the calendar. Stop by before or after church to discuss your ideas.

Jim Will



Tuesday, May 17th 6:15pm

Ladies, bring your mom, your daughter, your sister, your cousin, your aunt, your best friend, come on your own, you'll find friends here. ALL LADIES are welcome to come to this annual event for food, fine fellowship with friends & entertainment.

Entertainment provided by "Ethos" the A Cappella Group from Wright State University

Tickets: \$8.00 for adults, \$3.50 for children 6-12, 5 and under free. (Please make checks payable to First Lutheran with Mother-Daughter Banquet on the memo line and give to Carl Elliott)

Menu: chicken breast, au gratin potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, cake & ice cream, coffee and juice.

Men You are welcome to come and assist with set up, cooking, serving and cleanup! Please sign up on the kiosk to let the coordinators know you will be helping.

NEWS IN THE PARISH...

✠✠ **Congratulations to Dave & Jenny Kaffenberger.** They became second time grandparents when Grace Elizabeth was born to Ben & Jessica on April 6th, weighing 8.1 lbs and measuring 21". Grace joins big brother John at home.

✠✠ Prayers are requested for the following members of the congregation: Donna Saraga, Tom McKown, Jean Akers, Linda Blanton, Sue Stover, Paul Handwerker, Betty Peppo, Barb Taylor, Allison Reno, Mike Adkins

✠✠ Please continue to remember our homebound members in your prayers: Dottie Ripp, Marge Lovett, John Paul Saraga



FIRST AND FRIENDS BOOK CLUB will be gathering on **Tues, May 31st, 6pm-7:30pm**

The selection for May is "The Girl on the Train" by Paula Hawkins. Questions? Talk with 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. Be ready for a fun and lively discussion! YOU are welcome to join us.



If you have a new e-mail address or the church does not have your email address – PLEASE be sure and let us know. Call us or e-mail it to firstluthxenia@sbcglobal.net



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. Call the church office, 372-7421, 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 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.)



Scriptures for Sundays in May

May 3rd *5th Sunday of Easter*

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 10th *6th Sunday of Easter*

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 17th *7th Sunday of Easter*

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 Peter 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 24th *Pentecost Sunday*

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 31st *Holy Trinity Sunday*

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17