

DISCOVER FIRST



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

October 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
Children's Sunday School at 9:25am
Adult Sunday School at 11:00am
Catechism Class at 11:00am
Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm



"Train children in the right way, and when old they will not stray." Proverbs 22:6

The English Romantic poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, was entertaining a man at his home. In the course of the conversation the man said he didn't believe in giving children any religious instruction. The guest said that it was best just to let them make up their own minds.

Coleridge asked the visitor if he would like to see his garden. He took the man to a place on the property where only weeds were growing. The astonished man exclaimed to Coleridge, "Why, this is no garden, this is nothing but weeds!" Coleridge replied, "Well, you see, I did not wish to infringe upon the liberty of the garden. I was giving the garden a chance to express itself and to choose its own production."

I've heard several people over the years express to me that they don't provide for their child's Christian instruction because they don't want to force their beliefs upon their children. As they grow, they say, they should make up their own minds. I always ask them, "Then who will tell them about Jesus?"

There's an old expression: "Little pitchers have big ears". Our children are watching and listening to us and absorbing lessons from their environment every second of every day, like little sponges soaking up water. Left to themselves, our children will learn from the fallen world. Its expressions are television, radio, the internet, video games and a whole host of other influences. Those things teach our children what life is all about: 1) self-centeredness - pleasing oneself in all aspects of life; 2) money and all it can buy; 3) influence - that is, power over others. In short, their lives will take their own course God-knows-where and will eventually become a patch of weeds!

In an increasingly pluralistic and secular society, it becomes ever more important and urgent that we provide training for our children in the faith, or it just won't happen. We are the ones charged with the care of the garden of our children's lives.

The solution isn't complex. We just need to listen to and heed the advice of the writer of the Proverbs verse: "Train children in the right way, and when old they will not stray." (Proverbs 22:6) In other words, instruct your children in the faith.

What's that you say? You don't feel qualified to teach them all they should be learning? That's why the church is here to help. In other words, *bring your children to Sunday school and worship*. Our Sunday school for children is now underway and your kids are invited. It meets in the basement at 9:30am. We have wonderful teachers who are using the curriculum, "Deep Blue-One Room Sunday School." For students fifth grade and older, the catechism class meets at 11:00am in the Oesterlen room.

And religious instruction should not stop after we are confirmed. Learning about the faith should be a life-long process. At 11:00am on Sundays, Jim Will is teaching Ravi Zacharias's book, "Jesus Among Other Gods." Jim is a highly qualified teacher and those who attend his classes testify as to how much they learn from and enjoy his class.

Other opportunities for learning include: The Brown Bag Bible Study which meets Thursdays at noon, and our new "Candleglow Bible Study" online. Simply go to the First Evangelical Lutheran Church Facebook page and request entrance to the group. Or go to our website, www.firstlutheranxenia.com and on the home page you'll find a link that will take you to the study.

Let's not let our children fend for themselves in their lives of faith. That's a prescription for a weedy life! See you all in Sunday School!!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Alicia

ANNUAL Stewardship CAMPAIGN

This is the time to plan. Plan for the up-coming holidays, plan for our winter survival, plan for the next tax season, and plan for our life as a congregation planted and rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So we need your plan for time to support our activities. We need your talent to execute the plans. We need some of your treasure to support those plans. It is time to ask ourselves to prayerfully consider what we can share in support of our plans for 2017.

We will mail commitment cards early in October, and will receive them during the service on Commitment Sunday, October 16th.

Thank you for you on-going support!
Our First Lutheran Stewardship Committee



**You are invited and urged to attend our
STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP!
Saturday, October 3rd
9:00am - 12:30pm**

There will be coffee and donuts from 9:00-9:15am. The meeting will start promptly at 9:15am



FISH Sunday October 2nd

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, October 2nd** and place in the FISH Food Basket. Any items you bring in are greatly appreciated. (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 contributions to the FISH Pantry are greatly appreciated.

Our first Sunday of the month food donation continues to collect food for the **Xenia Hunger Backpack Cuisine Program**. (For October we've been asked to bring in 3.5oz nonrefrigerated puddings OR gold fish or animal cracker snack packs.) 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 7.5oz single serve

Chef Boyardee pasta

pop top cans of tuna 3oz

individual oatmeal box of 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 of single serve

peanut butter 18 oz containers



SPICE OF LIFE - October 25th

Mark your calendar ... we will be meeting at Noon on Tuesday, October 25th. All seniors in the congregation, 55 and older, are invited to attend these gatherings for friendship, fellowship and food.

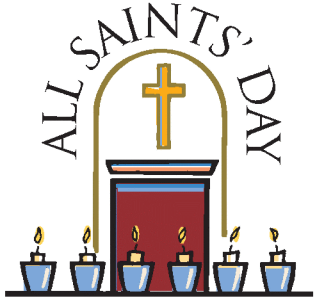
Adele Lerch and **Jean Jean Akers** are "in charge" this month. On the menu: lasagna, salad & garlic bread. You are invited to bring veggies or dessert.



FIRST AND FRIENDS BOOK CLUB Tuesday, October 25th, 6-7:30pm

Book to read for October: "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd

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! Be ready for a fun and lively discussion!



Remember the Saints

On **All Saints Day, November 6th**, we will again remember the saints who have gone before us and have entered eternal rest and glory with the Lord. If you have a departed loved one you wish remembered in the Prayer of the Church that day, please call or e-mail the church office or drop us a note **before Wednesday, November 2nd**.



Opportunity for VOLUNTEERS...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. Or call the church office, 372-7421 for more information.

Assisting Minister and Bread Families
Linda Blanton

USHERS
Russ Kiser

Lectors
Hoa Pham



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.

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



Used Eyeglasses

COLLECTION 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.)



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 Jean Akers or call the church office, 372-7421.



Many, many heartfelt thanks to everyone who has nourished and supported Paul and I on his long journey home. We felt blessed to have all of you in our lives. May God richly bless each and everyone of you with His unconditional love, unceasing presence and grace. *Rose Handwerker*



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

The Adult Class meets 11:00am until Noon each Sunday morning.

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.



Catechism The two year Catechism Class meets each Sunday at 11am. **FYI...**there are six students in this year's class!



Sunday, October 23rd during the worship service, there will be a short ceremony during which all of our children who are in grade three or higher will be presented with a hard-back Bible of their own. Please call the church office if your child is in this grade level and they have not received a Bible from the church.

News in the Parish....

✝✝ Our ***Sympathy*** is extended to **Rose Handwerker and family**. Paul passed away on Thursday, September 15th after a lengthy illness. His funeral was Monday, September 19th.

✝✝ Our ***Sympathy*** is extended to **Rick McClelland and family**. His sister-in-law, Cec Connair, recently passed away.

✝✝ Our ***Sympathy*** is extended to **Gene & Ione Fasbinder and family** following the sudden death of their granddaughter, Jackie.

✝✝ Keep the following members of our church family in your prayers:
Jean Akers, Linda Blanton, Sue Stover, Betty Peppo, Barb Taylor and, Allison Reno

✝✝ Keep our homebound members in your prayers: **Marge Lovett & John Paul Saraga**



SUNDAY SCRIPTURES DURING OCTOBER

October 2nd (20th Sunday in Pentecost)

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 9th (21st Sunday in Pentecost)

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 16th (22nd Sunday in Pentecost)

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 23rd (23rd Sunday in Pentecost)

Jeremiah 14:7-10
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8
Luke 18:9-14

October 30th (Reformation Sunday)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36



A big thank you is in order for all those who helped with this summer's special music, including the new responsorial psalms: Neil Hoelle, Katie Humble, Donna Johnson, Suzy McGatha, Dennis Nagel, Pr. Alicia, Lisa Schwec and Judy Williams.

**HARVEST
PARTY
AND**



Sunday, October 16th, 5:30pm
Bring a dish to share

Activities for ALL ages:
Children, Teens, and Adults

Fun photos, crafts and games

Reformation@500@Wittenberg

Fall 2016 Events at Wittenberg University Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Wednesday, October 5th, 7:30pm

in the Bayley Auditorium, Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center The Kenneth H. Sauer Luther Symposium presents *"Martin Luther, the Bible, and the Reformation"* by Euan Cameron, D. Phil.

Dr. Cameron is Henry Luce III Professor of Reformation Church History at Union Theological Seminary also a professor of Reformation and modern Church history.

Sunday, October 30th, 7:30pm

in the Weaver Chapel - The Festival Choral Eucharist for Reformation.

This service gives thanks in worship, song, and the preached word for the influences of the Reformation in the Church universal. The Rev. Abraham Allende, Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod preaching. Music by Wittenberg Choir, Wittenberg Handbell Choir and Wittenberg Singers.

Pre-service music at 7:00pm.



Operation Care Package

Our Outreach Committee is requesting donations for supplies/goodies to fill care packages to send to our deployed military personnel. Our packages will be sent the weekend after Veterans Day (November 11th) a basket is in the narthex for your donations. Below is a suggested items list:

Food Items: protein powder & protein bars, powder drink mixes, beef jerky/slim jims, sunflower seeds, pre-packaged candies/cookies, Cliff bars, power bars, Gum breath mints, single serving snacks such as: pretzels, Cheetos, Fritos, Chex mix, Wheat Thins, chips, Oreos, Nutterbutters, Rice Krispy treats, Little Debbie snacks

Toiletries: Visine eye drops, nasal spray, multi-vitamins, air fresheners (not plug-in), lip-balm/ chapstick, disinfecting wipes, medicated footpowder, toothpaste or toothbrushes

Entertainment & Sports: DVD movies (recent releases, new or used), Popular books,
Magazines (no swimsuit issues or explicit material), iTunes gift cards
posters for decorating walls, small 2017 day planners, travel size board games,
nerf footballs, frisbees, hacky sacks

If you know a deployed military person who would like a care package please call the church office. Any questions can be directed to Adele Lerch or Rick McClellan or call the church office.

(Monetary donations are accepted as well to help defray the mailing expenses.)

Opportunities in the Community....

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greene County
Schneider House of Hope
“Empty Bowl” Dinner and Silent Auction Friday, October 7th, 5:30-8:30pm
@Faith Community United Methodist Church
100 Country Club Drive, Xenia

Dinner includes soup, bread, dessert, and a beverage (All proceeds will be donated to IHN/Schneider House)

Handmade ceramic bowl and dinner: \$25.00
Dinner only: \$20.00
Children under 5: Free

Reservations with payments can be made at IHN or mailed to 124 S. Detroit St, Xenia, Ohio by October 3rd.
Payments can also be made the night of the event at the door.

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“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.

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The Emergency Housing Shelter at Christ Episcopal is 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: fruit cups or peanut butter or cheese crackers, cereal bars or individual juice packs. A box for these items is in the narthex. Please bring an item or two on Sunday.