

DISCOVER FIRST

RALLY: RE-ALLY: REALLY

By The Rev. William O. Schwochow, *pastor*

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

With you, I typically reminisce and remember school beginning after Labor Day and encountering Rally Day at church services. Summer was past and it was time to get back to the work we were assigned.

Several of you have already mentioned what Rally Day is in the age of COVID-19 and when our Rally Day will be. Like so many things presently, our plans for Rally Day are on hold ... until we devise a new way of learning, (i.e., forming faith) for the foreseeable future. Your **Faith Formation Team** (Jenny Napier, lead) is understanding and discovering new ways to educate and inform our youth really (in-person) and virtually so that all can be fed with God's word.

I will be joining with others in leading a **New/Any Member Class** later this month. Despite COVID-19, we are growing and showing people who want to join our fellowship. This learning will be for anyone interested in re-

allying with First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our Congregational Care team (Barbara McKown, lead) is already at work redefining what it means to be an ally for our work, cataloging and describing our membership in accurate ways. (*See immediately below.*)

Of course we rally around the Real Presence of Christ in Word, Table, and Community each week. We re-ally ourselves with Christ's mission of the restoration of the world. We rally around the Cross that defines, identifies, shapes, and forms who we really are.

During the month of October, we will be sharing stories of God's abundant generosity to us. We will be leaning toward a Stewardship Sunday and Recommitment to the word on Reformation Sunday, 25 October 2020.

Let us rally about re-allying with Christ and others to be the disciples who in Christ we really are.

WELCOME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE KAREN GIBBS

By Barbara McKown, *volunteer secretary*

We welcome our new Administrative Associate Karen Gibbs to our church family. She started her duties on September 1; please stop by and welcome her if you are in the area. I will orient her, then continue to work on the congregational records with Genell and Adele until we have a comprehensive list of active and inactive

members. You may receive a letter asking for updates to our information for your family or asking how you wish to be involved in the future. Please respond with either a written or verbal reply as without your help we will not be able to complete the task of having supportable numbers.

REAL HISTORY

By Barbara McKown, *volunteer secretary*

Pastor Ritz left in 1851 was followed by Rev A Bartholomew whose services were terminated after a couple of years. The Rev G Peters served from 1854 - 55 and Rev J Borns served until 1856 when the Rev J Geiger took charge. He resigned in 1859 after which the congregation was without a pastor until the Rev J. F. Shaffer was installed on August 25, 1861. Rev Shaffer served the congregation for more than 20 years. From 1881 - 1884 the Rev Hamilton A. Ott became First Lutheran's pastor, being ordained in 1881. He continued the kind of ministry begun by his predecessors combining consistency and stability. Support for the synod programs, both financially and theologically was a high priority. The only excommunications ever to occur at First were during the time of Rev Shaffer and Rev Ott. Never again has there been a recording of this

banishment from the church. Pastor Ott's wife Lydia wrote an essay entitled "Duties of Pastors to the Woman's' Home and Foreign Missionary Societies". It was published in the Lutheran Observer and the Lutheran Evangelist. The membership in 1881 was 140. A theology student pastor Rev Delo was described as having done good work for 2 years the benevolence giving was \$202.25. In the latter 19th and early 20th century little record keeping seems to have taken place. First Lutheran was unable to support a resident pastor and was served by numerous supply pastors including the Rev. Harry Hanshue, Rev. Miller, Rev Albert Uhl, Rev Adrian LeBold, and Rev Roberts. When an ordained minister was not available seminary students who did not reside in Xenia served the church.

REALLY FRESH

By Doris Nagel

The office is now painted and everything is clean and bright. Denny and I went out and purchased a lateral file cabinet and a new desk for the office along with a work table. Donna Saraga found two new chairs for the office that will fit in with the new "décor". The old "clunky" furniture will be gone soon and the office will have a new feel. We still have the blinds, decorations and carpet cleaning left but feel free to stop in and take a peak anytime you are at church.

APPRECIATION THAT IS REAL

By Adele Lerch

I thank my church family for all your kind word, prayers, cards and condolences. Heaven has gained another saint to the Church Triumphant. I have been touched by the messages I have received since the passing of my mother, Jean Akers. Again, thank you again for all your prayers. God bless each and every one of you.

REAL SAINTS

By Barbara McKown, *volunteer secretary*

As we all know there are so many unsung heroes in our church it is difficult to ensure that each and every one of them is recognized for their efforts to keep our

church running and in good condition. Carl Elliott trims the bushes, takes out the trash and puts the cans away each week along with always being on call to fix

anything that is broken. He also took the time to have the glass replaced for the memorial book. Denny Nagel spends countless hours doing the bookkeeping for our church - paying bills, dealing with payroll, even the unenviable job of completing the end of year paperwork to close the year. Genell Benner and Adele Lerch are not only helping with our record keeping but they have spent countless hours cleaning out the office, the library, the Sunday school closet and room, along with other closets and spaces where “things” tend to gravitate. Jim Will and

Lisa Szwec are working on reorganizing the music and Mike Burrell is power washing the building and the outdoor stairwell to improve the condition of our exterior. Doris Nagel is responsible for lots of outdoor plantings along with ensuring our worship service runs smoothly. She and Donna Saraga painted the Administrative Associates’ office and Doris and Denny have been out looking for new furniture. As you can see, we could not afford to pay for all the work done by volunteers and we want to ensure that they know how valued they are.

SOCIAL MEDIA

By Lisa Szwec, *choir director*

Let's Get Social!



Tell your friends to like us on Facebook

If you've been joining us on Facebook Live! On Sunday mornings then you're aware that we have a vibrant presence on Facebook. In addition to livestreamed worship we also share other content to enrich your Christian walk and worship in the home:

- Children's ministry videos (some produced Augsburg Fortress, some produced by our own members)
- Worship in the Home Series (ELCA)
- News from ELCA and Southern Ohio Synod
- Re-broadcasts of our livestream
- Re-broadcasts of Sunday worship preludes
- And much more!

Be sure to share our page [facebook.com/firstlutheranxenia](https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranxenia)



YouTube

Subscribe to our YouTube channel

Did you know that we also have a YouTube channel? There, we archive our livestream broadcasts along with other content. We currently have about 60 subscribers. So if you haven't already, please subscribe to our channel so we reach our initial goal of 100.

Click here to subscribe: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX7WLGxxHk2MYQmD5RyL2uw>

(When we get to 100 subscribers, we can name a user-friendly URL, so tell your friends!)

REALLY GIVING



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, September 6.

The food pantry is again taking donations and a box will be placed by the door should be able to bring in any contributions.

Monetary donations are also accepted by placing your donation in an envelope marked "For Food Pantry" and place it in the notion receptacle as you enter the sanctuary. Thank you!



Talk with Barb Swinehart or Deb Baldwin about ways in which YOU can help serve others. Volunteer to help on Thursday evenings at The Caring Place.

Thanks to the Xenia High School National Honor Society and the Pham family for the great meal August 20. Sept 24 the meal will be provided by Doug but the other 3 weeks are open. Also, if you can provide all or part of a meal please let Barb or Deb know.

All non-perishable individual packaged foods such as pudding cups, Jell-O cups, chips, cookies or serving cups with lids are being requested.



We continue to collect items for the FVPC here in Xenia. The following items are needed and appreciated: soap, shampoo, conditioner, tooth brushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, lotion, combs & brushes, razors (like Bic), envelopes, lined writing tablets, pens & pencils, paperback books, coloring books & children's books. A donation basket is in the narthex.



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

BOOK CLUB

By Adele Lerch, *volunteer*

We had 5 members on Zoom for our August meeting and we are hoping to meet in person for the September one. More to come as the time gets closer and we can see what is happening.

September 29, 2020 – "The Book Lover" by Maryann McFadden

October 27, 2020 – "Can't Wait to Get to Heaven" by Fannie Flagg

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND (MEF)

By Bob Altick, *chair*

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Xenia, Ohio established a Mission Endowment Fund in 2006 and in the spring of 2014 received a substantial anonymous cash gift from an estate. According to the guidelines of the Endowment Fund, the fiscal year begins July 1 of the previous year and ends June 30 of the current year. At the end of each fiscal year, any profits earned from the funds invested (excluding the initial principal) are to be

distributed to support different ministries and organizations. MEF is disappointed to have to report that this year (ending June 30) due to several downturns in the market during that time, the fund only earned a profit of \$994 and therefore, the MEF committee decided to leave the small gain invested in the fund until next year. Please feel free to contact Denny Nagel or Bob Altick if you have any questions or concerns.

PRAYER CONCERNS

By The Rev. William O. Schwochow, *pastor*

Please remember the following family, fellows, and friends in your prayers.

For celebrating: Jane Cross, Jessica Emmrich, Christy Haney, Susan Melvin Joseph

For community: Linda Blanton, Russ Kiser, Adele Lerch, Betty Peppo, Opal & Lee Snell, Bill & Barb Taylor, Vince Zappavigna; the socially distanced and all who are oppressed, stigmatized and traumatized; for communities struggling for justice.

For healing: Russ Kiser; John Paul Saraga, David Swinehart, Kathy Teague; Harold Warren; all those with COVID-19

For peace in transition: Those within the Louisiana Gulf Coast impacted by Hurricane Laura; The Family and Friends of all those who have died by COVID-19

For ministry partners: The Caring Place, Bridges of Hope, FISH Food Pantry, Narcotics Anonymous, Oesterlen Services for Youth, Southern Ohio Synod | ELCA, , The Caring Place, FISH Food Pantry, NA, XACM

For thanksgiving:

Prayer concerns may be posted for no more than three (3) weeks unless the concern changes.

Please inform us about updates and answered prayers, too!

WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, September 6

Lectionary 23

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The prophet's responsibility

Psalms 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments.

(Ps 119:35)

Romans 13:8-14

Live honorable as in the day

Matthew 18:15-20

Reconciliation in the community of faith

Color: Green

Sunday, September 13

Lectionary 24

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50: 25-21

Joseph reconciles with his brothers

Psalms 103 [1-7]8-13

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy (Ps.103:8)

Romans 14:1-12

When brothers and sisters judge each other

Matthew 18:21-35

A parable of forgiveness

Color: Green

Sunday, September 20

Lectionary 25

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10- 4:11

God's concern for Nineveh

Psalms 145:1-8

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

(Ps.145:8)

Philippians 1:21-30

Standing firm in the gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers

Color: Green

Sunday, September 27

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary 26

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The fairness of God's way

Psalms 25:1-9

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love (Ps.25-6)

Philippians 2:1-13

Christ humbled to the point of death

Matthew 21:23-32

A parable of doing God's will

Color: Green

BREAD FOR THE DAY

Time after Pentecost

Autumn

The day of early autumn (September and October) herald the resumption of a more regular schedule: school begins, church education programs commence, and the steady rhythms of work are accompanied by cooling breezes and the changing colors of the landscape. During these months, various crops are harvested and appear on roadside stands and in grocery stores. In many countries the harvest days of September and October are marked with prayer, feasting, and special care for the poor and hungry.

Table Prayer for Autumn

We praise you and bless you, O God,
For autumn days,
And for the gifts of this table.
Grant us grace to share your goodness,
Until all people are fed by the harvest of the earth.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: BREAD FOR THE DAY 2020: Daily Bible Readings and Prayers. Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress



First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

September 2020

Sun.

Mon.

Tue.

Wed.

Thu.

Fri.

Sat.

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
 we worship, reach out,
 share the Gospel, and serve.**

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872. | 12:00 BBBS 18:00 Caring Place | 19:00 NA | Meredith/Joshua Skeems Tyler Daugherty 9:30 Music Rehearsal |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Jane Cross Pentecost 23 9:30 Holy Communion | <i>Labor Day</i> Jessica Emmrich | Christy Haney | Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Columbia 1654 Susan/Melvin Joseph | 12:00 BBBS 16:00 Safe Spaces 18:00 Caring Place | 19:00 NA |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Pentecost 24 9:30 Holy Communion | | 18:00 Church Council | Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, c.258 G.T. Johnson | Lee Warren 12:00 BBBS 16:00 Safe Spaces 18:00 Caring Place | Dag Hammarskjold, renewer of society, 1961 Carolyn Hilliard 19:00 NA |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Leah/Hoa Pham Pentecost 25 9:30 Holy Communion | Shelly/Dow Reichley | | Terry Davis | Karen/Michael Burrell 12:00 BBBS 16:00 Safe Spaces 18:00 Caring Place | Kyle Schwochow 19:00 NA |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 26 | |
| Craig Redder, Carolyn Elliott, John Bird, Erhn/Paul Fields Pentecost 26 9:30 Holy Communion | | 18:00 Book Club | 18:00 Music Rehearsal | 9:00 Music Rehearsal | |

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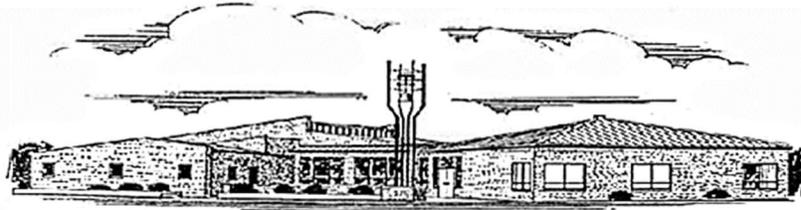
Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday—Friday

Martin Luther



Every occupation has its own honor before God. Ordinary work is a divine vocation or calling. In our daily work no matter how important or mundane we serve God by serving the neighbor and we also participate in God's on-going providence for the human race.

AZ QUOTES



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship, reach out, share the Gospel, and serve.

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Join us for Sunday Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

CARING PLACE 6:00 p.m. THURSDAYS