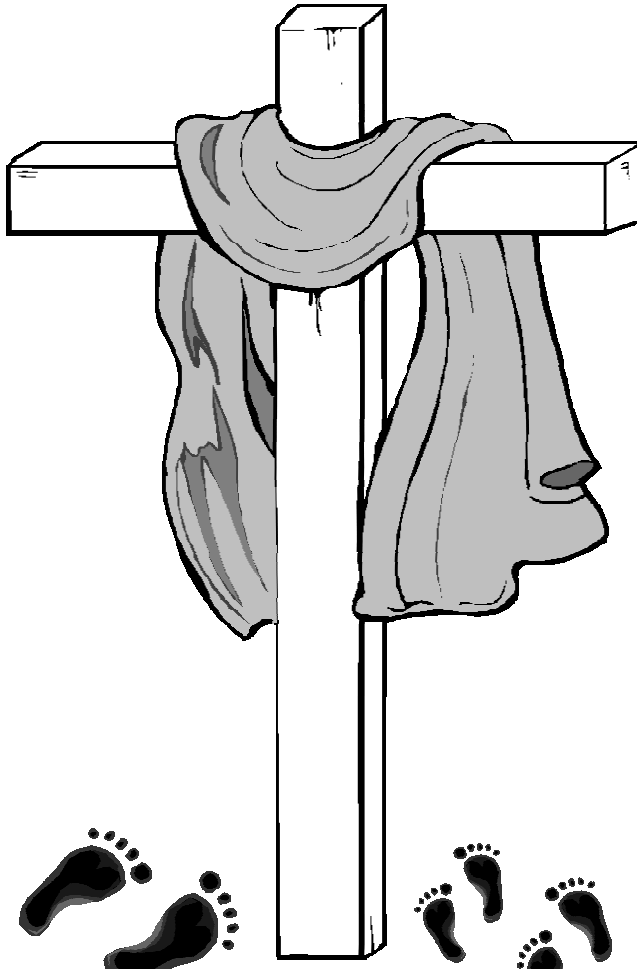


The First Word

First Lutheran Church

March 2010



Rev. Robert C. Cochran, Sr. Pastor
Rev. Dr. Paul DeMoss, Assistant Pastor

We will strive in everything we do to help the people of our community and the world move one step closer to God.



senior
Pastor **Moments**



One of the most enduring traditions among church folk is to give up something during the season of Lent. I know a husband who every year for the past 50 years has boldly announced to the world, “For Lent, I’m giving up extra-marital sex!” [name withheld to protect the innocent: the man’s poor wife, who’s had to endure this joke for 50 years!] Pam and I used to give up television and sweets. We gave up both because we knew we couldn’t give up one without the other!

Giving up sweets was easy, but giving up television? Not so easy. We’d sit and look at each other in the evenings and say, “Uh, what do we do now? Do you want to...talk or something?” After the first week, we adjusted, and we found that we suddenly had time to do things together. We got more exercise and learned things about each other we didn’t know (“We’re married? When did this happen?”).

I gave up watching the college basketball tournament every year, and Pam gave up...watching me watching the college basketball tournament every year. Hey, wait a minute...!



Anyway, after Easter we’d grab a handful of Oreos and turn on TV. But we couldn’t stand it. The shows were jarring and violent; they shattered the peaceful

evenings we’d come to enjoy. The commercials were especially intolerable. They were so loud and chaotic that we simultaneously choked on our creme filling as we grabbed for the remote to turn off the sound. We could only watch for a half hour or so before we had to turn the set off completely. But after a week or two, we’d built back our tolerance and settled in to our old routines.

Sins aren’t named sins because God wants to punish us. God wants us to live full, worthwhile lives. Anything that gets in the way of that is sin. All sins hurt us in the long run. We often get tripped up, not by the newsworthy transgressions that fill the tabloids and flicker across our screens every night. It’s those “Oreo Cookie” sins that fool us. We eat an Oreo, and it tastes great. How much harm could it be? But Oreos are almost pure sugar and salt. Three Oreos will give you 33% of your total fat intake for the day and 21% of the sodium. And they are engineered so that in 3 hours or less you crave more sugar.



Eat too many Oreos at one sitting, and you get sick; eat too many over a long period of time, and it’ll kill you. Sins are like that. All of these little indulgences we think enhance our lives and make us comfortable really keep us from enjoying life to its fullest. “Whenever you find contented satisfaction,” said Rabbi Helbo, “Satan is active.” I am never more content than when I dip my Oreo in milk to the rhythm of college students dribbling basketballs, but what I’m really watching is the game passing me by.



In Paul's Words

"The Baptismal Plunge with Christ"



In the introduction for Ash Wednesday Service on the top of the Bulletin we read, "Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come."

I said in my Ash Wednesday sermon that "when we are baptized, the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts and gifts us in special ways. Each and every one of us is gifted in a special way for the building up of the Kingdom of God. I don't care how young or old we are, we all are gifted. Of one thing I am sure: we are **not** called into His family to be observers or to be passive but rather we are called to be workers, to make disciples, to apply His word in all we do and by the way we live. We are Christ followers, and Christ calls us to action. We are called to be His Hands in the world today.

As part of our Lenten discipline, I suggest that each time you look into the

mirror, instead of wondering who that strange [in my case] old man is looking back at you, embrace that person as a sinner who has been forgiven, a blest, beloved, unique, child of God. Make the sign of the cross and remember your baptism. Each day do something special and unexpected for someone and, without fanfare, share God's grace with someone else." We are called to live our baptism and to take the baptismal plunge with Christ.

Each week we will explore a different aspect of what our baptism into the Body of Christ does for us.

Lent 1



"A Baptismal Plunge with Christ Who Gives Us a Good Life"

Lent 2



"A Baptismal Plunge with Christ Who Is One to Count On"

Lent 3



"A Baptismal Plunge with Christ Who Connects Us to People"

Lent 4



"A Baptismal Plunge with Christ Who Helps Us to Change"

Lent 5



"A Baptismal Plunge with Christ Who Moves Us into the World"

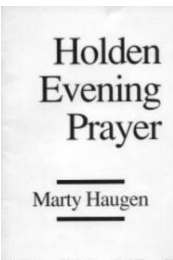
Palm Sunday, or the Sunday of the Passion, will be special with the procession of the Palms, special music, Baptisms, Holy Communion and the reading of the Passion Story in preparation for Holy Week.

We hope you will be able to take this journey with us as we take "A BAPTISMAL PLUNGE WITH CHRIST."

Yours in Christ,
Pr. Paul DeMoss



Lenten Soup Suppers
Wednesdays 5:45



Lenten Worship
Wednesdays 7:00



Easter Breakfast



Men of First once again have the honor of sponsoring and serving the Easter morning breakfast after the 8:00 worship service.

Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board by the office for set-up, clean-up, cooking or serving. We will be offering pancakes, eggs, sausage and fruit. Any questions, please contact Jerry Bryant at 419-422-0015.



Food cart requests for March are canned vegetables, soups, laundry products. Please place your donations in the kitchenette.

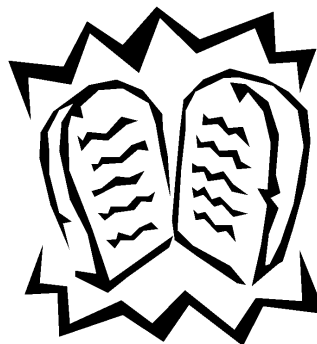
Help Wanted



We are looking for a Photographer(s) who would be willing to take photos of our church and its members in worship, meetings and fellowship for our new church directory. The photos will be used for the cover as well as activity pages. There is lots of time to get the job done. Our directory will be finished at the end of September. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Kathy at 419-957-3969 or kkapostasy@findlaycityschools.org.



Ten Commandments



Early PowerPoint



church Council *News*



Submitted by Nina Dukes



- Voted to make a donation to St. Luke's Church in memory of Pastor Tom Arheit.
- Approved the distribution of the Opal Thompson funds to:
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Redeemer Lutheran Church in Toledo
 - LOMA, and
 - Mission trip scholarships for our youth program
- Approved changing the summer worship times to 9:00 and 11:00 (June 6th through Labor Day weekend.)
- Approved an agenda for the February 28th congregational meeting.
- Agreed that any confirmed member may vote on the poll question.
- Transferred, with regrets, Vern and Marjorie Huston to Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Needs to select 3 voting members for the Synod Assembly in May.
- Approved the disbursement of \$695 from Endowment Restricted Funds to the designated committees
- Approved further revisions to the Risk Management Policy as recommended by the Christian Education Committee.
- Heard that a search committee is in place for a new Christian Education Director. Interviews will be held soon.
- Learned that photos for a new picture directory are scheduled for August and September.
- Continues to study the Book of Acts to learn how the early church grew and how the same processes can be used today



Council Members: Ken Bahler, Erika Cunningham, Tom Dillon (President), Marilynn Dunn, Kathy Kapostasy, (Vice-President, Eileen Mains, Amanda McClellan, Daryl Rotman, Maria Schell, Arlene Schriener (Corresponding Secretary), Joe Spoon, Mike Thompson, Pat Westrick, Dave Wolery

Baptized on February 14th...



...Alexandra Rae Kingery, born to Jacqueline and Joel Kingery on November 22, 2009.



...Leah Elizabeth Sabol, born to Kristen and Kevin Sabol on July 8, 2009.



...Kahle James Thorbahn, born to Tonya and Nicholas Thorbahn on May 28, 2009.

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the families of...



...Voleta Willford, on the death of her brother, John Wachtmann, on February 2nd.



...Mary Fleming, on the death of her father, Sid Hoover, on February 4th.



...Pastor Tom Arheit, on his death February 16th.



...Dwane Grace (our organist) on the death of his mother, Myrna Grace, on February 21st.

Congratulations to Brett and Ann (Spoon) Hughes on their marriage on February 14th.



Thank you to the Rachel Circle from Mary Fleming and her family for the wonderful funeral luncheon provided to the Sid Hoover family.



BREADBREAKERS (FLC Dinner Group)

It is time to sign up for the spring session of Breadbreakers. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board throughout the month of March. For those of you who are not familiar with Breadbreakers, it is a social dinner group. It is open to everyone: singles, couples and families. Groups of 6-8 persons will be put together, depending on the size of the families participating. Occasionally, there may be 10 in a group. The groups take turns meeting at each other's homes over a 6 month period. The host family provides the main dish, and the others provide the side dishes. This is a very flexible group. You may go out to eat or meet more often if you'd like. It is completely up to each individual group. It really is a lot of fun and a wonderful way to get to know your fellow church members. Many friendships have been formed through this group. Please give it a try. If you'd like more information, please call Maria Schell at 419-424-8736 or 419-348-3620.



Luther Club

Join Luther Club as we meet March 23rd at 6:00 for a carry-in meal with the meat provided. We gather in the Fellowship Hall for good fellowship, a good meal and a good program. All members of the congregation are welcome.

Following the wonderful meal, Kathy Luhn will share "Fractured Fairy Tales and Other Stories."



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By Julie Buck

Sunday School News

Congratulations to the Preschool and Fifth/Sixth grade class on winning the nonperishable food collection for February.

We will continue to collect items for the remainder of this year. In March all items collected will be available for distribution at the Community Dinner.

The youth are learning about Tithes and Offerings during the month of March.

Congratulations to the winners of the Talent Show: Zoe Thompson, Marisa Rose/Kristen Buck, and Philip Maurer. Thanks to everyone who showed their support!!



Contemplative Prayer Service

This service consists mainly of silence and is offered every Friday at 7:00 -7:45 a.m. in the Memorial Chapel. An optional introduction will be held at 6:45 a.m. There have consistently been 5 or 6 in attendance. All are welcome!

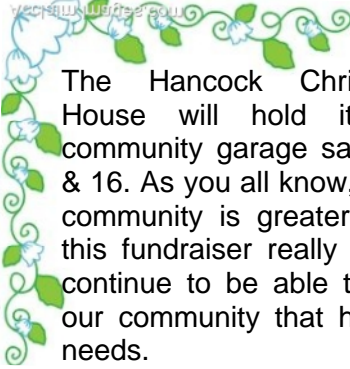


The April newsletter Deadline

Monday, March 22nd at noon

Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday mornings



The Hancock Christian Clearing House will hold its 5th annual community garage sale on March 15 & 16. As you all know, the need in the community is greater than ever and this fundraiser really helps HCCH to continue to be able to help those in our community that have emergency needs.



When:

Saturday, March 20 from 8:30 until 4:00
Sunday, March 21 from 1:00 until 4:00

Where:

Brinkman's County Corner Greenhouse,
1800 East Sandusky Street, Findlay

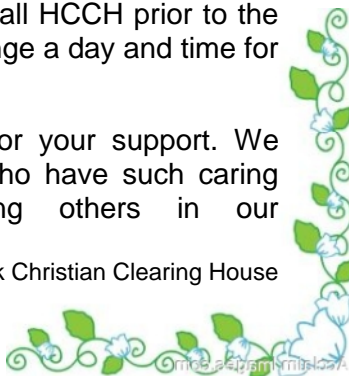
Needed are donations in good, clean condition that are saleable. Items can be dropped off at the greenhouse the week prior to the sale at the following times:

-  Monday, March 15 9:00-4:00
- Tuesday, March 16 9:00-4:00
-  Wednesday, March 17 9:00-7:00 PM
- Thursday, March 18 9:00 till noon

If you have a larger item that you wish to donate, we will have a pick-up service available. Please call HCCH prior to the garage sale to arrange a day and time for pick-up.



Thank you again for your support. We appreciate those who have such caring hearts for helping others in our community.

--The Hancock Christian Clearing House







Library News




As I sit here typing, I look out at ALL THAT SNOW and pray that all of you suffered few if any problems because of the nasty weather of February.




Today's books on the tour will be found on the lower shelf of the south wall, the 500's...Pure Sciences. What, you ask, happened to the 400's? Well, the church library holds no 400's...Language.


In the 500's, you will find a marvelous book of art work, photography, as well as information: **Fire of Life – The Smithsonian Book of the Sun** (523.7 Sm). The script discusses the structures of the Stone Age that carefully followed the seasons as well as modern day science's understanding of the sun.



All the Trees and Woody Plants of the Bible (582.16 An) attempts to answer questions we have like: How could people obtain wood for a structure as big as Noah's Ark? Were Biblical peoples interested in conservation and environmental problems? How was wood used in funeral services? What is the symbolism and the reality of the condemned fig tree (Mark 11:13, 14)?



Two books are self-explanatory: **Flowers of the Holy Land** (582.13 Ve) and **Birds of the World** (598 Bu). Another bird book, though, **Bird Walk through the Bible** (598 Ho) relates how the birds were presented in the Bible but then relates each bird of



the Bible to its family counterpart among North American birds. We can then make the association between our native birds and Bible birds.

On another note, available in the library on the far wall counter are copies of Focus on Filling presented by Filling Memorial Home of Mercy, The Friend, Lutheran Homes Society Newsletter, Oesterlen Herald, from Oesterlen Services for Youth, and Senior Savvy, a publication of the Hancock County Agency on Aging, Inc.

Check out the display of books for the CommunityREAD program. The books and free bookmarks are on the north wall. The program this year involves Erin Gruwell's **Teaching with Your Heart**, discussing her association with Freedom Writers. Other information about the program is on display as well.

A big thank you goes to Tom and Nancy Stearns for the donation to the library of **Shh! Don't be Conspicuous – An Autobiography** by Margaret Ann Bash (921 Ba). Bash, Nancy's cousin, spent 30 years as a missionary in Communist Europe.

Also added to the stacks includes **Care of the Soul** by Thomas Moore (333Mo,) the purpose of which is to cultivate sacredness in everyday life.

Finally, a reminder to those involved in the practice of centering prayer: **Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim** by Edward Hays (a marvelous book of prayers) is also available on the back counter in the library.

Hey, keep reading!
Kathy Brooks



On March 7th students will be helping with the Community Dinner. They should be in the kitchen at 9am ready to help prepare the meal for the day. They will be done around 1:30 in the afternoon.

On March 21st from 1 – 4 p.m., middle school students are invited to enjoy an indoor swimming pool at the Youth for Christ complex. The complex is located at 10111 West U.S. Route 224; Findlay, OH. The pool is in the building closest to the house (look for an FLC sign). See the youth board for directions.

On March 24th students will be serving the Lenten soup supper. They will be serving grilled cheese and tomato soup. We will need a few parents to help with the cooking. There is a sign-up sheet on the youth board for people who are willing to help the students cook.

Recent Happenings



The February fundraisers were a success with a total of 736 dollars raised. Thanks for all your support! This money will be used for the middle school and high school summer trips.

E-News: The March E-News is out; do you have your copy? In the E-News you will find details about upcoming events and information about what the youth committee is doing. Anyone can receive the E-News! If you would like to receive the youth ministry's new monthly E-News, please indicate this on your Sunday "Footnote." You can also sign up for it on the Youth bulletin board by Pastor Bob's office. The E-News will have details on upcoming events and the progress of the youth committee. ***THIS IS A MUST HAVE FOR PARENTS!!!***

A Big Thanks

A big thanks to all those people who have helped the youth ministry in the past few months. Without you there would be no youth ministry!



Middle School

- Mar. 3rd Lenten Service 7-8pm
- Mar. 7th Community Dinner
9am-1:30pm
- Mar. 10th Lenten Service 7-8pm
- Mar. 17th Lenten Service 7-8pm
- Mar. 21st Indoor Swimming at the Youth for Christ Complex, 1-4pm
- Mar. 24th Serving Soup Supper, 5:30-7pm
- Mar. 24th Lenten Service, 7-8pm



High School

- Mar. 7th Community Dinner
9am-2pm
- Mar. 7th Nooma Study
6-7:30pm
- Mar. 14th Nooma Study
6-7:30
- Mar. 24th Serving Soup Supper



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY
May 13, 14, & 15, 2010

The theme of this year's assembly, ***God's Work...Our Hands – Called to Witness in Christ*** reminds us that we are called to engage each other in our belief in Christ as the crucified and risen Christ who redeemed each of us so that we might be the voice, the hands, the heart, the feet of Christ in the world.



How are we doing this in our lives?



Keynote Speaker & Bible Study Leader

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will help us explore the meaning of Evangelism in this church we call the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as our lives as we live as Christ in the world.

Music Leader: Ken Medema

Three voting members will be chosen from our congregation by our Church Council to attend as voting delegates. If you would like to serve as a delegate, please contact one of the pastors or the church office. All congregational members are invited to attend as guests. Registration (for non-delegates) is \$100 if paid before April 7th. Meals are also available onsite for an additional cost. Registration forms and additional information is available in the church office.

The Bishop's Winter Conference Meeting with lay members (originally scheduled for February 10th and canceled due to the weather) has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 25th. This is an excellent time for us to gather in order to renew and celebrate our call to be in mission together in our congregations, in our conferences, as a synod, and through the ELCA. The meal will begin at 6:00, and a free-will offering will be taken. Time with Bishop Lohrmann begins at 7:00. RSVPs need to be to the church by Sunday, March 21st.

Worship Assistants



GREETERS

Mar 7

8:00 – Ann & Steve Brossia
10:45- Toni & Dennis Poling

Mar. 14

8:00 – Jim & Eileen Mair
10:45- Kids Kingdom



Mar. 21

8:00 – Janet & Cloyce Baker
10:45 – Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick

Mar. 28

8:00 – Jenny & Bart Welte
10:45 – Jack & Nancy Meek

LECTORS

Ann Brossia
Toni Poling

Acolytes
Acolytes

Dave Rossman
Cindy Fitzpatrick

Jenny Welte
Mike Thompson

ACOLYTES

Mar 3 – Routson Brothers (7:00)

Routson Brothers
SilverLyn Roth,

Mar. 10 – Adam August (7:00)

Thomas Leonard, Megan Peplinski

Mar. 17 – Adam August (7:00)

Adam August
Brandi Routson,

Mar 24 – Thomas Leonard (7:00)

Megan Peplinski

SOUND ROOM 8:00

Mar. 7 – Tim Roth
Mar. 14 – Dave Gerber
Mar. 21 – Tim Roth
Mar. 28 – Steve McClellan

SOUND ROOM 10:45

Wayne Dukes
Jerry Bryant
Todd Thompson
Steve Leopold

TRANSPORTATION

Jerry Bryant
Ken Wynkoop
Gary Taylor
Jerry Bryant



VISITOR RECOGNITION

Mar. 7 – McClellans
Mar. 14 – Rick & Susie Polder
Mar. 21 – Rick & Susie Polder
Mar. 28 – Forest & Kathy Rayle

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Community Dinner
Worship & Music
Endowment
Hanna Circle

ALTAR GUILD

Jim & Pam Bott
Susan Waltermeyer

COUNTERS

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick

RECYCLER

Cyndy Rotman



DEACONS

Tad Schell,
Sue DeMoss,
Ruth Wolery

USHERS 10:45

Dave Fleming
Daryl Rotman
Josh Leopold
Steve Leopold

USHERS 8:00

Jim & Pam Bott
Dave & Shirley Gerber

FLOWER DELIVERY

Jean & Ken Wynkoop

Note: Altar flowers
need to be delivered on
Friday before 2:00.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar. 7
Mar. 14
Mar. 21 – Traci Roth
Mar. 28 – Cyndy & Daryl Rotman



First Lutheran Church
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840
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www.1stlutheranchurch.org

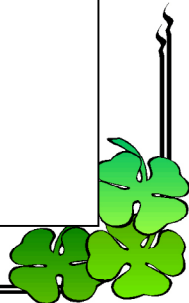
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Mailed March 2, 2010