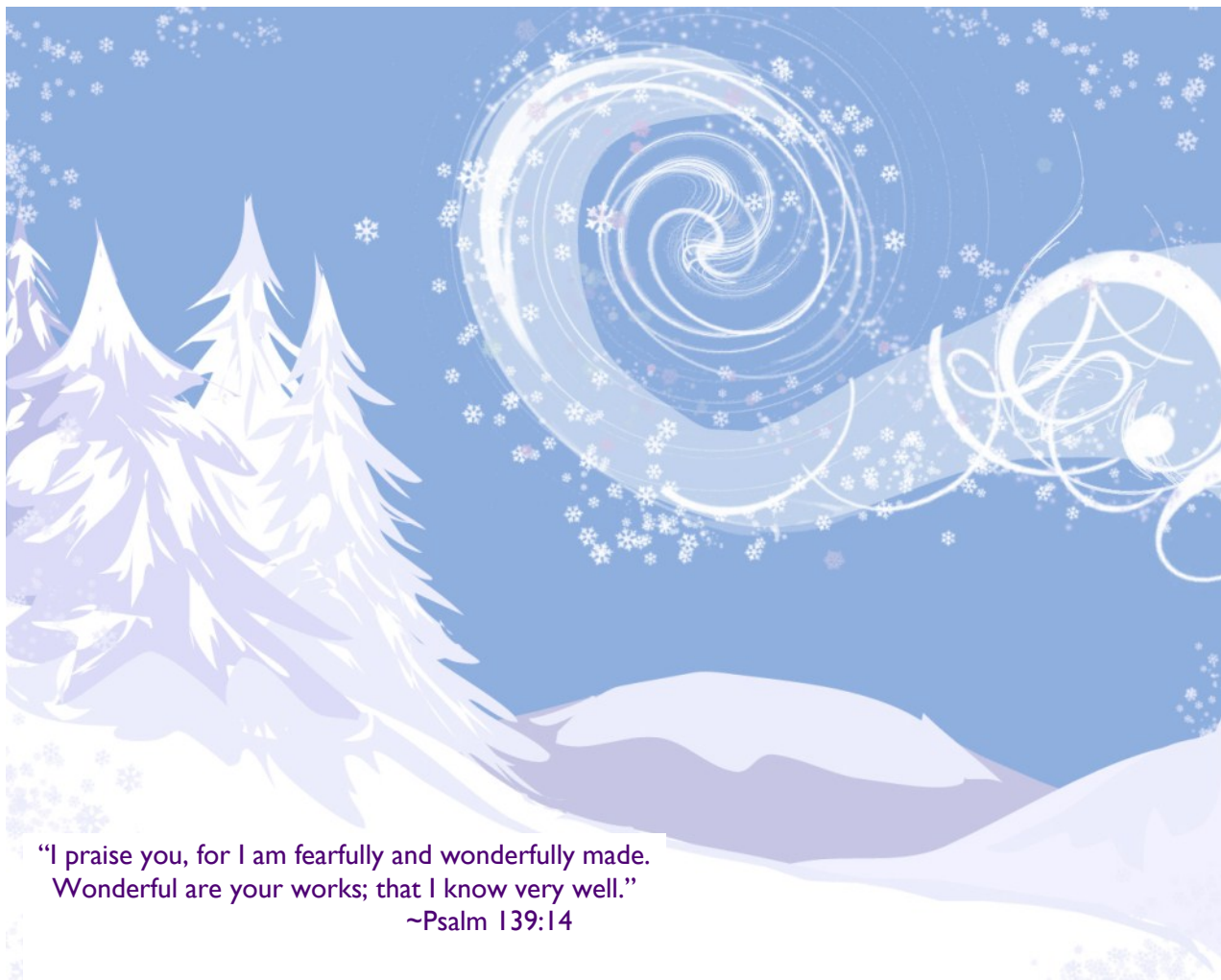


# *The First Word*

*First Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*January 2012*



*“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”*

*~Psalm 139:14*

*Rev. Robert C. Cochran, Sr. Pastor*

*Rev. Dr. Paul DeMoss, Assistant Pastor*



*In His Words*  
by Pastor Paul DeMoss

**“ARE YOU READY?”**

**Luke 1:28-33** <sup>28</sup>And he[an Angel of the Lord] came to her[Mary] and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”<sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

These are familiar words of Luke’s Christmas narrative. Sometimes I wonder if Mary ever thought, “Why am I so blessed? Why don’t you bless someone else?” When you stop and think what Mary endured, the ridicule of being pregnant and not married, giving birth in a stable, running and hiding in Egypt, and then after years away from family and friends returning home to Nazareth to see her son start His ministry and not provide for her. Yes I wonder if Mary thought, “Why am I so blessed?”

Are YOU ready? We move into a new year with all kinds of promise, hope, dreams and challenges, but are we ready for the way God wants to bless us and lead us closer in His service. God calls us to be His hands in the world today as we take care of the sick, the brokenhearted, free the captives, give sight to the blind, feed the hungry and bring the light of Christ into the darkest places. Are you ready for the challenge to be His Church?

In our Church Year, we go from *Christmas* on December 25 - to *The Name of Jesus* on January 1 - followed by *The Baptism of Jesus* on January 8 - and then on Jan. 15 we hear of *Jesus Beginning His Ministry* by calling His Disciples. Jesus calls us to follow Him. One of the hymns we will sing on January 15 is “*Here I Am, Send Me*”. The first time I sang that hymn it brought tears to my eyes. I have often said, “How can we sing the refrain and mean it without raising our hand and saying, ‘Here Lord, call on me!’?”

*“Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.”*

Are *YOU* ready?

~Pr. Paul DeMoss



*Sue and I want to thank you for all the gifts, cards and expressions of kindness extended to us. We pray God’s richest blessing to each and every one of you.*

# Christian Education

BLESSED NEW YEAR!



We are at a new year in a journey with our Lord! So where do we begin? Do we begin with new resolutions, goals, or a new turning point in your life?

We can look to scripture to help us understand what God has in store for us in this New Year.

One that comes to mind for me is found in [Lamentations 3:22-24](#):

*“God’s loyal love couldn’t have run out, his merciful love couldn’t have dried up.*

***They’re created new every morning.** How great your faithfulness!*

*I’m sticking with God (I say it over and over). He’s all I’ve got left.”* (Message Bible)

We have finished a year and are now beginning a new year with God’s love and mercy for us, new every morning! What a wonderful way to begin a new year, a new month, a new week and a new day, in his love and mercy!

In *Christian Education* at First Lutheran, we are planning new activities to help you grow closer to God. Last year I introduced different kinds of prayer and we will be having a prayer retreat here in February to start off the Lenten season (*a time of reflection*), so watch for a date and pray about participating.

The *Sunday School* classes will continue sharing their love with others through our Great Can Race for LSS. The kids have done a wonderful job in collecting cans and offerings (over 150 cans collected and over \$150.00 collected over the past three months. Praise God for their excitement to share with those who are in need. Our lessons in Sunday school for the children will again follow the lectionary series used in our worship services; as we begin the Book of Mark.

*Vacation Bible School* is on our minds as we are planning a sharing of VBS supplies with our neighboring churches that don’t have the funds to purchase supplies and curriculum. We will also be working with them in setting up our “VBS Train” again this year so we can offer VBS at various times and places throughout the summer for our community children.

God has really blessed me in serving you and I look forward to this *2012 year* in working with our CE team and all of you in faithfulness to God’s call. **Great is God’s faithfulness, which is new every morning!**

Thank you Ruth Whitaker for writing such a cute program for the Sunday, December 11th, 10:45 service! Many thanks to Sally Rice and Heather Nielsen for working with the Children’s Choir, and Laurie Adler and her Chime Choir. Kids, you did an amazing job! We were all moooo-ved by the birth of baby Jesus!



*Shalom,  
Ruth Whitaker*



## From the Library:

**Happy New Year** and **God bless** to all of you book lovers. 2011 was a good year for the library. Many books have been added to the shelves.

*Donated in the past month or so,  
in memory of Mary Curtis, include:*

From Rachel Circle:

[Heaven Is for Real: A Little Boys Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back](#)

by Todd Burpo

[This Time Together: Laughter and Reflection](#) by Carol Burnett

[Steve Jobs](#) by Walter Isaacson

[Someone to Watch Over Me](#), a CD by Susan Boyle



From Bob and Marlene Fields:

[Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope](#) by Gabrielle Giffords

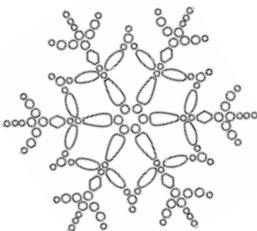
From Henrietta Hayes:

[The Color of Rain](#) by Michael Spehn

and [If You Ask Me: \(And of Course You Won't\)](#) by Betty White.

**Thank you** to all who have made these recent donations. **Thank you** as well to all who remember the library by your donations of money, books, and kind words. **Thank you** to those who donated books and magazines for those who visited the December Community dinner. Young and old alike enjoyed selecting treasures from the table and seemed to appreciate the power of books.

And while we are talking about book selections, the **Community Foundation** selected its novel for the *CommunityRead* here in Findlay: [Still Alice](#) by Lisa Genova. Apparently, the novel covers the descent of one woman into the whirl of Alzheimer's disease. The main character must explore who she is as her world keeps changing in the throes of the disease.





## BOOK CLUB

The members of the book club made selections for the coming year while we ate delightful holiday appetizers at Maria Schell's in December. **The book club meets the first Tuesday of every month in the church lounge at 7:00.** Join us. Those books chosen for the upcoming year are:

**January 3** we discuss *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett. The DVD of this book has just been released.

**February 7** *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. You may have been fortunate enough to see the movie for television shown many times over this past holiday.

**March 6** *The Chair* by James Rubart. Our main character is given a chair claimed to have been crafted by Jesus Christ. The chair has a mysterious power that many want to possess.

**April 3** *11/22/63* by Stephen King. The main character enters a portal to 1958 and attempts to prevent the assassination of John F. Kennedy. What a world to enter of the late 50's and early 60's. Interesting thought. And, I would start reading this one a little early - it has about 800 pages!

**May 1** *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. The author lets us walk with him along the Appalachian Trail in the midst of his adventures and misadventures.

**June 5** *Bitter in the Mouth* by Monique Truong. Linda, the main character, tastes words. Obviously, this difference figures prominently in the story.

**July 3** *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. This novel is all about flowers, the meanings assigned them from Victorian times and a woman who understands these meanings.

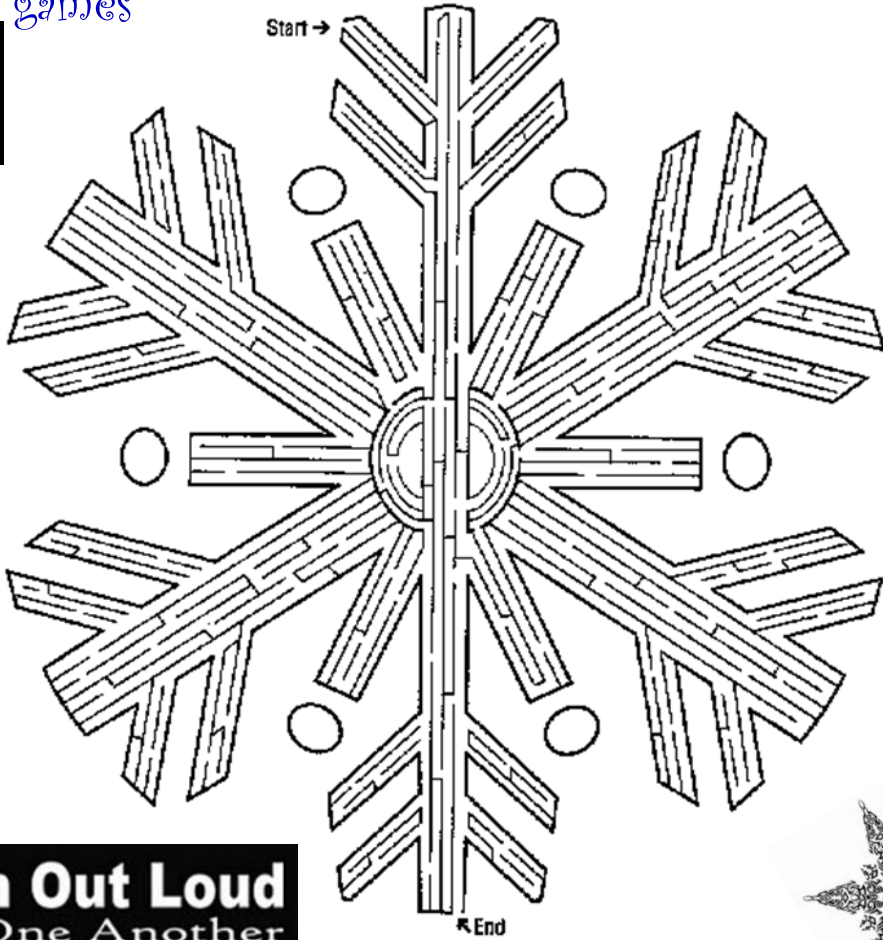
**August 7** *Every Secret Thing* by Laura Lipman. This book centers around love, murder, guilt, innocence, disappearing children and secrets.

And we are planning way ahead with *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxas. 624 pages!

God bless & keep reading, **Kathy Brooks** (Kbrooks@Lrbcg.com)

# AS WHITE AS SNOW


Fun and games



**Laugh Out Loud**  
Love One Another  
**KEEP YOUR PROMISES**  
**help others**  
PLEASE THANK YOU  
**Don't Whine** **SHARE**  
Work Hard  
**SAY I LOVE YOU**  
Be **GRATEFUL**  
use kind words  
always tell the **TRUTH**  
**Do Your Best**

**New Year Resolution** - (noun) a promise that you make to yourself to start doing something good or stop doing something bad on the first day of the year.

# -----Church Council-----

- ✦ 2012 Council Installation is on Sunday, 1/8/12, at both services.
- ✦ Council Retreat is at the NWOSynod offices on 1/14/12 at 9am.
- ✦ Jean Burk estate: approval of 3,816 to Endowment, 1,000 to Synod, and 2000 to Operations.
- ✦ Anything left over from end-of-year finances will contribute to Synod 10%.
- ✦ A grant is being researched for the Elevator project.
- ✦ Approval made to re-arrange Lounge for better traffic flow on Cookie Sundays.
- ✦ Kudos to the Youth Ministry and the Cajun Dinner!
- ✦ Approval of providing health insurance to full-time staff.
- ✦ An addition of a door is being made to the Youth Director's office to now accommodate for counseling.
- ✦ Approval of resignation from Council Members John Hasan and Joe Spoon,
- ✦ Approval of replacement Council Members to be Marilyn Dunn and Casey Cox (the next in line of election votes).
- ✦ No Potluck at January Congregational Meeting, 1/15/12.
- ✦ Annual Reports Due January 1, 2012. 
- ✦ Motion approved to accept Stanley and Shirley Phillips as members transferring into First Lutheran.

- ~from Thrivent with a check of \$653 for matching funds from the rummage sale.
- ~from Chopin Hall for \$750 from Benevolence.
- ~from Heifer International for \$135.74 (noisy offer-

**THE JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
will be held on  
**Sunday, January 15, 2012,**  
**after the 10:45 Service.**  
**AGENDA:**  
**\*Nominating Committee Election**  
**\*2011 Annual Report**  
**\*2012 Budget**

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee is a special committee identified in the First Lutheran Church Constitution. The members of this committee are responsible for contacting Church members and asking if they would be willing to be a nominee for a position to serve on Church Council (election held during November Congregational meeting) or to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee (election held during January Congregational Meeting). The term length as a member of this committee is one year. As you are contacted by this committee, please prayerfully consider your chance to serve in these positions here at First Lutheran Church.

**THANK YOU TO FIRST LUTHERAN....**

- ~5 letters from City Mission for the donation of food.
- ~2 letters from LSS for \$350 from Benevolence.
- ~3 letters from LSS for Food Pantry items.
- ~from Lutheran Home Society for \$122.08
- ~from NWOSynod for hosting the Bishop Fall Conf.
- ~2 letters from Redeemer, Toledo for offering gift.
- ~from Open Arms for pantry donation.
- ~from "Make a Difference" for the peanut butter and jelly.

## Capital Campaign and Committee


The Church Council has determined the need for a Capital Campaign here at First Lutheran Church, to address repairs to two items identified by the Property Committee. This Capital Campaign will raise money, for the repairs to these two items outside of our annual budget. The repairs are necessary to provide for the safety of our Church members and visitors using our Church property.

The first priority to be addressed is the elevator. The State of Ohio has mandated that all facilities with elevators using a single bottom cylinder, replace it with a double bottom cylinder. The Property Committee is

seeking bids for this replacement, and initial estimates on this repair are in excess of \$28,500. The second priority will be a project to re-grade and repave the asphalt portion of the parking lot, including paving where the old garage was.

A Capital Campaign Committee is being assembled to coordinate and oversee all activities associated with the Capital Campaign drive, and provide updates on the status of the drive to Church Council and the Church Congregation. If you are interested in being on the Committee, please contact Pastor Bob, Pastor Paul or Daryl Rotman. Thank you.



Women of the  
**ELCA**   
By Eileen Mains, President



**I pray for peace on earth and good will towards man.**

### Upcoming WELCA Events

Jan. 10 - Martha Circle: NO MEETING

Jan. 10 - 9:30 Rachel Circle: lounge

Jan. 16 - Hannah Circle: lounge

Jan. 29 - Cookie Sunday: Hannah Circle

**DRIVERS FOR SHUT-INS NEEDED.** Over the last six years, a very dedicated group of volunteers have made sure each Sunday our shut-ins, or people without transportation, have a way to church to worship God and continue to be part of the church family.

Due to a variety of circumstances, we need additional drivers. Please consider volunteering; it is a wonderful ministry, and for late service only. You would probably drive once every 2-3 months. To volunteer, or for more information, contact the pastors or Jerry Bryant, 419-422-0015.



## CHOPIN HALL SURVEYS A SAMPLING OF CLIENTS



S.O.C.I.A.L. M.I.N.I.S.T.R.Y.

Chopin Hall recently surveyed 212 clients, a small sampling of the 3,447 total client households. What services are still needed, and what programs might be able to connect them to assist with their current situations? Following are some of the responses to the survey.

### What Happened to Cause Your Need of Chopin's Services?

Job Loss—102  
Money Issue—27  
Disability—14  
Divorce/Separation—12  
Spouse Death—7  
Medical Bills—4  
Age—1  
Retired—1

### What Need of Yours is Not Being Met?

Personal care items—20  
Help with bills—16  
Job—14  
Food—12  
Transportation—11  
Clothing—3  
Help with Medical Bills—2

### What Could Be Done to Help You with Your Current Situation?

Job—33  
Transportation—22  
Job Training—14  
GED Help—11  
Counseling—7  
Clothes—1

### Highest Level of Education

High School Diploma—114  
Under 12 years—39  
Some college—22  
GED—11  
Bachelor's Degree—10  
Associates Degree—9  
Tech School—6

### Employment

Employed—57  
    Fulltime—24  
    Part time—33  
Un employed—46



**NO CAKES, NO SALADS, NO FRUIT?...**that is usually our request for the Community Dinner. However, we are in need of cold, hard cash. Our funds, which started out last year at approximately \$1,200 have been nearly depleted. We try to serve dinner each month for about one dollar per person. Of course, that is only possible because we do get cakes, salads, and fresh fruit (one of our hallmarks) from all of you. And we know many of you make cash donations because our expenses have been just over \$1,600 this year. Our numbers have increased since 2005 from just under 100 to close to 200 people served each month. We hope you will consider a cash donation marked for the Community Dinner this month and perhaps throughout the coming year. Thanks for your ongoing support.

The sign-up sheet for Jan. 1, 2012 is up (Happy New Year!) We will need cakes, salads, fruit, and volunteers serving and to clean up! We'll have you out by 1:30/2:00.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Roger Fry for donating a ham and a case of oranges to use at the Community Dinner.



9



www.cartoonists.com



# FIRST NEWS



**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!** To prepare for the slide show at the January Congregational Meeting, we are asking all committees to turn in their 2011 Annual Reports to the office by January 1st. Thanks!

**XTREME LASER TAG** All 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade students and friends of First Lutheran are invited to join St. Mark's students for unlimited laser tag and bounce room on Sunday, January 8, 7-9pm @ Pirate's Cove, 231 E. Front Street. Cost is \$10/person.

**PARENTING SEMINAR** Cooperation, Consequences, and Keeping Your Sanity, on Saturday, January 14 from 9 AM - 1 PM, at St. Marks UMC. This seminar is put on by the National Center for Biblical Parenting ([www.biblicalparenting.org](http://www.biblicalparenting.org)). For more information please contact: Michelle Shiparski, St. Marks UMC Children's Ministry Director, 419-422-4236, ext 24.

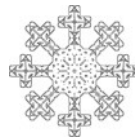
**COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM** On Saturday, January 21, the prayer team will host the fifth annual prayer gathering for national, state, and local elected officials who represent our community. The hour-long program will begin at 10am in Council Chambers on the first floor of Findlay's Municipal Building . We invite you and your congregation to join the elected officials and the intercessors who will be in attendance. This is a non-partisan, civic-minded, Christ-centered event organized for the purpose of seeking The LORD. The Community Prayer Team consists of Christians from various congregations within Hancock County who meet and pray for our community.

**LOOKING FOR 12 GOOD MEN**

Looking for 12 men that might be interested in taking a part in the **Last Supper Reenactment**, Maunday Thursday, April 5th, 2012. Anyone interested in helping out please call Steve and Traci Roth at 419-424-3287, or email at [dragonroth@woh.rr.com](mailto:dragonroth@woh.rr.com)

**CHRISTMAS "DE-DECORATING"** Plan to join us on Saturday, January 7, at 9:00 A.M. to remove our Christmas decorations. This operation should take less time, as we do not need to prep any of the wreaths or garlands. Come join the fun!

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SUNDAY** If you wish to be baptized or to have your child baptized on "Baptism of Our Lord Sunday" (January 8), please contact Pastor Bob or Pastor Paul. We will also have an opportunity to celebrate First Communion on that day.



Food cart requests for January are canned meat products, cereal, & boxed potato mixes.



# January

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### GREETERS

Jan 1

9:00 - Toni Poling

Jan 8

8:15 - Cloyce & Janet Baker

10:45 - Kids of the Kingdom

Jan 15

8:15 - Mike, Traci, & Adam August

10:45 - Amy Masterlasco

Jan 22

8:15 - Jason & Crystal Clark

10:45 - Jack & Nancy Meek

Jan 29

8:15 - Sue DeMoss, Shirley Ruehle

10:45 - Richard & Mary Kondik



### LECTORS

Nina Dukes

Acolyte

Acolyte

Adam August

Ruth Whitaker

Jason Clark

Cindy Fitzpatrick

Tad Schell

Mike Thompson

### ACOLYTES

Ryan Buck, Taylor Brown

Kyle Nunn

Zach Short, Jacob McCutcheon

Taylor Brown

Falkyn Roth, Anthony Masterlasco

Brooke Peplinski, Noah Routson

Justin Shanahan, Patrick Breen

Alex VonStein, Taylor Brown

Jakeb Neiling, Abigail McDaniel

### SOUND ROOM (early service)

Jan 1 (9:00)- Adam August

Jan 8 - Dave Gerber

Jan 15 - Tim Roth

Jan 22 - Adam August

Jan 29 - Tim Roth

### SOUND (late service)

Jerry Bryant

Todd Thompson

Building Manager

Jerry Bryant

### TRANSPORTATION

Jerry Bryant

Norm Roessing

Ken Wynkoop

Daryl Rotman

Jerry Bryant



### COMMUNION BREAD

Jan 1 - Toni Poling

Jan 8 - Ruth Wolery

Jan 15 - Heather Westrick

Jan 22 - Susan Waltermeyer

Jan 29 - Beth Bonnoront

### ALTAR GUILD

Pam Basinger, Ruth Wolery

### DEACONS

Jerry Bryant, Sue DeMoss, Eileen Mains, Paul & Sarah Neal

### COUNTERS

Tom & Pam Basinger

### USHERS 8:15

Jim & Pam Bott,  
Tim & Nora Cochran

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Karen Rose

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

### COOKIE SUNDAY

Jan 1 - No Cookies: Community  
Dinner

Jan 8 - Worship & Music

Jan 15 - Youth Ministry

Jan 22 - Christian Education

Jan 29 - Hannah Circle



### ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan 1-

Jan 8 - Beulah & Clair Bishop

Jan 15 -

Jan 22 -

Jan 29 -

Please  
sign up  
for  
flowers



First Lutheran Church  
 109 E. Lincoln Street  
 Findlay, OH 45840  
 419-422-2638  
[www.1stlutheranchurch.org](http://www.1stlutheranchurch.org)

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 closer to God"



Return Service Requested



### At A Glance

- Pg 2 In Paul's Words
- Pg 3 Christian Education
- Pg 4 From the Library
- Pg 5 Book Club
- Pg 6 Fun & Games
- Pg 7 Council
- Pg 8 WELCA
- Pg 9 Social Ministry
- Pg 10 First News & Events
- Pg 11 January Worship Assistants

**February Newsletter Deadline**  
 Monday, January 23, at noon

**Weekly Bulletin Deadline**  
 Wednesday mornings

This newsletter was mailed:  
 December 28, 2011