

THE RECORDER

First Lutheran Church ~ Phone: 937-323-9703

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Dear Sisters and Brothers at First Lutheran Church,

As you all know, the window in the pastor's office here at First Lutheran, has a view across Wittenberg Avenue to an empty lot. I am told that in prior times, the Crowell Collier Building stood where the empty lot now exists. Since I prefer natural light whenever I am indoors, I keep the curtains drawn, so I see the empty lot whenever I am in my office. It is a pleasant and interesting view, for a downtown area.

After yesterday's congregational meeting about the 2022 church budget, and then church council meeting, I have been thinking about how First Lutheran is moving forward while facing many challenges. This morning when I arrived in my office, I opened the curtains and saw that the sun was shining on the empty lot across the street. So, when I began to write this message, my mind, and heart was drawn to scripture. Specifically, I thought about Luke 12:22-32 and Matthew 6:23-33.

The work facing First Lutheran in the near and not so distant future is difficult, but exciting. Beyond the budget for 2022, First Lutheran searching for a new pastor. The search is a challenge, but I believe it is also a blessing. I encourage every member of First Lutheran to seek the blessing amid the challenge. The first step in seeking and seeing the blessing is to actively pray for the members of the call committee as they begin their work. We should also pray for patience and with thanksgiving as the Holy Spirit of God prepares and guides a new pastor to serve here at First Lutheran. Even though at this time we do not know who that person will be, God does.

Both the Matthew and Luke texts I shared above cause me to reflect upon how I am facing the opportunities, challenges, and blessings of each new day in the life, ministry, and mission of First Lutheran Church. The texts talk about clothing, food, barns, lilies, birds, and ask all followers of Jesus difficult faith questions. In many ways, our faith life is like the empty lot across the street. What once was, is no more. What will come next has not been determined.

As we journey now through Advent let me close with a verse from one of the texts. If you want to know if it is from Matthew or Luke, you will have to look it up.

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

Pastor S.

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Letters, we get letters.....

To Our Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

Our family wants to convey our most sincere thank you for all the cards, words of encouragement, prayer shawls and hugs from you all. The reception after the service was perfect. It means so much to us.

We know how important it was to Richard to get to church. For making sure this happened, we thank Rob Tuttle

Peace and love, Richard Armatrout's family

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

will be:

7:00 p.m. Special Music

7:30 Candlelight Service

with Holy
Communion.

Thanks!



WE MOURN THE PASSING OF

Richard Armatrout on November 11. He was a devoted long-time member who will be greatly missed.

Our prayers are with his family and friends.



**First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday November 14, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Nancy Rix, Vice President, Dot Thomas, Secretary, Catharine Fails, Treasurer, Roger Sherrock, Assistant Treasurer, Gail Smith, Parish Administrator, Adele Siegel, Debbie Baker, Pat Bowen, Kathy Siegel, Jane Switzer, Jim Ingling, and Pastor Gil Santiago

MEMBERS ABSENT: Evan Erickson, Michael Koon, Robby Pollock, and Patrick Reynolds

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Nancy Rix 12:18 p.m.

DEVOTIONS: Debbie Baker

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Thomas/Smith moved to accept the minutes with correction of start not state in the worship section of the October 17, 2021 minutes

TREASURER'S REPORT: The PPE 2021 loan of \$24,505.00 has been forgiven as of November 2, 2021. Since this loan has been forgiven, the money will now move to non-budgeted income. A motion was made by Thomas/Fails to reduce the amount of soloist money proposed in the upcoming yearly budget from \$5,700.00 to \$2,000.00. Motion Carried. Thomas/Smith moved that we change the line item of Landscaping in the proposed budget from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00. Motion Carried. Thomas/Seigel moved for the approval of the revised budget. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Nothing to report

PASTOR'S REPORT: Received a letter dated October 28, 2021 from Janet (Wetherspoon) Boyd the sister of Mary Beard. In this letter she sent a check of \$150.00 in memory of her sister who was a member of the Alter Guild. The Pastor will be gone on two upcoming Sundays: January 31, 2022 he will be in Florida, and March 20, 2022 he will be in Puerto Rico. Weekly Bible Study will at 9:30 a.m. beginning November 28, 2021. Pastor started doing visitations and home visits and is looking forward to doing more.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Educations: No report

Fellowship: No report

Finance: See treasure's report

Outreach: no report

Personnel: No report

Property: Decided not to hang the stained-glass window that is in the Wittenberg Room in the outside space behind the bench. Place for hanging this window has yet to be decided. We have gotten an estimate to fix the loose board on the Steeple. The one estimate that we have on hand was for \$5,200.00. There is another one but we are waiting to get it in writing. The church service time on the outside of the church needs to be changed.

Service: Will still be collecting for Oesterlen through Thanksgiving. The Bake Sale and Christmas Bazaar will be held December 5, 2021. There will be no charge just a free-will offering with proceeds going for Christmas Baskets in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank and Saint Vincent DePaul. Will be starting the collection of mittens, gloves, scarfs, etc. on the Mitten Tree. The tree will be set up on Sunday November 21, 2021 during Hanging of the Green. Bonnie Yeager will make sure that cookie will get to the shut-ins.

Stewardship: No report

Technology: Still working on getting the microphones working. We have enough working microphones to get us through Christmas. Our web page needs to be updated.

Worship: No report

Youth: No report

OLD BUSINESS: The changing of the Church Service time from 10:30 a.m. The general consensus is that it should remain at 10:30 a.m. The issue with the Rainbow Table has been solve with the hiring of a person who will be known as the Chef. Sunday will be the Hanging of the Green. There will be lunch provided

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion of a request from the United Senior Service to possibly use the Wittenberg Room as an Adult Day-Care.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPEN SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT: Thomas/Ingling move for adjournment. Motion Carried

Next Regular Church Council will take place on Sunday December 19, 2021

Respectfully Submitted, Catharine Fails

News From The Service Committee

We have many opportunities to share this fall and winter.

Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale – Sunday, December 5

This year we are trying something different. We are asking you to donate baked goods, including Christmas cookies and pies, to sell to the congregation on Sunday, December 5. It's an opportunity to stock up for the holidays. We have received a Thrivent grant to buy supplies. Please let a member of the service committee know if you want us to get non-perishable baking supplies for your recipe.

We will also take cookies to our congregation's shut-in members. We'll have a sign-up sheet if you would like to drop some off.

Separate from the bake sale, we will have several tables of Christmas decorations and housewares available at no charge. Take whatever and as much as you can use. We will accept free will offerings.

All proceeds raised will go toward filling Christmas baskets for the hungry of Clark County. We are partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul.

Collection for Oesterlen Family Services

Thank you for the many donations already received for the children using Oesterlen family services. With Thrivent grant money, we have been able to purchase additional items on their wish list. Through Thanksgiving we will continue to collect items in memory of long-time service committee member, Don Pyles, who volunteered at Oesterlen. Please bring donations to the pink bin in the Fellowship hall or the table in the basement.

Oesterlen's Wish List

Art supplies such as sketch paper, acrylic paint (colors – white, blue, red, yellow), paint brushes (various sizes), colorful yarn, sidewalk chalk, drawing paper, craft kits, colored pencils, markers, construction paper, journals, poster board, paint-by-numbers sets, assorted buttons, feathers, sequins and glitter, model car kits, stencils, stickers; bath towels and wash cloths; stick deodorant (the boys prefer Axe and the girls prefer Dove); diapers (for babies and toddlers) and wipes; basketballs, footballs, playground balls, soccer balls; garden hand tools; wood-working tools; decks of playing cards, card games such as Uno or Skip-Bo, assorted board games, coloring books, word search/activity books, sets of plastic animals, Hot Wheels cars, Lego sets, and chess sets.

Mitten Tree

The wooden tree will return to Wittenberg Hall soon for donations of mittens, hats, scarves, sweatshirts, and also socks (adult and children's sizes). We've learned that adult clients of local food banks often need white cotton socks. You will have the opportunity to donate through January or longer. We will distribute these items locally to children in need at local elementary schools, at Rocking Horse, the Springfield Soup Kitchen, and other appropriate charities. Thank you for sharing the gift of warmth!

Non-Perishable Food Drive

For the next several months we will collect non-perishable items such as cereal, peanut butter, canned fruit and vegetables, and soup to give to the local food pantries.

Please pick up something extra the next time you go to the grocery and place it in the pink bin in Wittenberg Hall or in the red wagon near the front door. We will share items with the local food banks. Thank you for reducing hunger in our community!

THERE ARE SIGN UP SHEETS IN WITTENBERG HALL FOR

Readers, Head Ushers and Lay Servers. We need readers and Lay Server. Please look and see where you would be able to assist in our Worship Services. *Thanks!*

WE HAVE STARTED USING THE ONE-CALL SYSTEM

Should you receive a call from: 877-698-3261, it is an automated call with an announcement or Bible reading by Pastor Santiago. There is, also, a Friday message regarding the upcoming Sunday. *Stay tuned.....*

THERE ARE THE FREE MAGAZINES

under the bulletin board in Wittenberg Hall. Please give them a look and take some if they interest you.

Thanks!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The ALTAR GUILD will be decorating the church for Christmas. The poinsettias have traditionally been given in memory or honor of loved ones. If you wish to provide one or more plants, please use the form below. Place the form with your payment in the offering plate or mail to:

Nancy Rix
2524 Fox Hollow Road
Springfield, Ohio 45502

FINAL DATE FOR ORDERS: DECEMBER 13, 2021

COST: \$8.50 per 6" pot

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ALTAR GUILD.

Please reserve _____ POINSETTIA (S)

_____ in memory of _____

Donor name _____

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

12/5	Malachi 3:1-4	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
12/12	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
12/19	Micah 5:2-5a	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55
12/26	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52



CLOSING OF 2021 BOOKS

We will be closing the 2021 books January 10, 2022. Any offerings received after this date will be applied to 2022, unless otherwise indicated. *Thanks!*

ON-LINE GIVING

You can, now, donate to the church through our website. Your giving is an act of worship and makes possible the ministry of changing lives, transforming communities, and renewing the church. Giving is a spiritual thing that we do. When we decide, even in times of stress and tension, that we will be generous, we rely on God. And we say, "God has given to us. God will give again." And, that generosity as the parable teaches us, gives us courage and it actually multiplies. So, as you do this, you do this in a holy space that we share even in the times in the midst of stress, and that God is there with us in our generosity. If you have questions, please call the church office (937.323.9703)

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS: **President,** Nancy Rix, **Vice-President,** Dot Thomas, **Secretary,** Cathy Fails, **Treasurer,** Roger Sherrock, **Assistant Treasurer** Gail Smith

MEMBERS:

Term Expires 2022

Pat Bowen
Evan Erickson
Jim Ingling
Robby Pollock*

Term Expires 2023

Jane Switzer*
Heath Queen*
Debra Baker
Catherine Fails
Patrick Reynolds

Term Expires 2024

Nancy Rix
Kathy Siegel*
Gail Smith
Dot Thomas
*Second 3-year term

DECEMBER 2021



First Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	1 Noon Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service	2	3	4
5 Communion/ Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 In-Person Worship Service	6	7	8 Noon Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service	9	10	11
12 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 In-Person Worship Service 11:30 Council mtg	13	14	15 Noon Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service	16	17 9:30 Sewing Group	18
19 Communion/ Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 In-Person Worship Service	20	21	22 Noon Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 Special Music 7:30 Worship Service	25
26 First Sunday of Christmas 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 In-Person Worship Service	27 Office Closed	28	28	29	30 Office Closed	31

December 2021

Happy Birthday!

*Keeping you in prayer,
May the grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with your spirit, brothers
and sisters. Amen (Gal. 6:18)*



- 4 Andrea Christian Garnett
- 5 Melissa Tuttle Simmons
- 6 John Deibel
- 12 Mary Nave
- 15 Brad Maiolo
- 16 David Kaiser
- 17 Jim Christian
Erin Taylor Bodenstab
Sarah Taylor
Dot Thomas
- 18 Marty Billing

- 21 Thomas Tuttle
Timothy Wayne Tuttle
- 23 Sally Smit
- 25 **Jesus Christ**
Tim Bennett
Mary Larson
Mikaela Thomas
- 28 Stephanie Angle
- 29 Katherine Kaiser
- 31 Kaitlyn Harger
Stephanie West



Happy Anniversary



20 Robert & Susan Tuttle

22 Adrian & Pat Bowen

21 Jeremy & Pam Achenbach
Covert

Jim & Pat Updegraff

