

First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore Street Tiffin, Ohio

October—November 2026

"God is among us!"

"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile, and trust God for all that we need."

As we say goodbye to the warm days of summer and welcome the beautiful season of fall, our church calendar is filling up with so many exciting events, activities, and opportunities for fellowship! With so much happening in the life of our church, this month's newsletter is a little extra big to make sure everyone stays informed and doesn't miss out on all the wonderful things coming up. Be sure to take some time to read through it, mark your calendars, and join us whenever you can. We are so blessed to be part of a church family that stays busy serving, growing, and coming together in faith. Here's to a wonderful fall season filled with fellowship, blessings, and many opportunities to share God's love!

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT - LINDA WARREN

October is Pastor Appreciation month. Pastor Appreciation Day is Oct. 11 this year. The day is the second Sunday in October. Pastor Appreciation month was started in 1992 to honor the constant work and spiritual weight carried by clergy members. The purpose of pastor appreciation is to honor, encourage, and acknowledge the hard work, sacrifices, and spiritual leadership of church leaders. This is an unofficial observance celebrated annually.

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT - LINDA WARREN

To show appreciation for a pastor, handwritten cards with words of encouragement, gift cards, and home-cooked meals are appreciated, depending on the pastor's circumstances. The congregation may also pray for the pastor or honor them during the Sunday service. A nice and meaningful gift is a practical gift card paired with a heartfelt, handwritten note from the congregation.

One of the best scriptures for Pastor Appreciation Day comes from Jeremiah 3:15 because it honors God's provision of a dedicated spiritual leader: *"Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."*

The New Testament used 3 interchangeable words to describe the single office and role of a pastor: shepherd, elder, and overseer (or bishop). These terms highlight different qualities but they refer to the exact same job description.

I find it interesting that we have Halloween at the end of October, when we honor our pastors. Look for ghosts, or the Holy Ghost, to come to your door with various specters and disguises. Have a great month! God Bless!

In Love, Peace and Harmony: Wishing you Love to Lighten your Heart:

Wishing you Peace to Soothe your Spirit: Wishing you Harmony to Fill your life with Happiness.

Linda Warren

PASTOR APPRECIATION

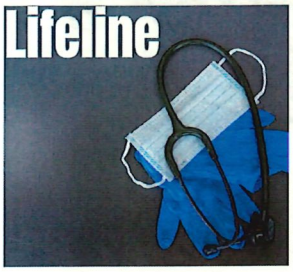
Thank you to

Pastor Schuring, Minister Rick Greene

Pastor Dittman, Pastor Schultz, Pastor Giese,
Pastor McQuistion, Pastor Wittenmeyer,
Pastor Michaels, Pastor Melanie Haack
(Also special thanks to Curtis L. King
for preparing the service for us each Sunday.)

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER



Register now to check the health of your arteries.

To register please call 888-814-0466 or go to

https://llsa.social/HC

Life Line Screening

will be here

Thursday

December 3, 2026

9a-5:30p

in the

Fellowship Hall.

FISH FOOD PANTRY

Has been providing food assistance to persons in Seneca County since 1972

The Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

You must call to make an appointment at

419 448-0690

If you have questions or interested in volunteering,

Please contact Catherine Gase at 419 618-7724

WEST OHIO FOOD BANK

Will be here

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Thursday, November 19, 2026
Thursday, December 17th

(Note 1 week earlier due to holidays)



Food Distribution begins at 1pm and continues until food is gone.

If you or someone you know s in need of food assistance please share the invitation to come and let the WOFB help fill their food pantries.

For more information call

FISH of Tiffin at 419 618-7724

Or

E-mail Catherine Gase at csgase@gmail.com

Application forms can be obtained on the Church Office Bulletin Board

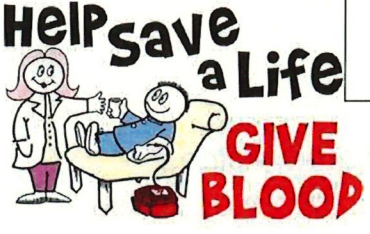
RED CROSS BLOOD MOBILE

Next date

October 12, 2026

12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: 1Lutheran



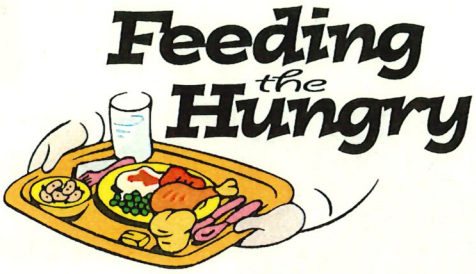


Upcoming Church Events

Next dates for

Sharing Kitchen

October 12th &15th.



Two volunteers are needed to arrive at 10:30a to help prep.

Four volunteers are asked to arrive at 11:00a to help serve.

All volunteers are asked to stay through clean up.

A sign up sheet is on the table in the Lobby. IF you have any question feel free to contact Deb Nominee.

Current Projects

The Tiffin-Seneca Public library is putting together a special community cookbook in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. They have invited us to contribute recipes and food traditions from our congregation.

The commemorative cookbook, which will be published and distributed in 2027, will highlight the recipes, traditions and memories that make Tiffin and Seneca County community special.

They are looking for favorite family recipes, recipes passed down through generations, local favorites, holiday traditions, church recipes, or any recipe that has a special story or connection to our community.

Everyone who submits a recipe will receive a copy of the cookbook when it is published in 2027. They would like all recipes to be submitted by the end of October.

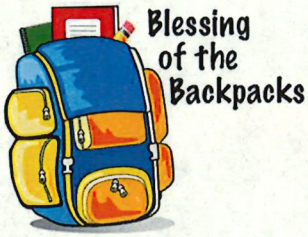
Recipes can be submitted in any of the following

- Bring a copy to the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library. We can photocopy original recipes.
- Submit a recipe through our online form here: https://forms.gle/6Hq4o6Mp9puLTbQs5
- Email a scanned or typed recipe to tiffinlibrary@tiffinsenecalibrary.org.

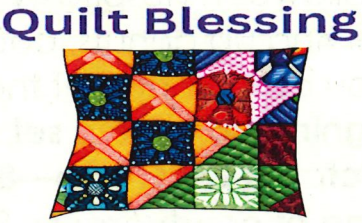
Upcoming Church Events

Blessing of Quilts & Backpacks

With grateful hearts, we bless these backpacks and quilts prepared for Lutheran World Relief.
May each one carry the love and prayers of our congregation to someone in need, reminding them that they are not alone and are held in God's care.



October 4, 2026



ALTAR FLOWERS—OCTOBER

October 4th:

In celebration of

Larry & Bonnie Frankenfeld's

70th wedding anniversary.

Given by: Gloria, Cindy, Beth, Jeff, Bret, Travis, Justin, Lauren, Emily, Stewie, Bella, Clay, Chet, Brooke, Clara, Aubrey, Jace & Kael.

October 18th:

In celebration of

Ron & Judy May's

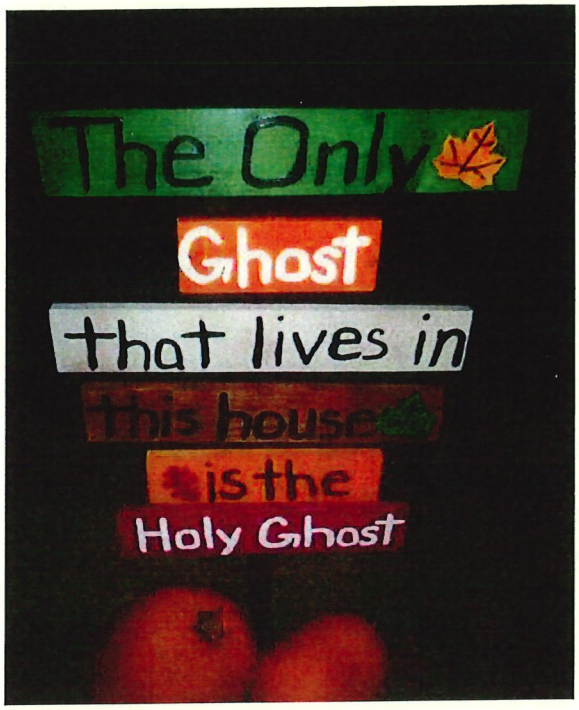
66th wedding anniversary

Given by: The May Family

Altar Flowers

HALLOWEEN HOSPITALITY

It's Fall, which means it's almost time for our Trick-or-Treat hand out. We always look forward to welcoming our neighbors at our Halloween Hospitality tables. We'll be serving up donuts, cocoa, cider and candy. You can be part of the fun too, either by **signing up to help set up and serve on October 25th (4pm—8pm)or by donating a bag of candy/treats.** Sign up sheets and donation baskets are located in the Lobby.



REFORMATION Sunday

October 25th

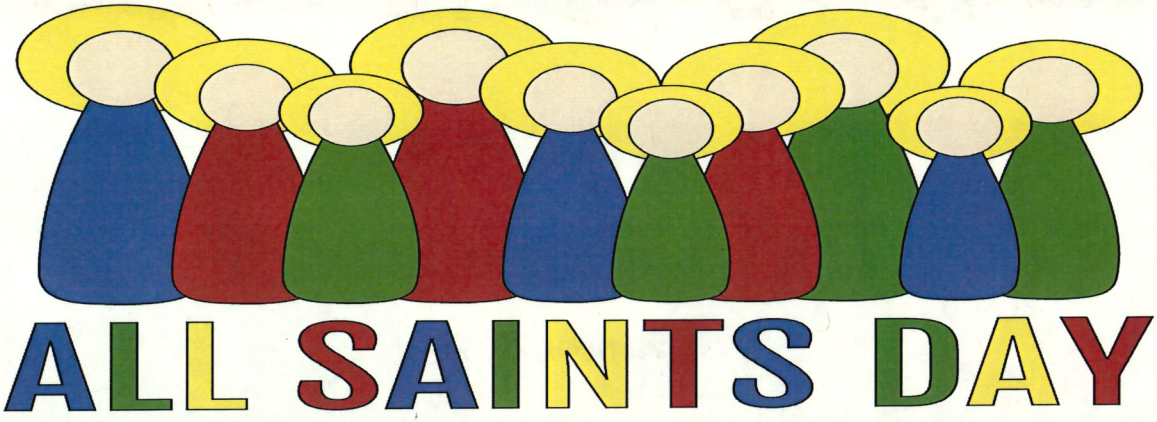
WEAR

RED

Heidelberg Community Choir Concert

November 7th

ALL SAINTS DAY—NOVEMBER 1ST



As a people of God, we celebrate *All Saints Day* on November 1st.
It is an important day in the life and ministry of the church
as we recall the names of those who have been
received into the arms of Christ throughout this past year.
We have invited the families of

Matt Guisinger

Bev Wheatley

Phil Engle

Jean Covert

Jim Ruess

To join us and be part of the opening procession
and place a rose in the vase by the altar.

We also engrave a memorial stone with each person's name
which will be placed in our memorial garden
by the front door entrance.

If you know of any family members or friends who would like to attend this celebration, please extend an invitation.
We would love to have them.

NOVEMBER

Tuba Christmas!

November 29, 2026

This will be Heidelberg's 53rd year for this wonderful event.

All are welcome to participate either in the audience as a listener or as a tuba player. If participating, registration is $15.00 starting at 2 p.m. with rehearsal to follow at 3 p.m. The performance will begin at 4 p.m.

Admission is free for those who want to watch and enjoy the merriment from the audience.



Information on the Thanksgiving Baskets will be announced at a later date.

BOUNTIFUL FEAST

This year's Bountiful Feast will be held after worship on Sunday **November 22th**.

It will be a dine-in only meal. Turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy and drinks will be provided.

Members are asked to sign up to provide desserts. Sign-up sheets for what you can bring is located on The Information Board.

Decorating for Christmas will occur after the meal.



November will soon be here and shortly we will be celebrating Veteran's Day.
We have a list and it is posted on the information bulletin board.
But we are asking if you would kindly review this list for any corrections or additions.
We are also interested in developing a list of currently serving members
or family members of our church.

Information Update form is located on the top of the board.

Pictures would be a great addition to this.

Please contact the office for more information at 419 447 1323 or 419 934 3023.
You can also e-mail the information at firstlutherantiffin@gmail.
Thank you and help us celebrate these people for their committment and sacrifice.

Thank you, Veteran's Committee

ADVENT SEASON BEGINS NOVEMBER 29TH



Week	Mower	
10/01	John Kobelt	
10/08	Rick Nominee	
10/15		
10/22	Pete Myers	
10/29	John Kobelt	
11/05	Rick Nominee	
11/12		



Bells of Praise :

Practice every Monday at 5:15 PM



YES, It's time to start thinking about SNOW REMOVAL!!
Anyone interested in helping shoveling the side walks the shovel and salt will be located inside the doorways.

Scheduled Meetings

These groups meet every month on the same day and time

Council: every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM

Piece Corp: every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00AM

Bookworms: every 3rd Monday of the month at 1:30PM

Food Bank: every 4th Thursday at 1:00PM

Worship & Music: every 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM

Property Committee: every 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 PM

Childhood Ministry: Monthly—dates will vary

These groups meet every week on the same day and time

Bell Choir Practice: every Monday at 5:15 PM (on hold)

Bible Study: every Monday at 10:00 AM at the Willows

Women's Bible Study: every Thursday at 7:00 PM (location will vary)

Please feel free to attend anyone of these meetings

Toledo Symphany Orchestra

RETURNS!!

December 15th
More Info to
Be announced

BOOKWORMS ANONYMOUS

Our Bookworms will continue to gather the 3rd Monday of the month at 1:30 pm in the Church Library. Everyone who loves a good book is welcome to attend. If you would like more information, contact Diane Greene.

October 19:

In Order to Live:

A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom

By Maryanne Vollers & Yeonmi Park

November 16:

The Christmas Pearl by Dorothea Benton Frank

December 21, 2026

Christmas Party



PIECE CORP

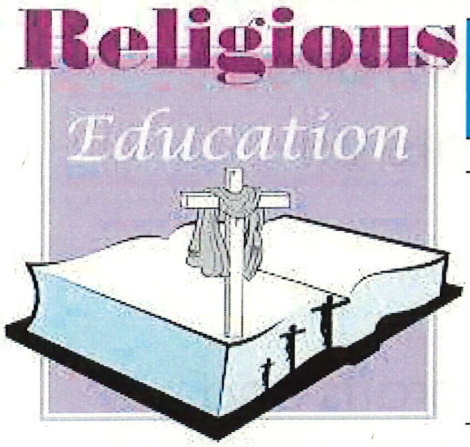


QUILTING GROUP

The Piece Corp continues to meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9 am.

Next meetings will be -

- October 14
- November 11
- December 9



CATECHISM CLASSES

Any 6th, 7th or 8th grader or adult who is interested in attending catechism classes this fall, please contact the office or

Rick Greene at 419-937-7378

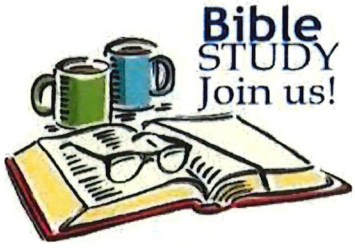
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School class has resumed and is held every Sunday during the service.

Please contact Diane Greene for more information



BIBLE STUDY



Monday Morning Bible Study is scheduled for 10a.m. at the Willows with Pastor Schuring.

Everyone is welcome.

GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES! - OCTOBER

Families:

It has been a wonderful, bustling week in our preschool classroom as our little learners dive headfirst into the beauty of the autumn season. Our teachers have created an engaging, hands-on experience. This week they spoke about fall and leaves. Children used sponges and paint to make a tree with all of its colorful foliage. Next week, they will cover apples, scarecrows, and woodland creatures. Ms. Leslie will create an apple volcano science project.

School-agers have begun to focus on crafts and games. I am looking to add more curriculum into school-agers afternoon with First Lutheran.

Thank you all for your prayers, love, and support.

GREETINGS FROM CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES! - OCTOBER

New Faces at Preschool & Extended Care



MaKaylah Herbert is a Teacher's Aide and started with us back in July.

She is an Old Fort graduate who has been thinking up some really fun hands-on and large motor activities for the kids to do after school.



Grace Gibson was hired in early September to assist Leslie as a Teacher's Aid in the Preschool Room.. She is a Columbian graduate and doing a fantastic job. She is very involved with the learning.



Jackie Webb,

Director,
FLEC/Extended Care

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October BIRTHDAYS

10/2	Andrew Crerar
10/4	Brendon Blott
10/9	Tom Stine
10/9	Linda Warren
10/12	Pat Eckelberry
10/12	Richard Phares
10/14	Renee Wise
10/15	Clay Stacy
10/17	Sharon Losey
10/17	Jeff Smith
10/18	Karri Hagen, K
10/21	Theodore Schulz
10/22	Judy Hofmann
10/22	Dave Pauly
10/25	Reese Hoover
10/25	Kayley Hossler
10/25	Alixandra Woessner
10/28	Eleanor Cole
10/30	Genna Reis-Kelly



November BIRTHDAYS

11/3	Zachary Shawberry
	Aaron Wildman
11/4	Vicki Clouse
11/5	Julie Garlock
	Allison Sallee
	Gloria Stacy
11/6	Herb McClellan
11/9	Janice Nord
	Harrison Widman
11/13	Janet Zirger
11/15	Ron Guisinger
11/17	Claire Groves
11/19	Doug Rathburn
11/21	Heather Sallee
	Charles Schrenk III
11/22	Dave Weickert
11/25	Gregg Cole
	Racquelle Kelly
	David Lather
11/29	Jackson Hohman

December BIRTHDAYS

3	John Hoyda
	Frances Smith
	Jennifer Martinez
6	Amy Mills
7	Kim Kontak
11	Carol Bhagat
	Allison Meyer
	Shawn Vallery
12	Amanda Wildman
13	Gavan Reis-Kelly
15	Carter Groves
19	Beth Margraf
20	Jonathan Nominee
21	Andrew Porter
24	Nilam Bhagat
25	Renee Meyers
27	James Bosse
	Donald May
31	Ross Pauley

Please let the office know if there are any updates to our birthday list.

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

I

Ways to attend church

in-person,
on the radio @93.3 FM,
Facebook (firstlutherantiffin)

The bulletin can be viewed each week
On the church web site.
It can be downloaded and
Printed to follow along with the service

It is also e-mailed to members usually on the Wednesday or Thursday before the Sunday.

If you aren't receiving this e-mail please let the office know and we can add your e-mail to the list.

Missed a Sunday? No Problem!
Past weeks bulletins are located on the pew near the chapel

FINANCIAL REPORT

	AUGUST	YTD
First Lutheran Church		
Income	$7,779.04	$85,596.19
Expense	$23,051.73	$152,965.80
Church Summary	**-$15,272.69**	**-$67,369.61**
First Lutheran Pre-School		
Income	$14,205.53	$84,218.61
Expense	$10,544.60	$80,314.09
School Summary	**$3,660.93**	**$3,904.52**
Combined Summary		
Income	$21,984.57	$169,814.80
Expenses	$33,596.33	$233,279.89
Total Summary	**-$11,611.76**	**-$63,465.09**

Checking Account balance 08/31/2026 $34,558.40

Investment balance 07/31/2026 $501,164.29

Total Church Operating budget for 2026 is $204,200. $3,927 is needed weekly to cover operating expenses and the weekly offerings have averaged $2,168.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like the congregation to pray for someone during the Prayers of Intersession, please raise your hand during the announcements (or take a card while picking up the bulletin) and the hosts will give you a card to write their name on. It will be collected at the end of announcements.

This is only done that same Sunday, so it will need to be repeated every week



WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR OCTOBER

SUNDAY	READER	HOST	FACE BOOK OPERATOR	WORSHIP ASSIST	PASTOR
10/04/2026	Shelley Ross	Judy Kimmel	Rosses	Shelley Ross	Minister Rick Greene
10/11/2026	Melissa Chester	Janet Zirger	Nominees	Melissa Chester	Pastor Mark Schuring
10/18/2026	Mike Oberlander		Rosses	Rick Greene	Pastor Roger McQuistion
10/25/2026	Shelley Ross			Shelley Ross	Pastor Mark Schuring
ALTAR GUILD	Deb & Jonathan Nominee				

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	READER	HOST	FACE BOOK OPERATOR	WORSHIP ASSIST	PASTOR
11/01/2026					Pastor Christian Dittmar
11/08/2026					Pastor Mark Schuring
11/15/2026					Pastor Mark Schuring
11/22/2026					Pastor Giese
11/29/2026					LESSONS & CAROLS
ALTAR GUILD	Sandy & Ron Mellott				

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER

SUNDAY	READER	HOST	FACE BOOK OPERATOR	WORSHIP ASSIST	PASTOR
12/06/2026					Pastor Christian Dittmar
12/13/2026					Pastor Mark Schuring
12/20/2026					Pastor Mark Schuring
12/24/2026					Pastor Giese
12/27/2026					Pastor Melanie Haack
ALTAR GUILD	Bonnie & Mike Oberlander				

It takes many hands to help make worship happen each week. Would you prayerfully consider joining in lending a hand? If so, please contact Melissa Chester at melissac@qt2.com as she helps put this schedule together.

Thank you to Melissa and all those who donate their time and energy to this need.

Church Council

First Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2026

Present: Linda Warren, Melissa Chester, Judy Kimmel, Diane Greene, Rick Greene, Deb Hohman, Alice Smith and Steve Huffman **Absent**: none
Devotions: Linda read a prayer
Agenda:
Motion to approve agenda by Alice and seconded by Diane. Motion passed.
July Minutes:
Motion to approve minutes by Judy. Seconded by Melissa. Motion passed.
Financial Report:
Steve Huffman emailed the July 2026 Financial Reports to the council members. Combined expenses (church & Day Care) for July were $18,055, but expenses were $31,979. We had a shortfall of $13,929. As of July 31, we have $44,854 in our checking account. Thrivent investment fund balance as of July 31 was $523,768. $3,927 is needed weekly to cover operating expenses. Weekly offerings have been averaging $2,342 through July 31, 2026. Rick made a motion to accept the financial report. Alice seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Transition committee report: They met on July 22 to review the survey responses. Some suggestions included that parishioners understand we need a pastoral committee instead of one pastor, they feel connected with the church family, many cannot volunteer due to health, more office hours are requested, maybe a men's Bible Study, possibly bring back Wednesday night services and much more. Shelley Ross will compile these responses into a two-page summary.

Worship & music committee report: An ice cream sundae is planned for September 13 after church. They are looking for an ice cream truck or something similar. Sunday School will also start that Sunday. August 16 Minister Richard Greene was installed as a SAM at FLC.

Property Committee report: The wooden envelope of front sign was taken off and revealed a very nice stone underneath. Some metal letters will be replaced. We found it in very good shape. We passed our boiler inspection. The vertical lines on bell tower need to be recalked again. Toilet in handicapped bathroom has been fixed. Earl's biannual maintenance inspection has been completed & paid. We have a quote to fix second bank of lights in nave. Curt is checking on a second quote.

Preschool/Daycare report: Committee is working on revising their daycare handbook and their employee handbook. Interviews are planned for a preschool teacher. Upgraded security of main entrance is in the planning stage.

Old Business:
New Business: Room reservations: Heidelberg University on Nov.7 & May 1('27) 5:00-8:30 Community Concert, 200 people expected, April 29, rehearsal 6:00-8:30,
Elizabeth Tracy on Dec 12 & May 2 ('27) Fellowship Hall, piano recital, 50 people. Both were approved.
Catherine Gase from FISH explained an opportunity they have with chefs from the Community Kitchen at Old Trinity involving teaching cooking lessons for clients. It will take place in our kitchen between 10:00-noon sometime this fall. We approved this project. She said there will be a food truck at the October West Ohio Food Bank distribution.
Alice moved to adjourn meeting, Judy seconded it. Motion approved Meeting adjourned.
Next Council Meeting will be Wednesday September 16 at 5:30.
Respectfully submitted, Diane Greene

Diane Greene



Election Day
November 4, 2025
6:30AM to 7:30PM

Make Sure to VOTE!!



Daylight Savings Time ENDS!!

November 1st



Food Pantry Needs

Below is a list of nonperishable items that the Food Panty is always in need of. Please remember some of these items while about and doing shopping.

Hearty canned soups (large & small)

Cream of soups, rice, Dehydrated potatoes, Mac-n-Cheese, Pasta (any kind), Pasta Sauce, Cereal (any boxed), Hot Cereal (oatmeal, etc), Baked or Pork-n-Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers (Soda, Ritz etc.) Canned Meat or Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Condiments and Toilet Paper.

(Donations can be put in Food Basket located on hallway table)



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St.
Tiffin, OH 44883

October, 2026
Vol. 2026, No.10

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



PASTOR MARK SCHURING	740 360-2306	PASTOR
LINDA WARREN	419 618-5207	COUNCIL PRESIDENT
RICK GREENE (SAM)	419 937-7378	MINISTERIAL/PROPERTY
CURTIS L. KING	419 937-7142	MUSIC
GLORIA STACY	419 934-3023	SECRETARY
RICK SHOLL	419 939-3436	BUILDING

Unfortunately, due to a problem with our land line phone system, updates to include proper emergency contact information on voice mail is not available. However, a new emergency contact list is posted on all entry doors. If you have a non-emergency request or need information from the office, you are encouraged to e-mail the office at firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com. This method of communication is more frequently checked then voice mail.

First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore St., Tiffin, Ohio 44883-3535 Tel: 419-447-1323 or Gloria's Cell 419 934-3023

Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday 1:00PM to 5:00PM Hours will vary

If office is closed, please leave a message on voice mail or on note pad outside of office.

You may also send an E-mail at firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com. E-mails are checked daily Monday—Friday.

Website: firstlutherantiffin.com E-mail: firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com
Sunday morning worship is broadcast on WTTF, 1600 AM, 93.3 FM at 10:00 AM
Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstlutherantiffin

The Staff of First Lutheran

INTERIM PASTOR ***Pastor Mark Schuring***
EMERGENCY PASTOR ***Pastor Mark Schuring***
SAM (Synod Authorized Minister) ***Rick Greene***
SECRETARY ***Gloria Stacy***
SEXTON ***Rick Sholl***

PRESIDENT Linda Warren
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY Diane Greene
TREASURER Steve Huffman

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR *Jackie Webb*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC *Curtis L. King*

At Large Council members
Deb Hohman