

# First Evangelical Lutheran



**July 2025**

**Rev. Dr. Mark Rich**

**601 North Sandusky Avenue Upper Sandusky Ohio 43351 419-294-3544**

**Sunday Worship Time: 10 a.m.**

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*First Evangelical wishes to acknowledge and give our gratitude to the Wyandotte Nation, who once called the land our church sits on their home*

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
6 Worship 10 a.m.	7 *Rotary 11-2 *AA-7-9	8	9	10 Thursday Worship 6:30p	11	12
13 Worship 10 a.m.	14 *Rotary 11-2 *AA-7-9	15	16	17 Thursday Worship 6:30p	18	19
20 Worship 10 a.m.	21 *Rotary 11-2 *AA-7-9	22 Council Meeting 6 p.m.	23	24 Thursday Worship 6:30p	25	26
27 Worship 10 a.m.	28 *Rotary 11-2 *AA 7-9	29	30	31		

## A message from Pastor Mark



A couple thoughts about freedom.

One of the most important essays Martin Luther wrote was “The Freedom of a Christian”, in 1520. A Christian is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one...

They are both the statements of Paul himself, who says: "Though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all" (1 Cor. ix. 19), and: "Owe no man anything, but to love one another." (Rom. xiii. 8.) Now love is by its own nature dutiful and obedient to the beloved object. Thus even Christ, though Lord of all things, was yet made of a woman; made under the law; at once free and a servant; at once in the form of God and in the form of a servant. One thing, and one alone, is necessary for life, justification, and Christian liberty; and that is the most holy word of God, the Gospel of Christ, as He says: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me shall not die eternally " (John xi. 25) ; and also (John viii. 36) "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Luther put freedom back into discussion and back on the agenda for the first time in many centuries. In Galatians 5:1 Paul writes “For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” Luther knew and loved Galatians very well, exactly because it is so forthright about Christian freedom.

Christian freedom is not the same as secular freedom. In Christian freedom we are bound to follow Christ where he leads us, and not just wherever we want to go. Here’s how the novelist Paul Kingsnorth puts it.

I grew up believing what all modern people are taught: that freedom meant lack of constraint... True freedom, it turns out, is to give up your will and follow God’s. To deny yourself. To let it come... In the Kingdom of Man, the seas are ribboned with plastic, the forests are burning, the cities bulge with billionaires and tented camps, and still we kneel before the idol of the great god Economy as it grows and grows like a cancer cell. And what if this ancient faith [the gospel of Christ] is not an obstacle after all, but a way through? As we see the consequences of eating the forbidden fruit, of choosing power over humility, separation over communion, the stakes become clearer each day. Surrender or rebellion; sacrifice or conquest; death of the self or triumph of the will; the Cross or the machine. We have always been offered the same choice. The gate is strait and the way is narrow and maybe we will always fail to walk it. But is there any other road that leads home?

No there isn’t. See you in church, and on the way of Christ!

Pastor Mark

# **First Evangelical Lutheran Council News**

**June 9, 2025**

**Members Present: Marty Denney, Janine McMillan, Renee Nieset, Chad Stoneburner, Jesse Weir, Mary Wright**

**Also present: Pastor Mark & Kristin Ealy Excused: Dan Altvater Skip Glover**

## **Opening Devotions**

**Pastor's Report:** visits with parishioners and will be heading to a memorial for family and will miss July 6<sup>th</sup> worship.

**Kristin Ealy-** working with Insurance issues again and need to have emergency lighting upgraded inside the church. Harris Electric gave estimate for adding emergency lighting to the front entrance, the Cross Hall entrance and also in the lower level at the cost of \$4300. They can do all at once or break it up into separate jobs. (If broken up, they will be able to fit in between jobs as they have the availability versus us waiting until they can do it all at once.) Janine McMillan moved to accept the bid as is and to have them split at their discretion, having project finished by October. Jesse Weir, second. MC

## **Old Business**

1. Property Sign: need to form a committee to further fundraising efforts
2. Missions for June and July were finalized (VBS and Open Door) Missions for August and continuing are as follows: August: WXML September: Wyandot Conty Sherrif Good Samaritan Fund October: Salvation Army November: The Hub/Wyandot Community Connections December: Wyandot Cares
3. 50 bibles were purchased out of the current fund.

## **New Business**

1. Church Use Guidelines: looking at changing one of the church use policies stating no third-party profiting to occur on premises. Came to councils' knowledge that we can allow events where profit making occurs as long as we adhere to certain rules. More information needed and shared to council to determine how to word to make sure we are keeping in check with non-profit laws. Information will be sent to council to peruse.

**Committees: Facilities:** changed out aging handicap signs in main parking lot, will be looking to get the cross painted on the SW corner of the church. **Christian Ed:** will be gauging interest in starting Sunday School. **Worship/Music:** Father's Day gifts ready for the 15<sup>th</sup> and holding Thursday evening worship through July 24<sup>th</sup>. **Outreach:** sign fundraising and Eucharist visits are main focus.



## Happy Birthday!

6 Eleanor Weir      25 Alexis Cochran  
11 Addison Verity      27 Steven Bowman  
12 Connie Gillen      27 Rosalie Gault  
17 Duane Shock      27 Korey Newell  
20 Loren Dillon      28 Lisa Reinschell  
20 Marla Boes      30 Earl Kidwell

## July Anniversaries

14 Jon and Missy Zimmerman  
15 Robert and Carolyn Hall  
19 Matt and Mindy Newell  
19 Brian and Elaine Tschanen  
30 Scott and Marla Ritter  
30 Randy and Sherri Sorg

## Christian Food Pantry

Needs for this Month include:

Canned Fruits  
Canned Veggies  
Hand Soap

please leave in baskets found in  
the South Room

## Monthly Mission Focus

We will be supporting the efforts of Open Door Resource Center for July. First Evangelical will be sending \$1000 to benefit their Stars and Stipes Campaign and also any loose or designated offerings to this mission will be heading their way as well!



You can TRUST JESUS!! What a great theme this year and such a wonderful message to TRUST JESUS when we need to and in almost any situation!!

Thank you to Amanda Barth, Janine McMillan, Kristin Ealy, Beth Collins, Pastor Barry, Pastor Mark, Kelly Fahle, Laura Wines for volunteering their time and talent!

Thanks to our teen helpers: Bryson Stoneburner, Jake Nieset, Kloe Ealy, Harper Fahle, Alexis Lehnhart, Raelyn Hahn, Leah Hahn, Grady Loverich, Mollie Mercer, Blake Gardner, Evie Bramel and Summer Stansbery.

Thank you to those that donated food and supplies!

This year our outreach mission was in support of The Christian Food Center and also the Global Outreach of contributing to the purchase of Pikipiki (motorbikes) for the people of Africa. We were able to send off \$120 to help purchase much needed transportation!

We are so fortunate that the two churches are able to give this great ministry to the community. Without their support, there wouldn't be a VBS! It takes volunteers and a bit of money each year. But, to keep it free, we will need to rely on donations to our fund to keep it going. If you are interested in donating to our general VBS fund, please do so by designating on offering envelope or sending them to the church!

Check out our Facebook page [facebook.com/lutheranchurchesofuppersanduskyvbs](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranchurchesofuppersanduskyvbs) to see pictures taken during the week!





Our SIGN FUND is at \$1500 as of the end of June. If you are wanting to contribute to the donations, please send to the church or mark it on your giving envelope!

## **July 13th** *Scriptures*

**Deuteronomy 30:9-14**  
**Psalm 25:1-10**  
**Colossians 1:1-14**  
**Luke 10:25-37**

## **July 20th** *Scriptures*

**Genesis 18:1-10a**  
**Psalm 15**  
**Colossians 1:15-28**  
**Luke 10:38-42**

## **July 27th** *Scriptures*

**Genesis 18:20-32**  
**Psalm 138**  
**Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]**  
**Luke 11:1-13**

# Congregation Participation

Our Church requires people to be involved, people to perform light tasks for each Sunday Worship to happen.

In recent years, the council has implemented ways to get members to help; beginning with having council members take care of communion if no one else has signed up. At the beginning of this year, it was suggested to schedule members to be greeters. We already schedule our 4 teens to acolyte. We have been experiencing some difficulties in getting more people to even read scriptures.

Now, I do realize that not every job is for everyone. But I venture to guess that there is something for every ability! I am going to take the time to go into each aspect of serving our church in detail. Then I will ask you to prayerfully consider signing up to fill those spots that need filled.

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**Scripture Readers:** Simply read scriptures at the lectern. I will make sure we get the scriptures printed out and back onto the bulletin board in Cross Hall again, as I know most of you want to see them before you sign up. Since we do not use the inserts any longer for them, I don't always have them in advance. But beginning this Sunday, there will be scriptures in the hall for you to peruse!

**Communion Prep:** This can be done by 9:30 a.m. Sunday or even stop in on Saturday to do. There are directions in the sacristy on how to fill the trays, and how to place on the altar. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. If you want to run through it with someone that knows how to do it, that's fine! We will definitely show you!

**Greeters:** although scheduled, I figured I would recap the job. Arriving at 9:40 to be the welcoming face that people see. If it is more than one greeter, the Cross Hall door can be manned too! Handing out a bulletin and a smile is exactly what the requirements are. We also have a comfy back pew for you to sit in to do the task!

# Congregation Participation cont.

**Opening/Closing Church for Worship:** 15 minutes to open and about 10 minutes to close...that's it. It's really about just making sure the lights are on, the offering plate is in place, the baptism font is ready...you get the idea.

**Running Camera for Livestream:** This is probably the most difficult of any of the tasks but can be simple too! We have a nice camera that can do some really cool things. It requires using the church's tablet to maneuver. Kristin would love to show more people how to use all this awesome equipment. BUT livestreaming worship can be as simple as placing your phone in the tripod and "going Live" this would require Kristin to add you to the Church's Facebook page and pulling it up and hitting "go live". Either way you livestream, it isn't as daunting as it may look.

**Running PowerPoint for Worship:** As we try to incorporate some elements of the worship onto the Screen in the Sanctuary, it would be handy to have a few other people that would be able to get laptop, connect to the TV, and run the PowerPoint. Kristin is in the process right now of having several services made ahead of time and in case she can't be there or when someone else just wants to run it, it will be right there, easy to access.

Take a moment and see if any of the above would be right for you to help out with. Contact Kristin if you would like to know more or be "trained" on any of these positions!

## Scripture Readers

July 13- Joyce Kuenzli

July 20- Tom Martin

July 27- Mary Wright

August 3- Dan Altvater

August 10- Pat Denney

August 17- YOUTH

August 24- Marty Denney

August 31- Dorothy Blackburn

## Communion Preparation

July 13- Martins

July 20-

July 27- Niesets

August 3- Ealys

August 10-

August 17-

August 24-

August 31-

## Greeter

July 13- Jim & Terry Walter

July 20- Ealys

July 27- Dan Altvater

August 3- Glovers

August 10- Denneys

August 17- YOUTH

August 24- Sally Kirian

August 31- Dorothy Blackburn

## Acolyte

July 13- Bryson Stoneburner

July 20- Kloe Ealy

July 27- Jake Nieset

August 3- Kloe Ealy

August 10- Nick Nieseet

August 17- Kloe Ealy

August 24- Bryson Stoneburner

August 31- Jake Nieset

**JULY 6** - Pastor Jay Scott

**JULY 13** - Pastor Steve Anstine

**JULY 20** - Loren Atkins

**JULY 27** - Pastor Bill Williamson

**AUGUST 3** - Rev. Elaine Sturtz

**AUGUST 10** - Pastor Christopher Thacker

**AUGUST 17** - Pastor Ken Wessler

**AUGUST 24** - Pastor Scott Moore

**AUGUST 31** - Pastor Jim Stauffer



# Care and Prayers

Our Prayer List is everchanging, if you or someone (with their permission) would like added to our weekly prayers, please let Pastor or Kristin know.

If you feel like you or someone you know within the congregation is in need of some visits, we have a few different ways to help:

**Eucharistic Team** - Trained individuals that will go out and administer Holy Communion to those that are possibly homebound or that find it difficult to make it to church.

And of course....our own minister, Pr. Mark will provide needed visits, when requested.

To reach out to those that are in area care facilities, please use the addresses below. Please remember that we do not know if you or a loved one is hospitalized or now living somewhere else, unless we are told.

**Wyandot County Home- 7830 OH-199 Upper Sandusky Ohio 43351**  
Lisa Reinschell, Michael Huntley, Jon Zimmerman (temp)

**Westbrook- 101 Westbrook Blvd. Upper Sandusky Ohio 43351**  
Jean Factor and Dorothy Sammet

**Sandusky Veterans Home- 3416 Columbus Avenue Sandusky OH 44870**  
Francis Ronald Wright (make sure you use full name)

**Vancrest- 850 Marseilles Avenue Upper Sandusky OH 43351**  
Dean Clausing(temp) Maggie Bower (temp)



## Volunteer in Wyandot County

*Did you know?*

- It's legal to study the Bible during the school day
- Weekly classes -7 schools: most grades
- 2 volunteers needed in each class



How can you help?

- Pray
- Volunteer
- Donate
- Tell others
- Be an ambassador



Scan to Volunteer



More Information

**BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE REMOVED FROM EDUCATION**

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Upper Sandusky OH 43351