

First Evangelical Lutheran Church



October 2024

Worship Sunday 10 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Mark Rich

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 NA 7-9p	2	3	4	5 Blessing of the Pets 10:30 a.m.
6 Worship 10 a.m.	7 Rotary 11-1 AA 7-9p	8 NA 7-9p	9	10	11	12
13 Worship 10 a.m.	14 AA 7-9p	15 NA 7-9p	16	17 Council 5 p.m. Chocolate Walk 5:30	18	19
20 Worship w/ Children's Sunday 10a.m.	21 Rotary 11-1 AA 7-9p	22 NA 7-9p	23	24	25	26 Trunk Or Treat 330-430 @Vancrest
27 Worship 10 a.m. Potluck to follow	28 Rotary 11-1 AA 7-9p	29 NA 7-9p	30	31 Halloween Parade 6 p.m.		

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
Phil Walton and Lisa Reinschell**

**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)**

HOW TO CONTACT & STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHURCH

Church Phone: 419.294.3544 Pastor Mark: 614.381.4520 Kristin: 419.310.0107



<http://www.upperfirstlutheran.org> firstevangelical@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/FELCUpperSandusky>
601 North Sandusky Avenue- Upper Sandusky OH 43351

A message from Pastor Mark



CHURCH MATTERS

That's the simple message I saw on a church signboard in Dayton a couple weeks ago, and it struck me as profoundly true. Let me explain why.

We are living at a time, especially since the pandemic but before then too, when both being sociable and being moral are in decline. I know that latter complaint from preachers is nothing new, but consider these few statistics:

- In 1937 around 70% of Americans said they belonged to a church, and in the 1980s around 70% said they belonged to a church, mosque, or synagogue. In 2020, that number was 47%.

- "In the 1970s and '80s, the religious right became a formidable fundraising machine for the Republican Party. As the GOP consolidated its advantage among conservative Christians, religion seemed less appealing to liberal young people, especially if they or their parents already had a tenuous relationship with the Church." – Derek Thompson, The Atlantic, April 3 2024. In other words, as the word "Christian" became increasingly a synonym for conservative politics, younger generations have increasingly found reasons to avoid the religion they grew up with.

- Churchgoers themselves have redefined what worship attendance means. Regular attendance has become a couple times a month attendance, and Christmas and Easter only attendance has become synonymous with full membership. Pastors didn't ask for this; laypeople just did it. That goes along with the growth of other activities – shopping, sports, etc. – on Sunday mornings and the disappearance of Sabbath laws.

□ In general, people are spending less time together. High schoolers are spending three hours less time together per week. Low-income and unmarried men have more alone time than any other group, and they also attend church less than any other group.

□ Religiously unaffiliated Americans are less likely to volunteer, less likely to feel satisfied with their community and social life, and more likely to say they feel lonely. As a group they vote less often, volunteer less, and donate less to charities.

In place of worship attendance and church belonging, we now have the smartphone. Life on smartphones is the opposite of worship life. Smartphone life is disembodied, individual, shallow, and solitary, while worship life is embodied, sociable, deep, and communal. Smartphones show other people living; worship includes us all in living together. Smartphones aren't all bad. They can provide communication and information that people would otherwise miss. But they also don't really provide community. This isn't a completely new problem. Martin Luther complained bitterly about people in the newly reformed churches no longer attending worship, now that missing worship was no longer defined as a sin. People often misuse their freedom as a mere excuse for selfishness.

Democracy itself depends on people learning to tolerate each other, and committing to figuring out ways to really live together. Dictators love it when people learn to live through media that the state controls, and then ceasing to really live together.

See you in church, because CHURCH MATTERS!
Pastor Mark



Our Mission for October will now be the Lutheran Disaster Response in regards to the recent Hurricane Helene. We will be collecting designated offerings and all loose offering for October and sending to LDR. If you would like to donate directly the QR code next to this will take you to a donation page.



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

September 19, 2024 5 p.m.

Members present: Dan Altvater, Dorothy Blackburn, Tom Martin, Mary Wright, Brenda Zeigler Also present: Pr. Mark Rich

Members Excused: Kristin Ealy. Karen Magers, Chad Stoneburner

Opening Prayer

Pr. Mark's Report: Shared that we will be having two baptisms October 6th- Layla Powers and her father Ross. October 5th will be Blessing of the Pets. Let council know he would be gone from after worship the 22 until the following Saturday, not missing worship. Other dates coming up that he would be away include October 18-20 (children's worship will be in effect) and November 22-24.

Old Business

1. Screen for Sanctuary- work date to install will be scheduled soon. With free labor we will work with their schedule.
2. Bibles for the Pews...need more information on the type and price. Dan Altvater motioned to table the bibles until further notice, Mary Wriighth second, MC.

New Business:

1. Mohawk Community Group is asking to utilize basement, if needed prior to the December 7th Craft Show at the High School. All were in favor.

Committee Items

Facilities- Bookie will be fixing the landscaping along the retaining wall.

Outreach- backpacks will be finalized in the next week, packed and ready to go. Blessing of the Pets will be heavily advertised as a community invite. Plans for Trunk or Treat are beginning, this year we may be heading to Vancrest to spread our love for ToT. More to come! Chocolate Walk will be October 17th.

Transition Team- Ice Cream/Discussion Night September 25 at 6:30

Next Meeting: October 17th @ 5 p.m. October council person: Kristin

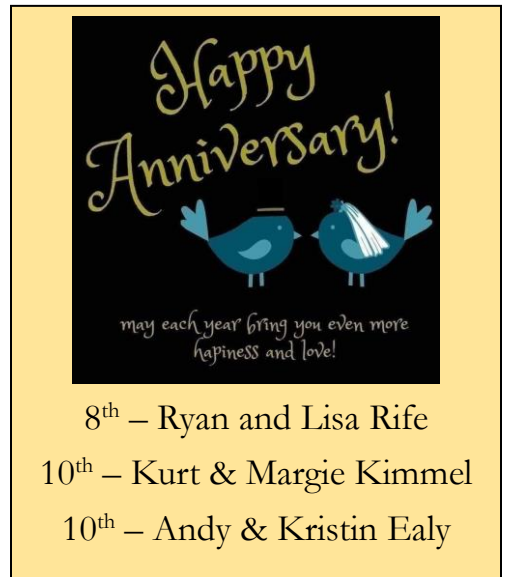
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First Evangelical Lutheran
OCTOBER 5 10:30 a.m.
North Parking Lot - 601 North Sandusky Avenue
Any pets! Please be sure to secure as necessary to crates or leashes or bowls (fish need blessed food)

All are WELCOME!
INVITE your FRIENDS!



BLESSING OF THE PETS
FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



8th – Ryan and Lisa Rife

10th – Kurt & Margie Kimmel

10th – Andy & Kristin Ealy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Jim Walter

5 Chad Stoneburner, Cooper Grogan

6 Tom Martin, Mary Wright,
Karen Rogers

12 Joyce Kuenzli, Jesse Weir

15 Nick Nieset

18 Pastor Mark, Kloe Ealy & Linda Slater

20 Robert Hall

21 Mark Kimmel, Jade Smith

24 Kristin Ealy

25 Jean Factor

26 Brian Tschanen

28 Roy Slater

BIBLES for the PEWS will be on hold for now. We will be getting bibles at some point, but Pastor will be researching to get the best bang for our buck. We will open donations up again when we have more information!

Thank you for your support!

Monthly Scriptures



Scriptures October 6

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalms 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

Scriptures October 13

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalms 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

Scriptures October 20

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalms 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

Scriptures October 27

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalms 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52



TRUNK OR TREAT

@ Vancrest of Upper Sandusky
850 Marseilles Avenue Upper Sandusky OH 43351
sponsored by First Evangelical Lutheran Church

**FREE FAMILY EVENT WITH FOOD,
GAMES, CRAFTS AND COSTUME CONTEST!**
Categories: Character, Pretty/Handsome, Scary & Miscellaneous

**SATURDAY OCT. 26TH
3-4:30 P.M.**

Judging @ 4:15 p.m. Trunks & Treats @ 4:30 p.m.

Join us this year as we take our Trunk or Treat Party to VANCREST! We have partnered up with Vancrest to put on this event to engage in OUTREACH and FELLOWSHIP! We are bringing the kids and party to the residents of Vancrest to brighten up their day!

If you are available to help that day with setup, food or teardown we would love to have you! Please let Kristin or Laura Wines know if you are available. Food donations will be accepted, a sign up will be at the back of the church!

We will also need TRUNKS!

We have 12 spaces for trunks to fill (and can find room for more!!)

Join us for the
HALLOWEEN PARADE

Walk or ride the parade
route and spoil the
children along the way!

LINEUP @ 6 p.m. October 31
Near Library and UCC

candy donations accepted, please leave in South Room

**contact the office for questions or
to sign up to participate**



JOIN IN THE FUN!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

October 20



God's work.
Our hands.

As part of the ELCA
God's work. Our Hands. We collected 55
backpacks to send out for the LWR to
distribute where needed most. Thank you to
all that participated in this yearly collection!

St. Paul Lutheran's

120 North 8th Street



Drive thru only – First come, first served
Wednesday, October 16th
Serving from 4:30-6pm
or until sold out

Suggested donations of \$5 EACH ITEM for:

- 1 bratwurst sandwich with a side of kraut
- 1 container of homemade German potato salad
- 1 homemade apple dumpling

*Seed money provided by Thrivent Financial
Proceeds benefit a new digital sign.*

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 17TH



2024 CHOCOLATE WALK

Indulge in a delightful chocolate journey while visiting Downtown Upper Sandusky businesses.

Presented by:



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Stop in at Open Door or the **Wyandot Chamber of Commerce** to purchase your \$25 ticket. Proceeds benefit the work we do for Wyandot County families.

Or buy one online at: **www.venmo.com/u/opendoor**

We will be setup inside Open Door as we have been since 2017!

OCTOBER

Communion Prep

6- Dan Altvater
13- Betty Martin
20- Ealy Family
27- _____

OCTOBER

Greeters

6- Nieset Family
13- _____
20- YOUTH
27- Nieset Family

Acolytes

6- Nick
13- Kloe
20- Bryson
27- Jake



OCTOBER FLOWERS

6- Nieset Family
13- Steve & Mindy Bowman
20- Ealy Family
27- Wines Family

Scripture Readers

6- Dan Altvater
13- _____
20- YOUTH
27- Kristin Ealy

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