

Test Message - December 2025 Newsletter

From Church Office <firstchurchlima+live.com@iccontactmail.com>

Date Tue 11/18/2025 10:45 AM

To firstchurchlima@live.com <firstchurchlima@live.com>



**First Evangelical & Reformed Church
Informer Newsletter
December, 2025**

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Pastor, Ed Rinehart, 567-478-0455
Elder Ted Coon, 419-233-3589
Elder Patricia Offenbacher, 419-371-1505
Elder Charles Chevront, 419-234-8266
Church Office: 419-222-6700
Church Email: firstchurchlima@live.com
Church Website: www.firstchurchoflima.com

IN THIS ISSUE

*Church Contact Info
Devotional
Announcements
Upcoming Events
Calendar w/Birthdays &
Anniversaries*

From the Pastor's Desk

Advent marks the beginning of a new Christian year—a new season of life. As one season passes from growth to harvest and finally to the calm of winter, the earth quietly prepares for renewal. Though the leaves have fallen and the grass has ceased to grow, beneath the soil, seeds and bulbs are stirring. New life is already forming, preparing to burst forth in the spring as a testimony to God's glory across the fields, valleys, and mountains.

CALENDAR

*Please click the Bible to
view important events.
(Anniversaries and
Birthdays.)*



Sunday School, 9 AM
Worship, 10:15 AM

But what about you? Do you sense the birth—or rebirth—of your spiritual life beginning to take place?

After the crucifixion of Jesus and during His forty days on earth before His ascension, He encouraged and commissioned the apostles to live out His teachings. To Simon Peter, He said, “Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep. Take care of my sheep.” In essence: guard, protect, encourage, heal, nourish, and help them grow. Jesus was not speaking of literal sheep—He was speaking of people: the hungry, the lost, the fearful, the broken, the lonely.

And it was to shepherds, of all people, that the glory of heaven first appeared. Terrified and trembling, they received the astonishing message that God’s Son had been born in Bethlehem. God personally invited them to witness the miracle of the Savior’s birth. That unexpected announcement changed their lives forever.

How has God appeared to you? How might God appear to you in an unexpected way this Advent season? We can’t predict it—neither could those shepherds. God broke into their ordinary night and changed everything. So, this Advent, don’t expect the ordinary. Keep watch for the unexpected, as shepherds kept watch over their flocks—alert for danger, ready for what might come. Beneath the surface of your own life, under the blanket of winter, God is already at work weaving a spring tapestry of beauty. Do you wonder what God is creating? Will you allow Him to weave you into that design—or is the shell of your heart too hard to crack?

Joy in our salvation should be an eternal fire that brings both warmth and light. Hope is more than a wish; it is a confident expectation, grounded in God’s promises. Peace should flood our hearts as we remember that God works all things for good for those who are in Christ Jesus. And love—God’s love for us and our love for Him—binds them all together.

Love is the bow on the package, the wrapping paper on the gift, and the greatest gift of all when we open our hearts to receive it. God’s gift of love is our Savior—the Lamb of God upon the throne.

What will you do with this news? Hide it away? Or, like the shepherds, will you go forth and tell everyone the glorious story?

Celebrate the glory of God. *Amen. Pastor Ed*

Member Spotlight

Dave McNett is this month’s member in the spotlight. His family members include his sisters, Pat Offenbacher and Becky Long, children: Lindsey, Emily and Cory. Grandchildren include Layla.



December 1, 2025
Set up our tree at the Museum.

Bible Study is at Alicia's at 7 PM every Tuesday except as noted.

December 3, 2025
Ladies Aid Christmas Carol sing and lunch at noon in the fellowship hall.

December 4, 2025
Elder Meeting, 4 PM

December 6, 2025
Breakfast With Santa at 9 AM in the fellowship hall.

December 7, 2025
Gathering Meal and Cookie exchange following worship.

December 8, 2025
Trustees meet at 6 PM and Consistory meets at 7 PM.

December 20, 2025
The Men's Breakfast is at 8:30 AM here at the church.

December 23, 2025
No bible study.

December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve Service, 7 PM.

December 25, 2025
Merry Christmas!

December 30, 2025
No bible study.



Announcements Continued

Sacraments he has taken at First E & R include baptism, confirmation and marriage. His children were baptized here and Emily was also confirmed here.

He had attended First Church from 1958-2000 (42 years) and again from 2012 to present (13 years). He has served as Deacon for 20 plus years and as an Elder for 1 ½ years. His favorite part of the church is the worship service. Dave is retired. He enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren, sports, antique tractors and walking with God and Jesus every day.

Thank you for your service, Dave. You are much appreciated.

Proverbs 16:3
Commit your works to the Lord, And your
thoughts will be established.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will NOT be an Advent meal due to the fact that the **Gathering Meal and Cookie Exchange** are the following Sunday, December 7, following the worship service. Please sign up for cookie exchange by November 30. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway near the sanctuary.

The **Christmas Tree Festival** runs from December 3 - 7. The set up date for the tree is December 1 at the museum. Anyone willing to help is appreciated. Please join us. Call Linda Boger at 419-516-9268 to volunteer.

First Church will be having a **Mitten Tree** again this year in our lobby. We will decorate this tree with donated hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. Other items (socks and underpants) are welcome as well. Please bring the items to the church 1st Sunday in December. The items collected will go to area schools. Thank you.

Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, December 6 at 9 AM in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP to Linda Boger at 419-516-9268. A light breakfast of doughnuts, cereal and milk, orange juice and chocolate milk will be served.

On December 16, the **Bible Study** group will be going out to dinner. On December 23 and 30, there will be NO bible study. **Bible study resumes on January 13.**

The **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** is Saturday, December 20, 2025. They meet every third Saturday of every month at 8:30 AM in the church fellowship hall for breakfast. All are welcome to attend.

The **Ladies Aid** will meet on Wednesday, December 3 at noon. This is our Christmas covered dish and carol sing. Officers will provide meat, rolls and a drink. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome.

Thank you to everyone for participating in **Operation Christmas Child**. We collected 36 shoeboxes total, giving true gifts of hope and joy in the name of Jesus to children around the world. Much appreciation to the Ladies Aid for the generous donation going towards toys, school supplies, and discipleship materials. Also, special thanks to Chris Hoff for donating the stuffed animals, and Linda Boger for sewing the pocket prayer quilts. Working together and praying for this mission as a church, exchanging items and ideas, makes this ministry a blessing for the shoebox givers as well as the recipients. Pray for Peace and may you all have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Shannon Rapp

*First Evangelical & Reformed
Church
www.firstchurchoflima.com
Email: firstchurchlima@live.com*

320 W/ Wayne St.
Lima, Ohio 45801
Office Phone: 419-222-6700

Update Email Address

This message was sent to firstchurchlima@live.com from firstchurchlima@live.com