

**July 27, 2025
Blended Worship
10 AM**



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
19419 Royalton Road
Strongsville, Ohio**

Mission Statement

*Living God's love through our devotion to
service, worship, and one another.*

Good Morning!

If you are a visitor today,

Welcome!

Sunday Schedule for Next Week, 08/03/2025

Worship 10 AM

To contact the Church, call the office at 440-238-7890

or email firstchurchalive@hotmail.com

Office Manager Hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 to 12:00 PM

Pastor Kathy - 440-666-8758 or revklk@gmail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Don't forget that if you ever have any questions or concerns,
you may contact your Council representatives:

President: June Zakrajsek: 440-336-1678, jfzakrajsek@gmail.com

Vice President: Ken Holda: 440-665-2836, kenjholda@gmail.com

Secretary: Lindee Flater 330-416-4406, lindeelout@gmail.com

At Large: Janet Kaiser: 216-215-4572, janetmackaiser@gmail.com

At Large: Margaret Bewie: 440-263-5748, bewie@att.net

Treasurer: Gary Walters: 216-645-8472, gwaltersoh@yahoo.com

Mutual Ministry: Dawn Zima: 440-821-6545, dzima@cox.net

Controller: Brenda Jacob, 440-655-1535, bkjacob1@hotmail.com

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting 4

* Please *turn off all electronic devices* during our time of worship.

SONG

“All Because of Jesus”

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

**C you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.**

**Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen**

- P** You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✙ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
- C Amen**

GATHERING SONG

ELW #745 *"Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright"*

GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.**

PRAYER of the DAY

- P** Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen**
- Sit*

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

After the reading: **R** The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

"There Is a Balm in Gilead" – African American Spiritual

Megan Uline & Elise Paine

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-19

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

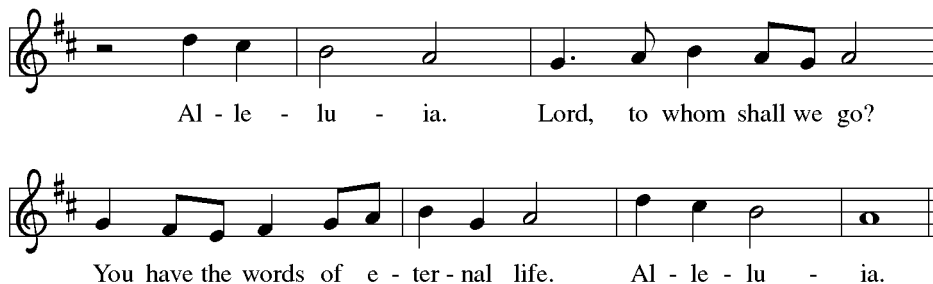
Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

After the reading: **R** The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



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GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 11th Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN’S SHARING TIME

SERMON

“Just How Persistent Are You?”

Stand

SONG

“Don’t Stop Praying”

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Sit

PRESENTATION of the GIFTS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

MUSIC

“Reflection”

David Gooding
Percy Whitlock

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.'

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

P In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

After each portion of the prayers:

P God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen

SONG

“The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours)”

BLESSING

P The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING SONG

ELW #886 *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Risoluto”

David Gooding

Alan Davis

PRAYERS

Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating

Rhonda Fox, Reagan Kolman, Alice Treiber

Military Members

Austin Holley, Deacon Nemet, Matthew and Teresa Dittman, Haley Uline

Stephen Ministry Team

Maureen Harris, Sam Reichert, Becky Piper, Beth David, Pat Sauernheimer, Pam Simpson, Marsha Ginley, Phil King, and Bob Strong

On-going Prayers

Linda Stanley, Nighman Family, Heidi Balicki, Tia (Simpson) Russell, The Fox Family, Ron and Joanne Cvelbar, Cheryl Mooney, Elaine, Rob Shoens, Michael Otto, Jessica Walsh, Sue Widdows, Wanda Woods, Stephania, Susan & George Bodovetz, Carol Rosenblum, Bonnie Bailey, Darlene and Jim Cassidy, Carrie Deal, Curt Kowalewski, Sarah Franko, Bill Bartkus, Jim Taylor, Sue Sutton, Erica Kaminski, Jeanette Paus, Matt & Pat, Kevin, Zach Russell, Ryan Kuchta, Morgan Popple, Trish Nolder, Peter Duffy, Salay Family, Richard, Scott Hurley, John Walker, Don McKelvey, Karil Piskur, Clark Buckley, Laura Evangelista, Dennis Bailey, Eleanor Preston, Isabella, Amelia, Melina

Homebound

Mary Jane Knaack, June Beck, Marj Wilder, Audie Kiplinger, Sheryl Clark, Ron & Mary Jane Warzel

A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Gardening & Landscaping Volunteers

We extend our deepest gratitude to the incredible team of volunteers who have poured their time, energy, and love into beautifying our church grounds. Their dedication to planting, maintaining, and transforming our flower beds and landscaping has made our church home more welcoming and vibrant.

GARDENING GROUP

Led by Pat Saurenheimer, this devoted team includes:

Jacquie & Kerry McLemore

Ellen Kolman

Ann & Ken Holda

Barbara Nalette

Linda Browning

Marsha Ginley

Mary Walters

We also honor two longtime volunteers, Barb Krueger and Curt Dean, who have retired. Their legacy continues to bloom in the gardens they helped nurture.

LANDSCAPING HEROES

A special shout-out to Bob Strong and Mark Shultz for their tireless work trimming bushes, edging beds, removing shrubs, cutting down trees, and so much more. Your efforts have truly transformed our outdoor spaces.

THANK YOU ALL

Your hard work and generosity have made a lasting impact. Our church grounds are a reflection of your care and commitment, and we are so grateful for each of you.

KIDS HOPE NEXT – DIRECTOR NEEDED

Kids Hope Next, the middle school version of our Kids Hope Program is in need of a director. The job description is on the Welcome Center. If you are interested, please reach out to Dawn Zima (dzima@cox.net) or Pastor Kathy (revklk@gmail.com)

SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION COLLECTION

Once again, we will be collecting school supplies and backpacks for students in need through 8/3. We will fill the backpacks and place them on the altar during our Blessing of the Backpacks during service on 8/10. Please drop your donations in the boxes by the Welcome Center.

BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY – 08/10/2025

Students, Teachers and Support Staff - Please join us on Sunday, August 10 for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks/school bag as you prepare for the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Join us for the church picnic immediately following this service.

CHURCH PICNIC – SUNDAY 08/10/2025

Our church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 10, immediately following the service in the social hall.

Last names A-M are asked to provide sides and/or a salad; N-Z appetizers and/or desserts; we will provide the main course. In addition to great food and games, we will have a free CHAIR YOGA demonstration, by Lisa Wittman. This will be an introduction to the chair yoga she will be teaching at First Church this Fall on Monday afternoons ... more information will follow regarding the yoga classes.

Please use the link, <https://bit.ly/FLCPicnic25> or scan the QR Code to sign up and join us for what promises to be a fabulous afternoon!



LADIES NIGHT OUT

Join us on Wednesday, July 30 at 6 PM at the Brew Garden in Strongsville for Ladies Night Out. Please RSVP by Monday, July 28 by emailing Barb at firstchurchalive@hotmail.com or by signing up on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Hope to see you there!

FIRST CHURCH WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Our next book club will take place on August 9 at 10 AM at 88 Fox Hollow in Brunswick. We'll discuss the book, *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See! Happy Reading!

STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

We are growing and are in need of an additional Stephen Leader and more Stephen Ministers. Please contact Maureen Harris for more information. She can be reached at (440)376-1506. On August 24, there will be an informational meeting following the service.

Please continue to pray for our Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. Thank you.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – CHURCH NURSERY - UPDATE

We still need a few volunteers in order to open the nursery!

If you are interested in serving in the nursery, please contact Barb Nalette 216-970-4131 mistylakenalette@gmail.com or click the button below to sign up for more information.

Due to the requirements of our insurance carrier and the new standard set by the National ELCA Church, we must meet the following to care for children: **all** volunteers over 18 must pass a fingerprint background screening and at least two people will need to be in the nursery, teens are eligible to volunteer along with one adult when the nursery is in operation. The fingerprinting is quick and easy and is provided for by the church.

MILITARY PRAYER REQUESTS

If you know someone in the military serving our country, we want to include them in prayer. Please scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/FLCMilitaryPrayers to add them to the list.



ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Due to requests for people to have the option to give their offering electronically, we are providing a QR code to allow anyone who would like to give electronically.



SCAN ME

BICYCLE RELOCATION PROGRAM

Do you have a bicycle (adult - or child-size) that could use a second life? Please contact Pierre David and he will pick it up, repair it so that it is “like new” (if necessary), and then take to the Redeemer Crisis Center on W. 30th Street in Cleveland. Pierre can be contacted at pdavid@bw.edu or 216-213-8386.

STRONGSVILLE EMERGENCY FOOD BANK – DONATIONS

The Strongsville Food Bank is in need of the following items: Cereal - (all types/sizes), Syrup - (all sizes), Pancake Mix - (all sizes), Mac and Cheese, Pasta - (all types/sizes), Tuna Fish - (all sizes), Dinty Moore Beef Stew – (20 oz), Peanut Butter - (all sizes), Jelly - (all sizes), Snacks - (all kinds/sizes)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH APP

First Lutheran Church has an app in both the Apple App Store (search FLC Strongsville) and the Google Play Store! (search FLC Strongsville) This communication option will help us stay connected and give us new and exciting tools to use. We continue to fine tune the options available on the app to best suit our congregation. If you see something that needs to be fixed, please reach out to the office and let us know.

Be sure to allow notifications when you download the app to get important updates.

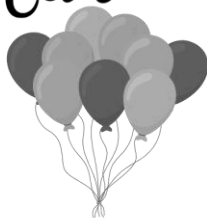


APPLE
STORE



GOOGLE
STORE

*Let's
Celebrate*



**The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God by
Debbie and Jeremy Jenkins in
Celebration of
their Anniversary
and Pat Sauernheimer in
celebration of
Ryan and Kate's Wedding!**

**Last Week's Attendance
10 AM - 74**

**Upcoming Worship Times
Dates – Times
August
08/03 – 10 AM
08/10 – 10 AM
08/17 – 10 AM
08/24 – 10 AM**

Thank you to the following volunteers:

Reader

Vanessa Smith-Whitford

Ushers

Maureen & Ron Shorts

Counters

Daphne Leon, Ingrid Naso, Paul Nalette

Altar Guild

Janet Kaiser,
Maureen Harris

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday, July 28th

AA at 7:30 PM

Tuesday, July 29th

Toastmaster's at 7:00 PM

Al Anon at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, July 30th

Ladies Night Out at 6:00 PM

