

**September 7, 2025
Rally Day 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, 09/14/2025

Contemporary Worship – 9:00 AM

Sunday School – 10:15 AM

Traditional Worship – 11:15 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 330-391-4627, lindeeloulou@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting 4

WELCOME to you all this morning. May God bless us as we gather and raise our hearts and voices in thanks and praise to our God. We celebrate the Eucharist this morning. All baptized believers in Jesus Christ are welcome to come to the Lord's table. Those who have not yet been instructed are welcome to come for a blessing.

The center ring of cups in the trays contains non-alcoholic wine for those who desire it and the pedestal in the center contains gluten-free wafers

Communion at 10 AM is continuous at two stations.

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

PRELUDE

arranged by Smooth News

"Praise Him"

"Nearer My God To Thee"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stand

RALLY DAY LITANY

P We stand before you, Lord, to proclaim your greatness. You have given us creation, which is the fruit of your creative genius and power. You call us to care for your world. Help us to learn about your world so that we can be faithful to our calling.

C We thank you for creation. **WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

P We promise to use our minds to study your world, to use our eyes, and ears to learn, our hands to offer help where we are able, and to use our tongues to discuss, question, and probe.

C We are wonderfully made. WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!

P We celebrate ideas, numbers, words, and skills. We celebrate puzzles, paints and colors. We celebrate imagination, instruments and enzymes. All of it, Lord, is a part of your world.

C Your world is marvelous. WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!

P We thank you for teachers who teach about your world. We thank you for students who see the wonder of your world unfold before them. We thank you for opportunities and occasions where we can put into practice that which we learn about your greatness.

C WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!

P As we learn of life in your name, help us to live that commitment with joy. Nudge us to set higher goals when it is easy; to keep on trying when the work seems difficult; and to use the full potential you've given each of us.

C WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!

P We thank you, God, for all of our brothers and sisters. Help us to support and encourage whenever we have the opportunity.

C Give us the desire to learn. Give us strength and energy to be about your work. Give us a desire to do our best.

P Guide us that we might use today, and tomorrow all that you have so graciously bestowed in our lives. To you, Lord, be all honor and glory.

C May our lives be the example; that together we might PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Go"

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 Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Sit

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

SECOND READING: PHILEMON 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the

Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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 St. Luke, the 14th Chapter

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

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes

against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN’S SHARING TIME

SERMON

“Yes You Heard The Text Correctly”

Stand

HYMN of the DAY ELW #651 (VS. 1,4,6,7) “Oh, Praise The Gracious Power”

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

P Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

P God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen

Sit

PRESENTATION of the GIFTS

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

MUSIC

"Softly and Tenderly"

Laura Avdey, Mezzo Soprano

Stand

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

The musical score is written for a mezzo soprano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

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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PRAYER

p Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

SONG

"The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)"

Sit

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Stand

P O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen

BLESSING

P We have worshiped and celebrated in the name of Christ.

C Children of God who came here with joys and sorrows, with gifts and broken parts; with questions as well as faith.

P While gathered, we prayed for our church, for those in need, and for all who are hurting and lost in this world.

C We heard the word, sang praises, gave thanks, and opened our hearts to our Heavenly Father.

P We were reminded once again how important it is for us to be here in His house; for we are but followers who need to continue to learn, grow, and experience the love and acceptance of our Lord and Savior.

C We are people who need to be guided by our Lord's wisdom and compassion. Sent out as disciples eager and ready to share the word; that together we might bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

P People of God, fill your hearts, minds and spirits with His love. Be empowered to be faithful in your witness to what Christ has done and is doing in our world. Rally around His word and be renewed in your commitment to follow. Remembering that the God of grace looks upon you with favor, and surrounds you with His grace, mercy and peace, both now and forever.

C Amen

SENDING SONG

“Do Something”

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C Thanks be to God.

MUSIC

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PRAYERS

Death in the Family

The Shoens Family as they mourn the loss of Rob.

Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating

Rhonda Fox, Bob Jacob

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, Chris Hamel

On-going Prayers

Linda Stanley, Nighman Family, Heidi Balicki, Tia (Simpson) Russell, Ron and Joanne Cvelbar, Cheryl Mooney, Elaine, Jessica Walsh, Sue Widdows, Wanda Woods, Stephania, Susan & George Bodovetz, Carol Rosenblum, Bonnie Bailey, Darlene and Jim Cassidy, Carrie Deal, Curt Kowalewski, Sarah Franko, Jim Taylor, Sue Sutton, Erica Kaminski, Jeanette Paus, Matt & Pat, Kevin, 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, Cindy Walker, Ron Shorts

Homebound

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEPHEN MINISTRY – UPDATE

While we are very excited to have had several people attend the informational meeting for becoming a Stephen Minister, we are in need of a few more people to complete the class and serve in this ministry. The need is great! Please call Maureen Harris for information. She can be reached at (440)376-1506. Thank you!

FIRST CHURCH WOMEN'S SEPTEMBER BOOK CLUB

Our next book club will take place on September 13 at 10:00 AM. We'll meet at 88 Fox Hollow in Brunswick to discuss *The Surgeon's Daughter* by Audrey Blake.

RALLY DAY/GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS –& 7TH

Join us today as we complete our partnership with Habitat for Humanity for our God's Work, Our Hands Project! We will be completing the two playhouses for 2 different Habitat Families!

Volunteer Opportunities are as follows:

Sunday, September 7th

- 12 PM - 3 PM - detail work, touch up, assembly, finish roofing
- 3 PM - Families pick up the playhouse

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS – DONATION OPPORTUNITY

Unable to volunteer? You can still participate in our project by donating supplies to A Welcome Basket for Habitat Families! There is a collection box in the Welcome Center for the following supplies: Mop, Broom, Paper Towels, Window Cleaner, Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets, Misc. Cleaning Products, Garbage Cans, Garbage Bags, Dish Towels, Hand Towels, Hand Soap, Toilet Paper

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

Sunday school for youth from Pre-K through 12th grade begins NEXT Sunday, September 14th. Please take a minute to complete our online registration for EACH student that will attend this year! We can't wait to see you again!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH NURSERY

We are excited to announce the reopening of the nursery for children aged newborn to 3 yrs old. Information regarding the nursery and our volunteers will be provided to the parents/guardians upon registration.

We are still in need of additional volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the Open Service Opportunities below to sign up!

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

CHAIR YOGA – MONDAY, 09/15, 1:30 PM

Sign up for Chair Yoga, beginning Monday, 09/15 at 1:30 PM. Contact Maureen Shorts at shortsstuff3@gmail.com for additional information.

STRONGSVILLE EMERGENCY FOOD BANK - DONATIONS

The Strongsville Food Bank is in need of the following items: URGENT NEED FOR Mac and Cheese, Tuna Fish - (all sizes) Canned Vegetables (except canned corn, we have tons, Jelly, Squeeze Bottle, 18 oz, 30 oz, 32oz; Peanut Butter – All Sizes, Boxed Baked Goods (cake & brownie mixes; pudding & jello mixes), Snacks (Pop tarts, cheese and/or peanut butter crackers, saltines, etc...)

URGENT NEED FOR HYGIENE PRODUCTS: Bars of Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner, Razors, Band Aids, Anti-Bacterial Ointments

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UPS

There are Altar Flower Vase openings in September, November and December. If you have a special event or celebration you would like to recognize or remember, please consider signing up for one of the available spots. Altar flowers are \$20.00 and can be taken home or donated to shut-ins. Please sign up in the Welcome Center

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!

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

- *Outreach Ministry Leaders – Gayle Kovach & Monika Muller*

The Outreach Ministry Team is an outward focused ministry that reaches out to prospective members and spreads God's word and love by doing God's work to address critical needs of the community and world at large.

- *Congregation Ministry Leaders – Linda Browning & Maureen Shorts*

The Congregation Ministry Team conducts programs and activities that provide comfort and assistance to the members of FLC in various times of need. It is an inward focused ministry that includes fellowship activities as well as teams that provide services to FLC members.

- *Youth & Adult Enrichment Leaders – Beth Hartman & Carolyn Roman*

The Youth and Adult Enrichment Ministry Team covers all educational and special activities that enrich the mind and soul of congregation members at all stages of their life. This Ministry is especially focused on providing support and guidance to future members.

- *Dynamic Worship Ministry Leaders – Pat Sauernheimer & Sandy Treudler*

The Dynamic Worship Ministry Team ensures that worship services are conducted regularly and in accordance with the practices of the ELCA. This Ministry also explores innovative approaches for worship to enhance the dynamic worship experience, allowing members to thrive in their relationship with God.



**The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God by the
Gilbert & Holda Families in
celebration of Mike & Ingrid's
Wedding Anniversary
&
The Bailey Family in celebration of
Matt Dittman, Declan Buccalo &
Bonnie's Birthdays**

Last Week's Attendance
10 AM - 136
Online – 20

Upcoming Worship Times
Dates – Times
September
09/14 – 9 AM & 11:15 AM
09/21 – 9 AM & 11:15 AM
09/28 – 9 AM & 11:15 AM
October
10/05 – 9 AM & 11:15 AM

**Thank you to the following
volunteers:**

Reader

June Zakrajsek

Ushers

Alan and Dawn Evangelista

Counters

Sheri Gist, Gary & Mary Walters

Altar Guild

Ellen Kolman, Lynn Stenger

Communion Assistants

June Zakrajsek,

Lori & Eddie Forse

Communion Bread Baker

Bonnie Bailey

Nursery

Nancy Snyder, Chris Thomas

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday, September 8th

AA at 7:30 PM

Tuesday, September 9th

Toastmaster's at 7:00 PM

Al Anon at 7:00 PM

Thursday, September 11th

Stewardship Committee

Meeting - 7 PM – 8:30 PM

Saturday, September 13th

Alice Treiber Memorial Service – 10 AM

