

**December 14, 2025  
Contemporary Worship  
9:00 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, 12/21/2025**

Sunday School – 9 AM

Single Worship Service – 10 AM

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

or email [firstchurchalive@hotmail.com](mailto:firstchurchalive@hotmail.com)

Office Manager Hours are Monday, Thursday & Friday 9 AM - Noon

Pastor Kathy - 440-666-8758 or [revklk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jfzakrajsek@gmail.com)

Vice President: Ken Holda: 440-665-2836, [kenjholda@gmail.com](mailto:kenjholda@gmail.com)

Secretary: Lindee Flater 330-391-4627, [lindeeloulou@gmail.com](mailto:lindeeloulou@gmail.com)

At Large: Janet Kaiser: 216-215-4572, [janetmackaiser@gmail.com](mailto:janetmackaiser@gmail.com)

At Large: Margaret Bewie: 440-263-5748, [bewie@att.net](mailto:bewie@att.net)

Treasurer: Gary Walters: 216-645-8472, [gwaltersoh@yahoo.com](mailto:gwaltersoh@yahoo.com)

Mutual Ministry: Dawn Zima: 440-821-6545, [dzima@cox.net](mailto:dzima@cox.net)

Controller: Brenda Jacob, 440-655-1535, [bkjacob1@hotmail.com](mailto:bkjacob1@hotmail.com)

Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Songs:

*"Soul on Fire"*

*"Prepare the Way"*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Lesson:

Matthew 11: 2-11

Children's Sharing Time

Sermon

*"Joy"*

Song:

*"Feels Like Joy"*

Offering

Prayers of the Faithful to "Our Father"  
Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Song:

*"Jesus Saves"*

Dismissal

Music

# **PRAYERS**

## **Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating**

Rhonda Fox, Bob Jacob, Melissa Borgio

## **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, Jen Kowalewski, Jim Zakrajsek, Steve Harris

## **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, Dennis Bailey, Isabella, Amelia, Melina, Cindy Walker, Susie Siebert, Jeff Bodovetz, Dennis Nalette, Mike and Linda Drury, Kathryn Robertson, Gina Evangelista, Brenda Rosala, Katy Profeta

## **Homebound**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADVENT SERVICE PROJECT

This year's advent project is Dollar Tree Emergency Pantry Meals. Packets are still available for all who want to help. This will be our way of doing what we **CAN** to help with the food insufficiency within our area.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING – BRASS CHOIR AND VOCALS, SUNDAY 12/14 – 3 PM

The Brass Choir will be playing Christmas Carols for the residents at the Shurmer Place at Altenheim Senior Living Community! Come brighten their holiday season with us and sing along with all the Christmas Carol Classics! All ages welcome! Find the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or reach out to the Director of Music Ministries or the Church Office if interested. Meet at the Shurmer Road entrance at Altenheim, sign in and let them know you are there with the Brass Group. The front desk will direct you. Shurmer Place at Altenheim, 18821 Shurmer Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136

## CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to share your musical talent while we celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus? We are looking for soloists for prelude music at the 8pm Traditional Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. Find the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or reach out to the Director of Music Ministries or the Church Office if interested.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

*REMINDER THIS IS THE LAST SUNDAY FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS.*

The youth will be selling them this Sunday for \$13.00 per 6.5" Plant. There are paper forms this weekend, and you can pay via cash or a check made out to First Lutheran Church Strongsville. If paying online, please choose Poinsettias for the fund. The deadline for orders is Sunday, 12/14/2025. You can use the QR Code or the link, <https://bit.ly/2025christmasflowers> to order.



## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – ADVENT STUDY**

Join us at 10:15, during our Sunday School hour, for an Adult Advent Study. Together we will take a walk through Advent.

## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – COMPANY’S COMING, A STABLE CELEBRATION**

We would love to have your child participate in our Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at our 10 AM Service. Everyone will be part of the group portion of the program, but we still need children for some of our speaking parts. Please scan the QR code or link <https://bit.ly/25Christmasprogram> to let us know if your child is interested in a speaking part.



## **HARVEST MONTH - DECEMBER**

We are in need of non-perishable food items, turkeys, hams, and monetary donations for the Christmas food baskets. Envelopes are provided on the table by the church office for monetary donations, and non-perishables can be placed in the shopping carts by the entrance way.

*Special Note: Turkeys can be dropped off in the freezer located in the Kitchen next to the fellowship hall.*

## **URGENT NEED – FROZEN TURKEYS/HAMS**

We are in urgent need of Frozen Turkeys and/Hams to complete our Christmas Food Baskets. They can be left in the freezer/refrigerator at the church!

## **READERS NEEDED – DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE**

We still need 3 readers for our Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 AM. Please contact Barb Krueger, [kruegbg@att.net](mailto:kruegbg@att.net) or the office [firstchurchalive@hotmail.com](mailto:firstchurchalive@hotmail.com), if interested.

## **2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

2026 Offering envelopes are in the Welcome Center. Please stop by and pick yours up.

## **FOOD BASKET PACKING - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers will be needed to pack the food baskets on Monday, December 22nd at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet located on Welcome Center. For questions, please contact: Reiner Mueller, Call or text: 440-724-8897, EMAIL: [reindogger@outlook.com](mailto:reindogger@outlook.com)

## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH NURSERY**

Our nursery for children aged newborn to 3 yrs old is available to all families with young children. Information regarding the nursery and our volunteers will be provided to the parents/guardians upon registration. This week the nursery is at our 11:15 AM Service.

## **KIDS HOPE USA AND NEXT LUNCHEON - SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**

Join us for a luncheon to honor our volunteers during National Mentoring Month, mentors and prayer partners are invited to attend a luncheon immediately after the 11:15 service on Sunday, January 18, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall.

## **CHAIR YOGA CONTINUES**

The final class for December is Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We then will take a break until after the new year. January Yoga Sessions will be as follows:

**Evening Sessions:** *Start on Wednesday Jan. 14 thru Feb. 25 6:00pm to 7:00pm (6 sessions)* THERE WILL BE NO SESSION ON ASH WEDNESDAY FEB. 18th

**Day Sessions:** *Start on Monday, Jan. 19 thru Feb. 23 - 1:30pm to 2:30 pm (6 sessions)*

Cost is \$30 for all sessions. Silver Sneakers and Renew Active is accepted. Please sign up for Day and Evening sessions at the Welcome Center. Please contact Chris Thomas for any questions: [Krickett413@gmail.com](mailto:Krickett413@gmail.com) or call or text at 440-567-3754

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Please pray for our Stephen Ministers and Leaders as we continue to carry out our ministry.



## **2026 ALTAR FLOWERS/BULLETIN DEDICATION**

Sign-ups for the 2026 Altar Flowers and Bulletins are in the Welcome Center. There is a QR code for online payment on the Altar flower sheet or you can wait to be billed by the office. When paying online, please indicate the week of your altar flower dedication.

## **VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Our church is built on the love and service of its members, and we're excited to invite you to be part of that experience. Volunteering is more than filling a role; it's about building relationships, sharing your gifts, and making our church feel like home for everyone who walks through the doors. Regardless of where you are drawn to serve, we have an opportunity and a place for you!



If you are ready to serve or just want to explore where you might fit best, I'd love to connect with you. Reach out to Barb Nalette

at [mistylakenalette@gmail.com](mailto:mistylakenalette@gmail.com) and let's find the perfect spot for you! OR Use the link [bit.ly/FLCservice2025](https://bit.ly/FLCservice2025) or scan the QR code to learn more or sign up!

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - HELP SHARE THE BEAUTY OF OUR ALTAR FLOWERS**

On Sundays when altar flowers are designated for donation, we're looking for volunteers to deliver them to local nursing homes after the 11:15 service. It's a simple act of kindness that brings joy and comfort to others in our community. If you're interested in assisting, please contact Barb Nalette at [mistylakenalette@gmail.com](mailto:mistylakenalette@gmail.com).

Thank you for helping us extend the love beyond our sanctuary!

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – TRADITIONAL SERVICE USHERS**

We are in need of volunteers for people to assist with usher at the 11:15 AM Traditional service. It's usually a once every 6/8 week commitment to hand out bulletins, pass the offering plates and allow people to go up to communion. Use the link [bit.ly/FLCservice2025](https://bit.ly/FLCservice2025) or scan the QR code above to learn more or 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](https://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.



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## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Please pray for our Stephen Ministers and Leaders as we continue to carry out our ministry.

## **END OF YEAR GIVING – 2025**

As we approach the end of a very successful year and the beginning of another exciting one, the Stewardship Committee would like to again say "THANK YOU" for your gifts to First Church in 2025 and your expression of continued support for 2026. Your generous giving makes all of our work and missions possible!

We also wanted to provide a couple reminders and helpful tips as you make your end-of-the-year gifts to First Church. - whether to meet (or even exceed) your pledge or to share God's blessings in this holiday season. Please note that to be recorded for 2025, donations must be received by December 31. You should have received this week an email statement of your giving through November 30—please review it for accuracy. Your year-end gifts are vital to meeting our financial goals and may offer you valuable tax benefits. This year, more people can itemize deductions, while donating appreciated stock or making gifts directly from your IRA can provide additional tax advantages. Consult your tax advisor for further information about charitable giving. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Mosley or Brenda Jacob.

## 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 notifications



## 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 David Family in celebration of  
Pierre and Beth's Anniversary  
And  
Rhonda Fox in celebration of  
Wanda Woods Birthday  
The Bulletins are given by the  
McClain Family in celebration of  
Harper's 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**Last Week's Attendance**

**9 AM – 93**

**11:15 AM - 51**

**Online –**

**Upcoming Worship Times**

**Dates – Times**

**December**

**12/21 – 10 AM**

**12/24 – 4 PM & 8 PM**

**12/28 – 10 AM**

**Lessons & Carols**

**January**

**01/04 – 9 AM & 11:15 AM**

**01/11 – 9 AM & 11:15 AM**

**Thank you to the following  
volunteers:**

**Reader**

Paul Schlact

**Ushers**

Tammy Widdows, Linda Browning

**Counters**

Mark Schultz, Gayle Kovach,

**Altar Guild**

Ellen Kolman, Deb Brighter

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Brass Choir Caroling – 3 PM

**Monday, December 15th**

Chair Yoga – 1:30 PM

AA at 7:30 PM

**Tuesday, December 16th**

Stephen Ministry

Continuing Education – 6 PM

Toastmaster's at 7:00 PM

AI Anon at 7:00 PM