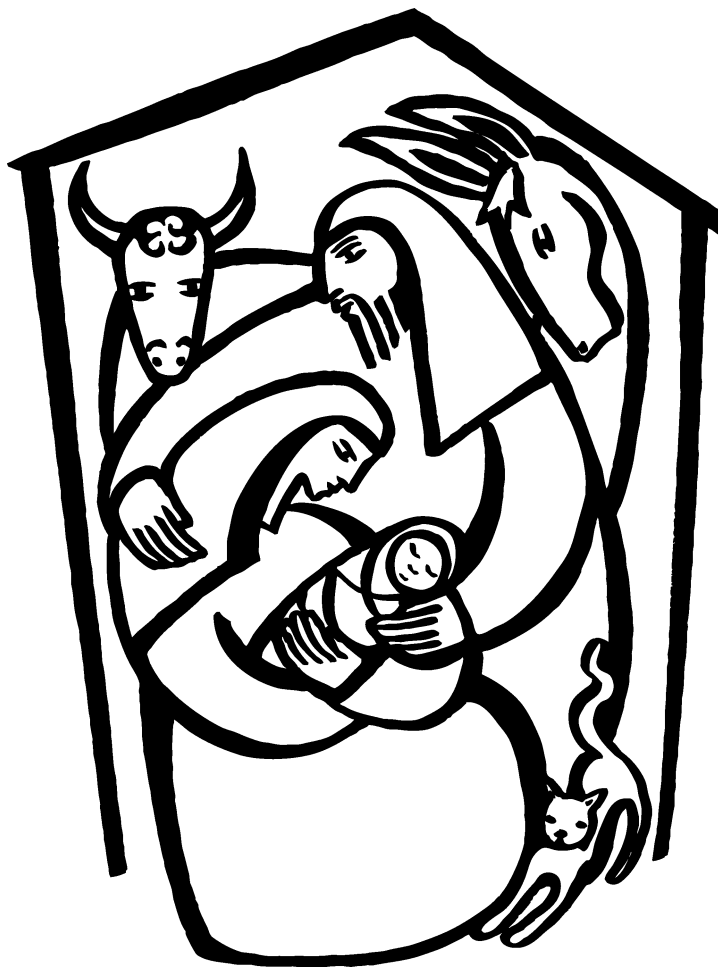


**December 21, 2025
Blended Worship
10 AM**



**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!

Schedule for Next Week, 12/24

Contemporary Worship, Candlelight & Communion – 4 PM

Traditional Worship, Candlelight & Communion – 8 PM

Schedule for Sunday, 12/28

Lessons and Carols – 10 AM

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

or email firstchurchalive@hotmail.com

Office Manager Hours are Monday, Tuesday 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, janetmackkaiser@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

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 10:00 AM is continuous at two stations.

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

SONG

"Dream Small"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Peace"

Stand

GATHERING SONG

ELW #256

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

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.

ADVENT LITANY

P Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P You are light in our darkness.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

p Son of God, save us from our sins.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P Son of Mary, deepen our love.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P Bring hope into the lives of all people.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P Give your peace to all nations.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P Be the joy of all who love you.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P Bring unity among all who believe in you.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P Bless us as we gather here in your name.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P Lord Jesus, stay with us always.

C *Come, Lord Jesus.*

PRAYER of the DAY

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.”

Light the fourth candle.

P Lord Jesus, You are the Prince of peace. Calm the anxieties in our hearts and help us to trust in Your plan. Teach us to be instruments of Your peace in our homes, communities, and the world. As we prepare for Your coming, may Your peace reign in our lives. Amen

C Amen.

HYMN

ELW #257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verse 4)

Sit

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too

little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter’s opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God’s gospel. The gospel’s content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul’s mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

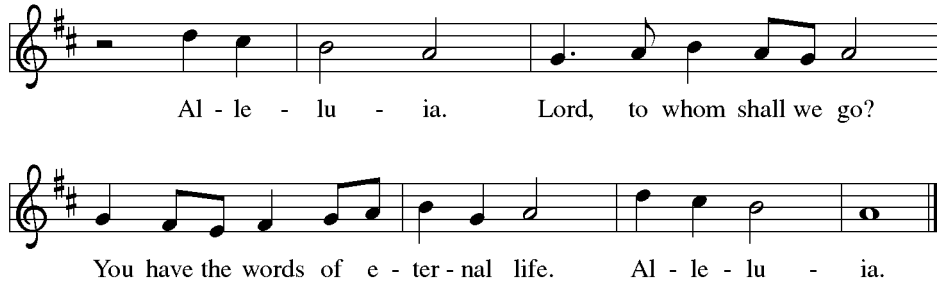
To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

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. Matthew, the 1st Chapter

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN of the DAY ELW #263

“Savior Of The Nations, Come”

Sit

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

“COMPANY’S COMING”

Stand

PRAISE BAND

“Emmanuel”

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

P In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

P God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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

"Aria"

David Gooding

Claude Loret

Stand

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five lines of music with lyrics underneath. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fifth line.

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

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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P Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

C Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Preface Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

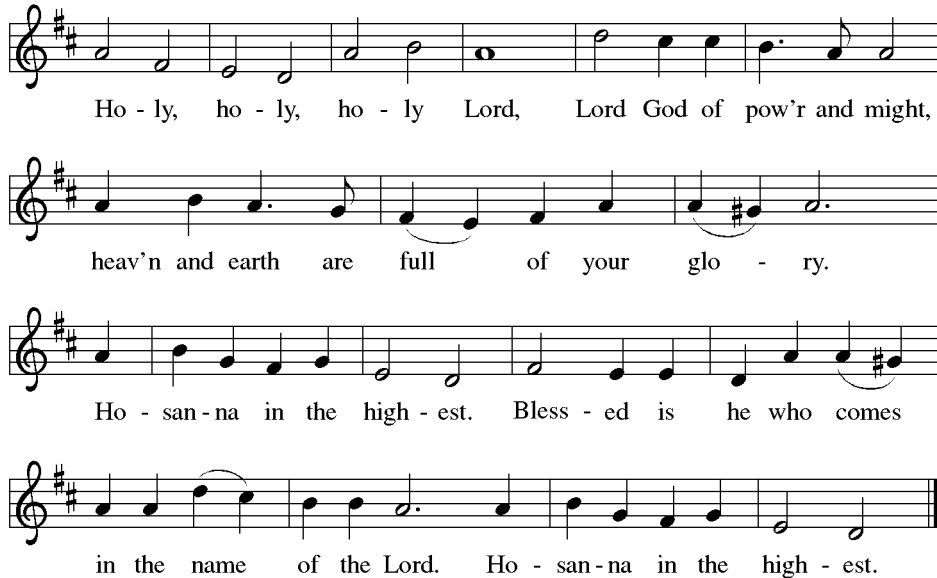
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Sit

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may respond: **Amen***

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.

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Stand

P God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen

BLESSING

P May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C Amen

SENDING SONG

“All Because Of Jesus”

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Way”

David Gooding

Claude Loret

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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, The Rugar Family

Homebound

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NAMETAG SUNDAY

Today is Nametag Sunday. Please take a nametag from the ushers and say Hello to someone new today!

OFFICE STAFFING UPDATE – PLEASE NOTE

Pastor Kathy will be on vacation Friday, 12/26 through Tuesday, 12/30. If there is a pastoral emergency, please contact the office at 440-238-7890.

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.

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!

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

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 10:00 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

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: Krocket413@gmail.com or call or text at 440-567-3754

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 and let's find the perfect spot for you! OR Use the link 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.

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 or scan the QR code above to learn more or sign up.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

VOLUNTEER - THANK YOU

As 2025 draws to a close, we pause to celebrate the incredible gift of your service. Week after week, you have given your time, energy, and talents to strengthen our church family and extend God's love into the wider community. Each act of service has been a blessing to many. Because of you, our fellowship has grown warmer, our ministries stronger, and our outreach more impactful. You have embodied the spirit of generosity and faith that makes our church a place of welcome and hope. We are deeply grateful for all you have done this year, and we look forward to continuing this journey together in 2026.

With gratitude,
Barbara Nalette
Talents Coordinator

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 use the link to add them to our list. <https://bit.ly/flcmilitaryprayers>



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

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 recently received 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.

Upcoming Worship Dates & Times

December

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

01/18- 9 AM & 11:15 AM

*In
Loving
Memory*



**The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God by
Bruce Holdread
In loving memory of
Jancie & Kristen Holdread
&
Carol Rosenblum
In Loving Memory of
Keith Rosenblum**

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday, December 22nd

AA at 7:30 PM

Brass Choir – 6:00 PM

Chancel & Bell Choir – 6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 23rd

Toastmaster's at 7:00 PM

AI Anon at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 24th

Contemporary Christmas Eve – 4 PM

Traditional Christmas Eve – 8 PM

Thursday, December 25th

Merry Christmas

Friday, December 26th

Office Closed

**Thank you to the following
volunteers:**

Reader

Jonathan Paine

Ushers

Chris & Jim Thomas

Counters

Sam Reichert, Rolf Gaab,
Jackie Wojciewhowski

Altar Guild

Pat Sauernheimer, Janet Kaiser
Maureen Harris

Communion Assistants

Jennifer & Jonathan Paine,
Tom Newbould

Communion Bread Baker

Vanessa Smith-Whitford

Kendall Whitford

Nursery Volunteers

Vanessa Smith-Whitford,
Ryan Hartman

Last Week's Attendance

9 AM – 71

11:15 AM - 61

Online – 64

