

August 25, 2024  
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, 9/01/2024**  
Worship 10 AM

To contact the Church, call the office at 440-238-7890  
or email [firstchurchalive@hotmail.com](mailto:firstchurchalive@hotmail.com)

Secretary Office Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 to 12:00 PM  
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:

Darren Whitford: 330-524-3670 [dgwhitford1114@gmail.com](mailto:dgwhitford1114@gmail.com)

June Zakrajsek: 440-336-1678 [jfzakrajsek@gmail.com](mailto:jfzakrajsek@gmail.com)

Stacey McNamara: 440-567-9532 [staceymac104@gmail.com](mailto:staceymac104@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Dawn Zima: [440-821-6545\\_dzima@cox.net](mailto:440-821-6545_dzima@cox.net)

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**  
**Setting 4**

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

**PRELUDE**

*"Moderato"*

**David Gooding**

John Welles

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

**SONG**

*"Because of Your Love"*

**PRAISE BAND**

**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.

## Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER of the DAY

P Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

*Sit*

### FIRST READING: JOSHUA 24:1-2A, 14-18

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

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

## SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 6:10-20

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

*Stand*

**HYMN     ELW #514 VERSE 1 & 2**

*“O Word of God Incarnate”*

## **GOSPEL**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter

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

### **GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

[Jesus said,] “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

*After the reading:*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SHARING TIME

**SERMON**

**PASTOR JIM KULMA**

*Stand*

**HYMN of the DAY**

**ELW #810**

**"O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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

*"Thine is the Glory"*

**Men's Choir**

arr. Zack Richards

*Stand*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



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 Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

P Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

**C Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

**BLESSING**

P The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
☩ be upon you now and forever.

**C Amen**

**SONG**

*“Everyday”*

**PRAISE BAND****DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*“Joyful”*

**David Gooding**  
John Welles

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# **PRAYERS**

## **Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating**

Sheryl Clark, Adrian Woods, Dennis Bailey, Darlene Cassidy, Audie Kiplinger, Carrie Deal, Karil Piskur, Linda Walker, John Duhn, Eleanor Preston, Jamie Mewhinney, Norma Cubano, Kevin Duffy, Curt Kowalewski, Bob Schulz, John Thomas

## **Military Members**

Austin Holley

## **Stephen Ministry Leaders**

Maureen Harris, Sam Reichert, Becky Piper, Beth David

## **On-going Prayers**

Natalie David, Peter Mazzeo, Linda Stanley, Abbey Uline, Nighman Family, Heidi Balicki, Dianne Mosley, Tia (Simpson) Russell, Ron and Mary Jane Warzel, The Fox Family, Ron and Joanne Cvelbar, Cheryl Mooney, Jerry Neumann, Deb Wise, Elaine, Jim Cochran, Thomas Lloyd, Rob Shoens, Sue Naypauer, Connie, Michael Otto, Jessica Walsh, Sue Widdows, Wanda Woods, Stephania, Susan Bodovetz, George Richards, Mike Rini, Carol Rosenblum, Dennis Beckman, Bonnie Bailey, Hedda Gonzalez, Bruce Piper, Josh, Cynthia, Sara

## **Homebound**

Mary Jane Knaack, Thelma Taylor, June Beck, Marj Wilder, Audie Kiplinger, Sheryl Clark, Ron and Mary Jane Warzel

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **WELCOME!**

We are happy to welcome Pastor Jim Kulma as he joins us for worship again this morning.

## **OFFICE STAFFING NOTE**

Pastor Kathy will be on vacation FROM Thursday 08/15 through Thursday, 08/29. In her absence Pastoral coverage will be provided for all emergencies. Please contact Vanessa at 216-548-5345 or Dawn Zima 440-821-6545, should you or your family be in need.

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY PRAYERS**

Please continue to pray for our Stephen Ministry Leaders - Sam Reichert, Becky Piper, Beth David, and Maureen Harris. Sam, Becky and Maureen have completed their training and Beth begins her training next week. Also, prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister who provides Christian care for those experiencing life's difficulties.

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

We will be having an informational meeting TODAY immediately following worship in the classroom next to the First Church library room. Please come see how you can serve in this amazing and fulfilling new ministry at First Church. Contact Maureen Harris at (440)376-1506 for more information.

## **2024 ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETIN DONATIONS**

Sign-up sheets are on The Welcome Center, there are still vase spots for September, October and December.

## **STOVE DONATION NEEDED**

A family in Medina is in need of a Gas Stove, if you have stove to donate, please contact Tammi Widdows, [tlw23sw@gmail.com](mailto:tlw23sw@gmail.com).

## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH – TALENT COORDINATOR, PAID ROLE**

We are looking for a Talents Coordinator to work with our congregation to identify their talents, gifts, skills and interests for various volunteer positions and activities for the Church and greater community. A detailed description of the role is available on the Welcome Center. Resumes and/or questions should be sent to [Dzima@cox.net](mailto:Dzima@cox.net)

## **2024/2025 - SUNDAY SCHOOL – TEACHERS NEEDED**

Sunday School will be starting Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking for a few more teachers. If you would like more information or are interested, please contact Beth Hartman via text or call at 216-262-7799.

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, FAITH BUILD – 8**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Habitat Faith Build,  
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Shift  
Thursday, September 12  
Scan the QR code or enter the link  
<https://bit.ly/flc2024faithbuild> to register



SCAN ME

## **STRONGSVILLE FOOD BANK**

The Strongsville Food Bank is in need of Spaghetti Noodles and/or canned tuna.

## **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



## **MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE - 18 & OVER**

The First Church Men's Basketball will be starting up in October for the Men over 18 at Kinsner Elementary School, Thursdays at 7:30pm beginning in October  
If interested, please contact Ray Treudler, [raysort1@yahoo.com](mailto:raysort1@yahoo.com) or 440-829-5316

## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SERVICE PROJECT – SEPTEMBER 8TH**

The first service project will be making lasagna's for "Lasagna Love" to be delivered to those in need. You can learn more about this organization at [lasagnalove.org](http://lasagnalove.org). The second service project will be making cards and decorating placemats for the seniors at Falling Water Assisted Living. The week of September 8th is National Assisted Living Week. This is a great way to get youth of all ages to participate in a project to brighten a senior's day. A light lunch will be served before working on the projects. Sign up in the welcome center or use the link <https://bit.ly/gwoh2024> or scan the QR Code to register.



## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HAND SERVICE PROJECT DONATIONS**

Donation boxes will be in the Welcome Center to accept donations of marinara sauce and lasagna noodles as well as monetary donations to purchase the perishable ingredients. Donations will also be accepted on line, use God's Work, Our Hands – Lasagna Love. Use the link [bit.ly/FLCGIVE](https://bit.ly/FLCGIVE) or scan the QR Code



## **CALLING ALL WOMEN!**

Interested in singing with a group? We will have a Women's Choir singing a simple and beautiful song this Sunday, and we want you to join! Reach out to Zack Richards for the music and more information.

## **CALLING ANY AND ALL MUSICIANS!**

Join us in praising God with music this Program Year! ANYone can praise God through music! ANY age. ANY experience level. ANY instrument. ANY voice. First Church is the perfect place to share your talents. We have a Brass Choir, Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Contemporary Praise Band. We also have solo and small group opportunities. ALL you need is a desire to praise God through music! We'll take care of the rest. Contact Zack Richards for more information. ALL are welcome in this place!



**The Altar Flowers are given to the  
Glory Of God by  
The McLemore Family in  
celebration of Alex's 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
And  
The Shorts Family in celebration of  
Ron and Maureen's 48<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary.**

**The Bulletins are given to the Glory  
of God by The Whitecar Family in  
celebration of Mary and Bradley's  
Birthdays**

**Last Week's Attendance**  
**10 AM - 86**  
**Online – 6**

**Thank you to the following volunteers:**

**Reader**

Stacey McNamara

**Ushers**

Jim and June Zakrajsek

**Counters**

Reiner Mueller, Gary Walters

**Altar Guild**

Barb Krueger, Jackquie McLemore,  
Shelley Hoffman

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**Monday, 08/26**

AA – 8:00 PM

**Tuesday, 08/27**

Al Anon - 7:00 PM

Toastmasters - 7:00 PM

**Saturday, 08/31**

Schnaterbeck Wedding