

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Blended Worship**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**10:00 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, 12/22/2024**

Contemporary Worship at 9:00 AM

Sunday School at 10:15 AM

Traditional Worship at 11:15 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, Thursday, 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)

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

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

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**  
**Setting 3**

**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 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**

*"The Mystery of: Advent"*

*Stand*

**GATHERING SONG**

**ELW #288**

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

**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** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**L** "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

*Light the third candle.*

**L** Let us pray: Dear Jesus, help us to focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. Help us to find you in the everyday moments that we might come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas.

**C Amen.**

## **SONG**

*"Christmas is Coming"*

*Sit*

## **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

## SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

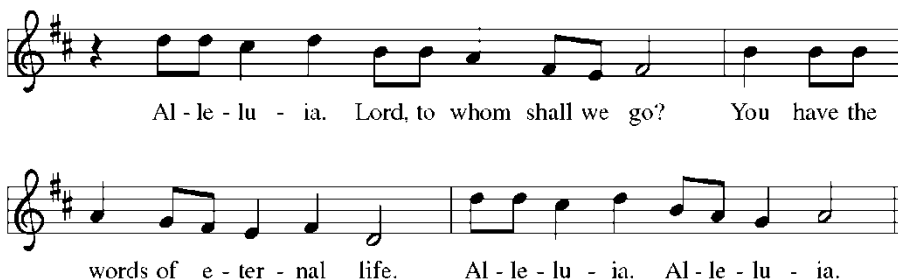
*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*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 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

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

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.  
*After the reading:*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SONG**

*"I Believe"*

**"HARK AND THE NOT-SO HEAVENLY CHOIR"**

**HYMN**

**ELW #239**

*"Hark, The Glad Sound!"*



## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

**P** As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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**

*"Shepherd's Piping"*

**David Gooding**

Alix Dumont

*Stand*

## Create in Me

### *Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first line of the musical score is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right".

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second line of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your".

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third line of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth line of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

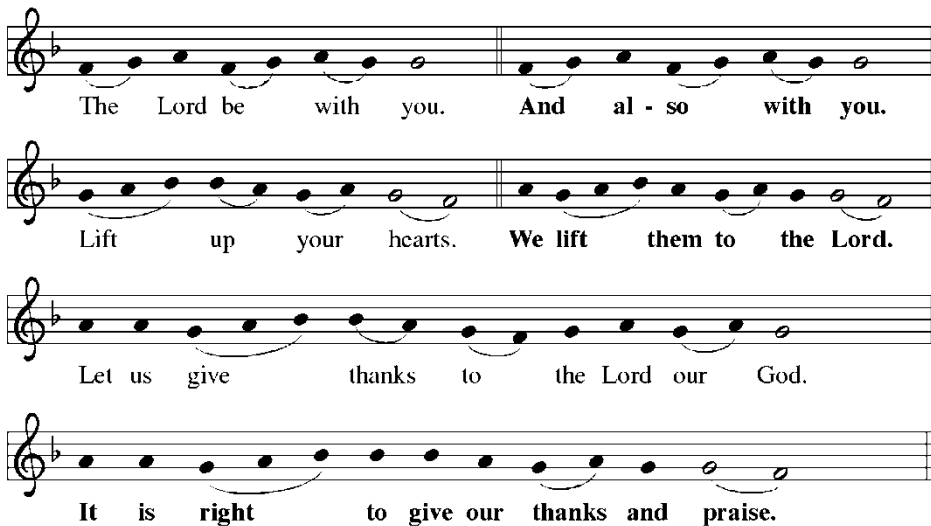
The fifth line of the musical score concludes the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

P Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

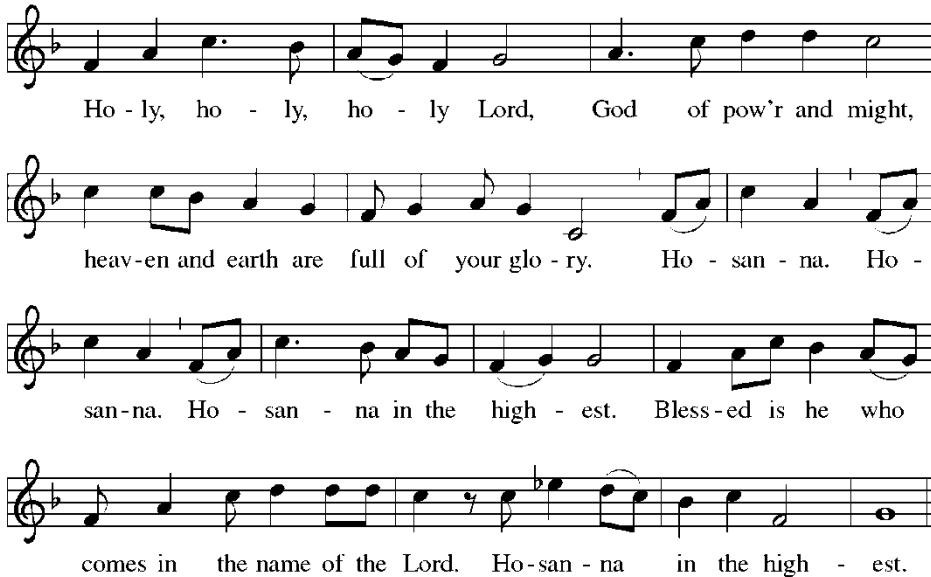
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 ...

## Holy, Holy, Holy



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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

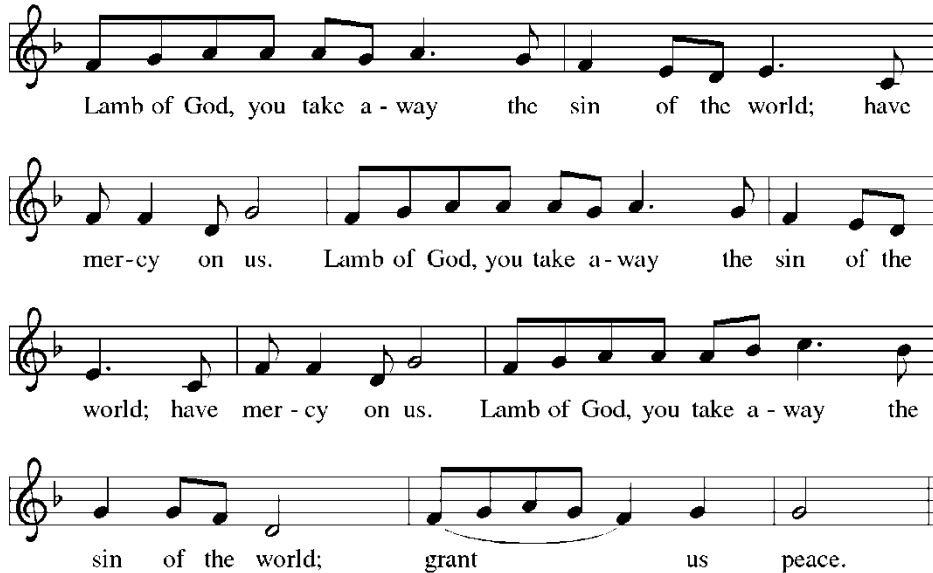
*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

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

## Lamb of God



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### *Stand*

**P** Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C** **Amen**

## **BLESSING**

**P** God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**C Amen**

## **SENDING SONG      ELW #248**

*“People, Look East”*

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*“Venice”*

**David Gooding**

Alix Dumont

# **PRAYERS**

## **Death in the Family**

Our sympathy and prayers are with Diane Mazzeo and family as they mourn the loss of Peter.

## **Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating**

Susie Siebert, Don McKelvey, Karil Piskur, Clark Buckley, Dean Miller, Linda Browning

## **Military Members**

Austin Holley, Deacon Nemet, Matthew and Teresa Dittman

## **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**

Natalie David, Linda Stanley, Abbey Uline, Nighman Family, Heidi Balicki, Dianne Mosley, Tia (Simpson) Russell, The Fox Family, Ron and Joanne Cvelbar, Cheryl Mooney, Elaine, Rob Shoens, Connie, Michael Otto, Jessica Walsh, Sue Widdows, Wanda Woods, Stephania, Susan Bodovetz, Carol Rosenblum, Bonnie Bailey, Bruce Piper, Josh, Cynthia, Sara, Dennis Bailey, Darlene Cassidy, Carrie Deal, Norma Cubano, Curt Kowalewski, Sarah Franko, Bill Bartkus, Jim Taylor, Sue Sutton, Chelsea, Erica Kaminski, Jeanette Paus, Matt & Pat, Claudia Lenarz< Kevin

## **Homebound**

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE MYSTERY OF ADVENT

We invite you to join us around “The Mystery of Advent” as we journey together to Bethlehem. As we make **Ready** to receive God’s greatest gift to our lives; we take this opportunity to open our hearts to the many ways in which we are called to be a blessing to others. Each week during this Holy season we will highlight a different opportunity for outreach. This week we highlight KIDS HOPE USA on our Children’s Sharing Tree. Next week we will be bringing in different sized diapers to support Zellie’s Home.

## 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



## NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS – CONTINUED PRAYERS REQUESTED

The Stephen Ministry team needs your continued prayers for guidance, patience, and confidence as we move forward in the training phase of this amazing ministry.

## CHILDREN’S SHARING TREE

Don't forget to return your Sharing Tree gifts for CWWV by 11:15 AM Sunday, December 15. Thank you for helping to make a child in need have a happy holiday! This Week the Sharing Tree will have tags for KIDS HOPE USA Students. Those gifts should be returned UNWRAPPED by 12/22.

## CHRISTMAS POINTSETTIAS

Poinsettias to adorn the altar are available to purchase for \$13.00 per 6.5" Plant beginning Sunday in the Welcome Center. Please fill out your form with your dedication and include your payment. You can pay via cash, online payment, or a check made out to First Lutheran Church Strongsville. The deadline for orders TODAY.



SCAN ME

## **HARVEST MONTHS – CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS**

We are still in need of non-perishable food items, *specifically hams*, and monetary donations for the Christmas food baskets. Turkeys or Hams can be placed in the freezer; envelopes are provided on the table in front of the church office for monetary donations, and non-perishables can be placed in the shopping carts by the Entrance way. Volunteers will be needed to pack the food baskets on Friday, December 20th 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 [reindogger@outlook.com](mailto:reindogger@outlook.com) Call or text: 440-724-8897

## **BOOK CLUB**

Hi everyone! We will not be meeting in December. For January, read a book published the year you were born. Prepare to share it with the group on January 18. We'll meet at 88 Fox Hollow in Brunswick at 10:00. Happy reading!

## **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 me and I 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. Please contact me at [pdavid@bw.edu](mailto:pdavid@bw.edu) or 216-213-8386, and I will pick it up. Thank you.

## **SAVE THE DATE - FLC NIGHT OUT AT THE HOFBRÄUHAUS CLEVELAND**

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Children Who Witness Violence Program of Frontline Services will be the Charity Keg Tappers for the Hofbräuhaus’s Cleveland monthly Keg Tapping event. Come join the fun and help support CWWV. More details to follow



**The Altar Flowers are given to the  
Glory of God by  
The David Family in celebration of  
Beth and Pierre's Anniversary  
&  
Claudia Lenarz in celebration of  
Ben's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

**Last Week's Attendance**  
**9 AM- 76**  
**11:15 AM - 56**  
**Online – 22**

**December Worship Times**  
**12/22 – 9 AM & 11:15 AM**  
**12/24 – 4 PM & 8 PM**  
**12/29 – 10 AM**

**Thank you to the following volunteers:**

**Reader**

Bruce Holderead

**Ushers**

Jim and June Zakrajsek

**Counters**

Daphne Leon, Ingrid Naso,  
Pat Sauernheimer

**Altar Guild**

Barb Krueger, Jacquie McLemore,  
Shelley Hoffman

**Communion Assistants**

Bruce Holderead, Pam & Herb Simpson

**Communion Bread Baker**

June Zakrajsek

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**Monday, 12/16/2024**

AA – 8:00 PM

Confirmation – 7 PM – 9 PM

**Tuesday, 12/17/2024**

Al Anon - 7:00 PM

Toastmasters - 7:00 PM

**Thursday, 12/19/2024**

Celebration Meeting – 6:30 PM

