

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2024

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.*

Welcome!

**If you are a visitor today, welcome to worship.
We hope to see you again soon!**

Sunday Schedule for Next Week, 01/05/2024

Contemporary Worship at 9:00 AM

Traditional Worship at 11:15 AM

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Don't forget that if you ever have any questions or concerns,
you may contact your Council or Cabinet representatives:

Darren Whitford: 330-524-3670 dgwhitford1114@gmail.com

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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

PRELUDE

Noel

David Gooding

Claude Balbastre

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God-with-us,

C we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

P Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ✠ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG ELW # 288

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

PRAYER of the DAY

P Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Sit

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Isaiah 9:2-7 *God Promises a King*

Jennifer Kowalewski

HYMN **ELW #282** *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (stanzas 1 and 4)*

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heavens all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

Micah 5:2-5a *The King will Come from Bethlehem* Petr Kowalewski

HYMN **ELW #279** *“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (stanzas 1 and 4)*

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!*

HYMN **ELW #295** *"Of the Father's Love Begotten" (stanzas 1, 3, 5)*

*Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been
and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*

*This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long expected;
let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory evermore and evermore.*

HYMN **ELW #296** *"What Child is This"*

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear; for sinners here the silent word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings here lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

HYMN

ELW #275

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

*Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o’er all the earth;
once you sang creation’s story;
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*All creation join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

Matthew 2:1-11 The Magi Follow the Star

Laurie Uline

HYMN

ELW #300

“The First Noel” (stanzas 1, 3, 5)

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wisemen came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the start wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wisemen three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

John 1:1-14 The Mystery of the Incarnation

Pastor Kathy Kluck

HYMN

ELW #263

“Savior of the Nations Come” (stanzas 1, 2, 3, 6)

*Savior of the nations, come,
virgin’s son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.*

*Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.*

*Wondrous birth – oh, wondrous child –
from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary’s son,
eager now his race to run!*

*Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin’s son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
Praise we sing eternally!*

Sit

OFFERING

MUSIC

Noel

David Gooding

Claude Balbastre

Stand

PRAYERS of THE FAITHFUL

P Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

After each portion of the prayers:

P God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

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

BLESSING

P The God of love,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

C Amen

SENDING SONG

ELW # 290

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and god sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Noel

David Gooding

Louis D'Aquin

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating

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

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, 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

Thank you to the following volunteers:

Readers

Jennifer Kowalewski, Petr Kowalewski,
Marj Gray, Lexie Gilbert,
Pastor Kathy Kluck, Laurie Uline

Ushers

Bob Strong, Sue Ludwig

Counters

Reiner Mueller,
Sandy & Ray Treudler

Altar Guild

Barb Kreuger, Jacquie McLemore
Shelley Hoffman

Last Week's Attendance

12/22/2024

9 AM – 78

11:15 AM - 61

Online –28

12/24/2024

4 PM – 180

8 PM – 131

Online 4 PM - 18

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday 12/30

AA 7:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

END OF YEAR DONATIONS - PLEASE NOTE

The Deadline for all 2024 contributions is December 31. Any contribution received in the office after 12/31/24 will be considered 2025 contributions.

PLEASE NOTE

The office will be closed on 01/01/2025

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETIN DONATIONS

Sign-up sheets are on The Welcome Center.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Don't forget that if you have any questions or concerns during this transitional time, you may contact your Council or Cabinet representatives:

Darren Whitford: 330-524-3670 dgwhitford1114@gmail.com

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