

**June 29th, 2025
Blended Worship
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, 07/06/2025

Single Worship Service, 10 AM

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

or email firstchurchalive@hotmail.com

Office Manger Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday – 9 AM - Noon

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 330-416-4406, lindeelout@gmail.com

At Large: Janet Kaiser: 216-215-4572, janetmackaiser@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 1

* Please *turn off cell phones and pagers* during our time of worship.

SONG

“Because of Your Love”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection..

P Merciful God,

**C you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,**

**but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

P You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✝ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen

GATHERING SONG ELW #757

"All My Hope On God Is Founded"

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

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the corresponding syllables. The text is as follows:

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

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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PRAYER of the DAY

P Let us pray.

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Sit

READING: GALATIANS 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

SONG

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 9th Chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 9:51-62

When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S SHARING TIME

SERMON

"Freedom"

Stand

HYMN of the DAY ELW #841

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

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**

PRESENTATION of the GIFTS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

MUSIC

"Cantilena"

David Gooding
Gordon Welles

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 in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, starting on G4 and moving stepwise up to D5, then down to G4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The second line of the musical score continues the melody. The treble staff starts on D5 and moves down to G4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The third line of the musical score continues the melody. The treble staff starts on G4 and moves down to E4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The fourth line of the musical score continues the melody. The treble staff starts on E4 and moves down to D4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The fifth line of the musical score concludes the melody. The treble staff starts on D4 and moves down to G3. The lyrics are written below the notes.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

P Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

P God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 love of God abound in you;

the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;

and the life of the Spirit

✠ bless you and give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING SONG

“Free To Dance”

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Cascades”

David Gooding

Gordon Welles

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating

Mary Jane Warzel, Rhonda Fox, Sheryl Clark, Allie & Reagan Kolman

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

On-going Prayers

Linda Stanley, Nighman Family, Heidi Balicki, Tia (Simpson) Russell, The Fox Family, Ron and Joanne Cvelbar, Cheryl Mooney, Elaine, Rob Shoens, Michael Otto, Jessica Walsh, Sue Widdows, Wanda Woods, Stephania, Susan & George Bodovetz, Carol Rosenblum, Bonnie Bailey, Darlene and Jim Cassidy, Carrie Deal, Curt Kowalewski, Sarah Franko, Bill Bartkus, Jim Taylor, Sue Sutton, Erica Kaminski, Jeanette Paus, Matt & Pat, Kevin, Zach Russell, Ryan Kuchta, Morgan Popple, Trish Nolder, Peter Duffy, Salay Family, Richard, Scott Hurley, John Walker, Don McKelvey, Karil Piskur, Clark Buckley, Laura Evangelista, Dennis Bailey, Eleanor Preston, Isabella, Amelia

Homebound

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS UNDECORATING – 06/30, 11 AM

After our fun and successful VBS, we need help UNDECORATING our Fellowship Hall and Classrooms. Please join us Monday, June 30th at 11 AM to help us clean up.

STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

We are growing and are in need of an additional Stephen Leader and more Stephen Ministers. Please contact Maureen Harris for more information. She can be reached at (440)376-1506. On August 24, there will be an informational meeting following the service.

Please continue to pray for our Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. Thank you.

STRONGSVILLE EMERGENCY FOOD BANK - DONATIONS

The Strongsville Food Bank is in need of the following items: Cereal, (All types and Sizes), Oatmeal - (all Sizes/cylinder only), Syrup - (all sizes), Pancake Mix - (all sizes), Mac and Cheese, Pasta - (all types/sizes), Tuna Fish - (all sizes), Ramen Soup, Ravioli, Beef-a-Roni, Spaghetti O's, Dinty Moore Beef Stew - 20 oz, Peanut Butter – All Sizes, Jelly – All Sizes

PIERSTORF COLLEGE FUND – DEADLINE JUNE 30TH!!

The Pierstorf College Fund was established in 1994 to provide interest-free loans to eligible college students who are members of Lutheran churches in Ohio.

Please note that all entering and current college students who are members of First Church are eligible to apply for this interest free loan.

If interested, please go to Pierstorf.org where you will find detailed information as well as the application process and needed forms.

FIRST CHURCH WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB – JULY

We are reading the book Eternal by Lisa Scottoline. We will meet at 10:00 AM on July 19. Place TBD. Happy reading!

BICYCLE RELOCATION PROGRAM

Do you have a bicycle (adult- or child-size) that could use a second life? Please contact Pierre David and he 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. Pierre can be contacted at pdavid@bw.edu or 216-213-8386

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – CHURCH NURSERY

The need for the nursery has become apparent as we welcome families with young children. Our goal is to open the nursery as early as this July but we need volunteers for us to achieve this goal. If you have a heart for children and a desire to serve, the church nursery is the perfect place for you to make a meaningful impact. The nursery is a haven for children, a place where they feel safe and loved while their parents participate in worship. Your dedication will ensure that each child feels valued and cared for.

If you are interested in serving in the nursery, please contact Barb Nalette 216-970-4131 mistylakenalette@gmail.com

Due to the requirements of our insurance carrier and the new standard set by the National ELCA Church, we must meet the following to care for children: **all** volunteers must pass a fingerprint background screening and two adults will need to be present in the nursery when it is operational. The fingerprinting is quick and easy and is provided for by the church.

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 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.



SCAN ME

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



**The Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God by
The David Family in celebration
of Caroline's Birthday and
The Bailey Family in celebration
of Asher Chapman's Birthday.**

**Thank you to the following
volunteers:**

Reader

Lexie Gilbert

Ushers

Chris and Rick Gonzalez

Counters

Gayle Kovach, Mark Schultz,

Chris Hamel

Altar Guild

Pat Saurenheimer, Janet Kaiser,

Maureen Harris

Last Week's Attendance

10 AM - 119

Online – 18

Upcoming Worship Times

Dates – Times

July

07/06 – 10 AM

07/13 – 10 AM

07/20 – 10 AM

07/27 – 10 AM

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday, June 30th

AA at 7:30 PM

Tuesday, July 1st

Stephen Ministry Supervisor Meeting

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Toastmaster's at 7:00 PM

Al Anon at 7:00 PM

Friday, July 4th

OFFICE CLOSED