

**June 29<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:firstchurchalive@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

Secretary: Lindee Flater 330-416-4406, [lindeelout@gmail.com](mailto:lindeelout@gmail.com)

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

At Large: Margaret Bewie: 440-263-5748, [bewie@att.net](mailto:bewie@att.net)

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

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

Controller: Brenda Jacob, 440-655-1535, [bkjacobi@hotmail.com](mailto:bkjacobi@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**

**CONFSSION 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 <sup>☩</sup> 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  $\ddagger$  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

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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*

Music score for "Create in Me" featuring five staves of music and lyrics. The music is in common time, with sections in 2/4 and 3/4 time. The lyrics are as follows:

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  
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>TH</sup>!!

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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

AI Anon at 7:00 PM

**Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

OFFICE CLOSED