



# Revelations

of First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 19419 Royalton Road – Strongsville Ohio 44149  
440.238.7890 – [www.firstchurchalive.org](http://www.firstchurchalive.org)

JANUARY

2016

Greetings,

I read an article recently that warrants repeating. Perhaps this is some food for thought as you enter this new and exciting year. A year filled with possibilities and room for goals and dreams.

*“Have you ever been told that what you are striving for is not within your reach? If so, do you believe them and alter your dreams or goals?”*

Throughout the centuries, people of various walks of life, have been told that they have no chance to succeed. In a lot of cases, many people cower from these kinds of comments and start to believe that they cannot succeed, or that they do not have the intelligence or where-with-all to accomplish a goal or a dream.

If you choose to believe these types of comments, often times you are engaging in what is often referred to as a self-fulfilling prophecy, or, in other words, you start to believe what others say rather than believing in yourself and the gifts that God bestows in your life.”

*“You are the only real obstacle in your path to a fulfilling life.” Les Brown*

Two years ago, I happened to meet a woman who wanted to branch out further in her life by starting to expand her own, small home business. She worked daily for a group home as a day provider but wanted to use her gifts in a deeper and more meaningful way. She was hesitant to go it alone, afraid that she wouldn't be able to make enough money to quit her day job. Her biggest challenge, however, was not her ability; it was her belief in herself.

For her, most of her friends and acquaintances doubted her ability to be a business owner, or suggested to her that she should just forget about her business idea and keep her job, telling her that jobs were hard to come by. Fortunately for her, though, she did not want to totally give up her idea. And, while she continued to have nagging doubts about what she really wanted to do, her goal was totally supported by a new business acquaintance.

Her business acquaintance gave her encouragement, made time available whenever she had questions or needed suggestions, or just to talk about business issues. And, though she had all the right plans and the ability to succeed, she remained her own worst obstacle. The good news is that she continued even though she struggled with self-doubt. In the end she persevered, and quit her day job to go it alone last year.

What she conquered was more than issues around developing her business; she conquered her own apprehension, her own self-doubt. She succeeded because she did not listen to the naysayers; she succeeded because she overcame the greatest obstacle – her own belief in herself. A belief that was strengthened through her willingness to see more in her own abilities.

God blesses each and every one of us so richly. But, sometimes I too feel we question or doubt our own abilities and so we stop ourselves short of where we might otherwise be able to go. May this New Year be an opportunity for us to hear God's call in our lives; may it be a chance for us to dream and to reach the goals that we set. Blessings as we welcome 2016!!

In Christ,  
Pastor Kathy





## Worship Notes for

### Christmas 2

Sunday, January 3	7:45 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4 – Eucharist
	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship – Eucharist
	11:15 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4 – Eucharist

### Pub Church

Tuesday, January 5	6:30 PM	@ TGI Friday's
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### Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 10	7:45 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4
	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship
	11:15 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4

### Epiphany 2

Sunday, January 17	7:45 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4 – Eucharist
	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship – Eucharist
	11:15 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4 – Eucharist

### Epiphany 3

Sunday, January 24	7:45 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4
	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship
	11:15 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4

### Epiphany 4 – First Communion

Sunday, January 31	7:45 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4 – Eucharist
	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship – Eucharist
	11:15 AM	<u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> – setting 4 – Eucharist

### 2016 Offering Envelopes

... are available in the church lobby. Please pick yours up at your earliest convenience, and thank you for your financial support of all the important ministries at First Church.

### New Member Classes

... will be offered **Sundays, January 24 & 31, 6-8 PM**. Please contact the pastors, or the church office, to register.

### A Way Through the Wilderness: Growing in Faith When Life is Hard

... is the topic of the **new Adult Sunday School Class beginning Sunday, January 3 at 10 AM** in the *Fellowship Hall*. Together, we will explore the wilderness experience – what it is, how we get there, why God allows it, and how we can get through it God's way so that we learn the lessons that can be learned only in the desolate seasons of life when we are totally dependent on God.

### First Communion Classes

... will be held on **Saturdays, January 9, 16, and 23 at 10 AM**. Those in *5<sup>th</sup> grade, or above*, may register by calling the church office or speaking with one of the pastors. **First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, January 31.**

### Over 50's Group

... will start the new year with a *special mystery guest*. Join us on **Tuesday, January 12** in the *Fellowship Hall* at **12:15 PM**. Bring a *brown bag lunch*. Dessert and beverage will be provided by *Bonnie Newling* and *Yvonne Buehner*.

### MLK Day Lunch with the Men of New Covenant

All men of First Church are encouraged to join us for lunch with the men of New Covenant on MLK Day, **Monday, January 18** at the *Cracker Barrel* on *Tiedeman Road* at **noon**. Please contact *Bruce Holderead* ([vancepack@wowway.com](mailto:vancepack@wowway.com) or 440.655.1523) if you are interested in attending.

### ~BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND~ First Evangelical Lutheran Church's Ministry Fair WHEN: Sunday, February 14 THEME: *Put Your Heart in It*

Enjoy this opportunity to learn more about the variety of ministries of our congregation. You may even learn of a need only you can fill! More information will follow in the coming weeks but until then put a big red heart on February 14 and Put Your Heart into attending!





# KIDS HOPE USA

## January is National Mentoring Month

National Mentoring Month was created in 2002 by the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership. National Mentoring Month focuses national attention on the need for mentors. It also calls attention to how each of us as individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities, and nonprofits can work together to increase the number of mentors needed to assure positive outcomes in the lives of our young people.

National Mentoring Month celebrates mentoring and the positive effect it can have on young lives. It is the perfect time to recognize the mentors and prayer partners who have been faithfully volunteering in our KIDS HOPE USA mentoring program. The mentors go to Drake Elementary School for one hour each week to work with their mentees. The behind-the-scene prayer partners hold the mentors and their mentees up in prayer. This combination has produced amazing, positive results in the lives of these young people in our community.

Our mentors and prayer partners will be recognized at church services on January 24. Names will be listed in the bulletin, so take note of who these individuals are and thank them when you see them. Also ask them about their mentees. They will have wonderful stories to tell you!

The following are some highlights from a list of 20 reasons mentors are great as compiled by the national office from comments children made.

He lets me use his pencils and he brings games to play.  
We talk and laugh and we talk about our families.  
She comes to see me every week.  
He is awesome.  
She is a good reader and she reads with me.  
He is thoughtful and cares about me.  
She is kindhearted and generous.  
She is pretty and caring.  
She is truthful.  
She is always positive and grateful.  
She is nice and kind.  
She puts me before herself.

Thank you again to the Mentors and Prayer Partners for helping God change the lives of his people.

*Sam Reichert*

KHUSA Communications Coordinator

One **child**

One **hour**

One **church**

One **school**

# WOW Happenings

## Thankoffering



Over \$365 was received for the ministries of the Women of the ELCA during November. Thank you for your generous support. The WOW Board extends its gratitude to the girls & women who contributed to these services as communion assistants, readers, ushers, and speakers.

## WOW Survey Report

Twenty-nine surveys were submitted to the WOW Board in October. In response to questions related to WOW Board programming; social events, Bible studies & outreach opportunities rated the highest in interest. There was significant interest in an ongoing monthly Bible study. The majority preferred Bible studies to be scheduled on weekday evenings. We gathered ideas for Bible study topics, as well as open feedback about the mission of the WOW Board. A repeated theme was a desire to build community and relationships. This feedback has been very helpful in our programming discussions. Continued feedback is welcome. You can submit your thoughts/ideas to WOW Board President *Bonnie Eggers*, [pmozbach@gmail.com](mailto:pmozbach@gmail.com); 440.477.3852.

## Mark your Calendars!



### Soup & Sweets



Saturday, January 23 at 6:30 pm  
12003 Coopers Run  
Strongsville, OH 44149

Do you have a favorite soup or dessert you would like to share? Come for lots of fun at the home of *Natalie Haggett*. Sign up to attend at the *Welcome Center*. Please contact *Bonnie Eggers* if you need a ride to the event (440.477.3852).



### Watershed Stewardship Center Tour

April 30, 2016 10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
2277 West Ridgewood Drive  
Parma, OH 44134

Join Naturalist *Mark Warman* for a **Behind-the-Scenes Tour** (1 hour) of this state-of-the-art facility dedicated to protecting our urban watershed. We'll have a picnic lunch afterwards (WOW will provide beverages).

*Date to be determined*



### In the works ...

At a salad luncheon we will learn more about KIDS HOPE USA and gather to provide tangible support for this ministry. We will be making something special that mentors can share with the children. *Gloria Reichert* will be speaking.

### Bible Study

We are planning a four-session Bible study between March & June. Stay tuned for more information ...

# JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

## January 3

## January 10

## January 17

## January 24 *KHUSA Recognition*

## January 31 *1<sup>st</sup> Communion*

### Acolytes

Ellen Kolman 440.846.0947	7:45 11:15	Ryley Mayberry Natalie Rayer Kelly Badowski	Kristen Crane	Adam Hartman Alexa Forse Natalie Rayer	Abbi Lindsey	April Trimmer
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### Ushers

Len Taylor 440.236.8433	7:45	Doug Rommel Mark Schultz	Russ & Kelly Kalnasy	Mark & Janice Hentosh	Len & Margie Taylor	Chuck & Sandy Kaskey
Maureen Shorts 440.582.3535	9:00					

Alan Evangelista  
440.572.5327

### Readers

Barb Krueger 440.238.9072	7:45 Comm Assts:	Bill Chapman, R Clark & Madge Buckley	Rae Alexander, R	Steve Gall, RCA Sandy Kaskey	Bob Lindsey, R	Barb Nalette, R
	9:00 Comm Assts:	Judy Peach, RCA Karl Arula, Julie Crane, Chuck Whitecar, Maureen Shorts	Jan Kappus, R	Joy Blankenship, RCA Kurt Blankenship, Bruce & Jan Holderead, Bonnie Bailey	Jeanine Kowalewski, R	Audrey Kuntz, R
	11:15 Comm Assts:	Kerry McLemore, R Yvonne Buehner, Debbie Dudas, Gayle Kovach, Barb Krueger	Laurie Uline, R	Renee Sadler, RCA Ben Blake, Janet Kaiser, Holly Perzy	Beth David, R	Dennis Beckman, R

### Nursery

Bonnie Bailey 440.572.5044	9:00
	10:00

### Counting Teams

Terri Mosley 440.238.6470	Jim & Sheri Gist Gary & Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger	Reiner Mueller Al & Shelley Hoffman Pierre David	Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Carol Paulini	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo	Terri Mosley Jan Iglehart Bob Jacob
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### Altar Guild

Beth David 440.238.1281	Dawn Evangelista Marsha Stephens Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder	Pat Sauernheimer Janet Kaiser Sandy Kaskey	Dawn Evangelista Marsha Stephens Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder	Judi Minium Madge Buckley Janice Hentosh	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Sue Ludwig Jacquie McLemore
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