



# Revelations

of First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 19419 Royalton Road – Strongsville Ohio 44149

440.238.7890 – [www.firstchurchalive.org](http://www.firstchurchalive.org)

November

2016

Dear Friends,

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday I always think of the story of the Ten Lepers, the appointed Gospel Lesson for Thanksgiving services (Luke 17:11-17). Ten lepers beg Jesus to heal them. Jesus sends them on their way with the command to show themselves to the priests. As they travel they are cleansed. The tension in the story is made apparent when only one finds his way back to give thanks to Jesus. That's only a ten percent return rate. Luke doesn't elaborate or tell us the reason the other nine simply go on their merry way, but it probably causes some resentment to surface. What's wrong with the other nine, we wonder? Didn't they have the time or consideration to at least come back and say thank you? It's a rather simple thing, right?



While it's easy to point the finger of blame, it may be uncomfortable to reflect on our own behavior. There have probably been times when we have neglected to give thanks, either to God or another person. Maybe it just slipped our minds or we got distracted. Or maybe we thought that thing another person did for us wasn't such a big deal and didn't warrant acknowledgment. We can justify or rationalize almost any behavior. But try turning the tables. If we are the ones who did something for someone else and they don't bother to say thank you... well... we get our feathers ruffled pretty quickly don't we?

I wonder what we might be thankful for, and who might benefit from a special acknowledgment. When is the last time we actually thanked someone for being our friend? Or thanked our spouse, our parents, our children just for being who they are and what they contribute to our lives? Or the mail carrier, the clerk at the store, the bus driver, the sanitation worker, the plumber, the repair person, the computer technician, the restaurant server...? You get my drift.

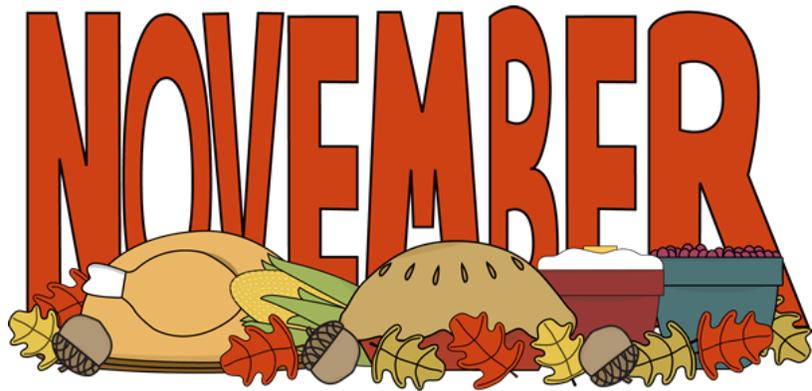
Recently, I attended my 40th high school reunion. I reconnected with some people I hadn't seen in a very long time, and caught up with folks I am fortunate to see several times throughout the year. When it was over I found myself thinking how blessed I am to have these wonderful people in my life, even if it's just for a little while every few years. I'm grateful for friends near and far, because the bottom line is that relationships are the best gift anyone can ever have.

What are you thankful for this year? Whatever it is, or whoever it is, number yourselves among the single leper who returned to give thanks for the grace and love of Jesus.

With Gratitude,

Pastor Chuck

## WORSHIP NOTES FOR



### **Pub Church**

Tuesday, November 1

6:30 p.m.

TGI Friday's

### **All Saints**

Sunday, November 6

#### **ONE SERVICE ONLY**

10:30 AM

Blended Service

### **Pentecost 26**

Sunday, November 13

#### **Youth Leading All Services**

7:45 AM

ELW Setting 3 & 8

9:00 AM

Contemporary Worship

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

11:15 AM

ELW Setting 3 & 8

### **Christ the King**

Sunday, November 20

#### **Women's Thankoffering Services**

7:45 AM

ELW Setting 3 & 8, Eucharist

9:00 AM

Contemporary Worship

Eucharist

11:15 AM

ELW Setting 3 & 8, Eucharist

***Guest Preacher: Pastor Gwen Snell, New Covenant Lutheran Church***

### **Advent 1**

Sunday, November 27

7:45 AM

ELW Setting 3 & 8

9:00 AM

Contemporary Worship

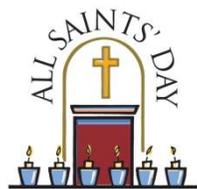
11:15 AM

ELW Setting 3 & 8

## PUB CHURCH

... will gather at TGI Friday's in Strongsville on **Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 PM**. All are welcome for this time of great food and fellowship, challenging conversation, prayer, and Eucharist.

## ALL SAINTS DAY



All Saints' Day is **Sunday, November 6**. There will be **one service at 10:30 AM**. Sunday school will be at **9:00 AM**. You are invited to memorialize your loved ones by bringing an item to be placed on the remembrance tables during the service. Roses will also be provided to help us honor the living saints in our lives.

## OVER 50's GROUP

... will have its annual pot luck luncheon on **November 8th at 12:15pm** in the *Fellowship Hall*. Bring your brown-bag lunch. We will be discussing plans for 2017. Questions? Call or email *Yvonne Buehner* [2015yvonne@gmail.com](mailto:2015yvonne@gmail.com).

## SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

... will be on **Sunday, November 20 at 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary. We will review and vote on the 2017 Budget. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

## CHILDREN'S SHARING TREE

Watch for the Children's Sharing Tree in **December**. We will, again, help the children of Strongsville who are in need celebrate Christmas. Watch for more information in the weekly newsletter.





## KIDS HOPE USA

Earlier this fall I walked a mentor to a classroom to see her mentee for the first time this school year. When the child saw her mentor, she ran to her, threw herself into the mentor's arms and gave her a huge hug. "I never, ever want to let you go," said the child. Later the child tried to convince her mentor to come two days a week instead of one. I witnessed pure unabashed joy every time the kids saw their mentors for the first time.

A mentor who is just beginning to work with a new child lacking a male role model in his life related the following to me. "I just had to tell you about our session. We went outside to toss the football during the last ten minutes. We really bonded. I have never seen him so happy. He jumped up and down, laughed, and called me 'Mr. Butterfingers' when I dropped the ball. His happiness moved me to tears."

David Staal, President of KIDS HOPE USA, has just written a new book entitled *SHOW UP*. In it, he encourages people to step out of their stories and into someone else's. He states that no matter how hard you try, you cannot make a miracle happen for yourself. But you can put yourself in position to help make a miracle happen for someone else.

Staal also details being at a meeting at which a former gang member who had been incarcerated spoke. This twenty-two year old was asked if anything would have changed if an adult had consistently shown up during his elementary school years to encourage him. His reply? "I would have made big-time different decisions. If someone had been there for me, I would not have needed a gang to make me feel someone cared about me. None of this would have happened." He added, "It is crazy what hope can do."

Another example given in the book tells about a third grade boy experiencing a tough life. He had behavior issues and was so behind in reading that the principal feared he would never graduate. Many interventions were tried but failed. His teacher requested a KIDS HOPE USA mentor, and extraordinary things began to happen as the mentor faithfully met with the child week after week. Two years later the boy was a happy, well-behaved student, and an excellent reader. His principal asked David Staal to tell as many people as he could about what happened to the boy because it was a miracle. His mentor caught up to David and said, "I didn't do anything special. Really. All I did was show up."

And that is what our mentors, supported by their prayer partners, do every week. They show up and help make miracles happen in the lives of children in our community. It is very gratifying to watch. I am very grateful for these wonderful people. I also appreciate the support the congregation gives to our KIDS HOPE USA program. Otherwise, none of this would be possible.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM KIDS HOPE USA!**

Gloria Reichert  
Director, KIDS HOPE USA

# Women of WELCA

WOW Board:

Bonnie Eggers (President, 2017)  
Vice-President: Open  
Jeanine Kowalewski (Secretary, 2017)  
Christine Hamel (Treasurer, 2016).

## Women of WELCA Needs You

We are in need of volunteers to join the WOW Board in the coming year. Currently we have two open board positions; Treasurer & Vice-President. We would love to have more people than just who are elected to join us. Christine Hamel has graciously volunteered to continue her service as treasurer until a new treasurer member is found. Each board member serves 2 years in her elected position. There are limits to how many terms a person may consecutively serve. We have two board members that have served many years and are approaching their “term limits” as specified by our by-laws. It is important that we reflect the community we serve. We need new ideas and people to sustain this ministry in the coming years. Would you consider joining us? Come to a few of our meetings. Talk with any of us. And please express your deep appreciation to Jeanine and Christine for their continued legacy of service to the women of First Church.

## *Upcoming Events!*

### **Nutrition across the Ages with Beth David**

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm**

Women’s nutritional needs change with different “stages of life”. Join Beth David, nutritionist, as she shares about the nutritional requirements our bodies as we move through each stage. Our luncheon is open to all ages. Please bring a friend, aunt, mother, granddaughter etc.... We will also hold a brief General Meeting.

Location: Fellowship Hall ~ please bring a salad or dessert to share

### *Thankoffering - November 20<sup>th</sup>*

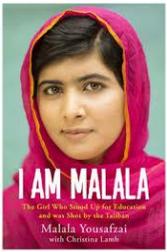
Last year, I received a Blessing Bowl, from my cousin. The word “blessing” is etched on the surface in a variety of languages. This year, I am writing down a blessing each day to deposit into this bowl. And this bowl will remind me to become a blessing to others in service, prayer and in giving. Would you consider doing the same? Please consider making a blessing bowl. And translate these blessings into a gift to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

**Thankoffering will be on Sunday, November 20th.** Rev. Gwendolyn H. Snell, pastor of New Covenant, will be our guest speaker.

Envelopes for your gift will be distributed on November 13<sup>th</sup> and made available at the Welcome Table.



## Book Club



Put your reading glasses on and join us as we discuss the following book....

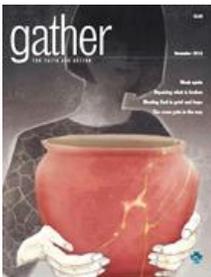
*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

Date: Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

Location: First Church

## Gather Magazine



Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. A print subscription is \$15/year. Digital access is free to print subscribers.

Subscribe at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

# Holiday Food baskets



**Harvest Weekends has now become Harvest Month!**  
We will begin collecting non-perishable food items each Sunday before Thanksgiving starting October 30<sup>th</sup> to fill food baskets that are donated to less fortunate in our community. These food baskets go a long way to helping their Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations a little brighter and a little stress free.

**Each week we will be asking for donations of specific categories of food items:**

- 1) October 30th - Peanut butter, Jelly and Spaghetti Sauce**
- 2) November 6 - Canned Fruits & Vegetables**
- 3) November 13 - Boxed Potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing, and Rice**
- 4) November 20 - Cereal, Mac & Cheese, and Pasta**

We will also be accepting donations of **whole turkeys** which can be left in the freezer in the fellowship hall kitchen and **monetary donations** to help fill the baskets with perishable items, such as milk, bread, eggs, and butter. Please use the envelopes marked "Food Baskets" located on the Welcome Center and place the envelope in the offering plate.

Also: *Donations of empty packing boxes will also be very much appreciated.*

Volunteers will be needed to help pack the food baskets on Tuesday, November 22 and Thursday, December 22 at 9:00 am. If you are able to help, please call:

Joy Blankenship e-mail [joybuzzard@gmail.com](mailto:joybuzzard@gmail.com)

Reiner Mueller e-mail [reinermueller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reinermueller@sbcglobal.net)

"For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2:10

# NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

		November 6 ALL SAINTS DAY 10:30 SERVICE	November 13 YOUTH SERVICE	November 20 THANKOFFERING	November 27
<b>Acolytes</b>					
Ellen Kolman	7:45			Madi Snyder	
	10:30/ 11:15	Abbi Lindsey April Trimmer	Elissa Scheel	Isa Hinojosa Natalie Rayer	Kelly Badowski
<b>Ushers</b>					
Len Taylor	7:45			Janice Hentosh	Len Taylor Margie Taylor
Maureen Shorts	9:00			Gladys Otto Alli Thellman Alice Trieber Mary Barnes	Dave Chaya Renee Chaya Mike McNamara Stacy McNamara
Alan Evangelista	10:30/11:15	Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship Herb Simpson Pam Simpson		June Zakrajsek	Ron Warzel Mary Jane Warzel Dawn Evangelista Alan Evangelista
<b>Readers</b>					
Barb Krueger	7:45 Comm Assts:			Barb Nalette,R Madge Buckley Sue Ludwig	Steve Gall,R
	9:00 Comm Assts:			Gail Landfried, RCA Jan Holderead Jan Kappus Connie Lielsen	Julie Crane,R
	10:30/11:15 Comm Assts:	Bill Chapman,R Tom Krych Cindy Krych Mary Jane Warzel Ron Warzel		Linda Walker, RCA Debbie Dudas Yvonne Buehner MaryAnn Tower	Caroline Haggett,R
<b>Nursery</b>					
Bonnie Bailey	9:00/10:30	Jennifer Paine Kelly Worsencroft	Gayle Kovach Sandy Treudler	Gerri Sagan Barb Kreuger	Margaret Bewie Caroline Haggett
<b>Counting Teams</b>					
Terri Mosley		Reiner Mueller Shelley Hoffman Al Hoffman Pierre David	Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Carol Paulini	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo	Terri Mosley Jan Iglehart Bob Jacob
<b>Altar Guild</b>					
Beth David		Judi Minium Madge Buckley Janice Hentosh	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Sue Ludwig Jacquie McLemore	Sandy Rath Billie Hoffman Karen McFarland Sue Schmidt	Pat Sauernheimer Janet Kaiser Sandy Kaskey

# November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6 – Crossroad Stitches 6:30 – Pub Church 7:30 – Al-Anon	2 7:00 – Wow Board 7:30 – Chancel Choir	3 6 – Praise Band rehearsal 7:30 – Men’s Basketball	4 10 – Prayer & Care	5 Daylight Savings ends!
6 All Saints Day 9 – SCS 10:30 Service only	7 6:30 – Brass Choir 7 – Bible Bonanza 7 – Confirmation 7 – AA	8 12:15 – Over 50’s 7 – Cabinet 7:30 – Al-Anon	9 7:30 – Chancel Choir	10 6 – Praise Band rehearsal 7 – Council	11	12 9:30 – Strongsville Food Bank
13 9 – Hess Baptism 10 – SCS 10 – Congregational Meeting 12:30 – WOW Luncheon & General Mtg 6 – Youth Board	14 Revelations articles due! 6:30 – Brass Choir 7 – Bible Bonanza 7 – Mentor groups 7 – AA	15 7:30 – Al-Anon	16 10 – Lydia Cicle 7:30 – Chancel Choir	17 6 – Praise Band rehearsal 7:30 – Men’s Basketball	18	19 9 – Youth adopt a grandparent
20 Thankoffering Sunday 10 – SCS 10 – Congregational Meeting 1 – Youth adopt a grandparent	21 6:30 – Brass Choir 7 – Bible Bonanza 7 – Confirmation 7 – AA	22 9 – Thanksgiving Baskets 7:30 – Al-Anon	23 7:30 – Chancel Choir	24 Happy Thanksgiving!	25 Office Closed!	26
27 10 – SCS	28 6:30 – Brass Choir 7 – Bible Bonanza 7 – Mentors 7 – AA	29 7 – Al-Anon	30 7:30 – Chancel Choir	Notes:		

Pastor Charles Knerem  
[pastorchuck1@gmail.com](mailto:pastorchuck1@gmail.com)

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