



Revelations

of First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 19419 Royalton Road – Strongsville Ohio 44149
440.238.7890 – www.firstchurchalive.org

February

2017

I asked someone the other day how they were. Their response to me, with a rather disappointing look was, “**Same old, same old.**”

Ever wished you could speed through certain phases of your life? As a kid, I often imagined the possibility. I pictured using a TV remote to fast forward through the parts of life that were boring, stressful, frightening or mundane and skip ahead to “the good stuff.” Looking back, I’m grateful I didn’t have access to such a remote. My life would have consisted entirely of trips to my grandparents, Christmas mornings, and birthday parties; there is so much I would have missed!

But what about you? At this stage of my life I can admit that having possession of such a TV remote would not be the best way to approach life. And yet, sometimes I catch myself drooling over the exciting lives depicted on social media or in movies, forgetting the fact that these are merely lives that have been distilled into a thick concentration of thrill. They aren’t real.

Real life is made up of brushing your teeth, running late for work, and washing dishes over and over again. Real life is sitting through dance competitions, long grocery lines, and late night typing on my computer. Real life is sometimes repetitive. But if we spend all our time wishing and waiting for the thrills, and trying to evade the monotony, we will fast forward through real life and begin to view the daily grind with displeasure. And to that I say, there is a better perspective. One we can achieve through the eyes of faith. With faith, we find meaning in; and even celebrate, the humdrum of daily living.

Faith allows us to “see” what normally goes unnoticed. In this case, faith can help us see things with a sense of gratitude.

Some years back Mark and I took a trip to Germany. While visiting, a small town outside of Cologne, we drove past a beautiful but non-famous church. I was in awe. Looking around, however, I realized that no one on the streets seemed to care. They were all busy carrying their groceries, talking on their phones, and daydreaming. For those who lived in the town, this was just another monotonous day. I wanted to shout: “But you’re missing it!”

I wonder if God ever feels the same way about us. Are we seeing life’s sights? Or are we missing them?

Sometimes things feel repetitious because we cannot see progress. We seem to be metaphorically punching a wall over and over without noticeable effect. Perhaps it’s our perspective that needs an update. A change in perspective allows us to recognize that even if the wall is not coming down, our arms are getting stronger.

Even grand adventures like swimming the English Channel or hiking Mount Kilimanjaro require repetitive steps. We call this diligence, persistence and tenacity. Grand views and epic photo ops are exciting because they are the culmination of previous perseverance. Faith reminds us that each forward step matters. There is a majestic view ahead of us.

By choosing to view our lives through the lens of faith, we can choose to believe that our small, simple, mundane, actions matter. Rather than distract ourselves from life’s sameness, we can remember that each moment is a gift, given by God for a reason. There is always something to learn, appreciate, work at, and celebrate. Why would we want to skip to the good stuff? My friends it’s all good stuff!

Blessings to us all as we face the day to day – may we learn to appreciate all that surrounds us in a new and different way!!

In Christ,
Pastor Kathy



Women of WELCA

The women of First Church are invited to *Feed our Friendships*, **Saturday February 4 at 6 PM.**

Join us for an evening of soups, sweets, and fellowship at the home of Natalie Haggett. Please sign up at the *Welcome Center*.



First Communion

...will take place on **Sunday, February 5** with **ONE SERVICE at 10:30 a.m.** Your prayers are invited for the following students who will be coming to the Lord's Table for the first time:

Dylan Bresnahan
Zak Kakos
Olivia Brewer
Tori Kakos
Hannah Carrossellia
John Kolk
Caroline Haggett
Audrey Kuntz
Carson Harper
Abigail McKee
Eva Hinojosa
Abigail Uline
Skylar Horn
Ty Worsencroft

OVER 50's GROUP

... will meet on **Tuesday, February 14th at 12:15 PM** if the weather cooperates. Emails will be sent on Monday if it has to be cancelled. Otherwise, bring your lunch and come for fellowship. Questions? Contact Yvonne at 2015yvonne@gmail.com.

Youth Event

Escape Room Cleveland! Sunday, February 19. 7th – 12th grades will meet at **12:15 PM** at the church, we will have lunch and then proceed to the event. We will return back at the church by **4:15 PM.** \$10.00 deposit to hold your spot. Contact Pastor Kathy or Karyn Kasnik with questions.

New Visitor Gift Bags Available

Check out the new First Lutheran Church Visitor gift bags available in the back of the sanctuary and behind the Welcome Center. The gift bags include information about our congregation and a special handmade gift. Please be sure to greet any visitors that are sitting nearby and offer them a gift bag.



Save the Date to Save A Life

Sunday, March 12th has been added as a new blood collection date to help the Red Cross with their current blood emergency.



Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation; all blood types are urgently needed. Double red cell donations will be accepted. Appointments are encouraged but not required; sign-up sheets will be available on the Welcome Center or sign-up on line at www.redcrossblood.org. Collection times will be 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the *Fellowship Hall*.



A Special Thank You

We wish to thank our church family for all the love and support we received over the course of Ron Hammar's illness and in his recent passing. All the expressions of concern – from conversations we had, visits to Ron, cards received, prayers offered, and food – all were so greatly appreciated. To those who made food for the luncheon following his memorial service – we thank you. It was wonderful to gather together right at church and share a meal together with family and friends – thank you for making that happen for us.

We also greatly appreciate the memorial contributions made in Ron's memory. We heard so many folks tell us how they remember him being such a "kind" man. We too were truly blessed by his kind spirit, which remained evident throughout his illness. And we are so very thankful for the kindness our church family extended to us during this time.

With sincere gratefulness,

Pat Hammar

Dean and Karen Miller

Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets

A heartfelt THANK-YOU to the many congregation members that donated an abundance of non-perishable food items, monetary gifts, and their time during the busy holiday season to maintain the long standing tradition at First Lutheran Church of helping those in need. Over 50 volunteers of all ages help pack over 56 food baskets that provided holiday meals to over 260 people through the Catholic Charities Migrant and Refugee Services, Southwest Hospital's Hospice Service Program; Cuyahoga County's Frontline Service programs, several families within the KIDS HOPE USA program, and within our congregation. A special thank-you goes out Don Neilson and the Curtiss-Wright Company, who donated a generous amount of extra turkeys and other food basket items, the confirmation youth, under the direction of their mentors, who collected a larger amount of food from area neighborhoods and from Wishing Well Preschool.

Click on the following link or go to the Church's website for an international themed thank-you to the congregation for our Thanksgiving donations to the Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee services.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzuUh_pAy1-NQWRJaUd5bHR1Tnc/view?usp=sharing



KIDS HOPE USA

WHY DO RELATIONSHIPS MATTER?

February is a month when we focus on relationships and send Valentines to those we love and hold dear. Our KIDS HOPE mentors, with the support of their faithful prayer partners, have formed wonderful relationships with the children they mentor. I recently watched a One-on-One video in which David Staal, President of KIDS HOPE USA, discussed why these relationships are so important.

Relationships are at the heart of KIDS HOPE and are the reason the program exists. Relationships are missing from the lives of many children. Sometimes they do not have a stable, caring adult upon whom they can depend. They need someone they can count on to show up every week for them.

So often I hear the children trying to convince their mentors to come every day of the week and watch them giving their mentors spontaneous hugs. Our lives are not always calm but can be rather stormy and tumultuous instead. This is true for some of the children also. Many of them have to handle problems that are difficult for adults. Perhaps those hugs give the kids stability – a place where they can hold onto someone and know that they are cared for no matter what happens in their lives.

Healthy relationships can lead to other wonderful things for kids. Research shows that physically, brains can grow, develop, and change. Spiritual and emotional growth can also occur.

We read in Genesis that in the beginning, God decided that it was not good for man to be alone. His solution was to provide another person with whom man could be in relationship. This solution still holds true today.

Some of the relationships formed with mentees last a long time. A mentor recently showed me a letter she received from a former mentee who years ago moved to another state. In the letter the former mentee states that her mentor is her best friend. This mentor also received a graduation picture from another former mentee. Some mentors continue to have lunch with former mentees and some continue to meet on a regular basis. Relationships are important.

Thank you, mentors and prayer partners, for making differences – one kid at a time- that lead to positive changes in the lives of children and let them know they are important and loved.

Gloria Reichert
Director
KIDS HOPE USA

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

		February 5 10:30 AM First Communion	February 12	February 19 Communion	February 26 Trasfiguration Communion
Acolytes					
Ellen Kolman	7:45	Abbi Lindsey	Ryley Mayberry	Madi Snyder	
	10:30/ 11:15	Andrew Magons Zak Kakos	Maggie Sawitzke	Sydney Leon Lance Fowler	Ethan Forse
Ushers					
Len Taylor	7:45		Mark Hentosh Janice Hentosh	Margie Taylor Len Taylor	Chuck Kaskey Sandy Kaskey
Maureen Shorts	9:00		Mike McNamara Stacy McNamara Alice Trieber Mary Barnes	Dave Bewie Margaret Bewie Hank Pekkola Gayle Pekkola	Gladys Otto Linda Browning Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship
Alan Evangelista	10:30/ 11:15	Bob Jacob Dennis Beckman Deepshikha Paul Kritika Paul	June Zakrajsek Jim Zakrajsek Reiner Mueller Herb Adams	Ron Warzel Mary Jane Warzel Dawn Evangelista Alan Evangelista	Wayne Mosley Steve Harris John Brinzo Alfonso Hinojosa
Readers & CA					
Barb Krueger	7:45 Comm Assts:		Bob Lindsey	Rae Alexander Clark Buckley Madge Buckley	Tami Rettig – RCA TBD
	9:00 Comm Assts:		Jan Kappus	Johnathan Paine Herb Simpson Pam Simpson Don Nielson Connie Nielson	Mike McNamara – RCA TBD
	10:30/11:15 Comm Assts:	Andrea Cassidy – RCA Sandy Kaskey Bob Jacob Judy Peach	Laurie Uline	Mike Magons – RCA Galdys Otto Sandy Rath Gregg Rath	Renee Sadler – RCA TBD
Nursery					
Bonnie Bailey	9:00/10:30	Ellen Kolman Jocelyn Magons	Jennifer Paine Kelly Worsencroft	Gayle Kovach Sandy Treudler	Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger
Counting Teams					
Terri Mosley		Jim Gist Sheri Gist Gary Walters Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger	Reiner Mueller Shelley Hoffman Al Hoffman Pierre David	Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Carol Paulini	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo
Altar Guild					
Beth David		Pat Sauernheimer Janet Kaiser Sandy Kaskey	Dawn Evangelista Marsha Stephens Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder	Judi Minium Madge Buckley Janice Hentosh Carol Paulini	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Sue Ludwig Jacquie McLemore

February 2017

◀ January

March ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3 10:00 – Prayer & Care	4 6:00 – WOW Feed our Friendships
5 Super Bowl 9:00 – SCS 10:30 – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE First Communion 12:30 – Bell Choir	6 6:30 – Brass Choir 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Confirmation 7:00 – AA	7 6:00 – Crossroad Stitches 6:30 – Pub Church 7:30 – Al-Anon	8 7:30 – Chancel Choir	9 6:00 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	10	11 9:30 – Strongsville Food Bank
12 10:00 – SCS 12:00 – Over 50's Luncheon 12:30 – Bell Choir 6:00 – Youth Board	13 <i>Revelations Articles Due!</i> 6:30 – Brass Choir 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Confirmation 7:00 – AA	14 Valentine's Day 12:15 – Over 50's 7:00 – Celebration Team 7:00 – Cabinet 7:30 – Al-Anon	15 10:00 – Lydia Circle 7:30 – Chancel Choir	16 6:00 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	17	18
19 10:00 – SCS 12:15 – 7 th -12 th grades "Escape Room" 12:30 – Bell Choir	20 Presidents Day Office Closed! 6:30 – Brass Choir 7:00 – AA	21 8:30 – KHUSA 7:00 – Council 7:30 – Al-Anon	22 7:30 – Chancel Choir	23 6:00 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	24	25 WOW – University Circle Historical Museum
26 10:00 – SCS	27 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Pastors & Mentors 7:00 – AA	28 7:30 – Al-Anon	Notes:			

Pastor Charles Knerem
pastorchuck1@gmail.com

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Pastor Kathleen Kluck
revklk@gmail.com

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