



Revelations

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

August

2017

Dear Friends in Christ:

One of the things that I enjoy about our congregation is the wide range of ages and generations that come together on a regular basis for worship, service, and fellowship. I often give thanks to God for this precious gift, and pray that I never take it for granted.

In his recent book entitled *The Vanishing American Adult - Our Coming of Age Crisis*, Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse writes about how our society has become largely segregated by age, robbing younger generations of the wisdom of our elders, and our seniors the joy of being revitalized by our youth. He raises some interesting points that could be important for the Church to heed.

“Today, young people’s lives are driven by one predominant fact: birth year. Teenagers are now hanging out, in person, online, with friends, most of whom are their same age and year in school. Correspondingly, senior citizens live out their years in nursing homes where they also interact mainly with their age peers. According to a study of Americans 60 and older, only a quarter of them had discussed anything ‘important’ with anyone under 36 in the previous six months. And when the question excludes relatives, the percentage drops to a jarring 6 percent.”

And consider this: “Fifty years ago it was the norm for multiple generations of a family to worship together. But that began to change in the 1980s and 1990s... Studies show that generational segregation weakens faith commitments. According to the Fuller Youth Institute, ‘involvement in all-church (intergenerational) worship during high school is more consistently linked with mature faith in both high school and college than any other form of church participation.’ Fewer and fewer of our young people have intergenerational experiences in the pews, with both theological and sociological consequences. As community density weakens, contexts for sharing wisdom also sadly evaporate.”

While these findings are disturbing, we have multiple opportunities to be an exception to the unfortunate new normal in the church. Here are a few suggestions:

- + When you come to worship, make sure you connect with someone who is not in your age group. And, if you have children, introduce them to one of our many senior members. Sit in a pew that includes someone you don’t know.
- + During Sunday School and fellowship hour, create an intergenerational table where more than just a cup of coffee is shared. Talk about current events, the things that are happening in your life, the challenges you face, the joys you experience. And LISTEN to how others respond. Gather new perspectives from generations other than your own.

(Continued on next page)

- + Attend the adult class. Participants often represent a wide range of ages and perspectives.
- + Engage yourself in our congregation's service projects. These are often purposely structured to include multiple generations.
- + If you are senior, be intentional about making friends with our younger members.

While the Church, in general, and First Church specifically face many challenges as the culture continues to change we can continue to be a vibrant community by strengthening our relationships with people of all generations. I encourage you to take advantage of the wisdom, vitality, energy, perspective, experience, insight and talent that exists among the people of our congregation. I continue to be amazed and refreshed with each new encounter I have with folks who share the Christian journey. I'm sure you will be too.

In Christ,

Pastor Chuck

Upcoming Events

Over 50's Group will meet on **Tuesday, August 22 at 12:00 Noon** in the *Fellowship Hall*. We will enjoy a cookout provided by Eleanor Preston and Bob & June Beck. Questions? Please contact Audie Kiplinger.

First Lutheran Youth are bringing back the **Garage Sale August 10, 11 & 12** to raise money for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering! To make this a success, we need YOUR HELP! Please consider donating your clean, usable items. *Donations will be accepted at the church on Sunday mornings and on weekdays during church office hours through August 6.* Please contact Julie Magons with questions at jcmagons@gmail.com.

Mission opportunity at New Covenant. The members of New Covenant Lutheran Church in East Cleveland provide fresh produce to needy families in their neighborhood. If you are interested in assisting on **8/26** please contact *Bruce Holderead* at vancepack@wowway.com.

WORSHIP NOTES FOR



Pentecost 9

Sunday, August 6	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship, Eucharist
	10:30 AM	ELW Setting 3, Eucharist

Pentecost 10

Sunday, August 13	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship
	10:30 AM	ELW Setting 3

Pentecost 11

Sunday, August 20	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship, Eucharist
	10:30 AM	ELW Setting 3, Eucharist

Pentecost 12

Sunday, August 27	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship
	10:30 AM	ELW Setting 3

NO PUB CHURCH DURING THE SUMMER.



KIDS HOPE USA

Summer raced by this year! It is difficult to believe that the 2017-2018 schoolyear will start shortly. When it does, we will begin our ninth year of mentoring through KIDS HOPE USA. What an exciting thought!

But before we dive into the upcoming year, I wanted to share some of the ways KIDS HOPE mentors try to stay in touch with their mentees over the summer months. One of the things we do is prepare a Summer Connections Kit for each mentee. Each mentor writes three notes to his mentee – one for June, one for July, and one for August - and dates the envelope so that the child will know when to open them. She/he also assembles three other notes, which are self-addressed and stamped, so that the child can write back with no cost to the family. These are placed in a large decorated envelope along with some summer treats. Not all mentors receive return notes, but when they do, it is quite wonderful. The important idea is that the mentors have stayed in touch with their mentees.

Summer outings are another way to stay connected over the summer months. Mentors have taken their mentees to do such things as play miniature golf, see movies, eat lunch at the mall, or watch Indians baseball games. Mentors need to have a parental permission slip signed and must plan to go on the outing with another unrelated mentor to follow the protocol set up by the National Office.

Each summer mentees and their siblings are invited to attend our Vacation Bible School with transportation provided. The number of those attending varies from year to year. This summer one mentee and his younger brother attended. Both had a wonderful time. Their mother was brought to the church to see the musical program at the end and thought everything was “awesome.” She really enjoyed seeing her children perform. The older child will be too old to attend next summer but said he would like to return and be a helper. Thanks goes out to Marj Gray and Barb Krueger who helped with transporting these children each day.

If you would like to become a KIDS HOPE USA mentor or prayer partner and make a positive difference in the life of a child, please contact the Director at g.reichert68@gmail.com or 330-225-3922. Not only will you have a rewarding time as a mentor, but you will have fun too. One mentor always tells me, “I wish I had started mentoring sooner. It is so much fun!”

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert
Director, KIDS HOPE USA

One **child**

One **hour**

One **church**

One **school**

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Rally Day, Sept.10, 2017



First Church members looking to “make a difference” will have an amazing opportunity to support early reading and literacy in children from low-income, local families with our annual “**God’s Work. Our Hands.**” Rally Day project this year.

Our Rally Day project will be a book drive to benefit Bright Star Books, a local non-profit organization created in response to a 3-year old’s desire for all children to have access to books from a young age. Bright Star Books partners with social service agencies to put the books into the hands of children who need them most, primarily through WIC offices [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children] which serve children aged 0-5 and by building libraries in transitional housing facilities and health clinics.

Did you know....?

Research indicates 61% of low-income households do not have children’s books of their own.

For children to enter kindergarten with an average-sized vocabulary of 5,000 base words, they must learn roughly 3.5 words every day from ages 1-5.

The biggest barrier to early reading and literacy is living in a book desert, without access to high-quality books.

How First Church members can help:

- 1) Gather your gently-used children’s books, especially those for children up to 8 years old (board books, picture books, ready-to-read, leveled readers, early chapter books). Bring books to church on or before Rally Day. Ask your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to contribute as well! New books and cash donations will be welcome as well.
- 2) Distribute collection bags and flyers to homes throughout Strongsville neighborhoods, requesting donations that will be picked up on Rally Day.
- 3) Volunteer on Rally Day to pick up books left by generous, caring neighbors and bring them back to church!
- 4) Volunteer on Rally Day to clean/repair/sort/count donated books or sand and paint bookcases.

We can make a difference in the lives of local children just by cleaning out our bookshelves and closets! Watch for volunteer sign-ups beginning August 10th.

Contact Beth David (bnd39@zips.uakron.edu) for questions about the book drive or volunteering on Rally Day.

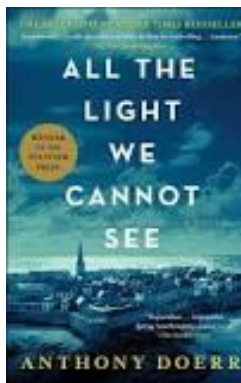
Women of WELCA

Calendar of Events

- August 5th, 9 am – Book discussion at Strongsville Market District
- August 12th, 11:30 am/12 pm – Luncheon at Clementine's
- September 22nd, 7 pm – Women who Wine
- October 7th, 9 am – Book discussion at Strongsville Market District

Book Discussions

Join us as we meet to discuss a variety of books. We will meet in **August, October, December, February, and April** at the Market District. Book suggestions are welcome. Please send your ideas to Bonnie Eggers at pmozbach@gmail.com.



***All the Light we Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr**

Saturday, August 5th at 9 AM. Strongsville Market District

Join us for a discussion of this story of two children growing up in France & Germany during the 1930s & 1940s.

Growing our Friendships

Luncheon at Clementine's – Saturday, August 12th

Women of First Lutheran and Women of New Covenant Lutheran are going to lunch at Clementine's in Olmsted Falls (8092 Columbia Road, Olmsted Falls, OH) on Saturday, August 12 at 12 noon. After lunch, we will shop around downtown Olmsted Falls. Meet at the Church at 11:30 AM to car pool. Please sign up at the Welcome Table. Call Natalie Haggett with questions. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Women who Wine

Friday, September 22nd, 7 pm

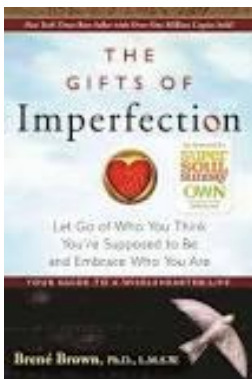
Location: 146 Kensington Court, Broadview Heights.

Join us for a night of food, wine, games and conversation. Maureen Shorts will be our hostess. Sign up at the Welcome Table.

More to come in the fall!

- Pastor Kathy will be leading a Bible Study in **October/November**. Details to come.
- We will also be hosting a luncheon where Pastor Kathy will share about her sabbatical.

Women of WELCA welcomes your input. Please contact Bonnie Eggers if you have ideas or questions.



The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown

Saturday, October 7th at 9 AM. Strongsville Market District.

One of Brown's series of books that explore living life wholeheartedly with courage, compassion and conviction.

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

		August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Acolytes					
Ellen Kolman	10:30	Sydney Hoffman Skylar Horn	Lance Fowler	Zak Kakos Dylan Bresnahan	Ethan Forse
Ushers					
Maureen Shorts	9:00	Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman Dave Bewie Margaret Bewie	Alice Treiber Mary Barnes Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship	Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman Dave Chaya Renee Chaya	Karl Arula Michelle Arula Hank Pekkola Gayle Pekkola
Dawn Evangelista	10:30	Jim Zakrajsek June Zakrajsek Reiner Mueller Herb Adams	Ron Warzel Mary Jane Warzel Sandy Kaskey Chuck Kaskey	Alan Evangelista Steve Harris John Brinzo Alfonso Hinojosa	Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Mike Magons Jocelyn Magons
Readers & CA					
Barb Krueger	9:00 Comm Assts:	Joy Blankenship - RCA Kurt Blankenship Jonathan Paine Paul Worsencroft	Gail Landfried	Andrea Cassidy - RCA Mike McNamara Paul Schlacht Alli Thellman Melina Rugar	Tony Rugar
	10:30 Comm Assts:	Wayne Mosley - RCA Terri Mosley Sam Reichert Alfonso Hinojosa	Sandy Treudler	Maryann Tower - RCA Dennis Beckman Janet Kaiser Greg Rath Sandy Rath	Kerry McLemore
Nursery					
Bonnie Bailey	9:00	Gayle Kovach Sandy Treudler	Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger	Natalie Haggett Caroline Haggett	Margaret Bewie Erin Edwards
Counting Teams					
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
Altar Guild					
Beth David		Dawn Evangelista Marsha Stephens Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder	Judi Minium Janice Hentosh Carol Paulini	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Sue Ludwig Jacquie McLemore	Sandy Rath Billie Hoffman Karen McFarland

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 – Crossroad Stitchers 7:00 - Celebration 7:30 – Al-Anon	2	3	4 10:00 – Prayer & Care	5 9:00 – WOW Book Club at Market District
6 8:00 – Praise Band	7 Pastor Chuck @ Rostered Leaders Conference through August 10. 7:00 – AA	8 7:00 – Cabinet 7:30 – Al-Anon	9	10 Garage Sale	11 Garage Sale	12 9:30 - Strongsville Food Bank Garage Sale 11:30 – WOW Luncheon at Clementine's
13 8:00 – Praise Band	14 <i>Revelation Articles Due!</i> 6:30 – Bonofide Rehearsal 7:00 – AA in Fellowship Hall – Dinner	15 8:30 – KIDS HOPE Leadership Team 7:00 – Council 7:30 – Al-Anon	16 10:00 – Lydia Circle	17	18	19
20 8:00 – Praise Band	21 7:00 - AA	22 12:00 – Over 50's Group 7:30 – Al-Anon	23	24 7:00 – KIDS HOPE USA pie night	25	26
27 8:00 – Praise Band	28 PC - Vacation 7:00 - AA	29 PC - Vacation 7:30 – Al-Anon	30 PC - Vacation	31 PC - Vacation	Notes:	

Pastor Charles Knerem
pastorchuck1@gmail.com

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 19419 Royalton Road
 Strongsville OH 44149-4995

Pastor Kathleen Kluck
revklk@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday & Friday 8-2,
Tuesday – Thursday 9-2
Email – firstchurchalive@hotmail.com
440-238-7890

Come One, Come All to the Ministry Fair!

First Church Fellowship Hall
Sunday, October 15th
9:00 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Have some fun!
Find out what your
church has to offer
and what you can
offer your church.

