



# Revelations

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

2017



Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

I am excited to share the news that soon we will have another opportunity to participate in this awesome, and life changing experience known as The ELCA National Youth Gathering. As of right now First Church has 21 youth and 4 adults registered for the 2018 Gathering which will be held June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Our Theme:** The theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is, **“This Changes Everything;”** which is based on **Ephesians 2:8** ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”***

Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough because of what Christ has done and are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.

**Our Host City:** People might know **Houston, Texas** as Beyoncé’s hometown, others as the world hub of the energy industry, some for its prominence as the flight control center for all of NASA’s manned space missions, but we will soon know it best as the host city for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering! In addition, Houston to be a diverse, multicultural metropolis with thriving performing arts and culinary scenes, over 55,000 acres of green space, large and growing international community, and so much more.

**Our Logo:** The 2018 Gathering’s logo is a visual representation of the theme and the 2018 Gathering experience. It incorporates the coming together of a mosaic to reflect the diverse host city of Houston, as well as the idea that we are a church where *all* are imperfect and incomplete, yet we each belong in – and have an important place in – God’s masterpiece. The cross at the center of the logo is the focus – it is God’s grace, through Christ’s life, death and resurrection, that changes everything for all people.

In her book *“Woo: Awakening Teenagers’ Desire to Follow in the Way of Jesus,”* Morgan Schmidt identifies the three central desires of teens. **All youth desire: Someone to become; somewhere to belong and; something to do [that changes the world].**

As our youth desire and struggle to find someone to become, somewhere to belong and something to do, the Gathering seeks to be a ministry that helps define some of that or at least open up pathways of discovery. The hope is that youth will grow to understand the fierce love that God has for them, just as they are, and that by grace, through faith, they have been saved. When young people (or really any age person!) truly claim this reality, it indeed changes everything.

We hope that you will join in our excitement as we look forward to this event. We consider ourselves blessed to even have this opportunity to attend such a Gathering. But that being said we also know that we have a few hurdles ahead of us, and that the cost to attend such an gathering is significant. However, we also realize that this is a goal worth attaining, and that when many hands come together the workload is lighter.

In Christ,

Pastor Kathy

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### **ALL SAINTS DAY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Join us on **Sunday, November 5 at 10:30 AM** for a powerful service of remembrance and celebration of the saints in our lives who have helped shape us and have led us to Christ.

Everyone is invited to bring items to place on our memory tables.

Red roses will be distributed to place in vases in honor of our living saints.

Special music by our praise band and traditional ensembles.

### **SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, November 19 at 9:45 AM** in the **Sanctuary**. The 2018 budget will be presented and voted on. A special report will be given on a potential project to expand our building. **YOUR ATTENDANCE IS VITAL!**

### **ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**

**Wednesday, November 22 at 7:30 PM**

St. John Neumann Catholic Church,  
16271 Pearl Road in Strongsville. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ for a service of thanksgiving. All are welcome!

# Worship Notes for



## All Saints

Sunday, November 5                      10:30 AM                      One Blended Service

## Pub Church

Tuesday, November 7                      6:30 PM                      TGI Friday's in Strongsville

## Pentecost 23

Sunday, November 12

## Women's Thankoffering Service

8:30 AM                      Contemporary Worship  
11:00 AM                      ELW Setting 3

## Pentecost 24

Sunday, November 19

8:30 AM                      Contemporary Worship, Eucharist  
11:00 AM                      ELW Setting 3, Eucharist

## Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 22                      7:30 PM                      St. John Neumann Catholic Church

## Christ the King

Sunday, November 26

8:30 AM                      Contemporary Worship, Eucharist  
11:00 AM                      ELW Setting 3, Eucharist

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There is still time to make a pledge for our annual stewardship campaign. This is our time to be a "**Living Sacrifice**" for God by "**Giving Ourselves Away**". If you need a pledge card, they are available through the church office or can be found in the pews. Completed pledge cards may be placed in the offering plate or mailed or dropped off at the church office. Let's all honor God and the many gifts he has provided by offering our own generous gifts.

## FIRST CHURCH *ALIVE!* CONCERT SERIES!

Join us to see the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band on **Sunday, November 12** at **4:00 PM** in the *sanctuary*. This FREE concert is guaranteed to put you in a good mood as the gloomy weather starts to settle in. The fine musicians who make up the band bring a variety of musical experience to their performances that include entertaining at Playhouse Square, The Front Row Theatre, Kenley Players, and The Coliseum! Don't miss out!

## OVER 50'S GROUP

... will meet on **Tuesday, November 14** at **12:00 PM** for our annual potluck lunch in the *Fellowship Hall*.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT

This year the Sunday school classes are going to be collecting socks for Rudy's Sock drive. Based on Rudy's moving message to our youth and congregation, we have decided to help out this year. We will be collecting socks for 3 weeks, starting on **October 29 through November 12**. Please feel free to drop off some new socks into the box in the lobby. Thank you all for participating!



## YOU ARE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE OF THE COLORFUL COMMUNICATORS!

According to The Book of Lists, the fear of public speaking ranks number one in the minds of the majority of people. Far above the fear of death and disease. You can overcome that fear, gain the confidence and skills to speak confidently, think on your feet and listen effectively...all in a supportive, non-intimidating environment by visiting the **Colorful Communicators**, a local chapter of Toastmasters International. Colorful Communicators meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month in the *Fellowship Hall* and will be having an open house on **November 14<sup>th</sup>** at **7pm**. All are invited. For more information please contact Reiner Mueller at [reinermueller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reinermueller@sbcglobal.net).



## SPARK EVENT – K-5<sup>th</sup> Graders

*Maggie & Ellie's* on **Saturday, November 18** from **11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**. Any questions, please contact Vanessa Whitford at [vanow911@gmail.com](mailto:vanow911@gmail.com).

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men of First Church (18yrs and older) are invited to join us for weekly evenings of fun, fellowship, and exercise playing pick-up games of basketball. Thursday's, Kinsner Elementary at 7:30 PM throughout the school year. Please join us!

# SAVE THE DATE



**The Children's Sharing Tree** will be up **Sunday, December 3.**

Please watch for more information on how you can help make a child's Christmas brighter.

## DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

By now you've seen many local stores already decorated for Christmas for more than a month, but here at First Church we wait until the Advent season begins. Just as your whole family takes part in the decorating festivities in your home we are inviting our church family to join in the decorating festivities of our church home!



We've designated **Saturday, December 9 beginning at 1:00 PM** to bring our new trees and boxes of new ornaments to life, and because it is a "family event" we'll have activities for even the youngest to enjoy (more on that

later) while the grown-ups do their part. We will conclude our "work" with the singing of some of our favorite Christmas carols. Mark your calendar NOW and then look forward to sign-up sheets beginning in November.



## RETREAT WITH THE MEN OF NEW COVENANT

Men of First Church, please "Save the Date" for a men's retreat with the men of New Covenant Lutheran Church of East Cleveland on **Friday, January 19 & Saturday, January 20** at the *Doubletree Inn* located in Independence. Further details regarding the retreat will be provided in the near future. If you are interested or have questions please contact Bruce Holderead at [vancepack@wowway.com](mailto:vancepack@wowway.com) or 440-655-1523.



## KIDS HOPE USA

As I was reading one of the blogs by Theresa Casey on the KIDS HOPE USA Website, I had to smile. The blog was about the three questions most KIDS HOPE mentees ask. Most of our mentors have reported that their kids have asked these questions, so I thought I would share them.

### **1. How much do you get paid?**

Many students think that if a mentor is meeting with them one-on-one and is showing up faithfully every week, he must be getting paid. When mentors respond that they are not paid a single cent for the time they spend with their mentees, the kids are quite surprised. Not only are they surprised, they realize how much they mean to their mentors. They realize that the mentors are coming back to meet with them because they genuinely care for them – not because of a paycheck. This realization enhances the trust between the mentor and child and helps it grow.

### **2. How many other kids do you meet with?**

Mentors are told in training to expect this question as it is probably asked of every mentor. Most of our mentors have been asked this question. Students are accustomed to meeting with school personnel one-on-one and see the same personnel meeting with other students. Imagine how special a student feels when s/he hears that s/he is the only student the mentor meets with each week! That child knows how valuable he is to the mentor and that the mentor must think s/he is really awesome.

### **3. Are you coming back?**

Many, but not all, students in the KIDS HOPE USA program face some forms of transiency in their lives. Circumstances change. Teachers, friends, and adults come and go as lives progress. In some cases, the faithfulness of a mentor returning week after week is one of the few constants in a child's life. This is why mentors are asked to seriously commit to showing up every week. Mentors answer this question by assuring the child that as long as the child is at the school and the mentor is at the school, the mentor will be back. In situations where the mentor moves or can no longer mentor or when the child will be moving or going on to middle school, the relationship is closed in an appropriate manner. This lets the child know s/he has been cared for as an individual and has been valued as a friend.

In this month of November when we are counting our blessings and giving thanks to God for them, I am especially grateful for the faithful mentors and prayer partners who enrich children's lives in such a positive manner and for the support of Church Council and members of this congregation. Because of all of them, our mentors can answer these questions for some very special kids in our community. Happy Thanksgiving to all from KIDS HOPE USA!

Gloria Reichert, Director, KIDS HOPE USA

# WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH EVENTS

WOW Board Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, November 1, 7:00 PM**

Location: First Church

Sabbatical Reflections

**Date: Wednesday, November 8th, 7:00 PM**

Location: Fellowship Hall

*Join Pastor Kathy as she shares about her sabbatical experiences. This event is sponsored by the Women of the ELCA and is open to the entire First Church community.*



Book Club

Date: **Saturday, January 6, 9:00 AM**

Location: Giant Eagle Marketplace

Book? TBD

Have a book to recommend? Submit it at the *Welcome Table* in our sign-up sheet binder.



Yoga Class

Session 2

Date: **October 26 to December 7, 2017. 7:00 PM**

Our instructor, Cyndi Milluzi, will be introducing attendees to the many facets of yoga. Learn about and experience practices such as restorative yoga and yoga Nidra. Sign up at the Welcome Table or email [pmozbach@gmail.com](mailto:pmozbach@gmail.com). Cost: \$30/6 sessions or \$5/session. Payment up front is appreciated. Make checks payable to Women of the ELCA.



# HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS



Harvest Weekends has now become Harvest Month! We will begin collecting non-perishable food items each Sunday before Thanksgiving starting October 29th to fill food baskets that are donated to less fortunate in our community. These food baskets will help these individuals and families to have a less stressful and brighter Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations.

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

- 1) October 29th - Peanut butter, Jelly and Spaghetti Sauce**
- 2) November 5 - Canned Fruits & Vegetables**
- 3) November 12 - Boxed Potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing, and Rice**
- 4) November 19 - 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 **Wednesday, November 22 and Thursday, December 21 at 9:00 AM**. If you are able to help, please call:

Joy Blankenship at [joybuzzard@gmail.com](mailto:joybuzzard@gmail.com) Reiner Mueller at [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 2:1



# NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

		November 5 All Saint's Day	November 12 Thankoffering	November 19	November 26
<b>Acolytes</b> Ellen Kolman	10:30	Andrew Magons Zachary Kakos			
	11:00		Brielle Rugar	Skylar Horn Ethan Forse	Eva Hinojosa
<b>Ushers</b> Maureen Shorts	8:30		Alice Treiber Maureen Shorts Mary Barnes Margaret Bewie	Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman	Karl Arula Michelle Arula Linda Browning Alli Thellman
Dawn Evangelista	10:30	Herb Simpson Pam Simpson Mike McNamara Stacey McNamara			
	11:00		Brenda Jacob Dawn Evangelista	Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Mike Magons Natalie Magons	Bob Jacob Dennis Beckman Alan Evangelista
<b>Readers &amp; CA</b> Barb Krueger	8:30 Comm Assts:		Joy Blankenship	Bruce Holderead – RCA Jan Holderead Don Nielsen Connie Nielsen Maureen Shorts	Gail Landfried - RCA Tom Krych Cindy Krych Herb Simpson Pam Simpson
	10:30 Comm Assts:	Stacey McNamara –RCA Chuck Whitecar Ron Warzel Mary Jane Warzel			
	11:00 Comm Assts:		Claudia Lenarz	Curt Dean - RCA Janet Kaiser Sandy Rath Greg Rath	Maryann Tower - RCA Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Ben Blake
<b>Nursery</b> Bonnie Bailey	8:30		Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger	Bonnie Bailey	Margaret Bewie Erin Edwards
	10:30	Gayle Kovach Sandy Treudler			
<b>Counting Teams</b> Terri Mosley		Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Carol Paulini	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo	Terri Mosley Jan Iglehart Bob Jacob	Wade Zwingler Mary Whitecar Pat Sauernheimer Daphne Leon
<b>Altar Guild</b> Beth David					

# November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>  7:00 – WOW Board 7:30 – Chancel Choir	<b>2</b>  6:00 – Praise Band 7:00- Yoga 7:30- Basketball	<b>3</b>  10:00 – Prayer & Care	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>  9:15 – Sunday School  10:30 – One Worship All Saint's Day!  Youth Fall Clean-up Project	<b>6</b>  6:30 – Brass Choir 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 - Confirmation 7:00 - AA	<b>7</b>  6:00 – Crossroad Stitchers 6:30 – Pub Church 7:00 - Toastmasters 7:30 – Al-Anon	<b>8</b>  7:00 – Sabbatical Reflections 7:30 – Chancel Choir	<b>9</b>  6:00 – Praise Band 7:00 – Yoga	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  9:30 – Strongsville Food Bank
<b>12</b>  9:45 – Sunday School  4:00 – Concert Series! Jazz Ensemble	<b>13</b>  <i>Revelations Articles Due!</i> 6:30 – Brass Choir 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentor Activity 7:00 - AA	<b>14</b>  12:00 – Over 50's Group  7:00 – Council 7:30 – Al-Anon	<b>15</b>  10:00 – Lydia Circle  7:30 – Chancel Choir	<b>16</b>  6:00 – Praise Band 7:00 – Yoga 7:30 - Basketball	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  11:00 – SPARK Event Maggie & Ellie's
<b>19</b>  9:45 – Sunday School Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting  6:00 – Youth Board	<b>20</b>  6:30 – Brass Choir 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 - Confirmation 7:00 - AA	<b>21</b>  8:30 – KHUSA Leadership Team  7:00 - Toastmasters 7:30 – Al-Anon	<b>22</b>  9:00 - Food Baskets  7:30 – Thanksgiving Service	<b>23</b>  Happy Thanksgiving!  <b>Office Closed!</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>  9:45 – Sunday School	<b>27</b>  6:30 – Brass Choir 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentors Meet 7:00 - AA	<b>28</b>  7:30 – Al-Anon	<b>29</b>  7:30 – Chancel Choir	<b>30</b>  6:00 – Praise Band 7:00 – Yoga 7:30 - Basketball	<b>Notes:</b>	

Pastor Charles Knerem  
[Pastorchuck1@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorchuck1@gmail.com)

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