



Revelations

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

January

2018

New Year's come, and New Year's go, so what are you going to do to make this coming one any different from the last? Here are some helpful tips that I was reminded of through some of my travels and readings this summer.

Change your vocabulary: Stop saying words like can't, impossible, and problem. If your head is filled with negative words like that, you will never get to a point where you are making the most out of your life. There is no such word as can't, nothing is impossible, and a problem is merely a challenge. Change your mind set to a positive one and you will be amazed at how much more you can achieve.

Read inspirational books: Fill your reading list with books that will inspire you. Read the stories of how people have faced terrible odds and survived, or tales of people who have followed their dreams. You can gain huge motivation from learning more about other people's struggles and their determination to win. In addition, I would also suggest:

Ignore the cynics: There will always be someone who wants to run down your ideas or tell you what can't be done. Don't let cynics and pessimists make your own mind up. Keep a positive mind and remain upbeat. Look at life as that glass that is always half full, not half empty.

Make your happiness your priority: Make this year the year that you actually start putting yourself first a bit more and doing more of the things that you enjoy. We all have commitments and responsibilities, but that shouldn't be all that you ever focus on. Put aside some time, every week, that will be just for you.

Exercise: It's such a small thing to do, but exercise can really make a big difference in your life. Not only does it benefit your health but it also gives you a break and allows you some time to clear your mind. Twenty minutes here and twenty minutes there could really make all the difference in your day.

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Get organized: Make this the year that you finally get your life organized. Clear out some of the clutter, free up more time to do positive and productive things, and start to keep to-do lists to help you prioritize your tasks. If your life is a disorganized muddle, you will spend more time firefighting, than you do getting things done. If you get organized, you will have more free time to enjoy.

Take control: Another thing that will sap your positivity and your happiness is letting other people dictate what you do. Don't think of yourself as just a pawn in a game. Choose what you want to do, who you want to be, and where you are going from here.

Stop complaining: Complaining achieves nothing; if you want things to change, then you have to be the one who changes them. So, go ahead change that negative energy into possibilities and move forward with a fresh outlook and a positive heart.

Help someone else get to where they want to be: When you can share your positive and happy nature with other people, you can inspire them to achieve greater things too. Be prepared to lend a helping hand, now and then, because it will help someone else on their way and it will make you feel more fulfilled too.

Enjoy the journey: As you begin this year; set out to enjoy every moment that it has to offer. Make the most of every day and every relationship and as you do focus on the future. Don't live with one foot in the past, or worrying about the future. Focus on the blessings that your Lord has placed in your life and take it from there; living each day to the fullest.

God's blessings to you and yours as you welcome in 2018.

Pastor Kathy



Worship Notes for



Pub Church

Tuesday, January 2

6:30 PM TGI Friday's in Strongsville

Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 7

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship, Eucharist
11:00 AM Traditional Worship, Eucharist

Epiphany 2

Sunday, January 14

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

Epiphany 3

Sunday, January 21

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship, Eucharist
11:00 AM Traditional Worship, Eucharist

Epiphany 4

Sunday, January 28

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

**LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 14 WITH ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES.
WATCH THE NEXT *REVELATIONS* FOR MORE SERVICE DETAILS.**

The First Church Endowment Fund was able to make the following donations in 2017:

- + Lutheran Disaster Response \$2,500
- + Holiday Food Baskets \$1,500
- + ELCA Fund for Leaders \$2,500
- + Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio \$1,000
- + Lutheran Metro Ministries \$1,500
- + ELCA Good Gifts, designated to build a water well \$2,500
- + Strongsville Emergency Food Bank \$500

The Endowment Fund was established in the late 1980's for the sole purpose of assisting outreach and mission oriented ministries.

Donations to the Fund may be made at any time, but have been primarily given through estate planning.

A Special Message from Congregation Council

Church Council would like to thank everyone for their time and attention at the Nov. 19 Congregational Meeting where we voted and approved the 2018 budget. Along with the budget, there was also a presentation on a potential facility expansion plan. With the steps that were taken throughout this year, Church Council has successfully updated and completed the Facility Master Plan. After much thought and prayerful consideration, Council has determined to postpone further pursuit of the Expansion Plan. We view this decision as an opportunity for all of us to remain focused on the immediate missions that we as a Congregation are pursuing over the next year. With the groundwork on the Master Plan that has been completed thus far, we could easily re-engage in an expansion initiative sometime in the future. Moving into the New Year, there will be discussion on some facility updates that could be supported without requiring a notable capital campaign or require the Church to refinance its mortgage. It would be important to note that a special thanks should go out to Len Taylor for all his hard work on this project. If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to Council.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Christmas Decorations

Thank you again for all the wonderful volunteers who helped decorate the sanctuary during our advent season. Unfortunately, what goes up, must come down. We will be taking down and packing up our decorations on **Sunday, January 7 at the 11:00 AM service**. If you would like to help, please sign up at the *Welcome Center* or contact Renee Sadler at sadlerrenee@yahoo.com.
“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

Over 50's Group

...will meet **Tuesday, January 9 at 12:00 PM**. Bring your bag lunch and meet in the *Fellowship Hall*.

First Communion

First Communion Classes for students in 5th grade or above will be held **Saturday, January 13, 20, and 27 from 10 AM – Noon**. Please contact either pastor or call the church office at 440-238-7890 to register.

New Member Class

LIVING FAITH CLASSES for all who are interested in joining First Church will be held **January 21 and 28, 6:00 - 8:00 PM**. Please contact the church office or Pastor Chuck if you would like to participate.

VBS Help

Looking to make a huge impact in a short amount of time? We are looking for co-directors for this summer's VBS. You will have lots of support and a great staff! Whether you are the organizing type or the group leader, your skills will be put to use! Please contact Pastor Kathy, Jennifer Paine, or Stacey McNamara for more info!

Please sign up for the 2018 altar flowers and bulletins, it is located on the bulletin board over the water fountain.

MISSION REPORT

“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

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 food baskets that provided a holiday meal to families supported by Frontline Services (formerly Children who Witness Violence), Southwest Hospital’s Hospice Care Center and Whitney Elementary families with children in the Kids Hope USA program. A special thank-you goes out to Don Neilson and the Curtiss-Wright Company, who donated a generous amount of extra turkeys and other food basket items. Also, a very special thank-you goes out to the confirmation youth, under the direction of their mentors, in a huge food collection effort from area neighborhoods and the youth group which provided delectable baked goods and thoughtful homemade cards for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.

Christmas Sharing Tree

Thank-you to the congregational members who supported the Christmas Sharing Tree. Nearly 100 gifts and gift cards were donated for children in families that would not be able to afford Christmas presents. The groups supported through this program included Frontline Services (Children Who Witness Violence) and the Strongsville Food Bank.

A special thank-you goes out to Connie Nielsen for her leadership role and Don Nielson and Brenda Jacob for their help with the Sharing Tree.

Blood Drive

Save the date to save a life. Please mark your calendars for the next FLC Blood Drive which will be on **Sunday, March 11 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM** In the fellowship hall.



It feels **good to give**

YOUTH EVENTS

PENITENTIARY GLENN RESERVATION



[Fun Day at the Glenn](#)

8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, OH 44094

Monday, January 15

Free – No Registration Required

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Stop by the nature center for free indoor and outdoor activities. Naturalists will be on hand to answer all of your nature-related questions and to help guide you through the day. Enjoy indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts, a simple nature craft, X-Plorer packs filled with hands-on seasonal activities, animal encounters from the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center and much more!

There are hiking trails so boots and outside gear may be necessary (weather permitting)



SUPPORT OUR YOUTH ATTENDING THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Soup Sunday

Sunday, January 14, 2018, the youth going to the National Gathering in Houston will be hosting the second annual Soup Sunday. Please sign up to make and donate your favorite soup and join us for a morning of fellowship. The youth will provide salad, crackers and drinks. We will accept a free will offering to raise funds for the gathering trip in July.



Wing Ding

Save the Date for the Wing Ding on **February 24, 2018**. More info to come.



KIDS HOPE USA

January is National Mentoring Month, and as 2018 begins, mentors from our KIDS HOPE USA mentoring program are happily returning to see their students after Winter Break. At both Whitney and Surrarrer Elementary Schools, many smiles and hugs have occurred as mentoring resumed. We both appreciate and recognize the contributions of our mentors, prayer partners, and substitute mentors. Without the faithful service of these volunteers, we would not be able to impact the lives of the students in our community and make positive differences. KIDS HOPE USA provides a unique way for mentors to be the hands and feet of Jesus. The model of one child, one hour, one church, one school allows mentors to build meaningful, life-changing relationships.

KIDS HOPE USA volunteers from our congregation will be honored during January. A luncheon in their honor will occur in late January, and their names will be listed in a bulletin insert. Please take the opportunity to personally thank these mentors and prayer partners for their dedicated service.

*****COMMENTS FROM OUR PROGRAM*****

One mentor reported, "I love to hear "Susie" read! She never used to read to me."

Another said, "Kate" has really improved in math significantly from earlier grades."

One mentor arrived at school during the time when, unknown to us, a reward assembly was taking place. The child was given the choice of remaining in the assembly or seeing his mentor. He chose to see his mentor.

Another mentor reported his mentee was really excited to see him. After the session, as the mentor left and walked by the playground on the way to his car, the child ran over, gave the mentor a hug, and said, "You are really awesome!"

Thank you, First Church, for making these success stories possible. Thank you, mentors and prayer partners, for being "Jesus with skin on."

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM KIDS HOPE USA!

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert
Director
KIDS HOPE USA

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

		January 7 Communion	January 14	January 21 Communion	January 28
Acolytes Ellen Kolman	11:00	Ty Worsencroft Sidney Hoffman	Abby Uline	Andrew Magons Lance Fowler	Zak Kakos
Ushers Maureen Shorts	8:30	Herb Simpson Pam Simpson Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman	Mike McNamara Stacey McNamara Alice Treiber Mary Barnes	Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship Maureen Shorts Ron Shorts	Karl Arula Michelle Arula Dave Chaya Renee Chaya
Dawn Evangelista 440-572-5327	11:00				
Readers & CA Barb Krueger Comm Assts:	8:30	Bruce Holderead - RCA Jan Holderead Chuck Whitecar Mary Whitecar Maureen Shorts	Audrey Kuntz – R	Jonathan Paine – RCA Don Nielsen Connie Nielsen Pam Simpson Herb Simpson	Mike Thellman - R
	11:00 Comm Assts:	Megan Uline - R Janet Kaiser Barb Krueger Alfonso Hinojosa Cindy Shoens	Abby Uline - R	Kerry McLemore - R Barb Krueger Jerry Krueger Wayne Mosley Terri Mosley	Sue Lindsey - R
Nursery Bonnie Bailey	8:30				
Counting Teams Terri Mosley		Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo	Terri Mosley Bob Jacob Curt Dean	Wade Zwingler Mary Whitecar Pat Sauernheimer Daphne Leon	Jim Gist Sheri Gist Gary Walters Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger
Altar Guild Beth David		Sandy Rath Billie Hoffman Karen McFarland	Dawn Evangelista Marsha Stephens Sheri gist Tricia Nolder	Judi Minium Janice Hentosh Carol Paulini	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Jacquie McLemore

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 - AA	2 6:00 – Crossroad Stitchers 6:30 – Pub Church 7:30 – Al-Anon	3	4 6:00 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	5 10:00 – Prayer & Care 5:00 - LYO	6 9:00 – WOW Book Club 10:00 – Wedding Rehearsal 4:00 – Wedding
7 9:45 – Sunday School 12:30 – Take Down Decorations 1:00 – Return from LYO	8 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentor Activity 7:00 - AA	9 12:00 – Over 50's Group 7:00 – Cabinet 7:00 – Toastmasters 7:30 – Al-Anon	10 7:30 – Chancel Choir	11 6:00 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	12	13 9:30 – Strongsville Food Bank 10:00 – First Communion Class
14 Soup Sunday 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Bell Choir 12:15 – Education Meeting	15 Office Closed! 10:00 - STARK Event Glenn Reservation 6:30 – Brass Choir 7:00 - AA	16 8:30 – KHUSA 7:00 – Council 7:30 – Al-Anon	17 10:00 – Lydia Circle 7:30 – Chancel Choir	18 6:00 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	19 Men's Retreat with New Covenant	20 Men's Retreat with New Covenant 10:00 – First Communion Class
21 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Bell Choir 12:15 – KIDS HOPE Luncheon 6:00 – New Member Class	22 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentors Meet 7:00 – AA	23 7:00 – Toastmasters 7:30 – Al-Anon	24 7:30 – Chancel Choir	25 6:00 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	26	27 10:00 – First Communion Class
28 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Bell Choir 6:00 - New Member Class	29 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Confirmation 7:00 - AA	30 7:00 – Al-Anon	31 7:30 – Chancel Choir			

Pastor Charles Knerem
Pastorchuck1@gmail.com

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Pastor Kathleen Kluck
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