



Revelations

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

July

2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Six years ago my family moved to a new home. As part of that process a large pile was created at our curb of all the things we no longer wanted or needed; things that couldn't even be donated to a charitable cause. It felt really good to be rid of things that were no longer useful. There probably could have been more stuff left behind, but some things (though not in use at the current time, and serving no clear purpose that we could identify) came along with us anyway. We employed the familiar rationale of "you never know when you're going to need it." I haven't kept an inventory of how often we have actually used any of that stuff, but my guess is not much.

We all probably have a lot of things we need to let go of on an emotional level, too. You know what I'm talking about. Resentment, anger, disappointment, a grudge, a lost love ... stuff like that. I know I do. Yet we're content to hang onto these things, and the sad part is that the longer we hold on the more deeply engrained in our identities these things become. I wonder, what causes us to hold on for so long? I suppose there are many answers to that question, all unique to our own situations. Sadly, these things tend to claim too much of our time and energy until we are often diverted from doing something more productive with our lives.

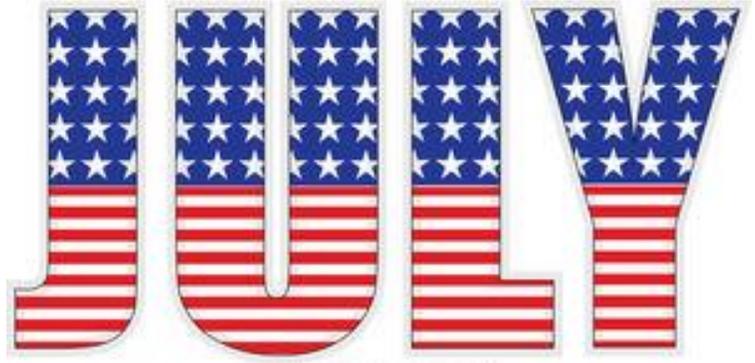
On that first Easter morning when Mary discovered that Jesus was alive he told her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father." In an article about this passage theologian David Lose noted how frustrating it must have been for Mary to have seen Jesus and yet not have been able to embrace him, to hold on to him. And then he wondered if we sometimes feel like that. He wrote, "Like all we want to do is to hold onto our Jesus, or our congregation, or our traditions, or our ideas about how church 'has always been' and 'always should be.' There are lots of good reasons for us to want to hold onto these things too, also dealing with comfort and security and not wanting to lose something precious to us. Yet we cannot."

This simply leads me to ask, what do we need to let go of in order to live healthier lives that are more pleasing to God? Our memories of what First Church was like twenty years ago? The way the Church was when there was a "Luther League" and we sang "*How Great Thou Art*" at least a dozen times every year? Our feelings toward another brother or sister in Christ? Whatever it is, Jesus calls us to let go so that we can move forward, because as long as something that we can't let go of is holding us back we will never reach our ultimate destination.

Let us pray that God will give us the courage to let go of the things we cannot change, the things that enslave us, so that we may find joy in discovering the new directions God has waiting for us.

In Christ,
Pastor Chuck

Worship Notes for



Pentecost 6

Sunday, July 1

9:00 AM
10:30 AM

Contemporary Worship, Eucharist
ELW Setting 1, Eucharist

Pentecost 7

Sunday, July 8

9:00 AM
10:30 AM

Contemporary Worship
ELW Setting 1

Pentecost 8

Sunday, July 15

9:00 AM
10:30 AM

Contemporary Worship, Eucharist
ELW Setting 1, Eucharist

Pentecost 9

Sunday, July 22

10:00 AM

ELW Setting 1

Pentecost 10

Sunday, July 29

9:00 AM
10:30 AM

Contemporary Worship
ELW Setting 1

PUB CHURCH IS ON SUMMER BREAK AND WILL RETURN IN OCTOBER.



Thank you to the following that helped beautify our garden by planting the geraniums and weeding.

Barb Krueger, Ken Holda, Nora Mishey, Marsha Ginley, Pat Sauernheimer, Nancy Duda and Linda Browning. A BIG thank you to Jerry Krueger for watering the flowers almost on a daily basis. We appreciate all your hard work.

Over 50's Group will meet **Tuesday, July 10 at 12:15 PM**. Bring your bag lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall!



WOW Board Meeting will be held **Wednesday, July 11 at 7:00 PM** in the 8th grade classroom.

Pub Church will take a summer break. Look for Pub Church to return on **October 2**.

The ushers will have **Children's bulletins** available on Sundays for our 2-4 year olds all year and now for our readers from pre-k – 1st grade for the summer.

Mission Opportunity at New Covenant . On the fourth **Saturday of each month** through September 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, please contact Bruce Holdread at vancepack@wowway.com.

Make giving easy with **Simply Giving!** Did you know you can automate your church offerings and eliminate the need to write checks? By “setting it and forgetting it,” you don’t have to remember to search for your offering envelope and write that check. The Simply Giving program allows you to establish a recurring offering that automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. And, you can set the frequency and amount of the offering to be deducted. The Simply Giving enrollment/authorization form can be found in the information center outside the church office. For those who are already enrolled and need to make a change, you can submit another form with the needed changes. Any questions, please contact Brenda Jacob.



KIDS HOPE USA

Perhaps this July our mentors and prayer partners deserve a fireworks celebration in their honor. Through their mentoring and prayers, they perform an invaluable service and help children in countless ways.

Statistics reveal that a child who has not learned to read by third grade is eight times more likely to drop out of school. If they join this group of 1.23 million young people, they are likely to never break the cycle of poverty from which they may have come. Worse yet, many states decide how many prisons to build based on third grade reading test scores. It is possible that these drop-outs could end up behind bars. Many mentors work on reading skills with their mentees every week, thus helping them to gain essential skills and helping them to succeed in life.

Children are referred to KIDS HOPE for a variety of social, emotional or academic reasons. It could be because drugs or alcohol are being abused in the home, or perhaps a parent is incarcerated or deployed. Some kids deal with issues that are difficult for adults to handle and do not have stable lives. This instability makes it difficult for them to master even basic academics. These children need to feel safe before they can focus on learning. Mentors help provide the stability kids need because they show up each week and establish caring, long term relationships with them. The kids count on them to be there, and they are. That helps positive changes to occur in the lives of the students and frees them to learn. At the end of the last school year, a teacher told me, “Suzie has had a mentor for only a short time, but I am amazed at the changes in her. She is a different person.” Ten fifth graders from our program are going on to middle school. The majority of them had the same mentors throughout their elementary school years, and much growth has occurred.

We are very grateful to our mentors and prayer partners for doing such good and spreading hope – one hour and one prayer at a time.

If you would like to become a mentor or prayer partner, please contact me at 330-225-3922 or g.reichert68@gmail.com. **YOU** could be the one to make a difference in a child’s life.

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert, Director, KIDS HOPE USA

STORY FROM OUR PROGRAM

At the end of the year, one student told his mentor that the best thing about the year was “having my mentor around” and the best thing about that was “just being with him.”

One **child** One **hour** One **church** One **school**

JULY VOLUNTEERS

	9:00 & 10:30 AM July 1 Communion	9:00 & 10:30 AM July 8	9:00 & 10:30 AM July 15 Communion	10:00 AM July 22 ONE WORSHIP	9:00 & 10:30 AM July 29
Acolytes Ellen Kolman	10:00/10:30 Hannah Carrossellia Ty Worsencroft	Jadyn Crane	Abby McKee Abbey Uline	Luke Thellman	Owen Smith
Ushers Maureen Shorts Dawn Evangelista	9:00 Maureen Shorts Alice Treiber Mary Barnes Margaret Bewie	Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman Herb Simpson Pam Simpson	Mike McNamara Stacey McNamara Bob Strong Alli Thellman	Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Bob Snyder Heather Snyder	Linda Browning Maureen Shorts Hank Pekkola Gayle Pekkola Alan Evangelista Dawn Evangelista Eddie Forse Lori Forse
	10:00/10:30 Jim Zakrajsek June Zakrajsek Reiner Mueller Rolf Gaab	Ron Warzel Mary Jane Warzel Chuck Kaskey Sandy Kaskey	Wayne Mosley Steve Harris John Brinzo Alfonso Hinojosa		
Readers & CA Barb Krueger	9:00 Comm Assts: Joy Blankenship – RCA Kurt Blankenship Herb Simpson Pam Simpson Bonnie Bailey	Andrea Cassidy - R	Bruce Holderead – RCA Jan Holderead Maureen Shorts Chuck Whitecar Mary Whitecar		Judy Peach - R
	10:00/10:30 Comm Assts: Lori Forse - RCA Kerry McLemore Jacquie McLemore Cindy Shoens Laurie Uline	Dawn Evangelista - R	Eddie Forse Ron Warzel Barb Krueger Jerry Krueger	Gladys Otto – R	Heather Snyder - R
Nursery Bonnie Bailey	9:00/10:00 Jennifer Paine Kelly Worsencroft	Gayle Kovach Sandy Treudler	Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger	Bonnie Bailey Ellen Kolman	Margaret Bewie Erin Edwards
Counting Teams Terri Mosley	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo	Terri Mosley Bob Snyder Heather Snyder Bob Jacob	Wade Zwingler Mary Whitecar Pat Sauernheimer Daphne Leon	Jim Gist Sheri Gist Gary Walters Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger	Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Chris Hamel Carol Paulini
Altar Guild Beth David	Pat Sauernheimer Janet Kaiser Sandy Kaskey	Dawn Evangelista Marsha Stephens Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder	Janice Hentosh Ellen Kolman Beth David	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Jacquie McLemore	Sandy Rath Billie Hoffman Karen McFarland

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 – Praise Band Rehearsal Our youth & adults returning from Youth Gathering	2 7:00 - AA	3 PK on vacation thru 7/8 6:00 – Crossroad Stitches 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	4 Office Closed!	5	6	7
8 8:00 – Praise Band Rehearsal	9 PC on vacation thru 7/22 7:00 - AA	10 12:15 – Over 50's Group 7:00 – Cabinet Meeting 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	11 7:00 – WOW Board Meeting	12	13	14
15 8:00 – Praise Band Rehearsal	16 7:00 - AA	17 7:00 – Council 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	18 10:00 – Lydia Circle	19	20	21 9:50 – WOW Nautica Queen
22 One Worship Service 10:00 AM	23 7:00 - AA	24 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	25	26	27	28
29 8:00 – Praise Band Rehearsal	30 7:00 - AA	31 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon				

Pastor Charles Knerem
Pastorchuck1@gmail.com

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Pastor Kathleen Kluck
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