



# Revelations

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

2019

Greetings,

In a recent conversation about ELCA National Youth Gatherings, I was asked to name my favorite speaker or presenter. That question took me on a journey of 10 national gatherings and hundreds of speakers, however, it took only a second to travel back to my very first National Youth Gathering in Dallas, Texas. The theme was “Called to Freedom” and it was epic. That gathering above all others impacted me in ways that I still realize today; and much of that was due to the awesome speakers and preachers I had the opportunity to hear and witness. One of those speakers, and the person I would put at the top of my list, was the unforgettable Maya Angelou.

Novelist, poet, and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou was famed for many things, including her unflinching honesty. Not only did Angelou speak about fighting a daily battle against racism, but also her rape at eight years old. If anyone had the right to wallow in self-pity, Angelou did. Yet she didn’t define herself in that light. She was a woman who showed incredible faith in herself and in the future. Today, Angelou is remembered for her strong spirit, joy of living (*joie de vivre*), and for daily demonstrating the importance of self-empowerment.

Here is some of her advice on self-empowerment:

## **Forgive**

*“It’s one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself, to forgive. Forgive everybody.”*

Forgiving is usually a long and difficult process, but in the end, you are the one left with a lighter heart and brighter future. Have faith that sacrificing your grudge will lead you to the kind of healing and freedom you seek.

## **Reject Defeat**

*“We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated.”*

*“If you don’t like something, change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude.”*

*“I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.”*

Life will throw everything it has at you—that doesn’t mean you can’t throw a few things back. Hold your head high, throw your shoulders back, dig your heels in, and make up your mind to move forward. You have the ability to emerge from life’s storms a stronger, better person than you were before, but it’s going to take equal measures of faith and gumption on your part.

## **Create Your Own Happiness**

*“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”*

*“Determine to live your life with flair and laughter.”*

Life has an abundance of both woe and wonder, but what we find is what we look for. Have the courage to create happiness for yourself.

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Angelou was never one to take a back seat in life. Even when life seemed impossible, she had the faith to create a better future for herself as she continued her journey with God. In a 2013 interview with the Times, Angelou said that she believed in God because that's what she was taught. She became courageous, however, when she internalized that belief. "I dared to do anything that was a good thing. I dared to do things as distant from what seemed to be in my future," she said. "When I was asked to do something good, I often said yes, I'll try, yes, I'll do my best. And part of that is believing, if God loves me, if God made everything from leaves to seals and oak trees, then what is it I can't do?"

"What is it I can't do?" I heard Angelou encourage 30,000 people to ask that very question 27 years ago. To ask it daily and passionately, to ask it without ceasing. May we all face each day with that same kind of certainty in God's existence.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kathy

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**Congratulations** to students who are coming to the **Lord's Table for the first time on February 3:**

Lily Cassidy  
Sean Cassidy  
Melora Fowler  
Evan Hartman  
Ella Hoerig  
Emilie Kuntz  
Paige Snyder

The congregation's prayers are welcome as these young people continue on their Christian journey.





## Worship notes for

### **Epiphany 4**

Sunday, February 3

### **First Communion**

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship, Eucharist  
11:00 AM ELW Setting 10, Eucharist

### **Pub Church**

Tuesday, February 5

6:30 PM TGI Friday's in Strongsville

### **Epiphany 5**

Sunday, February 10

### **Worship Led by the Women of the Church**

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship  
11:00 AM ELW Setting 10  
Reception of New Members

### **Epiphany 6**

Sunday, February 17

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship, Eucharist  
11:00 AM ELW Setting 10, Eucharist

### **Epiphany 7**

Sunday, February 24

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship  
11:00 AM ELW Setting 10  
Holy Baptism

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SECRETARY TRANSITION

Beginning February 4 we bid farewell to Cathy Hoerig who has served as our church secretary for the past two and a half years. Cathy is moving on to a new employment opportunity, and we thank her for her faithful service.

At the same time, we welcome Joy Blankenship as our new church secretary. Along with her family, Joy is a long-time member of First Church and has been active in many ways in the life of our congregation. She brings many gifts and talents and is excited to join our staff.

## WALK WORTHY CONFERENCE

All men of First Church are encouraged to attend this year's Walk Worthy Conference at Parkside Church in Chagrin Falls on Saturday, March 2. We will be attending with the men of New Covenant. The conference runs from 8:30-3:30 and the registration fee of \$75 includes a continental breakfast, lunch and a T-shirt. You can register online at [moodyconferences.com](http://moodyconferences.com). We will be carpooling to the conference from the church parking lot. All who have attended this conference the past few years have found it to be an amazing learning, worship and fellowship experience. Please contact **Bruce Holderead** at [vancepack@wowway.com](mailto:vancepack@wowway.com) for further information.

## USHERS ARE NEEDED

We are looking for ushers for the 8:30 & 11:00 AM services. It does NOT mean you have to serve communion, we will schedule to your comfort level. We provide on the job training. If you are interested please contact *Maureen Shorts* at [shortsstuff3@gmail.com](mailto:shortsstuff3@gmail.com) for the 8:30 service and *Dawn Evangelista* at [devangelista@wowway.com](mailto:devangelista@wowway.com) for the 11:00 service. **We look forward to welcoming you!**

## YOGA CLASS NEW SESSION

Cyndi Milluzzi will host another six week session beginning on February 14th. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Cost for the session is \$30. A minimum of 7 enrolled for the session is required for the class to be held.



## KIDS HOPE USA

February usually brings to mind thoughts of groundhogs and valentines. This month is chock full of all sorts of special days ranging from National Pizza Day (February 9) to National Lost Penny Day (February 12) to National Tortilla Chip Day (February 24). All frivolous and fun!

On a more serious note, February is also National Black History Month and Dental Health Month. It is also National Boost Self-Esteem Month and Expect SUCCESS Month. These last two designations lead one to consider how we can boost kids' self-esteem and help them to expect success in life. Here is where our KIDS HOPE USA mentors and prayer partners play important roles.

Many of the students with whom we work have not had the benefit of developing positive self-esteem. Usually, it is just the opposite. When mentors show up faithfully every week to see them, the kids learn they are valued. When the children receive positive reinforcement for their efforts, they know they are doing well. When they form wonderful relationships with their mentors, they know they are worthwhile people. Interacting with their mentors helps students develop positive self-esteem, which is the basis of all other success.

Helping kids to believe in themselves helps them to develop the attitudes vital to success. Kids are what we tell them they are. Strong self-esteem can positively impact every other aspect of their lives, especially their academic and social lives, and can help them to expect and to attain success.

Another behavior the mentors, with the help of their prayer partners, model is showing their kids acts of kindness and consideration. Acts of kindness can lead to very powerful benefits. Performing an act of kindness and consideration can have an effect for years - perhaps even for a lifetime. As mentors work with their kids, their actions have a long term impact. The students learn they are precious individuals worthy of kindness and consideration.

Interacting with a mentor for only one hour per week can help students develop positive self-esteem and develop the attitudes needed to expect success. Amazing! February will live up to these important designations for those fortunate enough to have a KIDS HOPE USA mentor.

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert  
Director  
KIDS HOPE USA

One **child**

One **hour**

One **church**

One **school**

# *Women of WELCA*

## **Bake Sale ~ Sunday, February 3, 2019**

The WOW Board is hosting a bake sale on February 2nd. Donations will be used for women's activities & outreach at First Church. Pick up homemade goodies to compliment your dinner or a Super Bowl party. Thank you to all the bakers who have volunteered to contribute.

Donations can be dropped off on Friday during church office hours, between 9:00 and 2:00. The WOW Board will meet on Saturday afternoon to prepare for the bake sale. Questions? See Bonnie Eggers.

## **Thank Offering Sunday ~ February 10, 2019**

Thank offerings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received. Thank offerings help support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization, including our triennial conventions, the work of your elected churchwide board, the annual conference of synodical presidents, our communications ministries, justice and advocacy work, and so much more. Thank Offering designated envelopes will be distributed on February 3rd.

The WOW Board welcomes Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger as she leads worship on Sunday, February 9, 2019. Pastor Shelley is the Executive Director of United Protestant Campus Ministries. She will speak during both services and share about UPCaM during the education hour.

## **Women who Wine ~ Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 6 pm**

Let's get together for an evening of fellowship at the home of Maureen Shorts. We'll have wine, soup & sweets and lots of fun. A sign up sheet is posted at the Welcome Table. Feel free to sign up to bring your favorite soup or sweet. Cash donations to cover the cost of wine will be accepted at the event. Please feel free to invite a friend!

**Location:** The Short's Home. 11663 Coopers Run, Strongsville, Ohio

## FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

		February 3 First Communion	February 10 Transfiguration	February 17	February 24
<b>Acolytes</b> Ellen Kolman	11:00	Jadyn Crane Brielle Rugar	Ty Worsencroft	Abbey Uline Luke Thellman	Hannah Carrossellia
<b>Ushers</b> Maureen Shorts	8:30	Shelley Fetzer Gladys Otto Dave Bewie Maraget Bewie	Alice Treiber Mary Barnes Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship	Ron Shorts Maureen Shorts Linda Browning Bob Strong	Dave Chaya Renee Chaya Mike McNamara Stacey McNamara
Dawn Evangelista	11:00	Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Rolf Gaab Reiner Mueller	Ron Warzel Mary Jane Warzel Eddie Forse Lori Forse	Wayne Mosley Steve Harris John Brinzo Alfonso Hinojosa	Jim Zakrajsek June Zakrajsek Bob Snyder Heather Snyder
<b>Readers &amp; CA</b> Barb Krueger	8:30 <b>Comm Assts:</b>	Gail Landfried – RCA Don Nielsen Connie Nielsen Chuck Whitecar Mary Whitecar	Jeanine Kowalewski – R	Chris Hamel – RCA Stacey McNamara Jonathan Paine Andrea Cassidy Paul Worsencroft	Mike McNamara - R
	11:00 <b>Comm Assts:</b>	Lori Forse – RCA Janet Kaiser Gladys Otto Cindy Shoens	Heather Snyder – R	Gloria Reichert – R Sam Reichert Eddie Forse Ben Blake Debbie Dudas	Abbey Uline - R
<b>Nursery</b> Bonnie Bailey	11:00	Gayle Kovach Bonnie Bailey	Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger	Sandy Treudler Gayle Kovach	Jennifer Paine Kelly Worsencroft
<b>Counting Teams</b> Terri Mosley		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	Reiner Mueller Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman Pierre David
<b>Altar Guild</b> Beth David		Janice Hentosh Ellen Kolman Beth David	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Jacquie McLemore	Sandy Rath Billie Hoffman Karen McFarland	Pat Sauernheimer Janet Kaiser Sandy Kaskey

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 – Prayer & Care	2
3 Holy Communion 9:15 - Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Choir	4 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Confirmation 7:00 – AA	5 6:00 – Crossroad Stitchers 6:30 – Education 6:30 – Pub Church 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	6	7 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	8	9 9:30 – Strongsville Food Bank
10 9:15 - Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Choir 6:00 – CW Team	11 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentor Groups 7:00 – AA	12 7:00 - Celebration 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	13	14 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	15	16 9:00 – WOW Book Club
17 9:15 - Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Choir	18 President's Day Office Closed! 7:00 – AA	19 8:30 – KHUSA Leadership Team 7:00 – Council Meeting 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	20 10:00 – Lydia Circle	21 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	22	23
24 9:15 - Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Choir	25 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentors Meet 7:00 - AA	26 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	27	28 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball		

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

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