



Revelations

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

March

2019

Dear First Church Family:

Lent has always been one of my favorite times of the church year. In my youth I looked forward to the mid-week services. They provided a respite in the midst of anxious times; an anchor in the swirling storm of teenage life. Those services became times to reflect, to pray, to hear a message of hope, and to be reminded of Christ's love for me and all of creation. I remember the services being well attended, perhaps because so many could just walk to church, a benefit of living in the surrounding neighborhood. And none of us were as busy as people are now; many actually had evenings free.

But times have changed. Over the course of the past few years our own mid-week Holden Evening Prayer services - while meaningful and well-loved - have experienced a severe drop in attendance. There are a variety of reasons for that, all worthy of serious thought and reflection (just not in this space). This year we are changing our approach and offering several alternatives to mid-week worship, hoping that folks will respond and rediscover the value of the Lenten season. I invite you to weave any or all the following opportunities into your spiritual disciplines:

- Two Ash Wednesday services on March 6, 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- A Facebook Lent photo challenge.
- A special service project with New Covenant (specific event and date to be announced soon).
- A Lenten supper followed by a Holden Evening Prayer Service on March 26 at 7:15 PM
- An organ recital featuring our own David Gooding and Amethyst string quartet on March 31 at 4:30 p.m.
- Grammy Award winning Apollo's Fire performance of Bach's B-Minor Mass at Baldwin Wallace on April 12. A limited number of tickets will be available.
- A new adult class on Sunday mornings focused on the events of Holy Week.
- A seder meal associated with the Maundy Thursday service on April 18.
- Traditional Good Friday service on April 19.

We have made the sad discovery that more and more people are separating themselves from Lenten observances. Work and personal schedules have become overwhelming. Seasonal observances were never part of one's experience. It's hard for some to see the value. But perhaps now is the time to seriously examine our spiritual lives. We live in an unpredictable world where violence and injustice, rampant consumerism and over-commitment, accompanied by a de-emphasis on religion in both personal life and the public square have become unwelcome threads in the fabric of modern society.

And so maybe now, more than ever, we need to re-establish our relationship with Jesus Christ and reconnect ourselves to the gifts of mercy and grace that come through his suffering, death, and resurrection. How else can we make sense of anything going on in the world, our communities, our families, and our personal lives? There is an essential need to be firmly rooted in our faith, and the only way to do that is to be present with our church family - our sisters and brothers in Christ - for worship, study, devotion, service and fellowship.

So let's join together! Let's journey to the cross as a family of faith, so that we might know the abundant life that comes only in and through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Serving with you,

Pastor Chuck

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcomed Holly Mae Mazzella and Audrey Eileen Mazzella into the Lord's Family on Sunday, February 24, at the 11:00 Service.



On March 3, 2019, First Lutheran Church was blessed to receive new members at the 11:00 service. Please welcome Scott and Jaime Haumesser and their children, Julia and Owen, and Heidi Mazzella and her children, Holly and Audrey, when you see them in church.



WORSHIP NOTES FOR



Sunday of the Transfiguration

Sunday, March 3	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, Eucharist ELW Setting 10, Eucharist
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Pub Church

Tuesday, March 5	6:30 p.m.	TGIFriday's in Strongsville
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Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 6	11:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes
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Lent 1

Sunday, March 10	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship ELW Setting 10
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Lent 2

Sunday, March 17	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, Eucharist ELW Setting 10, Eucharist
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Lent 3

Sunday, March 24	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship ELW Setting 10
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Holden Evening Prayer

Tuesday, March 26	7:15 p.m.	Holden Evening Prayer
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Lent 4

Sunday, March 31	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship ELW Setting 10
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UPCOMING EVENTS

THE WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY CHOIR 2019 SPRING TOUR

"THE JOY OF MUSIC"

The Wittenberg University Choir will be performing at Messiah Lutheran Church, 21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, on Friday, March 1, 2019, at 7:30 PM. This is a free event!

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. 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 for further information.

YOGA@First

Instructor: Cyndi Milluzzi

Thursdays, March 7th - April 11th

Time: 7:30 pm

Cost: \$30 (Minimum of 7 registered attendees required for class to be held.

Once that is reached, walk-ins are welcome at \$5/class)

Sign up by contacting Bonnie Eggers.



Save the Date to Save a Life! The next **First Lutheran Church Blood Drive** will be on **March 24, 2019** from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Appointments are encouraged, but not required; sign up at the Welcome Center or at www.redcrossblood.org.



KIDS HOPE USA

I recently listened to a webinar presented by David Staal, president of KIDS HOPE USA. He stated that KIDS HOPE USA has been in existence for almost 24 years and has touched the lives of about 90,000 children. That is an amazing number!

They have found that students usually ask the following five (5) questions. Beginning with Number 5, the questions, Staal's comments, and additional comments about our program are listed below.

Question #5 – Are you paid?

This might be camouflaged as “Where do you work?” What the student really wants to know is whether or not the mentor is there because he is being paid to do a job or whether s/he is there because s/he WANTS to be there. The child really wants to know the mentor's motive. He wants to know whether or not s/he is valued. Just last week, I heard one of our mentees ask his mentor this very question. Of course, the mentor told the child that he did not get paid to come to school. He assured the child that he was there because he wanted to see him and enjoyed working with him. Naturally, this produced a huge smile on the child's face.

Question #4 - Who else do you meet with?

A student may also ask, “How many times do you come to school each week?” What s/he really wants to know is “Am I special?” When the mentor assures the child that he is there for only him/her, the child feels valued and special. This must be music to the heart of the child! Almost every child in our program has asked this question. Each of them has then been told that s/he is the only child the mentor comes to visit each week.

Question#3 – What are we going to do today?

Many of the mentored students come from homes where there are few boundaries. Many have little structure in their lives. The KIDS HOPE USA mentoring hour is designed to change the trajectory of the students' lives. Because of their training, mentors have been equipped with tools they can use to customize the hour for the students. If the child struggles with reading, the mentor can focus on that subject. If the child needs some character development, the mentor has time to focus on the traits the child needs to develop. If the child needs help with life skills, the mentor can focus on them. Life skills are rarely taught in the homes of many of our mentees. Opportunities to learn basic social skills, build confidence, or learn coping skills may only be taught by the mentor during the mentoring hour.

Question # 2 – Can you find a mentor for my friend?

Directors usually hear this question, and it is quite a compliment. It means that the child loves coming to the mentoring hour and wants the same great experience for his friends. Currently, there is a huge demand for more KIDS HOPE USA mentoring programs. Fourteen thousand (14,000) programs exist today, and 3,000 schools are waiting for programs. We have had several students who have asked to have their friends come to the mentoring hour with them. Students who do not have mentors have asked the director if they can have one too. Recently, the ELL teacher at Whitney shared that she was doing a test with one of her students. She asked him, “What is your favorite day of the week? Why?” The student replied, “My favorite day of the week is Tuesday because I get to see my KIDS HOPE mentor.”

Now for the most asked question – Question #1 – Will you come back?

Every student asks this question - either aloud or in his heart. Many of our students have experienced upsetting relationships or relationships that end and go away. They want to know if this relationship with a KIDS HOPE USA mentor will be different.

Herein lies the foundation of HOPE. As the mentors faithfully return week after week, the students realize that their lives have changed and that there is hope that the rest of their lives can change too.

Staal shared the story of a foster child. The principal of the school he attended liked to introduce the mentor and child to each other. When the mentor arrived at her office, she called for the student. He showed up with his coat on and all of his belongings packed up in his book bag. When the principal asked him why he had all of his belongings, he replied, “Didn’t you call me because I have to go to another foster home?”

The principal told him, “No. you are not leaving. I wanted to introduce you to your KIDS HOPE mentor.” The child said, “Wait! You mean I get to stay here?”

Love came to this child just as it comes to the students we mentor in Strongsville. We love because God first loved us. Love changes everything, and it certainly brings hope.

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert
Director, KIDS HOPE USA

One **child**

One **hour**

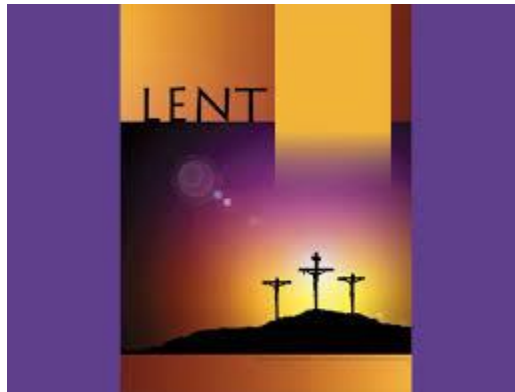
One **church**

One **school**

Special Lenten Events

At First Lutheran Church

Journey together to the cross of Christ by participating in any or all of these wonderful opportunities



March

- 6 Ash Wednesday
Services at 11:00 AM & 7:30 PM
Holy Communion/Imposition of Ashes
- 10 New Adult Class
"Entering the Passion of Jesus"
- 26 Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 PM,
Preceded by a Lenten Supper, 6:00 PM
- 31 Organ Recital featuring our own,
David Gooding and the
Amethyst String Quartet, 4:30 PM

April

- 12 Grammy Award Winning,
Apollo's Fire performance of
Bach's B-Minor Mass at BW
- 18 Seder Meal/Maundy Thursday
service, beginning at 6:30 PM
- 19 Good Friday Service of the
Seven Last Words, at 7:30

Also...Watch for a Special Service Project.



First Lutheran Church Strongsville

Lent *Photo-a-day Challenge*

March 6th - April 19th

March

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 6 Heal | 19 Faith |
| 7 Injustice | 20 Glory |
| 8 Sacrifice | 21 Endure |
| 9 Treasure | 22 Speak |
| 10 Celebrate | 23 Beloved |
| 11 Wise | 24 Celebrate |
| 12 Forgiveness | 25 Afraid |
| 13 Preserve | 26 Water |
| 14 Live | 27 Joyful |
| 15 Free | 28 Pray |
| 16 Wonder | 29 Love |
| 17 Celebrate | 30 Hope |
| 18 Struggle | 31 Presence |

April

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1 Journey | 14 Prepare |
| 2 Celebrate | 15 Blessed |
| 3 Sign | 16 Celebrate |
| 4 Thirst | 17 Follow |
| 5 Open | 18 Above |
| 6 New | 19 Suffer |
| 7 Roots | 20 Quiet |
| 8 Darkness | 21 Rise |
| 9 Celebrate | |
| 10 Light | |
| 11 Serves | |
| 12 Refuge | |
| 13 Believe | |

Participate by sharing your photo on social media
and tag it #1stchurchlent

WOW EVENTS!

Women of WELCA Book Club

We have a great list of books to read in 2019, selected by those who have attended Book Club in the past. Please come and join us at the **Strongsville Giant Eagle Market District at 9 am** on the following Saturday mornings. Sign-ups are posted at the Welcome Center. **Jeannine Kowalewski** coordinates the book club.

- March 16: "Educated" by Tara Westover
- April 13: "The Chilbury Ladies Choir" by Jennifer Ryan
- May 18: "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood



SPRING FORWARD 2019

Daylight Savings Time Begins, March 10, 2019



MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Date	March 3	March 6 Ash Wednesday	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Acolytes Ellen Kolman	Owen Smith Paige Snyder	7:30 Evan Hartman	Olivia Brewer Emilie Kuntz	Skylar Horn Audrey Kuntz	Madelyn Fox Ella Hoerig	Abby McKee
Ushers – 8:30 Maureen Shorts	Herb Simpson Pam Simpson Ron Shorts Bob Strong		Linda Browning Gladys Otto Dave Bewie Margaret Bewie	Ron Shorts Maureen Shorts Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman	Mike McNamara Stacey McNamara Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship	Shelley Fetzer Hank Pekkola Herb Simpson Pam Simpson
Ushers – 11:00 Dawn Evangelista	Bob Jacob Brenda Jacob Dennis Beckman Jim Gist	11:00 AM Terri Mosley 7:30 Ron Shorts Maureen Shorts	June Zakrajsek Jim Zakrajsek Reiner Mueller Rolf Gaab	Eddie Forse Lori Forse Alan Evangelista Dawn Evangelista	Wayne Mosley Steve Harris John Brinzo Alfonso Hinojosa	Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Robert Snyder Heather Snyder
Readers Barb Krueger	8:30 Rae Alexander 11:00 Lori Forse	7:30 PM Linda Walker R/CA	8:30 Gail Landfried 11:00 Claudia Lenarz	8:30 Jan Kappus 11:00 Marj Gray	8:30 Kelly Worsencroft 11:00 Dennis Beckman	8:30 Stacey McNamara 11:00 Dawn Evangelista
Communion Assistants 8:30 Barb Krueger	Jennifer Paine Maureen Shorts Don Nielsen Connie Nielsen	11:00 AM Joy Blankenship 7:30 PM Barb Krueger Jerry Krueger Brenda Jacob		Herb Simpson Pam Simpson Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship		
Communion Assistants 11:00 Barb Krueger	Lori Forse Barb Krueger Jerry Krueger Janet Kaiser			Marj Gray Gregg Rath Sandy Rath Cindy Shoens		
Nursery Bonnie Bailey	Bonnie Bailey		Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger	Sandy Treudler Bonnie Bailey	Kelly Worsencroft	Gayle Kovach Bonnie Bailey
Counting Team Schedule Terri Mosley	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo		Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Chris Hamel Carol Paulini	Terri Mosley Heather Snyder Bob Snyder Bob Jacob	Wade Zwingler Mary Whitecar Pat Sauernheimer Daphne Leon	Jim Gist Sheri Gist Gary Walters Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger
Altar Guild Beth David	Dawn Evangelista Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder	Ellen Kolman Beth David	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Jacquie McLemore	Sandy Rath Billie Hoffman Karen McFarland	Pat Sauernheimer Janet Kaiser Sandy Kaskey	Dawn Evangelista Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 – Prayer & Care	2
3 9:15 – Chancel Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Bell/Brass Choir	4 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Confirmation 7:00 – AA	5 6:00 – Crossroad Stitchers 6:30 – Pub Church 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	6 Ash Wednesday 11:00 – Service 7:30 – Service	7 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	8	9 9:30 – Strongsville Food Bank
10 Daylight Savings time begins 9:15 – Chancel Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Bell/Brass Choir	11 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentor Groups 7:00 – AA	12 7:00 – Cabinet Meeting 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 – Chancel Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Bell/Brass Choir	18 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Confirmation 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 – Chancel Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Bell/Brass Choir	25 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentors Meet 7:00 – AA	26 6:00 – Lenten Supper 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:15 – Holden Evening Prayer 7:30 – Al-Anon	27	28 6:30 – Praise Band	29	30
31 9:15 – Chancel Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Bell/Brass Choir 4:30 – Organ Recital						