



Revelations

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

June

2019

I recently read one of those psychology-based books that I love to immerse myself in from time to time. This particular one was on the lack of happiness and overall contentment within our world. For the author, the culprit was plain old fear. He stated that people are overcome with it to the point that it “inter-fears” with life choices. In other words, fear stops us in our journey – it detours us from finding a true sense of fulfillment and just genuine happiness within our lives.

So, here’s a quick symbolic fable on this subject, excerpted from the book, some food for thought:

“There once was this criminal who had committed a crime. (Because, hey, that’s what criminals do. That’s their job!) Anyway, he was sent to the king for his punishment. The king told him he had a choice of two punishments. He could be hung by a rope or take what’s behind the big, dark, scary, iron door. The criminal quickly decided on the rope.

As the noose was being slipped on him, he turned to the king and asked: “By the way out of curiosity, what’s behind the door?” The king laughed and said: “You know, it’s funny, I offer everyone the same choice, and nearly everyone picks the rope.” “So,” said the criminal. “Tell me. What’s behind the door? I mean, obviously, I won’t tell anyone,” he said, pointing to the noose around his neck. The king paused, then answered: “Freedom, but it seems most people are so afraid of the unknown that they immediately take the rope.””

There is no doubt that people will cling to the familiar. Yes, unfortunately too many of us live choosing the familiarity of our rope (aka: familiar struggles, familiar patterns, familiar behaviors, and familiar pains). We become fearful of the unknown alternatives – the freedom of picking new choices for being and doing – new choices which can open the door to a greater sense of happiness and contentment within our lives.

The well-known philosopher Alan Watts said it well when he said: “Our lives are one long effort to resist the unknown.” The result: We’re a planet full of people walking around with

metaphysical ropes around our necks, wondering why we feel a bit emotionally and spiritually dead to the world around us.

As I think about all of this I can't help but center in on scripture and the reality of its message when it comes to fear. Literally hundreds of times we are encouraged to let go of our fear – and to let God be God! To let our Lord be who and what He can be in our lives. I think about words like: “For **God** gave us not a spirit **of** fearfulness, but **of** power and love and discipline.”, “For I am **the Lord, your God**, who takes hold **of your** right hand and **says** to you, **do not fear**; I **will** help you.” And who can forget the words of John 14:27 which adds “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” These are words that speak to our faith and to our trust in God. They are words that encourage us and help us to remember the strength that can come from our relationship with our merciful Savior.

But as many are aware, letting go of fear can be a difficult journey and one that takes much work, discipline, and prayer. It doesn't come easy, there's no magic wand, and there will undoubtedly be a few bumps as people make their way through it. And yet, can you imagine just how freeing it would be to take off any and all ropes that bind us – and often blind us?

Maybe it's time to open up those doors which lead to the unfamiliar – doors that allow us to move towards a greater sense of Christ, freedom, and growth within our lives, as well as a greater understanding of what happiness is and just how content we can truly be when fear is no longer leading us.

In Christ,
Pastor Kathy



WORSHIP NOTES FOR



Please read carefully as our worship schedule has changed for the summer and for special occasions.

Easter 7

Sunday, June 2	9:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, Eucharist
	10:30 a.m.	ELW Setting 4, Eucharist

Pentecost

Sunday, June 9	10:30 a.m.	One Blended Service, Eucharist Rite of Confirmation
----------------	------------	--

Holy Trinity

Sunday, June 16	9:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, Eucharist
Youth Sunday	10:30 a.m.	ELW Setting 4, Eucharist
		Recognition of Graduates at both services.

Time After Pentecost

Sunday, June 23	10:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship Only ELW Setting 4
-----------------	------------	---

Time After Pentecost

Sunday, June 30	9:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship
	10:30 a.m.	ELW Setting 4
		Installation of Council and Endowment Members

Congratulations to our 2019 Confirmands who will affirm their baptisms on **Sunday, June 9** at the **10:30 AM** blended service:

**Jack Landfried
Conlan Mayberry
Maggie McGowan
Ashley Trimmer
Bradley Whitecar**

Your prayers are encouraged for these young Christians as they continue their journey of faith in our midst.



ARE YOU GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

We would like for you to send, or bring into the church office, a senior picture, along with a summary of your future plans. We will be putting a picture board together and it would not be complete without your smile. So, please try to respond as soon as possible; it is our hope that all information will be received by **June 2**.

On **Sunday, June 16**, we will be formally recognizing our graduates at both worship services and at a reception following. We certainly hope that you and your family will consider joining us so that we might share in the celebration and joy of this important accomplishment.

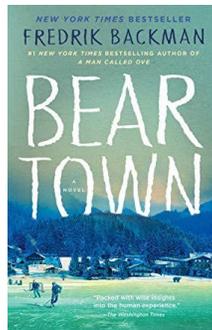
PUB CHURCH

Pub Church will take a break for the summer months.
Pastors will be reflecting and evaluating whether to continue in the fall.



WOW NEWS!

First Lutheran Women's Book Club will meet Friday June 14 at 7 PM at the home of Debbie Feuerstein. We will be discussing Fredrik Backman's "Beartown." Please see the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or contact Jen Kowalewski for address information. Happy Reading!



OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly is June 14. Along with both pastors, First Church will be represented by Bruce Holderead and Kendra King. The theme this year is **“Who is My Neighbor?”** and will feature worship, prayer, workshops, speakers, and business sessions. The assembly will elect synod council members, a treasurer, Consultation Committee members, and Discipline Committee members. The ELCA representative will be Rev. Amy Reumann, the Director of Advocacy Ministries. The youth of the synod will also be participating in a service event coinciding with the 2019 LYO Summer Lock-In.

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Congratulations to our newly elected
Council and Endowment Committee Members

President	Darren Whitford
Council Secretary	Stacey McNamara
Council At-Large	Ken Holda
Council At-Large	Ron Uline
Endowment	Bruce Holderead
Endowment	Mike Thellman

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 in June, July or August, please contact Bruce Holderead.



SPECIAL SUMMER SUNDAYS FOR KIDS!

First Church Education Team is excited to be sponsoring Summer Sunday Special Days once a month all summer. We will hold events for children in preschool classes through fifth grade classes on June 23, July 28, and August 25. Children will be dismissed after Children's Sharing Time to do fun workshop activities connected to each week's scripture. No need to register - just show up ready to praise God each time! Friends and visitors welcome! *If you would like to volunteer to help assist in this project, or if you have any questions, please contact Stacey McNamara.*





As an educator, I always thought that self-confidence and self-esteem played an important role in a child's education. So with great interest, I read a series of blogs written by David Stahl, President of KIDS HOPE USA, which focused on the role of confidence in kids' lives. He stated that confidence serves as an important motivator and catalyst in life. As a child learns and grows, s/he must be willing to move forward and take chances and stretch to new horizons. He quotes Dr. Emilie DeYoung, a child psychologist, who has stated that confidence enables a student to move through circumstances in order to thrive in life.

Every child needs confidence. This is even more true for some of our KIDS HOPE students. Our mentors (supported by their prayer partners) can play a major role in helping them make gains in this area.

At Hofstra University, psychologists found that **100 %, in other words, ALL children-** have endured being called harmful names by other kids. Some can brush the experience off and go on without it bothering them. Other children cannot do so. The biggest factor as to whether or not a child can be unfazed by name calling is his home situation. Kids who have parents, brothers, and sisters who encourage and affirm them can handle these situations. However, many at-risk kids do not have such reassuring homes. Without someone to tell them their good qualities, they internalize all the negatives they hear, and it becomes negative self-talk and erodes their confidence instead of building it.

I believe that kids are what we tell them they are. When they are told they are responsible or kind, they tend to become responsible and kind. Stahl cited a time when he worked with his mentee on reading sight words. The child did well, so David told him he was a good reader. The child stated that no one had ever told him he was good at anything. Several months later, his teacher commented on the dramatic increase in the child's reading ability. Likewise, I have often heard our mentors building their mentees up with sincere compliments.

Stahl states that one can usually tell which kids need to build their confidence by the brightness in their eyes. When their mentors show up, their eyes light up. When other topics outside school, such as friends or other activities come up, that brightness diminishes. These are often the same students who do not get their work done or do not want to try anything new. As school years progress and the difficulty of the work increases, they are often labeled as "unmotivated" or "disinterested," when in reality, they are afraid and lack confidence.

In the safe relationships they have fostered, mentors have wonderful opportunities to bolster the confidence of their mentees every week as they meet. Over time, they have the ability to change the directions of a child's life. Stahl gave an example of a former KIDS HOPE kid, now in her 20's. As a third grader, she was shy and embarrassed about her reading. Her mentor assured her they would learn together. They practiced reading, and she finally believed she could read on her own. They also did art projects together. As her classmates asked about the art projects, she found herself explaining them to the class and also realized she was not shy anymore. She commented, "You could say that my mentor helped me to step out of my shell and really start to live. And it all started when my mentor said we would learn together."

Our wonderful mentors believe in their students. They affirm them by helping them realize their many fine qualities and build their confidence. By helping them to believe in themselves, they help them to trust themselves and start them on the road to success.

I am so very grateful to all of our mentors and their prayer partners who are making positive differences in the lives of children in our community. If you would like to become part of this amazing program, please contact me.

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert
Director
KIDS HOPE USA



THE FIRST CHURCH BRUNCH BUNCH!



Have you ever wanted an opportunity to meet more people at church? Are you stuck in a rut just talking to people sitting in the pew next to you? Our solution is.....

The First Church Brunch Bunch!

Starting June 2nd (for the duration of the summer schedule) at the 9:00 am services, we will be making an announcement each week for people to fill out a Brunch Bunch index card. These cards will be in the pews. On the card you will write your names so we can match you up with other people who want to do brunch. This is family friendly so all ages can participate. **After service there will be a Brunch Bunch board at The Welcome Center** and you will see who you are matched with.

Each group will choose the restaurant they want to go to. We are trying to keep the group size from 4 to 8 people so folks can all chat easily. There will be a list of dining venues that will delineate if their brunch is only breakfast food or if you can also order lunch.

To make this even more fun we will have a “question of the week” each week for your group to talk about during brunch. I promise these questions will not be hard. They are just conversation starters.

The magic of the Brunch Bunch is you don't have to make plans ahead of time. You are under no obligation for a certain number of Sundays. **Best of all, you get to connect to more people at church.**

If you have any questions call Becky Piper

**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT
"I WISH I KNEW THEN, WHAT I KNOW NOW?"
ARE YOU GOING TO BE A NEW FRESHMAN AT HIGH SCHOOL?
WANT TO KNOW THE BEST TRICKS TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE?
DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE?**

It's a Fact: 99% of High School Freshmen are worried about entering High School AND 99% of High School Seniors Know Everything about High School. (Sophomores and Juniors are a little of both!) So Let's Bring "Those Who Know" together with "Those Who Don't Know, Yet" to share their knowledge and take away the dreaded feelings of the unknown at the First Annual...

THEN....AND....NOW RETREAT

**FOR CURRENT 8TH-12TH GRADERS
JUNE 17-19, 2019**

(Depart church 6:00 PM, Return by 12:00 PM)

Join us for 2 nights, 3 days of swimming, fishing, boat rides, campfires, obstacle course, games and kick-back fun!

Where: Treudler Lakehouse (1.5 hours away)
Cost: \$12.00 per person and food donation TBD
Transportation: Parent Drivers requested
(Designated chaperone attending)
RSVP: By June 10

Questions? Contact Sandy Treudler
Attendance Confirmation and Packing List will be sent via email



“What Is God Doing Through Me?”

On Saturday, July 20, 2019 from noon until 8 pm, all of God’s people are invited to **PURPOSEPALOOZA**. *Come party with a purpose!*

In Ephesians 2:10, Paul writes, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." And in Mark 9:35, we read, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." With these two Bible verses and Pastor Jim Watson’s sermon theme “What Is God Doing Through Me?” (“WIGDTM?”) serving as inspiration, **PURPOSEPALOOZA** is an experience bringing God’s people of all ages and their families to form faith together and to find a tangible way to serve each other.

PURPOSEPALOOZA will feature concerts throughout the day on the main stage by musical Lutheran legends, **AGAPE***, **Rachel Kurtz**, and **Lost & Found**.

PURPOSEPALOOZA will include onsite interactive learning and serving experiences provided by numerous ministry partners and community organizations in Northeastern Ohio. With occasion to learn more about the mission and efforts of these various organizations and ministry partners, those attending **PURPOSEPALOOZA** will have opportunity to participate in service activities while at the event and hopefully, discover a sense of call, purpose to serve, and leave with a commitment to collaborate with one of these organizations and ministry partners moving forward.

PURPOSEPALOOZA will also have many fun activities including various field games, face painting, a photo booth, and more! Food will be available for purchase at **PURPOSEPALOOZA** or anyone attending is welcome to bring their own food, non-alcoholic beverages, coolers, blanket, and lawn chairs for an outdoor, lawn-style concert picnic!

PURPOSEPALOOZA will close with worship and celebrating Holy Communion at 7 pm with Bishop Abraham D. Allende of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the ELCA preaching and Rachel Kurtz serving as our worship music leader.

Early sale **PURPOSEPALOOZA** tickets are **\$15 each**, or **8 tickets for \$100**, and can be purchased online at zionvc.org/purpose. **Parking is free**. **PURPOSEPALOOZA** will be held at the campus of Buckeye Senior High School, Medina located at 3084 Columbia Rd., Medina, Ohio 44256 and is less than an hour drive from most locations in the Northeastern Ohio. **PURPOSEPALOOZA** is being hosted by and through the cooperative ministry of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Valley City, St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, Medina, and the Medina Area Cluster of Lutheran Churches. For more information, please email palooza@zionvc.org with any questions.

For organizations and ministry partners desiring to register and set-up an interactive learning and serving station at **PURPOSEPALOOZA**, applications are available at zionvc.org/purpose. There is no charge to participate as a ministry partner organization. The organizers are also seeking additional churches, individuals and corporate sponsors willing to support **PURPOSEPALOOZA**. Information about sponsor recognition and opportunities can be found at zionvc.org/purpose. We need your help.

Through **PURPOSEPALOOZA**, we hope to develop and multiply youth and young adult leaders. Come and find a purpose. Leave ready to serve.

JUNE VOLUNTEERS

Date	June 2	June 9 One Service	June 16	June 23 One Service	June 30
Acolytes Ellen Kolman	Jadyn Crane Abby McKee	Ella Hoerig	Samantha Hoffman Melora Fowler	Luke Thellman	Owen Smith
Ushers – 9:00 Maureen Shorts	Mary Barnes Maureen Shorts Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship		Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman Herb Simpson Pam Simpson		Stacey McNamara Mike McNamara Maureen Shorts Ron Shorts
Ushers – 10:30 Dawn Evangelista	Dawn Evangelista Alan Evangelista Eddie Forse Lori Forse	Wayne Mosley Steve Harris John Brinzo Alfonso Hinojosa	Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Robert Snyder Heather Snyder	Bob Strong Tom Newbould Renee Chaya Dave Chaya	Bob Jacob Brenda Jacob Dennis Beckman Jim Gist
Readers Barb Krueger	9:00 Jan Kappus 10:30 Gladys Otto	10:30	9:00 Renee Sadler 10:30 Curt Dean	10:30 Sandy Treudler	9:00 Andrea Cassidy 10:30 Bob Lindsey
Communion Assistants 9:00 Barb Krueger	Jan Kappus Mary Whitecar Chuck Whitecar Bonnie Bailey		Renee Sadler Jan Holderead Bruce Holderead Paul Schlacht		
Communion Assistants 10:30 Barb Krueger	Gladys Otto Janet Kaiser Holly Perzy Sam Reichert		Curt Dean Sandy Rath Greg Rath Cindy Shoens		
Nursery Bonnie Bailey	Bonnie Bailey	Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger	Sandy Treudler Megan Uline	Kelly Worsencroft Jennifer Paine	Gayle Kovach Eddie Forse
Counting Team Schedule Terri Mosley	Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Chris Hamel Carol Paulini	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo	Terri Mosley Heather Snyder Bob Snyder Bob Jacob	Wade Zwingler Mary Whitecar Pat Saurenheimer Daphne Leon	Jim Gist Sheri Gist Gary Walters Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger
Altar Guild Beth David	Sandy Rath Billie Hoffman Karen McFarland	Pat Saurenheimer Janet Kaiser Sandy Kaskey	Dawn Evangelista Sheri Gist Tricia Nolder	Ellen Kolman Beth David	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Jacquie McLemore
Communion Bread Maryann Tower	Pat Sauernheimer	Barb Krueger	Hank Pekkola		

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 11:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Contemporary Worship Team	3 7:00 Endowment Committee 7:00 AA	4 6:00 Crossroad Stitches 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	5	6	7 2:30 – 5:30 Strongsville Food Bank Blood Drive	8 9:30 Strongsville Food Bank 10:00 Confirmation Rehearsal
9 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:30 Bell Choir 10:30 Blended Service Confirmation	10 7:00 AA	11 7:00 Celebration Team 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	12	13	14 Synod Assembly 10:00 Prayer and Care Group 7:00 WOW Book Club	15
16 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional Service with Graduate Recognition	17 Pastor Chuck on Vacation through 6/23 7:00 AA	18 7:00 Council 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	19 10:00 Lydia Circle	20	21	22
23 10:30 Traditional Worship (One Service only) Summer Sunday Special Days during the Worship Service	24 7:00 AA	25 7:00 Toastmaster's 7:30 Al-Anon	26	27	28 3:00 Wedding Rehearsal	29 3:00 Walters Wedding
30 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional						

Pastor Charles Knerem

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Kathleen Kluck

Office hours: Monday & Friday 8-2