



# Revelations

of First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 19419 Royalton Road – Strongsville Ohio 44149  
440-238-7890 – [www.firstchurchalive.org](http://www.firstchurchalive.org)

March

2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the last few years I have made it a practice, during the season of lent, to saturate myself in real life stories of inspiring sacrifice and dedication. This devotional habit has become an eye-opening reminder of the men and women of our world who sacrifice every day in an effort to share the gospel and the gift of faith with others. It's my way of taking that sometimes difficult look in the mirror and asking the question, "Am I doing all that I can?"

This past week my focus text was James 2:15-16 "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?" Talk about powerful texts – this is it. The author is reminding us of that which we need to hear, but perhaps find it difficult to listen too.

What is it that we are doing? What is our faith leading us to accomplish? In what ways are we helping and serving others? James reminds us that our faith needs to be active – that we are called as followers of Christ to be about serving – to be out there in this world doing something – not just being and believing. And with that in mind I share the following story that served as a reminder to me of what that looks like.

"For some people, self-sacrifice to serve others is a way of life. Take Dr. Paul Farmer for instance. He works about two months a year in Boston, at Harvard Medical School, but the rest of the year he spends most of his time in Haiti, a poverty ridden country with no affordable health care, treating the "disposable people" of the world. Why? His faith compels him to help those less fortunate than himself.

Farmer's sacrifice caught the attention of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder who authored a book entitled **"Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World."** Kidder writes, "It's not as though what he's doing is somehow inhuman or superhuman. It's intensely human. When you hang out with Paul you begin to think that altruism is normal, and the other stuff we tend to think of as part of human nature-greed, selfishness, mendaciousness that those are the things that are abnormal. It's just another way of seeing the world tilt around."

I don't expect that we are all going to drop everything and run off to a poverty-stricken area of our world tomorrow, but I do wonder what it is that we can do right here and right now in our own piece of this world? What happens when we take the words of James 2 to heart and attempt to live according to them? Can we too see the world tilt around?

I encourage you to think about these words from the book of James during this season of Lent. Use this reflective time to search your own heart, and to think about the places and opportunities that are crying out to you. What it is that you have the ability to do? Where is it that your impact on behalf of Christ and your faith can be felt?

In Christ,

Pastor Kathy



## **WORSHIP NOTES FOR MARCH**

### **Lent 1**

Sunday, March 1                      10:30 a.m.                      One Blended Service, Eucharist

### **Pub Church**

Tuesday, March 3                      6:30 p.m.                      Brew Garden in Strongsville

### **Lent 2**

Sunday, March 8                      8:30 a.m.                      Contemporary Worship  
   11:00 a.m.                      ELW Setting 1

### **Lent 3**

#### **Youth Leading All Services**

Sunday, March 15                      8:30 a.m.                      Contemporary Worship, Eucharist  
   11:00 a.m.                      ELW Setting 1, Eucharist

### **Lent 4**

Sunday, March 22                      8:30 a.m.                      Contemporary Worship  
   11:00 a.m.                      ELW Setting 1

### **Holden Evening Prayer**

Tuesday, March 24                      7:00 p.m.

### **Lent 5**

Sunday, March 29                      8:30 a.m.                      Contemporary Worship  
   11:00 a.m.                      ELW Setting 1

# Special Lenten Events at First Lutheran Church

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



## Holden Evening Prayer

**Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 PM**

A beautiful, meditative service with a community choir.

Take a break in the middle of your week to center yourself in prayer, scripture, and reflection.

## Compassion - The Musical

**Friday, March 27, 7:30 PM at St. Ladislav Church in Westlake**

This high level community theater performance focuses on the 'compassion' of Jesus in his suffering and how that element of his life changes others he met. It follows the gospel of St. John with human elements of Jesus from the gospel of St. Luke. The Beatitudes also come into play from St. Matthew. It is told through the eyes of St. Peter on the day Jesus is to be crucified and reflects on Jesus' life and passion.

This event is FREE. Sign up is required at the Welcome Center.

## The Maltz Museum, Stop the Hate Tour

**Sunday, March 29, 3:00 - 4:00 PM**

Hate has known many forms in human history.

Visitors are given opportunity to reflect on intolerance and oppression in the world and in their own lives, and identifying possible solutions for advancing inclusivity.

Cost is \$10 per person. Sign up is required at the Welcome Center. Limit 20.

(We will leave the church at 2:00 PM)

## Amethyst String Ensemble with David Gooding (Organ)

**Sunday, April 5, 4:00 PM**

Back by popular demand from last year's amazing performance, and fresh from their gig with Jesus Christ Superstar, Amethyst brings their wonderful talents to the First Church and Strongsville communities. David Gooding, former organist with the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra and current First Church organist, needs no introduction. Don't miss this opportunity to hear these world-class musicians.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Invite your friends!

## Palm "Fun" Day

**Sunday, April 5, during an extended Sunday School Hour.**

Watch for more details!

Weekly devotions linked to ELCA Global Hunger. Check our Facebook and Instagram pages for a weekly scripture passage, devotion, and prayer.

## SOCIAL MEDIA PUSH FOR LENT

We are going to partner with the ELCA World Hunger's Lenten Study Guide. Every Sunday, we will post a graphic, along with a link to the Lenten Study Guide. You will be able to read the study guide and reflect on its weekly message. Then, throughout the week we will post the reflection questions that coincide with the study guide. We hope you will study and pray for the good of our families, our neighbors and communities around the world. Lent is a time of reflection and repentance, of sacrifice and self-examination. But Lent is also a season of hope — hope in the work God is doing in the world, even in the most challenging times.

The link is <https://community.elca.org/40days>

### **“Compassion the Musical”**

Are you interested in participating in a stimulating Lenten experience this season? If YES is your resounding answer, we invite you to experience “Compassion the Musical”. It begins at the time of Creation and continues to a visit with Peter the Apostle, who, in prison chains, describes his encounter with Jesus. Through Biblical miracles and teachings, we witness the Compassion of Jesus.

We are then present for the handing over of Jesus to the Roman governor. We feel the passion he suffered and witness his crucifixion. We rejoice in his resurrection and receive the great commission.

**The acting – evoking! The singing – exciting! The music – electrifying!**

**It is an event you won't want to miss!**

**WHERE?** St. Ladislav Catholic Church  
2345 Bassett Road  
Westlake, Ohio 44145

**WHEN?** Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28 at 7:30 PM

**COST?** No ticket required - No reserved seating - Free-will offering

Members of First Lutheran Church are planning to attend the Friday performance as a group. If interested, please meet in our church parking lot by 6:30 PM to carpool. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Whether you are carpooling, driving yourself, or selecting an alternate evening, you will want to include “Compassion the Musical” in your Lenten journey.



Even though March weather often seems like a boxing match between winter and spring, most of us look forward to the first day of spring. When spring begins, we start looking for signs of new life and new beginnings. Thinking about spring and the changes it brings led me to think about how having a KIDS HOPE USA mentor can bring change and new beginnings into the life of a child.

When a child begins a relationship with a mentor, the child begins to realize that he is an important person. Now every week a mentor comes to school for an hour - just to see him. As these trusted relationships grow and individual attention is given, the child feels valued.

During their time together, the mentor and child have conversations that offer guidance to the child and affect his life. Some conversations center around character formation and other life skills. Other times, academics are the focus and lead to a positive impact on achievement. Sometimes the mentor and child just have fun together playing games, and all the while the child is learning skills inherent in those situations. As the relationship progresses, the child begins to experience an overall growth in his confidence and self-concept, which are the basis for all success and which helps him to thrive in both school and life.

Mentoring has a powerful impact and can change the direction of a child's life. Having a mentor can give the child two of the things kids need most – love and hope. When this relationship is layered with the prayers of a prayer partner, wonderful things begin to happen in the life of a child and can lead him in ways never imagined before.

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert

Director

KIDS HOPE USA

One **child**

One **hour**

One **church**

One **school**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

There will be **NO ADULT CLASS** on March 1, but on **March 8 we will be hosting Joe Menkhaus**, the pastoral intern at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. As part of his seminary training Joe's assignment is to gather information about another congregation in Strongsville. He will be asking about our worship practices, spirituality, our perspective on social justice issues, service in the community etc. **Please join us for a stimulating conversation!**



**New sessions of Yoga Class begin March 1, at 6:30 with Regular Sunday Yoga Classes at 6:30 and Chair Yoga beginning Tuesday, March 3, at 1:30. Sessions run for six weeks. Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Center or feel free to call the office to sign up. Please extend this invitation to your friends!**



**The men of First Church will be joining the men of New Covenant for a trip to D.C. on July 20 through July 22. Our itinerary will include tours of the Museum of African American History and Culture, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, as well as various other memorials. A \$100 deposit is due by March 1. Please contact Pastor Chuck if you are interested in attending.**



**SPRING FORWARD 2020**  
**Daylight Savings Time Begins, March 8, 2020**



## Men's Golf League

The league plays on Monday nights at Pine Hills Golf Course in Hinckley starting **April 20**. If you are interested in playing, please contact **Ron Shorts** for more information.



**Words with Women** will be reading the classic book *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. We will meet on Saturday March 21, at 9:00 AM at Panera Bread on Rt. 82 in Strongsville. Join us for discussion and fellowship. Please contact Jen Kowalewski with any questions.



**You're Just the Type We Need Right Now! Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation; all blood types are urgently needed. Please consider donating at our Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, March 22, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Appointments are encouraged but not required; a sign-up sheet is available on the Welcome Center or go on-line to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)**

## MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Date	March 1 10:30 AM	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Acolytes 11:00 Ellen Kolman	Melora Fowler Madelyn Fox	Luke Thellman	Evan Hartman Brielle Rugar	Paige Snyder	Ella Hoerig?
Ushers – 8:30 Maureen Shorts	10:30 Bob Strong Dave Bewie Margaret Bewie Linda Browning	Mary Barnes Maureen Shorts Ron Shorts Alli Thellman	Shelley Fetzer Ron Shorts Maureen Shorts Vanessa Whitford	Mike McNamara Stacey McNamara Dave Chaya Renee Chaya	The Hoffman Family
Ushers – 11:00 Dawn Evangelista		Team 3 Wayne Mosley Steve Harris Alan Evangelista Alfonso Hinojosa	Team 4 Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Robert Snyder Heather Snyder	Team 5 Bob Jacob Brenda Jacob Dennis Beckman Jim Gist	Team 1 June Zakrajsek Jim Zakrajsek Reiner Mueller Rolf Gaab
Readers Barb Krueger	10:30 Vanessa Whitford	8:30 Jan Kappus 11:00 Kristine Gilbert	8:30 Judy Peach 11:00 Lori Forse	8:30 Barb Knerem 11:00 Anne Holda	8:30 Ashlynn Snyder 11:00 Curt Dean
Communion Assistants 8:30 Barb Krueger	10:30 Maureen Shorts Bonnie Bailey Janet Kaiser Jerry Krueger		Judy Peach Tony Rugar Melina Rugar Paul Schlacht		
Communion Assistants 11:00 Barb Krueger			Lori Forse Eddie Forse Brenda Jacob Bob Jacob		
Nursery 11:00 Bonnie Bailey	Barb Krueger	Gayle Kovach Megan Uline	Kelly Worsencroft Bonnie Bailey	Sandy Treudler Eddie Forse	Gerri Sagan Barb Krueger
Counting Team Schedule Terri Mosley	Wade Zwingler Mary Whitecar Pat Saurenheimer Daphne Leon	Jim Gist Sheri Gist Gary Walters Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger	Reiner Mueller Shelley Hoffman Al Hoffman Pierre David	Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Chris Hamel Carol Paulini	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski
Altar Guild Beth David	Ellen Kolman Beth David Billie Hoffman Sheri Hurley	Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Jacquie McLemore Shelley Hoffman	Pat Saurenheimer Janet Kaiser Maureen Harris	Dawn Evangelista Sheri Gist Trish Nolder	Ellen Kolman Beth David Billie Hoffman Sheri Hurley
Communion Bread Maryann Tower	Kendra Carter		Barb Krueger		
Donut Family Lisa Harper	Snyder	Uline	Thellman	Uline	Worsencroft



## March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:30 One Blended Worship Service Dream Small Project to follow a light lunch 12:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Youth Board 6:30 Yoga	<b>2</b> 7:00 Bible Bonanza 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 AA 7:00 Brass Choir	<b>3</b> 1:30 Chair Yoga 6:00 Crossroad Stitchers 6:30 Pub Church 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>4</b> 6:30 Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 7:00 Endowment 7:30 Men's Basketball	<b>6</b> 10:00 Prayer and Care Group	<b>7</b>
<b>8 SPRING FORWARD</b> 8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Worship 12:00 Bell Choir 6:00 CW Team 6:30 Yoga	<b>9</b> 7:00 Bible Bonanza 7:00 Mentor Group Activity 7:00 AA	<b>10</b> 1:30 Chair Yoga 7:00 Cabinet 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>11</b> 6:30 Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 7:30 Men's Basketball	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:30 Living Your Best Life Women's Conference 9:30 Strongsville Food Bank
<b>15</b> Youth Leading Both Services! 8:30 Contemporary Worship with Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Worship with Eucharist 6:30 Yoga	<b>16</b> 7:00 Bible Bonanza 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 AA 7:00 Brass Choir	<b>17 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!</b> 1:30 Chair Yoga 6:30 Council 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>18</b> 10:00 Lydia Circle 6:30 Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>19 FIRST DAY OF SPRING!</b> 7:30 Men's Basketball	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 Words With Women Book Club at Panera Bread on 82
<b>22</b> Red Cross Blood Drive 8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Worship 12:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Yoga	<b>23</b> 7:00 Bible Bonanza 7:00 Mentors Meet 7:00 AA 7:00 Brass Choir	<b>24</b> 1:30 Chair Yoga 7:00 Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Al-Anon	<b>25</b> 6:30 Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30 COMPASSION, The Musical at St. Ladislav Church in Westlake	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Worship 12:00 Bell Choir 3:00 The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage Visit 6:30 Yoga	<b>30</b> 7:00 AA 7:00 Brass Choir	<b>31</b> 1:30 Chair Yoga 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Al-Anon				