

July 9, 2023
10:00 AM



First Evangelical Lutheran Church
19419 Royalton Road
Strongsville, Ohio

Mission Statement

*Living God's love through our devotion to
service, worship, and one another.*

Good Morning!

If you are a visitor today,

Welcome!

We hope to see you again soon!

Sunday Schedule for Next Week, July 16, 2023

Worship at 10:00 AM

**A Special Welcome to
Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger**

To contact the Church,

Call the office at 440-238-7890

or email firstchurchalive@hotmail.com

Secretary Office Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 to 12:00 PM

Pastor Kathy - 440-666-8758

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Setting 1

* Please *turn off all electronic devices* during our time of worship.

PRELUDE SONG

“I Refuse”

Praise Band

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

GATHERING SONG

ELW #557

“Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER of the DAY

P Let us pray. You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

Sit

READINGS

Zechariah 9: 9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

After the reading: R The Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

After the reading: R The Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

SONG

“Everlasting God”

Praise Band

GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

CHILDREN’S SHARING TIME

SERMON

Pastor Shelly Nelson-Bridger

Stand

SONG

“We Believe”

Praise Band

Sit

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

MUSIC

Dolce

David Gooding

Adam Austin

Stand

Create in Me

Offering Song

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

P Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

P God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING

P The God who calls across the cosmos

and speaks in the smallest seed

+ bless, keep, and sustain you

now and to the end of the age.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG **ELW #777** *“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty” (vv.1-4)*

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Allegro

David Gooding

Martin Wells

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday, July 10

VBS Decorating 10 AM - Noon

AA at 7:30 PM

Tuesday, July 11th

VBS Decorating 10 AM - Noon

Toastmasters at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, July 12th

VBS Decorating – 10 AM – Noon

Thursday, July 13th

VBS decorating – 10 AM – Noon

VBS Decorating 6 PM-8PM

Thank you to the following volunteers:

Reader

Amy Kuntz

Ushers

Gladys Otto, Mary Barnes

Counters

Brenda Jacob, Bob Jacob,
Wade Zwinger, Jeff Stanley

Altar Guild

Trish Nolder, Sheri Gist, Beth David

Attendance Last Week

10:00 AM – 87

Online - 24

PRAYER CONCERNS

Death in the Family

Prayers for the Kluck Family on the death of Pastor Kathy's brother, Tom Lloyd Jr.

Prayers for the Buckley family on the death of Madge's sister, Helen Hartford.

Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating

Sheryl Clark, Gene Knaack, Rob Shoens, Adrian Woods, Jeff and Dragana Knaack, Dennis Bailey, Darlene Cassidy, Craig Kaiser, Audie Kiplinger, Thomas Lloyd, Carrie Deal, Karil Piskur, Dean Miller, Carol Rosenblum, Debbie Giles

On-going Prayers

Natalie David, Peter Mazzeo, Linda Stanley, Abbey Uline, Nighman Family, Heidi Balicki, Helen Hartford, Dianne Mosley, Pat Sauernheimer, Tia (Simpson) Russell, Ron and Mary Jane Warzel, The Fox Family, Susan Carlson, Millie Webb, Marj Gray, Paula McKee, Andrew and Family, Ron and Joanne Cvelbar, Cheryl Mooney

Homebound

Gene and Mary Jane Knaack, Irene Urbansok, Thelma Taylor, June Beck, Marj Wilder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Crafts, Music, Snacks and Fun! *"Pets Unleashed"* will happen July 18-20, from 9:00 AM to Noon. The cost is \$25 and children from 3 years of age through those in 5th grade are encouraged to attend. There are fliers on the Welcome Center.

VBS VOLUNTEERS – BEFORE AND DURING VBS

Many hands make light work! Please sign up to help with VBS.

There are shifts available for both decorating before and working during VBS. Please scan the QR code to sign up! →


Decorating - 7/10, 7/11, 7/13 and 7/17 from 10 AM

to Noon also 7/13 and 7/17 from 6 PM – 8 PM

Helping During VBS – 7/18, 7/19 & 7/20 from 8:30 - Noon



INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

If you are active on Facebook, we are asking you to please take a minute to scan the QR code,  then invite your Facebook friends and neighbors with children preschool age thru 5th grade to join us at VBS this summer!



WE NEED YOUR OLD T-SHIRTS!

If you have any old t-shirts that you don't wear anymore, please consider donating them for VBS. There is a box next to the Welcome Center. The deadline to drop them off is next Sunday, July 16. Thank you!

PRAYER CHAIN

We are looking for one additional member to the Prayer Chain. Please contact Maureen Shorts if you are interested in participating in this important ministry.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Information is available for the upcoming build dates for the Habitat Faith Build. Reach out to Alli Thellman for details: agator817@yahoo.com or 440-263-9828.

STRONGSVILLE FOOD PANTRY

The needs for the food bank are tuna fish or chicken, side dishes, and soup. Thank you for helping every month!

May 2023			
	Actual	Budget	Better (Worse)
Envelope & Loose	\$26,299	\$24,195	\$2,104

May 2023 Year-To-Date			
	Actual	Budget	Better (Worse)
Envelope & Loose	\$151,018	\$135,691	\$15,327
Total Income	\$181,980	\$168,916	\$13,064
Total Expenses	\$173,504	\$188,056	\$14,552
Operating Inc (Loss)	\$8,476	(\$19,140)	\$27,616

Unrestricted Cash Balance	
as of 5/31/2023	\$79,364

Mortgage Loan Balance	
as of 5/31/2023	\$469,512
Loan matures 2035	

Don't forget that if you ever have any questions or concerns, you may contact your Council or Cabinet representatives:

Darren Whitford: 330-524-3670 dgwhitford1114@gmail.com

June Zakrajsek: 440-336-1678 jfzakrajsek@gmail.com

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