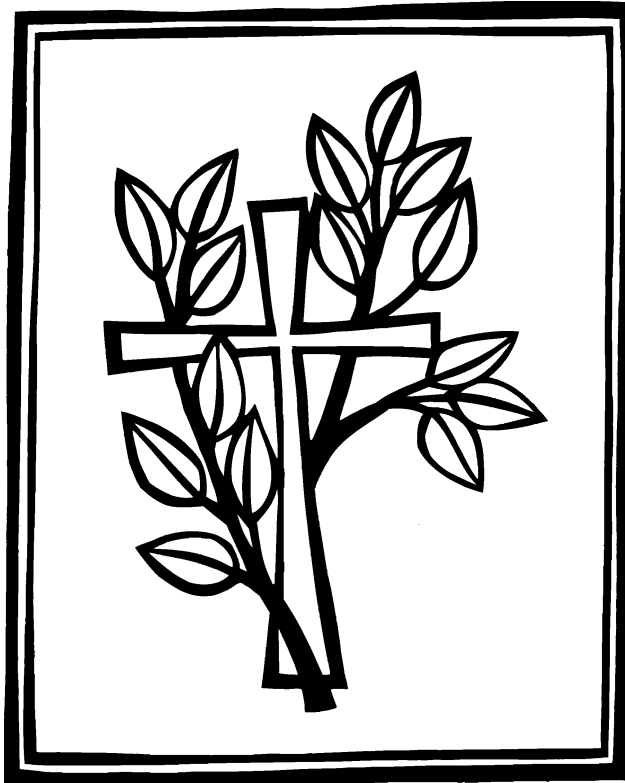




14th Sunday After Pentecost

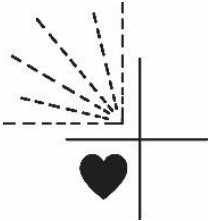
August 31, 2026



Mission Statement

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

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



First Lutheran Church has been serving Strongsville, Ohio for nearly 70 years, ministering to its members and friends and supporting community, as well as regional and world ministries.

First Lutheran is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The ELCA pursues God's work in the world with 3 million members in more than 8700 congregations across the United States and in the Caribbean region. The ELCA works with Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, Global Refuge, Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, schools and colleges, seminaries, camps, and ecumenical and interreligious companions, as well as numerous global church partners and organizations across the world.

We invite you to our website, firstchurchalive.org for more information about First Church.

In addition, we also invite you to download our app by searching for FLC Strongsville in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

And please don't forget to scan the QR code to view our Connections Page where you will quickly find all of our current news and ministry sign-ups.



GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Adoramus”

David Gooding

Arthur Connell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

KIDS HOPE USA

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

ELW #624

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.**

Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

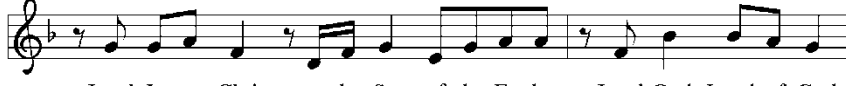
All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

LESSONS

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #799

“Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake”

CHILDREN’S SHARING TIME

SERMON

“Is Love Really the Standard?”

SONG

“Less Like Me”

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please scan the QR code for the option to give online.



MUSIC

“Amazing Grace”

Bell Choir

arr. Ben Roundtree

Create in Me

Offering Song

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of musical notation for 'Create in Me' features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody in the treble staff begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. The lyrics 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right' are written below the staff.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a half note D5, followed by quarter notes C5, Bb4, and A4, then a half note G4. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics 'spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your' are written below the staff.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics 'pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -' are written below the staff.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a half note D5, followed by quarter notes C5, Bb4, and A4, then a half note G4. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics 'store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,' are written below the staff.

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the piece. The treble staff has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics 'and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.' are written below the staff, ending with a double bar line.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Altar flowers are given by The Hughes-Polly Family in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary and Linda Walker in celebration of her Granddaughter Samantha Lewis and Brandon Mihalek's Wedding

THE 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

SENDING

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bless, heal, and hold you

today and always.

C Amen

SONG

“Hallelujah Feeling”

DISMISSAL

P Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Sketch”

David Gooding

Arthur Conwell

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WELCOME TO THE TIME AFTER PENTECOST

In the ELCA, the Time After Pentecost is the long, green season of the church year (often called "Ordinary Time"). Rather than a break from the action, it is viewed as a period of being "sent out" by the Spirit to live out the Gospel in our daily lives, routines, and communities.

Based on the appointed scripture passages during these weeks of the post-Pentecost season, the ELCA emphasizes several core themes:

- **Living Out the Spirit's Fire:** Having celebrated the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, this season focuses on actively sharing God's love, seeking justice, and serving neighbors. The fire of the Spirit is meant to guide daily Christian practices, not just Sunday worship.
- **Empathy and Unity:** ELCA reflections on this period emphasize that the Spirit was sent to push the church out of its comfort zones. It is a time to break down human estrangement, build connections with people who are different from us, and advocate for the common good.
- **Ordinary as Sacred:** The word "ordinary" comes from the word "ordinal" (counting). The season is an invitation to see the sacred in our everyday, ordinary routines. It focuses on gradual, sustained spiritual growth over 27 weeks as we learn to follow Jesus in real life.

Overall, it is a time for us to see Pentecost as a call to include, seek understanding and broaden circles, to see what we can do individually and, in our churches, and communities. A time for us to be builders, preparers, tenders, nurturers, stewards and protectors.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. Kathleen L. Kluck

Zack Richards	Music Director
Andrea Cassidy	Contemporary Band Leader
David Gooding	Organist
Justin Lauschin	AV Specialist
Brenda Jacob	Controller
Vanessa Smith Whitford	Office Manager
Barb Nalette	Talents Coordinator
Gloria Reichert	KIDS HOPE USA, Director
Madi Snyder	KIDS HOPE NEXT USA, Director

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

June Zakrajsek	Dawn Zima
Ken Holda	Margaret Bewie
Lindee Flater	Janet Kaiser
Gary Walters	Ellen Kolman
Ron Uline	Kathleen Kluck
Brenda Jacob	

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Ellen Kolman	Beth Hartman
Mary Walters	Carolyn Roman
Sandy Treudler	Linda Browning
Pat Sauernheimer	Maureen Shorts
Monika Mueller	Ryan Hartman
Gayle Kovach	Kathleen Kluck

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