



16th Sunday After Pentecost

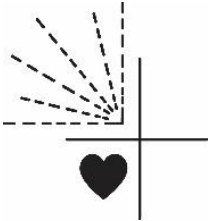
September 13, 2026



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

“Dedicace”

David Gooding

Ceil Dumont

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

“A Special Message From Our Design Team”

VIDEO

“Who Do You Say that I Am?”

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Come, people of God, the Spirit is gathering us in!

C We come, ready to begin again.

P In Christ we are no longer strangers, but brothers and sisters.

C We come to be welcomed, and to welcome others.

P The church is alive with God’s promised and hope!

C Let us worship with joy, for God is making all things new and we belong to Him.

HYMN

ELW #651

“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the baptism of Lennon Josephine Schultz. Her parents are Kelsey and Kyle Schultz and Lennon's sponsors are Daniel Schultz and Julia Oppedisano. Welcome to the Lord's family, Lennon.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Gracious God, on this day of new beginnings, fill us with joy in belonging, confidence in your transforming love, and with courage to follow where you lead. Bless this new year of worship, learning and service, that all we do may bring glory to your name and the reality of who you are within our lives. In the spirit of Jesus

C Amen

WORD

PSALM

Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy
who satisfies your desires | with good things

so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th Chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SHARING TIME

SERMON

“Who Do We Say That We Are”

SONG

“I Refuse”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We are reminded today that faith in Christ is never just private – it shows up in how we live, how we welcome, how we give. Today, as we bring our gifts, we do more than support a budge – we help complete the picture of God’s love in this community. On this Rally Day, let us give with joy, trusting that God will use our offering to welcome, to transform and to build up the body of Christ.

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

“This Little Light of Mine”

Chancel Choir

arr. Nicholas T. Vangeloff

Create in Me

Offering Song

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

The first system of the musical score 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 Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
confident that God hears us.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and
whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen

*Altar flowers are given by the Cassidy Family in celebration of the Lily, Amelia
and Quinn's birthdays and in loving memory of Larrye Lue and to the Glory of
God. The Bulletins are given by the Sawitzke Family in celebration of Meghan's
23rd birthday.*

SONG

"The Lord's Prayer"

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

C Amen

P The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

C Amen

P The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN

ELW #858

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

“NEVER FORGET” SERVICE PROJECT

Amy Straky

DISMISSAL

P Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Antiphon du Jour”

David Gooding

Ceil Dumont

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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

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June Zakrajsek	Dawn Zima
Ken Holda	Tom Newbould
Lindee Flater	Janet Kaiser
Margaret Bewie	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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