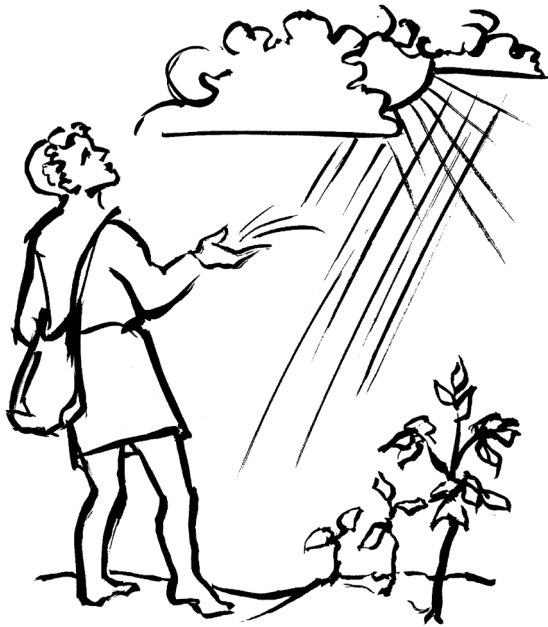




7th Sunday after Pentecost

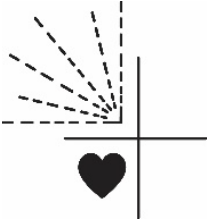
July 12, 2026



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

“Canto Ili”

David Gooding

Ava Konrad

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

ELW #389

“Christ is Alive! Let Christian’s Sing”

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 Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

WORD

LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

HYMN

ELW #512

“Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil”

LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

CHILDREN'S SHARING TIME

SERMON

“Good Soil”

SONG

“Keep Me in the Moment”

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

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

“Canto IX”

David Gooding

Ava Konrad

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

P God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C Amen

Altar flowers are given by the Bailey Family in celebration of Colin Chapman’s 10th birthday and the Holda, Gilbert, Naso Families in celebration of Keila’s 7th birthday.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C Amen

SONG

“Live with Abandon”

DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

MUSIC

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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Ken Holda	Tom Newbould
Lindee Flater	Janet Kaiser
Margaret Bewie	Ellen Kolman
Ron Uline	Kathleen Kluck
Brenda Jacob	

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

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