

**02/04/2024**  
**Blended Worship Service**  
**10 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!*

### **Sunday Schedule for Next Week, 02/11/2024**

Contemporary Worship at 9:00 AM

Sunday School at 10:15

Traditional Worship at 11:15 AM

To contact the Church, call the office at 440-238-7890

or email [firstchurchalive@hotmail.com](mailto:firstchurchalive@hotmail.com)

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

Pastor Kathy - 440-666-8758 or [revklk@gmail.com](mailto:revklk@gmail.com)

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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](mailto:dgwhitford1114@gmail.com)

June Zakrajsek: 440-336-1678 [jfzakrajsek@gmail.com](mailto:jfzakrajsek@gmail.com)

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**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**  
**Setting 4**

**WELCOME** to you all this morning. May God bless us as we gather and raise our hearts and voices in thanks and praise to our God. We celebrate the Eucharist this morning. All baptized believers in Jesus Christ are welcome to come to the Lord's table. Those who have not yet been instructed are welcome to come for a blessing.

*The center ring of cups in the trays contains non-alcoholic wine for those who desire it and the pedestal in the center contains gluten-free wafers*

Communion at 10 AM is continuous at two stations.

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

**MUSIC**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**C Amen**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God, our rock and refuge,  
C **we pour out our hearts before you.**  
**We have known you but have not always loved you.**  
**We have wounded one another**  
**and sinned against you.**  
**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit**  
**dwelling in each of us.**  
**Remember your covenant.**  
**Renew your creation.**  
**Restore us,**  
**that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen**

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
God has spoken:  
The time of grace is now.  
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.

C **Amen**

**MUSIC**

*"Because Of Your Love"*  
*"Hear our Praises"*

Praise Band

## **PRAYER of the DAY**

**P** Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen**

*Sit*

### **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40:21-31**

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

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

## **SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23**

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

*Stand*

## 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.

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### **GOSPEL**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

### **GOSPEL: MARK 1:29-39**

As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.



*After the reading:*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

## **CHILDREN'S SHARING TIME**

## **SERMON**

*Assistant to the Bishop,  
Pastor Mitch Phillips*

*Stand*

**HYMN of the DAY**

**ELW #858**

**"Praise To The Lord, The Almighty"**

## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

**P** As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation..

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen

*Sit*

## **PRESENTATION of the GIFTS**

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

## **MUSIC**

*"Reflet "*

**David Gooding**

Megan Ross

Stand

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

*Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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P Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### Preface Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

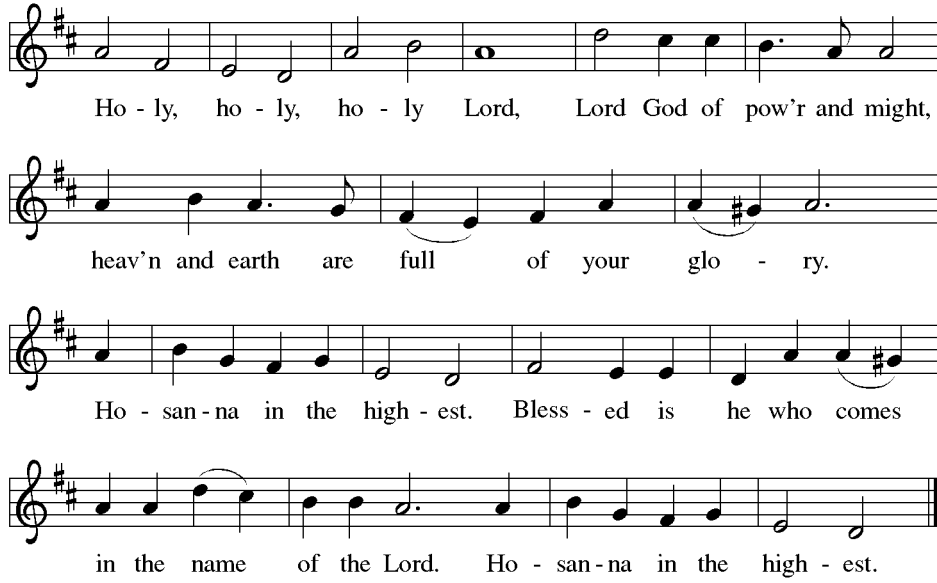
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ...

# Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and 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

*Sit*

## **COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may respond: **Amen***

# Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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## MUSIC

*"We Believe"*

Praise Band

### *Stand*

P Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## BLESSING

P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**C Amen**

**SENDING SONG**

**ELW #553**

**“Christ, Who’s Glory Fills The Sky”**

**DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. You are God’s beloved

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*“Allegro”*

**David Gooding**  
**Stephen Welles**

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# **PRAYERS**

## **Hospitalized/Home and Recuperating**

Sheryl Clark, Gene Knaack, Rob Shoens, Adrian Woods, Dennis Bailey, Darlene Cassidy, Audie Kiplinger, Carrie Deal, Karil Piskur, Carol Rosenblum, Kendra King, Steve Sarbry, Linda Walker, John Duhn, Jim Cochran, Eleanor Preston, Marilyn Baker, Jamie Mewhinney

## **On-going Prayers**

Natalie David, Peter Mazzeo, Linda Stanley, Abbey Uline, Nighman Family, Heidi Balicki, Dianne Mosley, Pat Sauernheimer, Tia (Simpson) Russell, Ron and Mary Jane Warzel, The Fox Family, Millie Webb, Paula McKee, Ron and Joanne Cvelbar, Cheryl Mooney, Jerry Neumann, Deb Wise, Elaine, Jim Cochran, Thomas Lloyd, Rob Shoens, Randy and Emma Smith, Sue Naypauer, Ron Shorts, Curt Kowalewski, Connie

## **Homebound**

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



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **2024 ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETIN DONATIONS**

Sign-up sheets are on The Welcome Center, there are still vase spots for February.

## **2024 GIVING ENVELOPES**

2024 Giving Envelopes are located in the Welcome Center. Please be sure to stop by and get yours.

## **A FIRST CHURCH WELCOME**

We welcome Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Mitch Phillips, who will be preaching and facilitating the Call Vote Meeting.

## **STRONGSVILLE FOOD BANK**

The Strongsville Food Bank is in need of cereal donations.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

Ash Wednesday Services will be held on Wednesday, February 14th at 11 AM and 7:30 PM Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be celebrated at both services. Please plan to join us to begin this Holy Season.

## **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL WRITERS NEEDED**

The Celebration Team is looking for volunteers to write a devotional during Lent. If you are interested in writing one, please let Pastor Kathy, or Pat Sauernheimer (440.596.9302) know. We would love to include your insights and thoughts of this Holy Season! Get your creative juices flowing - there are some excellent writers in our congregation!

## **SUPERBOWL SUB SALES**

Today is the last day the youth attending the National Gathering in July will be selling sub sandwiches in the Welcome Center for Superbowl Sunday. Subs will be \$10 each and can be picked up after service on Sunday 02/11. Make sure to place your order some today!

## **YOUTH BAKE SALE**

Next Sunday, 02/11/2024 – The youth attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans will be having a bake Sale at the same time as sub pickup. It's a one stop opportunity for those who ordered Subs to pick up their subs and then grab dessert or for anyone else to grab a sweet treat. A free will offering will be collected.

## **OUTREACH COORDINATOR -EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

We are looking for volunteers to help oversee and implement our Easter Eggstravaganza. If you feel called to participate in a project that helps brings the greater community into our doors to see what First Church is all about, please scan the QR code, fill out the form and someone will be in touch shortly.



## **FEBRUARY BOOK CLUB**

We are meeting on February 17 at 9:00 AM at Fox Hollow Lane in Brunswick to discuss the book, The Measure, by Nikki Erlick. Please join us for fun and fellowship.

HAPPY  
*Birthday*



**The Altar Flowers are given to the  
Glory of God by  
The Bailey Family, in celebration of  
Michael Dittman, Maggie Buccalo  
& Kennedy Bailey's Birthday  
And  
The Rugar Family, in celebration of  
Brielle's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**Last Week's Attendance  
TIME OF SERVICES - 140  
Online - 10**

**Thank you to the following volunteers:**

**Reader**

Jennifer Paine

**Ushers**

Eddie & Lori Forse

**Counters**

Sam Reichert, Rolf Gaab,

Jackie Wojciehowski

**Altar Guild**

Pat Sauernheimer, Janet Kaiser,

Maureen Shorts

**Communion Assistants**

Jennifer Paine, Pam & Herb Simpson

**Communion Bread Baker**

Kendra Carter

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**Monday, 02/05**

Confirmation

7 PM - 9 PM

AA at 7:30

**Tuesday, 2/6**

Al Anon at 7 PM

Toastmasters at 7 PM