



# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

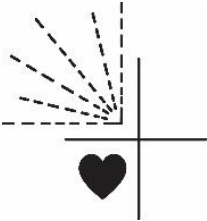
July 5, 2026



## 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](http://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

*“Morning Hymn”*

**David Gooding**

Morton Gafford

## PRAYER of PREPARATION

Gracious God, surround us with your grace and love. Amen

## OPENING HYMN

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** 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**

# WORD

## FIRST LESSON

Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
See, 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

Romans 7:15-25a

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 who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. 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 who 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 person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

R: 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.

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## GOSPEL

Luke 9:51-62

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter

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

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from

heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” And Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## CHILDREN’S SHARING TIME

**Margie Taylor**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”*

ELW #835 (VS 1, 2, 6)

## 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

*“Reflection”*

**David Gooding**

Morton Gafford

# Create in Me

## Offering Song

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

The first system of music consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line of quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, and E2.

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

The second system continues the vocal line with a half note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F4, and G4. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, and E2.

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

The third system continues the vocal line with a half note A4, followed by quarter notes B4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, and E2.

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

The fourth system continues the vocal line with a half note E5, followed by quarter notes F5, G5, and A5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, and E2.

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

The fifth system concludes the vocal line with a half note B5, followed by quarter notes C6, D6, and E6. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, and E2.

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 Zakrajsek in celebration of James and Michael's birthday and Dawn Zima in celebration of Clark Buckley's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Bulletins are given by Linda Walker in celebration of 80 years of God's love.*

# 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**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW #873 VS. 1, 4, 5, 6

*“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”*

## DISMISSAL

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*“Alla Marcia”*

**David Gooding**

Morton Gafford

# 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	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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