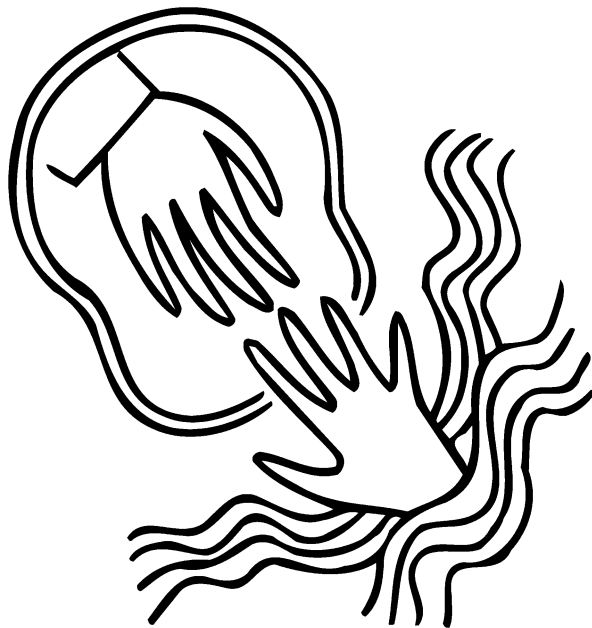




11th Sunday of Pentecost

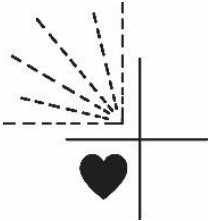
August 9, 2026



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

MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

“The Bridge”

SONG

“Greater”

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 O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

WORD

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 19:9-18

At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

ELW #756 (vs 1,2)

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 14th Chapter.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

[Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SHARING TIME

SERMON

Bishop Don Kreiss
Southeast Michigan Synod

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #810

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

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

“Canticle”

David Gooding

Arnold Farwell

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 Marj Gray in loving memory of John Gray and Steve and Maureen Harris in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.

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

“Deep Down”

DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Triplum”

David Gooding

Arnold Farwell

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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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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
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Gayle Kovach	Kathleen Kluck

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