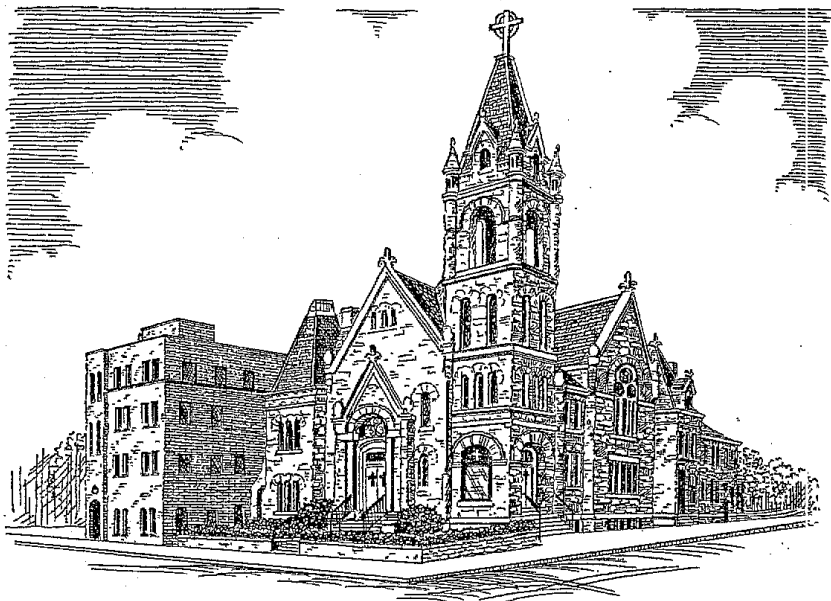


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

*53 Park Avenue West (at Mulberry Street)
Mansfield, Ohio*

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Isaiah 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

From The Suffering Servant Song of Isaiah 53

Dear Friends In Christ,

The final week of Jesus' life is so important, that fully 40 % of the verses in the four Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) focus on ***“the Week that Changed the World!”*** Ultimately, all of Scripture points to this most Holy Week. Indeed, it is the very center of human history. On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem, hailed as ‘King and Liberator’ to the triumphant cries of the crowd: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” But within days, this “Messiah-King” will experience arrest, the most brutal of scourgings, mockery, ridicule, and horrific death by crucifixion - executed as a criminal. He will be betrayed by Judas - his disciple; denied by Peter - one from his inner circle; and eventually abandoned by all - except his mother, some brave women, and the beloved disciple, John.

And in His death, mysteriously, wondrously --- He will fulfill more Old Testament prophecies than He did in His entire lifetime. Judas betrays him for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 27:6-8) fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 11:12-13. He is beaten, mocked and spit upon -- all fulfillments of Isaiah 50:6. Archaeologists and historians can now tell us that the very place, the rock upon which He was crucified is even a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. We now know that Golgotha was a great out-cropping of rock that the stone masons of a quarry had literally rejected. “The Stone that the builders rejected has become the capstone.” (Matthew 21:42; Ps 118:22). His crucifixion is powerfully foretold by the Isaiah 53 and Deuteronomy 21:23 (See also Galatians 3:13) and Psalm 22:16. As is befitting of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12), not one of his bones is broken (John 19:36) fulfilling Psalm 34:20. The soldiers cast lots for his clothing (John 19:24) fulfilling Psalm 34:20. After his death, they pierce his side with a spear (John 19:34) fulfilling Zechariah 12:10. He is given a royal burial (John 19:39) fulfilling Isaiah 53:9.

The American theologian Dr. Wilbur M. Smith, said: “The ancient world had many different devices for determining the future, known as divination, but not in the entire gamut of Greek and Latin literature, even though they used the words prophet and prophecy, can we find any real specific prophecy of a Saviour to arrive in the human

race ... Mohammedanism cannot point to any prophecies of the coming of Mohammed uttered hundreds of years before his birth. Neither can the founders of any cult in this country rightly identify any ancient text specifically foretelling their appearance.”

Yet, in the case of Jesus, He fulfilled over 300 prophecies (spoken by different voices over five hundred years), including 29 major prophecies fulfilled in a single day → the day he died. Only GOD could accomplish this!

It was John the Baptist who had declared of Jesus: *“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the Sin of the world.”* And at the moment of Jesus’ death, the great veil in the Temple - separating the people from God’s Presence in the Holy of Holies was split from top to bottom. The ancient Jewish historian Josephus tells us that the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple was four inches thick. In rending asunder this great veil of separation, God declares that through JESUS (His own holy, sinless Son → the perfect sacrifice for our Sins), GOD has now given us access into His Holy Presence. Through faith in JESUS His Son, God now gives the miracle of the Forgiveness of Sins, LIFE and Salvation. Through Cross & Resurrection God does for us, what we could never do for ourselves.

You may know all the FACTS about this awesome *“Week that Changed the World.”* But is your awareness of Jesus still only head knowledge? Yes, He has changed the World, but have you invited Him to change Your Life? Merely knowing lots of FACTS isn’t a living Faith. There is an eternal Difference between mere head knowledge and heart knowledge. **The Question of EASTER is: “Does He Live in Your Heart!”** YES! Christ is Risen, and He longs for you to have a living relationship with Him. He wants to walk with you in the realities of your daily life. He wants to lead you; guide you; give you His Love and His Peace and His Strength. Is Jesus still outside the door of your heart, knocking, waiting to come in? If so, why not right now invite Him into your life and have the Best Easter Ever! He died for your sins and rose from the dead → ALL for You! ALL, so that today you might know the fullness of His EASTER JOY! Jesus says: *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in to him...”* Your Savior & Lord, your Master & Friend, your God & King is waiting ... He is only your invitation away!

Have the Best Easter Ever!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Paul

† Holy Week †

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

April 1

5:00 PM Saturday Festival Communion
8:30 AM Festival Worship
11:00 AM Festival Holy Communion
11:00 AM Proclaim! Contemporary
Worship

Wednesday

April 4

12:05 PM Holy Communion (chapel)
(lunch in the undercroft)

Maundy Thursday

April 5

12:05 PM Holy Communion (chapel)
7:00 PM Holy Communion (nave)

Good Friday

April 6

12:05 PM Inter-Church Council
Ecumenical Good Friday
Worship at St. Luke's
7:00 PM Tenebrae Service (nave)

Holy Saturday

April 7

8:00 PM Easter Vigil and Eucharist
(No 5:00 PM worship)

Easter Day

Sunday, April 8

8:30 & 11:00 AM
Festival Eucharists
(Senior Choir at both services;
The Classic Brass Quintet at 11:00)

11:00 AM

Proclaim! Contemporary Worship



YOU'RE INVITED!
EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Sunday, April 8
9:30-10:45 A.M. in the Undercroft

Bring a breakfast food to share: egg casserole, coffee cake, quick breads, rolls or muffins. Fresh fruit, breakfast burritos, and beverages will be provided.

Hosted by the Congregational Life Committee



Palm Sunday

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – APRIL 1 . . .

Palm Sunday/The Sunday of the Passion begins the events of Holy Week. Our 5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel service on March 31, and the 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday services April 1 will feature the traditional blessing of the palms and reading of the Passion Gospel according to Saint Luke.

The palms that will be distributed will take the shape of palm crosses made by Christians in Africa. They are made through the ministry efforts of "**African Palms.**"

LENTEN COIN FOLDERS

Filled Lenten Coin Folders may be placed in the wooden boxes at the Narthex doors or brought to the church office during the week. Remember, our Lenten Coin Folder offerings are designated for Lithuanian Ministries.



THE LUNCH BUNCH, TUESDAY, APRIL 3 . . .

The Lunch Bunch meets on Tuesday, April 3, at 12:00 noon in the Emmaus Room. Cost of lunch is \$2.50. Stan and Chris Cichanowicz will be showing their Israel slides. Reservations to the church office, 419-522-0662, or Pat Wells, 419-756-6863, by Monday, April 2, are appreciated.

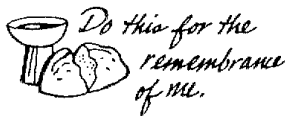
CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

The church office will close at **noon on Good Friday, April 6.** The Christian Day School will be closed for the whole day.

TRIDUUM

— The Three Holy Days —

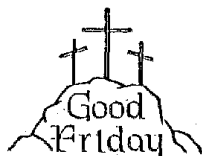
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Easter Vigil



Our celebration of the **Three Holy Days** begins with the **Maundy Thursday** evening communion service held at **7:00 on April 5** in the nave. The service begins with a sermon and instruction. Scripture readings focus on the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper of Christ and

his disciples. Confession and forgiveness are an especially important part of this service, as we finally receive the absolution which was intentionally left out of the Ash Wednesday services. The service concludes with the dramatic stripping of the Altar in preparation for the Good Friday observance. There is no benediction at the close of the service, since this is only the first part of the Triduum observance.

The second segment of the Three Holy Days continues with the **Good Friday Tenebrae** service at **7:00 P.M. on April 6**. The service is based on the biblical account of Christ's Passion According to St. John. The reading is interspersed with hymn singing and the extinguishing of seven candles. The historic Good Friday Bidding Prayer is the focus of our prayer time. A rough wooden cross is carried in procession. There will be a time of reflection and adoration of the crucified Christ when any may come forward to pray at the kneeling rail. There is no benediction; the service continues on Saturday evening.



The **Great Vigil of Easter** on Saturday, **April 7 at 8:00 P.M.** is both the conclusion of our observance of the Three Holy Days, and the first service in celebration of the Resurrection. This service reverses the events of Good Friday, and moves us from darkness into light. We will begin the service by gathering in the middle of Mulberry Street to join with the congregation of St. Peter's Catholic Church as we kindle the fire, light our Paschal Candles, and process to our respective parishes. Hand candles are lit as we enter the church, and are held for the singing of the Easter Proclamation. They are extinguished, and we hear

a series of readings tracing the biblical history of our salvation from Creation, through the Exodus, promises of our salvation, and the three young men in the fiery furnace. We celebrate the renewal of our baptismal vows as a final cleansing in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The lights are raised, and the Easter celebration begins with a service of Holy Communion, breaking the Lenten fast by receiving Christ's body and blood.

GOOD FRIDAY
ECUMENICAL WORSHIP, APRIL 6

The Inter-Church Council Ecumenical Good Friday service will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, corner of Park Avenue West and Marion Avenue, beginning at 12:05 P.M.

NO 5:00 P.M. WORSHIP
SATURDAY, APRIL 7

Our regularly scheduled 5:00 P.M. worship service in the chapel will **NOT** be held on Saturday, April 7. The Great Vigil of Easter will be celebrated that evening at 8:00 in the Nave.

APRIL WORSHIP

Saturdays:	5:00 P.M.	Worship in the Chapel (Communion with 1 st Sunday)
Sundays:	8:30 A.M.	Worship in the Nave (Communion 2 nd Sunday).
	9:45 A.M.	Sunday Church School for all ages
	11:00 A.M.	Worship in the Nave (Communion 1 st Sunday)
	11:00 A.M.	Proclaim! Contemporary, Undercroft (Communion 3 rd Sun.)
Wednesdays:	12:10 P.M.	Worship in the Chapel; lunch in the undercroft

SUNDAYS IN APRIL:

- April 1 ➔ Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion.
- April 7 ➔ The Great Vigil of Easter, 8:00 P.M. in the Nave (NO 5:00 Saturday Chapel)
- April 8 ➔ The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day. Holy Communion at all services.
➔ Easter Breakfast, 9:30-10:45 A.M. in the undercroft
- April 22 ➔ Christian Day School Sunday. The children will sing at the 11:00 service in the Nave.
- April 29 ➔ Confirmation Sunday. Combined 11:00 worship in the Nave.
(NO Proclaim! contemporary worship in the undercroft.)
➔ Hymn Festival, 7:00 pm, Nave

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
Apr 1 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator: Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Every
Sunday **Fireflies and Spirit!** children's and youth choirs rehearse during the 9:45 A.M. Sunday school hour. Directors: Becky Pittman and Dana Ruth.
- Monday,
Apr 2 **Men's Group** meets at 9:30 A.M. the first Monday of the month for breakfast at Denny's on West Fourth Street in Ontario. Contact: Hal Simmons, 419-529-6586.
- Sunday
(May 6) **Matins Choir Rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 A.M. Holy Communion service on Sunday, May 13. *No Matins Choir in April.*
- Tuesday,
Apr 3 **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets at 7:00 P.M. in the Narthex Lounge. Knitting instruction and patterns provided. Contact: Karen Ellis, 419-884-1882 or Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820.
- Wednesdays,
Apr 4 & 18 **Workday Ladies Sew** patchwork quilts 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on the third floor of Luther Hall (bring a sack lunch). Tracing and cutting, ironing, machine sewing, and tying. Coordinator: Marge MacDonald, 419-756-5714.
- Every
Wednesday **Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch**, 12:10 P.M. worship in the Chapel; lunch following in the undercroft. *Holy Week, April 4, 12:05 Holy Communion.*
- Every
Thursday **Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal**, 5:30 P.M. in the undercroft (please use the East side Luther Hall entrance). Contacts: Kristi Larson, 419-756-3858, or Joy Jones, 419-884-1016.
- Every
Thursday **Senior Choir Rehearsal**, 7:00 P.M. in the choir room in the rear balcony. Director: Dr. Timothy E. Guenther. (Please use the East side Luther Hall entrance).
- Friday,
Apr 20 **Friendly Friday Group**, 10:30 A.M. program in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at 11:30; games until 2:00. Rides available. Coordinator: Margaret Battisti, 419-526-4381.
- Sat/Sun
Apr 28 & 29 **Food Collection Weekend.** The February collection totaled 4 bags of groceries for Catholic Charities, and \$202 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued generous support!

RIDES TO WORSHIP

If you would like a ride to either the 8:30 or 11:00 A.M. worship service, call our April contact, **Wanda Milligan at 419-589-5695**, Saturday afternoons from 3-5 P.M. only. *Leave your name, address, phone number, and which service you will attend.* No phone calls after 5:00, please. Be ready by 8:00 A.M. for early worship pick-up, and by 10:00 A.M. for late worship pick-up.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED NEWS

RUMMAGE SALE AT ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thursday, April 12: 9 am to 4 pm

Friday, April 13: 9 am to Noon

Set-up days are April 9, 10, 11 at St. Luke's (9 am - 4 pm). Bring good items, clothes, etc. to St. Luke's. Call Helen Anderson with questions, 419-756-0381.

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

Friday, May 4: 12:00 Noon Luncheon

New Beginnings Church, Marion Ave at Wood Street

Theme: *Friends Under God's Wing*. Please plan to attend and bring a friend or two! Additional information will be coming. Call Helen Anderson with questions, 419-756-0381.

GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, April 14, 2007

4-8 p.m.

Mansfield Senior High School

This event is not an individual one, but a united effort as builders of the Kingdom of God to bring the entire community together. Groups from around the area will perform. Tickets may be purchased at the New Community Temple Church or Church's Chicken (Park Avenue West) for \$10.

LUTHER FELLOWSHIP BUS TRIP TUESDAY, APRIL 17 . . .



Luther Fellowship travels to The Western Reserve Historical Society to view **DIANA, a Celebration**, with more than 150 personal objects celebrating the life and work of **Diana, Princess of Wales**, including her royal wedding gown, 28 designer dresses and gowns, family heirlooms, personal mementos, and rare home movies. We'll also tour the Society's mansions.

We will leave the Mulberry Street parking lot at 9:00 A.M. The cost for the bus and tours is \$25. An audio device for the tour is an extra \$4.50 payable there. Lunch is your own at the Historical Society (\$7-\$10). We'll return to Mansfield around 5:00 P.M. **Sign up on the bulletin boards** in the Narthex or Luther Hall by Sunday, April 15. Please include your phone number. Questions? Call Carolyn or Lowell Weeks at 419-756-1776. Luther Fellowship trips are open to First English Lutheran Church members and friends.





Our Nursing
Home Ministry

COMMUNION SERVICES AT NURSING HOMES . . .

In order to provide communion for First Lutheran members who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, monthly worship services are scheduled in four locations with Communion Deacons assisting the pastors. All residents of the facilities are invited to attend, and members of First Lutheran are encouraged to come and accompany a family member or friend.

Tuesday, April 17

9:00 A.M. Elmcroft of Ontario
10:15 A.M. The Waterford
2:00 P.M. Mifflin Care Center

Thursday, April 19

9:30 A.M. Alterra Sterling House



RITE OF CONFIRMATION, SUNDAY, APRIL 29 . . .

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at the 11:00 AM combined service in the Nave (no Proclaim! contemporary service that morning). Having completed their catechism instruction, these 8th graders will affirm their faith:

Zachary Barley
Erin Blankenship
Lindsey Brenkus

Bryan Eyerly
Casey Kelley
Trayce Prather

Roscoe Thompson, IV
Jessika Volz
Sarah Ward

A cake reception will be held in the Narthex following the combined 11:00 worship service in honor of the confirmands.

PAUL GERHARDT HYMN FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2007
7:00 P.M. – NAVE



The combined choirs of First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Ashland, under the direction of Dr. Timothy Guenther and Mr. Ron Marenchin, will lead this Hymn Festival celebrating the 400th anniversary of the birth of Lutheran pastor and hymn text author Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676. Gerhardt's hymn texts are intended to be set to music and sung in church, or learnt by heart by the children at home, and constantly reveal the homeliness and simplicity, the deeply devout and quietly courageous spirit of this Lutheran pastor. Ten (10) hymns by Gerhardt are included in *Lutheran Book of Worship*, including *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*; *Awake, My Heart, with Gladness*; and *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* The festival is one of a series of events taking place all over the country under the sponsorship of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM).



APRIL NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL ...

Our theme is Easter: Jesus lives!, taken from Matthew 28:1-10. We will talk about the true meaning of Easter and how Jesus lives in each of us. We will also learn about love, joy, peace, and thankfulness. With the warmer weather, we will be outside more to investigate new growth in the world around us. We will be closed on Good Friday, April 6.

Christian Day School Sunday is April 22. The children will sing at the 11:00 a.m. service in the Nave. *Dr. Lloyd D. Martin, Superintendent of Mansfield City Schools*, will lead an adult Sunday school forum in the Nave from 9:45 to 10:45 that morning.

Please have a blessed Easter!

– Cheryl Lantz, Director

APRIL 2007 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
SARAH	2	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Margaret Battisti Hostess: Marilyn Miller
LYDIA	2	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Emmaus Room. Devotions: Shirley Lane Program: "Ministering to ill & grieving" by Pr. Cloyd Kress Hostess: Lyn Rush
LUNCH BUNCH	3	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room. Program: Trip to Israel by Stan & Chris Cichanowicz.
EVE	3	TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Narthex Lounge. Prayer Shawl Ministry Hostesses: Linda Elgin
WORKDAY LADIES	4 & 18	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
MARY	13	FRIDAY	9:30 A.M.	Emmaus Room. Program: tba Hostess: Wilda Soka
PLANNING MEETING	16	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room
RICHLAND/ASHLAND CLUSTER	24	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Peace Lutheran Church, Ashland, OH Speaker: Carol Pretorius on Prison Ministry

Funeral Dinners: Squad E: Nancy Pashellich and Shirley Lane.

Altar Workers: Nave – Devera Ritz, Jan Shenberger, Pat Wells, and Pearl West plus extras for Holy Week
Chapel – Bev Graham, Contemporary – Jan Fisher

Coming Events: May 4, 2007 Church Women United – May Fellowship Day

May 11, 2007 Mother Daughter Banquet in Undercroft at 6:30 P.M. Adult - \$6.50, Child - \$4.00

REQUESTS TO THE PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain provides prayer support to those with special needs or concerns. Prayer requests for members or non-members may be called in to ***Cheryl Strohming***, 419-884-2260. Join our prayer chain ministry and become a member of the Prayer Chain! There are no meetings to attend; just make one or two phone calls and pray! Questions about this ministry? Call Cheryl Strohming at the number above.

CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER DONATIONS . . .

Creamy peanut butter for the needy, a WELCA outreach ministry with our Wednesday Noon Lunch Program. Donation boxes are in the Narthex, undercroft, and Luther Hall lobby.



We had a nice selection of donated yarn and needles to start with, and a number of ladies willing to help teach knitting or crocheting.

We provide patterns and instruction as needed. We pray while we are knitting, and we also enjoy a fair amount of conversation! The fellowship is wonderful, and we show our love for others by giving them a specially prepared shawl.

To date we have given away 22 prayer shawls. One even went as far as Denver, CO, to a friend of Becky Sarbach's. One went to a family who had lost their son in an automobile accident. Not all, as you can see, are given to members of our

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Sponsored by the members of our WELCA Eve Circle

In September 2006, a group of women decided to start a Prayer Shawl Ministry.

church. If you know someone who needs the spiritual healing that a prayer shawl brings, just tell us and we add their name to the potential recipient list.

Recently a man in Ashland heard the radio announcement that FELC's Prayer Shawl ministry meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. He contacted our webmaster asking about our ministry. Upon finding out about his query, I responded with an email explanation of what we are all about. It was exciting to me that someone was interested!

We always welcome new knitters or crocheters to join us. You don't have to come out for all meetings. You can do most of the work at home when it's convenient for you. **We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Narthex Lounge.**

Won't you consider joining us for this important ministry? - Jan Fisher, leader

✦ RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE ✦

Friday, May 4, 2007

9 A.M. to 2 P.M. – Emmaus Room

If you are in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds you can donate a pint of blood as often as every 56 days, and a single donation can save up to three lives! To make an appointment to donate blood, call Kay Leedy at 419-884-0405. Walk-ins are also welcome.

MANSFIELD FOR MALAWI

Kenyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries

Thank you very much to all who have made Shadreck's visit to the U.S. a possibility. Our goal was \$2,500, and through your generosity, \$2,721.25 was raised! As of March 20, we are unsure of his exact schedule. Keep an eye out for updates.

The spring 2007 issue of the *Word and Deed* publication talks about another orphan care project, the Lizulu Orphan Care Ministries. The needs at this orphan project are an example of why we are bringing Shadreck to the U.S. The Lizulu Orphan Care Ministries are south of Lilongwe and cover a large area. The article states that children are dying at the Lizulu Orphan Care Project because they don't have a four-wheel drive vehicle to bring them to the hospital when needed or to transport food to the feeding centers. Through Shadreck's visit, more people will learn about life in Malawi, and we pray that more people will financially help the orphans of Malawi regularly.

Please pray:

- that through Shadreck's visit, more people will financially help the orphans in Malawi,
- for strong Christians to help in the leadership of the Kenyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries,
- for a resolution to the disagreements within the Kenyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries leadership so they can refocus on the orphans and their needs.

– Joy Jones



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 6, 2007

9:45 A.M. — Nave

The Annual Report will be mailed the end of April. Biographical information on the Council Candidates and 2007-2008 Nominating Committee candidates will be published in the May Visitor. Elections will be held after there is an opportunity for nominations from the floor. A consent to serve must be obtained from anyone whose name is put in nomination.

The agenda for the annual meeting is open, and there will be time for any discussion.



MOTHER & DAUGHTER BANQUET PARADE OF HATS

Bring your antique hat, Sunday hat, or hand-decorated hat!

Friday, May 11, 2007 - 6:30 pm

Tickets on sale April 22 - May 6 in the narthex or church office.



ELCA GLOBAL MISSION EVENT

JULY 19-22, 2007

AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, OHIO

Equip yourself and your congregation for global ministry at this premiere skill-building event and prepare to make a difference in God's World! **Registration deadline is July 6.** Go to www.elca.org/gme or call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2642.

PATIENT INFORMATION COMPUTERS ARE DOWN at Med/Central Mansfield Hospital. IF YOU ARE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM OR ADMITTED, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE, 419-522-0662, to let us know. The hospital will not call with the information. **Don't let your hospital stay go by without Pastoral care!**

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

The monthly volunteers list is published in The Visitor and is posted on the bulletin boards. The following are responsible for scheduling the listed areas of volunteer ministry:

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary

419-522-0662

Acolytes

Assisting Ministers

Lay Readers

Sunday Van Drivers

Van Ride Contacts

Beth Harruff, Worship Chair

419-589-2762

Communion Preparers

Communion Assistants

Sound Booth Operators

Wanda Donnan, 419-524-8616

Greeters

Welcome Table Hosts

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247

Ushers

Chris Cichanowicz,

Sunday School Superintendent

419-529-6593

Nursery Helpers

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

Children's Church Leaders

Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090

8:00 am Sunday Prayer Partners

Intercessory Prayer Teams

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304

Pew Pad Gleaners

Barb Hill, 419-756-4998

Blood Pressure Nurses

Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion Preparers

Proclaim! Communion Assistants

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

April 7 (8:00 pm Easter Vigil)
April 14 Jean Ridenour

April 21 Marian Owen
April 28 Jean Ridenour

GREETERS

Bill & Mary Hayes
Eileen Miller

8:30 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance

USHERS

Bill & Pearl West
Rob Skropits

8:30 A.M.

GREETERS

Glen & Jane Eggeman
Marilyn Dinges
TBA

11:00 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance
West Entrance

USHERS

Jeff Davis
Annette Doklovic
Tom Hillman
Gary Simmons

11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TABLE HOSTS

8:30 A.M. Nave TBA
11:00 A.M. Nave Betty Trainor

8:00 A.M. SUNDAY PASTOR'S PRAYER PARTNERS TEAM

April 1 Ken & Karen Frayer, Gerry Gallagher
April 8 Mary Schwartz, Jane Starnier
April 15 Chris Cichanowicz, Jim Scheiber

April 22 Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz
April 29 Frayers and Lowell Weeks

8:30 POWER POINT OPERATORS

April 1 Gordon Moxley
April 8 Paul Ward
April 15 Tom Sarbach

April 22 Gordon Moxley
April 29 Paul Ward

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

April 1 Greg Hughes
April 8 Chris Kaschube
April 15 Bob McCready

April 22 Terry Leedy
April 29 Stan Cichanowicz

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

April 7	(8 pm Easter Vigil - no 5:00 Chapel)	April 21	Kay McNaul
April 14	Jean Ridenour	April 28	Jean Ridenour

		<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Palm Sunday (3 readers)	April 1	Liz Prather Amy Skropits Sherry Wimbigler	Terry Leedy Chris Kaschube Diane Molyet
Easter	April 8	Pat Reed	Amy Funk
	April 15	Jerry Gallagher	Shirley Lane
	April 22	Juanita Baker	Sandie Volz
	April 29	Mary Hujus	Carol Pierce

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:00 pm:

Karyne Carey

Good Friday Tenebrae, April 6, 7:00 pm:

Bill Schulz	Chris Cichanowicz
Mary Hujus	Stan Cichanowicz

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 7, 8:00 pm:

Ian Jones	Juanita Baker
Kay McNaul	Shirley Lane

11:00 SUNDAY INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAMS

April 1	Jim Scheiber, Ruth Sweval	April 22	Don Beddard, Chris Cichanowicz
April 8	Wes Volz, Ruth Sweval	April 29	Jim Scheiber, Ruth Sweval
April 15	Lowell Weeks, Mary Schwartz		

ACOLYTES, CRUCIFERS, TORCHBEARERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel: A Linda Chapman

		<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Palm Sunday	April 1	A Kate Hogsette	A Elizabeth Volz C Bryce Fisher
Easter	April 8	A Jack Harsch C Bryan Eyerly T Erin Blankenship T Sara Hannemann	A Sarah Jones C Chelsea Heidlebaugh T Alissa Ruth T Lindsey Brenkus
	April 15	A Casey Kelley	A Emily Blankenship C Bryan Eyerly
	April 22	A Sarah Ward	A Travis Fisher C Bryce Fisher
Confirmation	April 29	A Jack Harsch	A Sara Hannemann C Chelsea Heidlebaugh

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:00 pm:

A Sarah Ward
C Bryan Eyerly

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 7, 8:00 pm:

Paschal Candle Bearer: TBA

11:00 NURSERY HELPERS

April 1	Jo Wirstrom	April 22	TBA
April 8	Ally Hannemann	April 29	Kate Hogsette
April 15	TBA		

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Palm Sunday	April 1	11:00 am	Ken & Penny Ekegren
Maundy Thursday	April 5	7:00 pm	Wes & Sandie Volz
Easter Vigil	April 7	8:00 pm	Bill & Mary Schwartz
Easter Sunday	April 8	8:30 am	Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon
Easter Sunday	April 8	11:00 am	Marilyn Dinges & Betty Wilson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(continuous communion)

Palm Sunday April 1 - 11:00 am

Bread Servers	Pastor & Asst Minister
Wine West	Jack Leonard
Cups West	Pat Leonard
Wine East	Wes Volz
Cups East	Sandie Volz
Intinction	Mary Schwartz

(regular communion)

Maundy Thurs, April 5- 7:00 pm

2 Pastors
Jo Wirstrom
Annette Doklovic
Don Beddard
Gene Calver
Marianne Sweat

(continuous communion)

Easter Vigil, April 7 - 8:00 pm

Bread Servers	2 Pastors
Wine West	Greg Hughes
Cups West	Linda Hughes
Wine East	Lana Dunham
Cups East	Don Harruff
Intinction	Beth Harruff

(continuous communion)

Easter Sunday

April 8 - 8:30 am

Bread Servers	2 Pastors
Wine West	Steve Ritz
Cups West	Devera Ritz
Wine East	Juanita Baker
Cups East	Dolores Esler
Intinction	Sherry Winbigler

April 8 - 11:00 am

Pastor & Assisting Minister
Terry Leedy
Kay Leedy
Bill Schwartz
Mary Schwartz
Pat Wells

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Personnel Committee

PEW PAD GLEANERS

April 1	Gene Luedy	April 22	Gene Luedy
April 8	Jane Sprang	April 29	Lana Dunham
April 15	Mary Jackson		

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

April 1: Sandie Volz

+ + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

April 1	Cheryl Lantz	April 22	Ted & Karen Ellis
April 8	Cindy and Robyn Russell	April 29	<i>(Confirmation Sunday, combined 11:00 worship in the Nave)</i>
April 15	Jerry & Lu Diday		

Communion Preparers

Easter	April 8	Renee Blankenship
	April 15	Cheryl Lantz

Communion Assistants

Easter	April 8	Matt & Renee Blankenship Tricia & Elizabeth Volz
	April 15	Cheryl Lantz Matt & Renee Blankenship

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson



MARCH CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Matt Blankenship called the Tuesday, March 13, 2007 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Larson opened the meeting with prayer.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson expressed appreciation to Nancy Pasheilich for organizing a delicious meal for Fastnacht, February 20; to all who participated in the Community Praise and Worship Service on Friday, March 2, including 9 church worship leaders, the technical crew, and Tim Guenther. Approximately 260 people attended. Pastor Larson also thanked the Prayer Seminar steering committee, Karen Frayer for her leadership of that committee, Nancy Pasheilich for preparing the meal and the kitchen staff for their work, Dot Blaney and Connie Stewart for their work, and the army of volunteers for their assistance during the Saturday, March 3, Mid-Ohio Prayer Seminar. Many comments were made about the good organization of the event and friendliness of our volunteers. Approximately 155 people attended the seminar lead by Dr. Terry Teykl. Pastor Larson read a letter from Faith Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon, thanking us for hosting the Prayer Seminar. Pastor Larson stated that a \$1500 grant was received from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and a \$3000 grant was received from the ELCA in support of the Prayer Seminar. Pastor Larson expressed appreciation to the Global Mission Committee for hosting a reception for Dr. Jim and Virginia Mininger, President of Lithuania Christian College on Saturday, March 10, and to Nicole Reid and friends for preparing the congregational meal on Sunday, March 11, 12:15 P.M. to honor the Miningers, and to Joy

Jones for her efforts to raise funds to bring Shadreck Chikoti here from Malawi. The financial goal of raising \$2,500 has been met with over \$2,700 contributed to date.

Pastor Larson distributed The Purpose Driven Life overview DVD's to each council member and showed an informational video clip to council. Chris and Angie Kaschube will be the point leaders for the Purpose Driven Life Congregational study beginning in the fall of 2007. Pastor Jones and the Kaschubes recently attended a Small Groups Purpose Driven Church conference at Saddleback Church in California.

Pastor Larson passed along an invitation to attend a New Community Temple Church of God in Christ Gospel Extravaganza on Saturday, April 14, 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. at Mansfield Senior High School. Copies of information on the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans "Care Abounds in Communities" financial assistance program were distributed.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones distributed invitations to rostered persons and congregational leaders to attend the Northeastern Ohio Synod 2007 regional conference gatherings with newly elected Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Council members were encouraged to attend the April 26 meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Ashland. Pastor Jones expressed appreciation to groups preparing the Lenten soup suppers. Pastor

(continued)

Jones stated that he has been asked to run for an at-large position to the Northeastern Ohio Synod Council which, if he is elected, would involve meetings on five Saturdays per year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Mary Schwartz was appointed as First English Lutheran Church Statutory Agent for 2007. Camperships to Camp Mowana were approved.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Nancy Pasheilich stated that a continental breakfast is being planned for Easter Sunday, April 8, 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. She complimented Nicole Reid and her two friends for preparing a delicious meal Sunday, March 11, in honor of the Miningers. She expressed appreciation to Mary Schwartz and Sandie Volz for assistance in preparing a Kitchen Use Guidebook.

EVANGELISM: Steve Ritz reported that Henry Keultjes will chair plans to put together a new church directory.

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman sought and received approval that we enter into a recycling program through Milliron Industries to benefit Global Missions. Proceeds will go to support our three missionary families, Mansfield for Malawi, and Lithuanian missions. Global Mission will report to Council at the end of the year how recycling funds were distributed.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tim Guenther stated that, as of this date, \$6500 has been received to purchase 262 new hymnals.

WORSHIP: Beth Harruff reported that after new ELW hymnals are received, old LBW hymnals with names in them will be available in May for people to take home. The Rev. Sandy Mitchell will be the guest pastor for the 175th anniversary celebration of First English Lutheran Church on September 2. Worship Committee suggests one service for that weekend, holding a reception following the service.

STEWARDSHIP: Renee Ward stated that Lenten folders have been mailed to church members and that the contributions will benefit Lithuanian Christian Missions.

SERVICE: Kay Leedy said a Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Friday, May 4, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in the Emmaus Room.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz stated there will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 8. The Vacation Bible School theme will be "Avalanche Ranch - A Wild Ride Through God's Word."

YOUTH: Annette Doldovic reported that the January 20 youth spaghetti dinner fund raiser and talent show was a huge success; 17 youth attended the Junior High Quake, February 16-18; 7 youth attended the High School Zone retreat, February 22-24. The youth are planning a "thank you" service project for the congregation for supporting fund raiser events during the past year, possibly a free car wash in August. They hope to bring the Captive Free band to our church in January 2008. Senior High Youth leaders are working on a name or logo for the

high school youth group, and talking about meeting on Sunday evenings beginning in the fall. There is also a concern about the need for more space for the high school Sunday School class.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: Paul Theaker stated that the CDS has applied for a \$9,497 Community Action Block Grant from the city of Mansfield, and, if funded, the money would be used to install a rubberized asphalt surface in the playground and to purchase permanent, safe playground structures. It is hoped that a decision will be made on awarding funds sometime in April.

WELCA: Cheryl Lantz reported that 22 prayer shawls have been distributed to both church members and non-members. Plans are being made for the Mother-Daughter Banquet on Friday, May 11, 6:30 P.M. Cheryl mentioned the upcoming ELCA Global Mission event at The Ohio State University, July 19-22, and urged everyone to make plans to attend.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits said that the committee met with Mellon to review General Endowment Fund investments. Church building and contents insurance policy was reviewed. Rob thanked the Finance Commit-

tee for their good work in preparing the 2007 congregational budget.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz reported that Bill Schwartz made new Christmas candles for the window and balcony displays, that Tom Pasheilich, Bill West, Bill Hayes and Bill Schwartz rewired the candles and that Tom Pasheilich and Bill Schwartz installed new outlets for the candles so extension cords will no longer be needed. Tom Pasheilich and Bill Schwartz replaced many incandescent light bulbs with compact energy saving fluorescent bulbs at the approximate cost of \$500. There should be a significant energy saving as a result of this installation. Shawn showed pictures of the proposed sign to be installed in the front of the church building, with Property Committee making the decision on the final design. Fire extinguishers have been inspected.

PERSONNEL: Sherry Winbigler recently attended an OSHA meeting in connection with our participation with the Safety Council.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M. with prayer by Pastor Larsen.

Mary M. Schwartz,
Congregation Council Secretary

MEMORIALS

General Endowment Fund

Ann Marian Olson:

Lawrence W. Olson, Jr.

Memorial Fund

Robert Coon:

Helen Coady

Patty Lozier



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

Spring housecleaning? **Recycle and help our missions!** Take your recyclable materials to **Milliron Industries**, 2384 State Route 39, Mansfield. They have set up an account for us -- be sure to tell them **ACCOUNT #480**, and receipts of the recyclable materials we have donated in the church's name will

be allocated for the five missionaries and missions we support: the Kraft, Schmalzle, and Sorge families, and Rytas Orphanage, Klaipeda, Lithuania; scholarships to Lithuania Christian College; and Kenyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries, Malawi. A list of recyclables accepted is on the table in the Narthex.

A NEW PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY IS ON THE WAY!

We are excited to announce that we will soon begin the process of producing a new church directory. This new guide will help us put names and faces together, including the many people who have joined our church over the last 5 years or so.



We have selected Universal Church Directories of Galion to guide us through the directory process and to provide the directory program *at no cost to the church*. By taking all photography here at the church, Universal will be able to provide a great final directory product and the finest family portraiture utilizing the latest digital technology. Each family will select a pose for the directory immediately following their photography, will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and the chance to purchase additional professional photos with *no sales pressure from company representatives*.

Sittings for photography will be scheduled May 22 – 26. Keep your eyes open for your chance to be a part of our new Church Directory! We hope to achieve 100% participation so that all of our families are featured and the directory is complete. See you in May!

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS

CARE ABOUNDS IN COMMUNITIES

What in the world is "Care Abounds in Communities"?

Each year Thrivent Financial has an allocation of funds that can be applied for by Community Service Teams who want to meet a need in their community. Many people probably don't know about these supplemental funds, so here's an explanation:

1. The activity would benefit individuals, families or non-profit organizations (excluding Lutheran churches).
2. It doesn't have to be Lutheran related.
3. It needs a Service Team of at least six (6) Thrivent *households*.
4. It needs plenty of volunteer hours.
5. It can be a hands-on project or a fund raiser.

Some examples of projects that have been supported through supplemental funds from the Ashland-Richland chapter are:

1. Funds for bread for FELC Peanut Butter ministry.
2. Funds for yarn for Prayer Shawl ministry, because the shawls are given to people both within our church and also out in the community.
3. Funds for a hands-on project for bargain clothes shopping for the needy.
4. Funds for walk for diabetes.
5. Funds for a Lenten fish fry to benefit expansion of a community center in Shelby.
6. Funds for "Feed My Starving Children" whereby Lenten midweek soup suppers will help youth raise funds for food packets of soup that will feed 6 for \$1.00.
7. Funds for the benefit of nearby small town's Salvation Army whereby the team will prepare and serve a Swiss steak dinner.
8. Funds for scholarships for Camp Mowana, whereby the service team was actively involved in Mowana's Fall Fest.
9. Funds for Wednesday Noon Lunch served weekly to those in need in the downtown Mansfield area.

Are you part of a caring group of volunteers who might be able to create a service team and successfully complete a project in the community? Do you have some great innovative idea in which to use Care Abounds in Communities funds? If you do, bring your idea to a Thrivent Chapter board member or one of our church coordinators. **Board members from FELC:** Barb Hannemann, Jan Fisher, Ruth Sweal. **Congregational coordinators at FELC:** Larry Lantz, lead coordinator; Carolyn Weeks, Mary Schwartz.

ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP'S 2007 EASTER MESSAGE

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. ... Then they remembered his words." (NRSV Luke 24:2, 8)

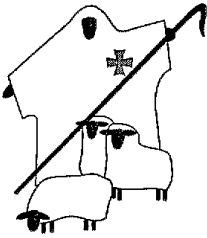
On the first Easter morning, the women entered an empty tomb expecting to find Jesus. They were looking for the body of Jesus, but were disappointed and perplexed.

Today, when we look for peace and there is no peace, we, too, may wonder where Jesus is. When violence and wars escalate, we may wonder where Jesus is. When hunger and poverty continue to have a stronghold in neighborhoods here and around the world, we may wonder where Jesus is. When we experience the emptiness of the divisions among races, religions, and classes, our fear and confusion can cause us to wonder where Jesus is. When we struggle with guilt or shame, we may wonder where Jesus is. Like the disciples of old, we miss the signs of God's presence in our world.

In the dark days of perplexity and despair for the troubles of this world, let us remember the hope of Easter morning. In the dawn of Christ's resurrection, we rejoice that death and evil did not have the last word: the tomb is empty! Christ is with us, living among us and through us, announcing "good news to the poor ... release to the captives ... recovery of sight to the blind," freedom to the oppressed, and "the year of the Lord's favor." (NRSV, Luke 4:18-19) Christ is with us as the word of forgiveness is declared and the sacraments are received. Christ is with us as we look for signs of Jesus in our churches and communities and remember his words: "And, remember I am with you always, to the end of the age." (NRSV, Matthew 28:20b)

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson,
Presiding Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Kristan Moxley to the Lydia Circle: “Thank you so much for the Valentine goodies. I know I will enjoy them.”

From Julianne Coon to the Lydia Circle: “Thank you so much for the Valentine’s Day package! As always, I’m very happy to come home to it waiting at my door. It’s so nice of you to always think of me.”

From Paul Conrad: “To the Youth Group, Thank you very much for stopping by and singing ‘Happy Valentine’s Day.’ Also, a big thanks for the chocolate rose that was given me at that time. May God bless each and everyone of you.”

From Elaine Lemon: “I want to thank everyone who signed the poster for me and the cards, and everybody who visited me in the hospital.”

From Jim & Emmie Shaum: “Dear friends - Another year has flown by with many special occasions shared with you or by you with either your presence or a special greeting card and sometimes both. We thank you so much for remembering those special times of birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The cards, posters, and greetings from the day school children are all treasured, and our thanks to Pastor Larson for remembering our special days, too. We’ve been so fortunate to have you all around us for so many years, and our thanks to all the Prayer Partners who have remembered us. We are most grateful for all of you.”

From Elinore Cunning: “God bless all members and their ministries of First Lutheran. They are truly loving and caring folks. Witness their Prayer Partners, Cookie Callers, Carolers, birthday posters, pre-school artists, Communion Deacons, and Prayer Shawl group. My grateful appreciation and many, many thanks go to all of them for their efforts in remembering us all. Their contributions warm the ‘cockles of my heart!’”

From Betty Fry: “A special thank you to everyone at First English Lutheran Church for the many prayers, cards, and poster I received during my illness; it really helped so much.”

From Catholic Charities: “Thank you for your donation of food to Catholic Charities enabling us to assist the less fortunate of Richland County.”

From Frank Sqrow: “Thank you Pastor Larson, church families, and children of First Lutheran Day Care for your cards and prayers, especially an original greeting made for my 93rd birthday. That made it very special. Blessings to each and everyone of you.”

From Marshall & Evelyn Smith: “Our thanks to all of you for the get well wishes and poster when I had knee replacement surgery. Thank you especially for the prayers, which God answered so well as I have no pain and am walking! Also, thank you for the anniversary poster and the birthday cards. They were all very special. God has blessed us in so many ways and you, our church family, are part of that blessing.”

From Tom Hillman: “I appreciated the posters that I received while recovering from my two operations (and especially was impressed that ‘George W. Bush, Pres.’ signed, too). Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, and visits. Thank you to our Pastoral Care Committee, Pr. Jones, Pr. Kress, and Pr. Larson. I am so grateful for Dr. Bacon, Dr. Brown, Dr. Chopko, Dr. Fahmy, as well as the staff at MedCentral.”

From Jack Leonard: “It was wonderful to receive so many cards on my 81st birthday! A sincere thank you to the Pastoral Care Committee, to other thoughtful friends at FELC, to Pastor Larson, and especially to Tyler in the Christian Day School for his hand-colored card. Good job, Tyler. It’s great to be part of this caring congregation.”

From Clancy Lauthers: “Thanks be to God!! And to all faithful believers! Keeping my name on your lips through this health struggle has put me in the presence of Jesus, the Christ. With the hands of the surgeons and the miracle of prayer, I will need no further treatment. Miracle upon miracle followed me before, during, and after the nine days of hospital care. Thank you for this gift of Christ’s presence in my life as I give daily thanks for ALL of you and your gift to me.”

From the Global Mission Committee: I am so thankful to the members of the Global Mission Committee (and John Reed) for the Saturday night dessert extravaganza reception honoring the Miningers. Kudos to Nicole Reid and her two friends who helped serve a delicious luncheon on March 11 to over 100 people of our congregation. You would never have thought that was her first time! An excellent menu and well prepared! A big thank you to the Wednesday Noon Lunch crew and John Meyer for all of their work. Thanks to Kay McNaul for the floral table arrangements.

We are so blessed to have such wonderful, talented children in our congregation, and always willing to help. Thank you, Fireflies for singing the rendition of “Jesus Loves Me” that you learned at the Quake. Thank you, Brenkus family, for your musical presentation. May you always make beautiful music together! Thank you, Joe and Karyne Carey for hosting the Miningers visit here. Bless you all!

– Jeanne Hillman, Chair

Many thanks to Nicole Reid and her friends, Erin and Danelle, for preparing and serving a wonderful meal for the Global Mission Luncheon to honor Dr. Jim and Virginia Mininger from the Lithuanian Christian College on Sunday, March 11. And to the ever faithful group of people who just do what needs to be done (you know who you are), thank you for serving our congregation.

–Congregational Life

(continued)

From the Congregational Life Committee: Thank you to the groups of volunteers who prepared and served the food for our Lenten Soup Suppers this year:

February 28, Mary Schwartz, Cheryl Lantz, and Susie LeMunyon

March 7, the Senior Choir

March 14, Steve and Devera Ritz's small group

March 21, Alicia Keultjes' small group

March 28, Pastor Paul's small group

We were blessed with many wonderful meals. Thanks to all of you who helped to make this possible. – Nancy Pasheilich, chair

From the Youth Committee: Grateful thanks to the congregation for your support of the youth group fund raiser Spud Fest lunch on March 18. Your generous free-will donations totaled \$485, and matching funds are applied for from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Praise and thanksgiving to our wonderful youth and parents for all their work decorating, cooking, and cleaning up!

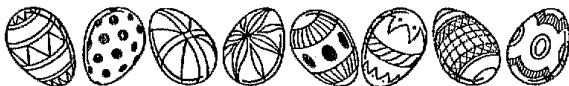
– Annette Doklovic, Chair

From Dave Prather: “Dear Church Family, Thank you all for the calls, hugs, prayers, letters, cards, and sympathy for the loss of my uncle, Joe Andrasic. As so many of you know, he was also the only ‘father’ I had. And a dear friend. He and my Aunt Mary gave me a ‘chance.’ Again thank you all.”

From Anna Marie McCracken: “A huge thank you to our church family for the get well poster, cards, food, and prayers during and after my recent surgery. Thanks to Pastor Kress for being with Norm and our daughter, Linda, before and during the surgery, and also for coming to the house to give me communion. Thank you, Pastor Paul, for your visits while I was in the hospital. You can never know how much you all are appreciated and loved. Thanks also to the Prayer Shawl ladies for the beautiful shawl. I use it daily, knowing that ‘loving’ hands have made it.”

A personal note from the Domestic Violence Shelter: “My daughter would like to thank your organization for the beautiful afghan she received. While we had hard times, it was wonderful to know that we were thought of and blessed. Thank you so much for your kind gift.”

From Pastor Mark Wildermuth, Faith Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon: “Dear Pastor Paul, Just a note of thanksgiving for another meaningful, inspiring and transformational prayer seminar. The hospitality of First English was, as always, first rate and much appreciated. And your kitchen staff- a great meal, seemingly effortlessly served, although I know a lot of work went into the day! The people in the lobby, the hosts in the hallway, all were friendly, helpful, etc. What a warm welcome! You are certainly blessed in your ministries at First English!”



GRADUATES' NAMES REQUESTED

BY MAY 8

Please call the church office by **Tuesday, May 8**, if your child is graduating this spring from high school, college or technical school, 419-522-0662. A list of all graduates will be printed in the June issue of The Visitor. High School Graduates Recognition Sunday is May 20.



APRIL 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Greetings to our members who are 80+ years of age this month! We honor them on their very special day. May God grant to each of them His rich blessings and fill their hearts with His joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

APRIL

6	Miss Edna Berry	466 Broadview Ave.	44903-1946
9	Mrs. Eleanor Laser	632 Courtwright Blvd.	44907-2218
10	Mrs. Evadine Smeltzer	800 Logan Rd., Apt. 214	44907-2758
10	Mrs. Lois Cairns	1458 N. Stewart Rd.	44903-7761
16	Mrs. Louise Dickson	139 Lind Ave.	44903-2103
17	Mr. Chris Reining	594 S. Trimble Rd., Apt. B	44906-4114
18	Mrs. Pat Simmons	1276 Silver Lane	44906-2465
25	Mr. Bill Fry	691 Manchester Rd.	44903-1832
29	Mrs. Maxine Kinton	544 Lexington Ave.	44907-1505



FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR . . .

The Centurion

Mark 15:16-37

Around the cross many were gathered. One of these persons was the centurion whose soldiers carried out the command of Pilate. Let me share with you his story:

I am Marcus, a centurion of the Roman army. I'm a free Roman citizen, having been born of Roman parents. I joined the Roman army at the age of 17 and have served for 18 years. I have been to many countries and have fought many battles, but what I saw on the hill outside of Jerusalem this afternoon has impressed me more than any other experience of my life. I have killed and have supervised the death of many a man on the cross, but that man, Jesus Christ by name, was not an ordinary man, and his death was not an ordinary death! Let me start at the beginning.

I was sent to Palestine with my 100 foot soldiers to serve in the Roman Guard at Jerusalem. My legion is stationed in Syria, and since I had more experience in the army than most of the men, I was sent here with my Century. Jerusalem has always been a trouble spot for Rome. The country of Palestine is in the province of Syria, and Pontius Pilate is the governor of Judea, the district in which Jerusalem is located. Jerusalem is an unusual place. If you allow the people their freedom of worship, everything goes smoothly. But if they are denied the worship of their God, they can become nasty. This year's Feast of the Passover has been in a constant state of confusion. It all seemed to revolve around this man, Jesus. Some said he was a prophet, some said he was God. Whoever he was, he

had a lot of people following him. It all began Sunday. We soldiers were in our bunks when we were alerted by voices cheering outside the main gate of the city. By the time we arrived at the gate, the crowd had dispersed, and if there had been any trouble, it was already over. Inquiring into the incident, some said a King of the Jews had entered Jerusalem named Jesus the Christ.

We didn't hear anymore about this man until early Friday morning. As I was returning from making my rounds, I heard the shouts of angry men. When I questioned one of my men as to what was happening, he pointed to a man standing apart from the crowd. This was Jesus, the one causing all the confusion. Pilate tried to get those present to release the man, but the crowd demanded he be killed. Finally, Pilate ordered a basin and washed his hands, showing he was washing his hands of the whole affair. This was their doing.

We received the prisoner and some of my men mocked him. I would have stopped them if I had known whom he was, but what harm comes from a little fun? On the way to the crucifixion, he stumbled under the weight of the cross. I grabbed a strong young man in the crowd and compelled him to carry the cross. I did not want a prisoner of mine to die before he was executed! I am not sure when

(continued)

I began to notice the difference in this man. Perhaps it was the trial. He was beaten and cursed, but he did not say a word. Before he was nailed to the cross, he refused the wine mixed with poison used to numb the pain.

We did not have to hold him down as the nails were pounded into his flesh. He willingly stretched out his hands to be pierced. He did not curse us with cries of anger, but he looked at us with eyes filled with pity. As the men were lifted up into the air, the crowd jeered at them, especially this Jesus. They spoke of him coming down from the cross to prove he was the Son of God. The two thieves on the crossed beside Jesus yelled back at the crowd, but this Jesus did not. Instead, he said, for I heard him with my own ears, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do." He was looking right at me and my soldiers as well as the crowd. Who was this man? There was no way I could question whether this act was right or wrong. I was here to carry out a command of my superiors and to see that my men did also. About noon we were surprised to see the sun go behind a cloud and a darkness come over the earth. I thought it was going to rain, which would have been refreshing, but it only got hotter. It remained dark for three hours, and then he asked for a drink of water. One of my men ran and got a sponge filled with vinegar and gave it to him. Immediately after this, his head dropped to his breast and with a loud cry, he was gone.

Just as this Jesus died, the earth began to shake. The tremor was so strong I was forced to cling to his wooden cross. Lightning flashed across the sky; great cracks were

traced in the rocks as though an invisible knife were cutting through them. Many of the tombs in the side of the hill on which we were standing broke open and people came forth. My soldiers came running to me with fear-filled eyes, but I was unable to give them much comfort for I, too, was afraid. All nature seemed to be straining to bring doom on the human race. What could have caused this breach between man and God? Then I remembered the people had said this Jesus was divine! "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

Needless to say, we all were glad when the order came through to finish the crucifixion. We broke the legs of the thieves because they were still alive, but when we came to Jesus, we were fairly sure he was dead. Just to make sure, one of my men drove his spear into his heart. We then marched back here to our quarters, relieved to be finished of this task. In another two years, I shall be relieved of my command, and I will go back to Rome to begin a business of my own. Many more exciting adventures will happen to me before I leave the army, but I am sure nothing as mystifying as today. As long as I live, I shall never forget this crucifixion and that God-man who died out on the hill. . .

This concludes our first-person story of the man we call the Centurion. What lesson can we learn? He recognized the truth of Jesus' claim to be the Son of God, not through Jesus' words, but through the experiences he saw. We pray the Centurion never forgot Jesus, but with faith through what he experienced at Calvary, he sought Christ: out after the Resurrection and believed in Him.

— Pastor Cloyd E. Kress



We remember the families and friends of those who died February 17– March 23, 2007:

Marjorie Kiess <i>(101 yr old aunt of Carol Lauthers)</i>	February 18
Norman Trumpower <i>(father of Kay McNaul and Scott Trumpower)</i>	March 11
Patricia Hubbard <i>(sister of Kay McNaul and Scott Trumpower)</i>	March 18

We pray for Christ's gifts of healing and peace to touch their lives during this time of loss and sorrow that they may be comforted with the promise of the Resurrection through faith in Christ our Savior.

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Please, no junk mail, cutesy stories, or chain letters. Reserve the use of church e-mail for important correspondence with the staff. Visit our web site at: www.felc-mansfield.org

MISSION STATEMENT

First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio

First English Lutheran Church exists as a visible sign of the continuing presence of Jesus Christ through his body on earth, the Church. Christ's presence is made known through the ministry of this congregation as:

We regularly worship and experience through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the vitality of the Word, the assurance of God's acceptance through the divine commands and the earthly elements of the Sacraments, and the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in the faith.

We invite those unfamiliar with the saving grace extended to all who proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior to unite with us and to join us in continually familiarizing all with the Grace of God through our nurturing and caring efforts.

We reach out to the needs of our community and our world in compassion, generosity, and equity. We practice stewardship of our resources (time, talent, and monetary) as responsive expressions of the blessings we have received from the Lord so that the ministry of this congregation will be assured of continuing viability.

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The Rev. Andrew W. Jones, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor
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Mrs. Cheryl Lantz, Christian Day School Director

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Janet Kick, Nursery Care Worker

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Bolivia, South America: Rev. Nick and Shannon Kraft, and children Madison, Tanyon, Moises, and Tucker
Nairobi, Kenya: Rev. Bob and Denise Schmalzle, and children Aaron and Jacob
World Mission Prayer League Missionaries to India: Brian and Barbara Sorge and family

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