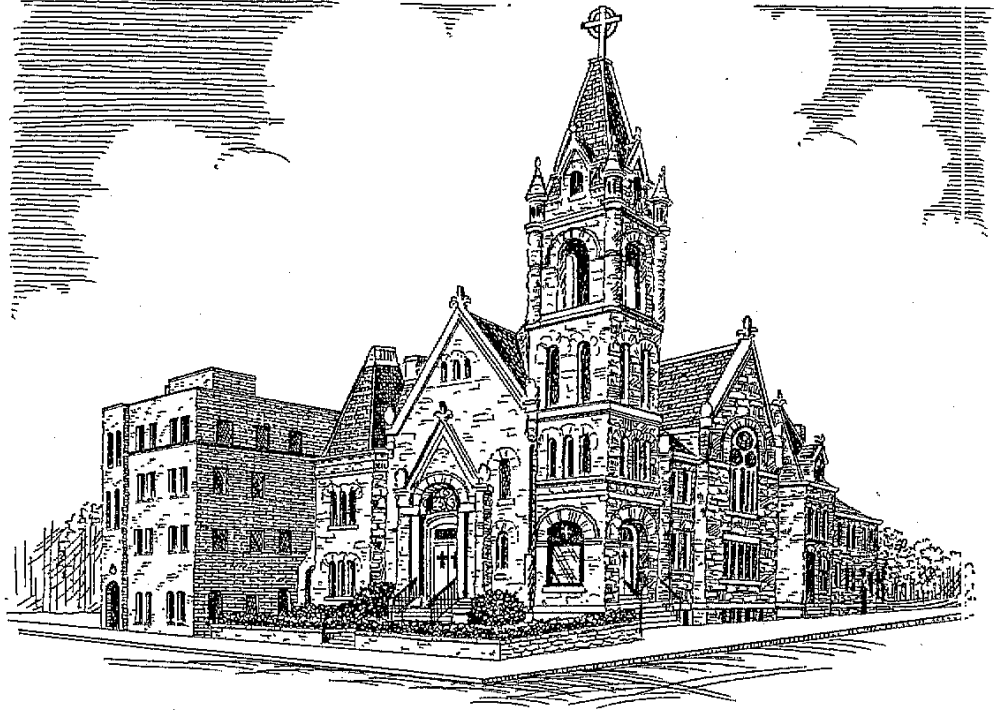


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

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Truly, God wants his people to enter into a time of rest!

Dear Friends in Christ:

Summertime brings images of swimming holes and fishing poles, picnics and hammocks, museums and mountains. As the song says, "Summertime and the livin' is easy." Summertime is about getting away, enjoying life, and finding a place to unwind.

Unfortunately, some people are so wound up that they feel guilty whenever they take time to rest. However, God doesn't mind if we rest, in fact, he commands it:

God tells us, "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work - you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it." Exodus 20:8-11.

God's Word speaks of a rhythm of life: day and night, work and rest, with one day in each week set aside for rest. Someone might say, "The Sabbath is about worship, not rest." Actually, it's about BOTH! Jesus said, "God did not make people for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath for people." In other words, while it is true that the Sabbath was to be a day of communal worship, it is also, a day in which to rest. **Indeed, to enter into the presence of the Lord is to enter into rest.** For example, as Christians we rest in Christ's finished work on the cross. As it says in the book of Hebrews, "for we who have believed enter that [Sabbath] rest." Coming together on Sunday helps us enter more deeply into the rest and peace that God has created for His people. Finding a church to worship at when you are gone on vacation just makes sense!

Not only does God command us to rest one day a week, there are also other times of Sabbath rest for his people. The Land was to rest every seven years, (Lev. 25:1-7) and there was to be a rest from indebtedness every 50 years, known as the Year of Jubilee, (Lev. 25:8-17).

These scriptures show that God cares for all of creation. They also show that God knows that indebtedness is bondage and he wants us to be free from all bondage. Truly, God wants his people to enter into a time of rest. But so often, we are our own worst enemies! We are the ones who create our own sleepless nights, burdened by debts we have needlessly accumulated, debts accumulated from our unchecked love of things. Christ died to set us FREE. But our culture of materialism pushes us to constantly enslave our lives and sell-off our futures to the gods of VISA, MASTERCARD and DISCOVER!

God created us to enter into the rhythm of work and rest. As a culture, we often feel guilty when we take a well deserved rest. Why is it when someone calls at 6:00 A.M. we will deny that we were asleep? Why does our culture demand that we go, go, go 24/7? God gave us the Sabbath so that we could rest, refocus, and recharge ourselves. God knows what we need better than we do. So, this summer, enter in to rest without guilt, thanking God for the beautiful gift of rest, relaxation, recreation, and sleep. You'll enjoy life more if you do.

During this summertime examine your life and ask yourself, "Am I living in the rhythm of God's creation?"

That is:

- Do I get enough sleep every day?
- Am I taking one day a week for rest?
- Am I resting in God's Word daily and worshipping weekly?
- Am I taking my vacation days so that I can be recharged?
- Am I resting in Christ's finished work or am I trying to earn God's love?
- Do I need a Sabbath from indebtedness? (Our Financial Peace University course here at FELC is Excellent! Check it out.)

God created us to enter into the natural cycle of work and rest. Therefore, let the guilt go and enter fully into God's plan for your life. "*Summertime and the livin' is easy.*" **Thank you Lord!**

In Christ's Peace and Love,
Pastor Paul

SUMMER CHOIR SINGS JULY 1 . . .



On Sunday, July 1, the Summer Choir will meet at 10:30 A.M. in the choir room to rehearse the anthem and go over the service music for the 11:00 Holy Communion service that morning. Individuals who normally cannot commit themselves to our full schedule of rehearsals are invited to sing with us to the Glory of God. Please consider joining us!

In anticipation of a warm sanctuary, please wear white shirts or blouses, and dark trousers or skirts so that we can forego the formality and warmth of wearing robes.

JULY 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).
	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 JULY:

- July 1 ➔ The Rev. Trygve Skarsten, guest pastor at 11:00 a.m. service - Nave.
- July 7 ➔ Mr. Scott Berry, 5:00 p.m. Saturday Chapel organist
- July 8 ➔ Mr. Scott Berry, 8:30 a.m. Sunday organist
 ➔ Mrs. Helen Anderson, 11:00 a.m. Sunday organist
- July 15 ➔ The Rev. Ed Winkler, guest pastor at 11:00 a.m. service - Nave
- July 22 ➔ The Rev. Carl Cunfer, guest pastor at 11:00 a.m. Proclaim! - undercroft
- July 29 ➔ The Rev. Ken Sauer, guest pastor at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Nave

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

Matins Choir: due to the Director's travel schedule, the Matins Choir will not sing the second Sunday in July. They will next meet on August 12, 8:00 a.m. to rehearse and to sing at the 8:30 Holy Communion service that morning.

Monday,
July 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.

Tuesday,
July 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.

Wednesday,
July 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. ***NO meeting July 4.***

Every
Wednesday **Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch**, 12:10 P.M. worship in the Chapel; lunch following in the undercroft. ***NO Worship & Lunch July 4.***

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.

Friday,
July 13 **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. **NOTE: this is the SECOND Friday in the month.**

Sat/Sun
July 28 & 29 **Food Collection Weekend.** The May collection totaled \$195 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued generous support!

SCHEDULE NOTES:

- 📎 Monthly **blood pressure readings** will resume the first Sunday in September.
- 📎 **The Spirit!** and **Fireflies** children's choirs have the summer off; rehearsals resume in September.
- 📎 **Summer Choir** will sing on July 1 at the 11:00 Holy Communion service; rehearsal is at 10:30 in the choir room that morning.

NO LUNCH BUNCH in JULY

The Lunch Bunch will not meet in July or August. The next Lunch Bunch will be on Tuesday, September 4.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED JULY 4

The church office and Christian Day School will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday.

NO WEDNESDAY LUNCH JULY 4

Our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch program will not take place on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of the holiday.



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.

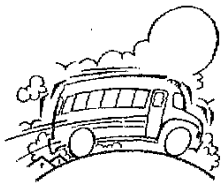
Tuesday, July 17

9:00 A.M. Elmcroft of Ontario
10:15 A.M. The Waterford

(Mifflin Care Center not scheduled in July)

Thursday, July 19

9:30 A.M. Alterra Sterling House

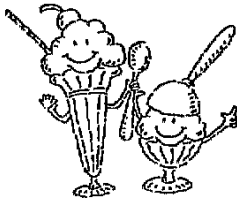


LUTHER FELLOWSHIP BUS TRIP TUESDAY, JULY 17 . . .

Luther Fellowship will be off to the Cats Meow in Wooster on Tuesday, July 17. We will have lunch at the famous Smithville Inn which is one of the oldest inns in Ohio. They have been famous for their Inn Maid Noodles, home made biscuits, and pies for many years. After that, we will visit the MISHLER WEAVING MILL (air conditioned) where antique mechanical weaving looms are used to make dish cloths, place mats and table runners. Other weavers will be using hand looms as they let the shuttles fly and construct dish towels and rag rugs. Our guides will then take us through other historical buildings of the village.

Cost of the bus and the tours is \$15. Lunch will be on your own. We will leave the Mulberry Street parking lot at 9:00 A.M. We hope to return to Mansfield around 4:30 P.M. Sign up on the bulletin boards by Sunday, July 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.





ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Full menu!

SATURDAY, JULY 21

4-7 P.M.

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
2065 Mt. Zion Road, Lucas, OH

Sponsored by Mt. Zion, Pleasant Valley, and St. Paul Lutheran churches in Lucas, all proceeds will benefit our First English Lutheran *Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch program*. Great Food! Great Fellowship! A Great Ministry! On Wednesday, June 20, approximately 130 were fed a free meal in our undercroft. Heartfelt thanks to the sponsoring churches for this Ice Cream Social service project!

LSS Day with the Clippers

Saturday, July 28, 2007

It's time again for LSS Day with the Clippers! This year's event – our 31st Anniversary – will be Saturday, July 28. Pre-game events begin at 5:00 PM with the Clippers taking on the Pawtucket Red Sox at 7:05 PM.

ADMISSION – \$3.00

or

FAMILY PACK (6 tickets) – \$15.00

(Not tax deductible)

Please contact your church coordinator for tickets.

BETTY GUENTHER, Staff Secretary

419-522-0662



Lutheran
Social
Services
of
Central
Ohio

*"Creating a better world
by serving people in need"*

Or contact Lutheran Social Services, Karen Schwichtenberg at
(614) 228-5200, ext. 1645 or kschwichtenberg@lssco.org.

HOWDY, FRIENDS!

Come to Avalanche Ranch, a wild ride through God's Word!

Get ready for an exciting celebration of God's love filled with stampeding cattle, yapping cattle dogs, soaring eagles, and a whole herd of friends.

You'll enjoy Bible Point Crafts and exciting games, experience thrilling Bible stories, sample tasty snacks, and hear unforgettable music.



LOCATION: First English Lutheran Church
(park in Mulberry St. lot and use Mulberry side entrance)

AVALANCHE RANCH WILL LAST: July 30 — August 3, 2007
(VBS dates)

AVALANCHE RANCH FUN BEGINS AT: Dinner @ 5:30 p.m.
VBS @ 6:00 p.m.
(VBS starting time)

AVALANCHE RANCH FUN ENDS AT: 8:15 p.m.
(VBS ending time)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 419-522-0662
(church phone number)

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BELLVILLE, AUGUST 11 . . .

Have you ever felt helpless during a time of crisis and wished that you could do something to help? The State of Ohio averages three disasters annually. It is nearly impossible to predict when or where a disaster is going to take place. It IS possible, however, for communities to prepare for what may happen. Disaster preparedness readies us for the unexpected, and it allows for a more organized, timely, and efficient response when disaster strikes.

Sponsored by Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Disaster Response, a LEVEL I training session will be offered on Saturday, August 11, 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bellville. Registration deadline is August 1.

For more information or to register for the training, contact Becky Sarbach, Service Ministry Chair, at 419-589-7945.



Mark your calendars!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

RALLY DAY!



175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

**CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC AT THE
BLACKFORK RETREAT CENTER!**

Watch For Details!



2007 SCHOOL KITS, HEALTH KITS, SEWING KITS, AND LAYETTES FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF . . .

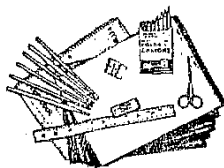
Our Women of the ELCA support Lutheran World Relief by sending comforters (which our Workday Ladies are preparing), School kits, Health kits, Sewing kits, and Layettes. **Listed below are the items needed for each kit.** Please consider completing one or more kits to add to First Lutheran's contribution:

SCHOOL KITS

- Pads or notebooks of ruled paper
approximately 8 ½ x 11" containing
150-200 sheets of paper
- One blunt-nose scissors
- One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with
centimeters on one side and inches
on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One eraser approximately 2 ½" long
- 12 sheets of construction paper in
assorted colors
- One box of 8, 16 or 24 crayons
- One cloth bag (provided)

Pack items in bag, fold handles over and secure with two large rubber bands or tie with yarn.

We have a good supply of cloth bags available to be filled for School kits.



LAYETTES

- Two shirts
- Two gowns, sleepers, or onesies
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One sweater
- Two wash cloths
- One bath-size bar of soap
- Two diaper pins

Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

NOTE: items do not need to be new. Gently used items can be substituted for new ones. Sizes up to 24 months may be used. Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front. Infant sweatshirts may be substituted for the sweater. A length of 36" or 45" flannel may be used to make gowns, blankets (36" x 36" or 45" x 45"), and diapers (22 1/2" wide x 36" long - cut with pinking shears).

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HEALTH KITS

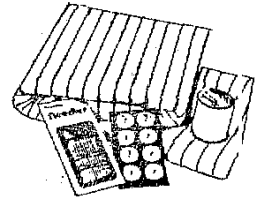
One hand towel
One washcloth
One bath-size bar of soap in original wrapping
One toothbrush in original wrapping
One tube of toothpaste, unwrap packaging
One comb, wide tooth preferred
One metal file or nail clippers with file, unwrap packaging
Six Band-Aids, preferably ½ to ¾"

Wrap items in towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn.

SEWING KITS

Three yards of 44" or 45" cotton or cotton blend fabric (four yards if 36")
One spool of matching thread
One package of needles for hand sewing
One card buttons

Wrap items inside fabric and tie with string or yarn.



All kits must be returned to the church as a complete kit ready for shipping. The deadline to turn in completed kits is October 1. They will be packed and then taken to Seville, Ohio, later in October for shipping.

— Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820



JULY NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

Our Bible theme is "We are created in the image of God," Genesis 1:26-27. We will work on eye-hand coordination, large and small muscle development, balance, and sharing.

Our school age day campers will be going to Malabar Farm, Ohio Village, Kingwood Center, the post office, and Mohican State Park. All of our classes are doing the Summer Reading Program at the library.

Thank you for our continued support!

— Cheryl Lantz, Director

JULY 2007 WELCA CALENDAR

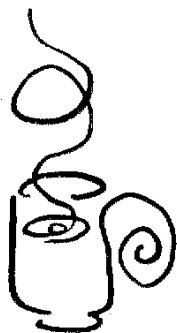
CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
SARAH				NO MEETING IN JULY
LYDIA				NO MEETING IN JULY
LUNCH BUNCH				NO MEETING IN JULY
EVE				NO MEETING IN JULY
PLANNING TEAM				NO MEETING IN JULY
MARY	13	FRIDAY	9:30 A.M.	Breakfast at Bob Evans, N. Trimble Rd.
WORKDAY LADIES	18	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor

Altar Group Workers: Nave – Devera Ritz, Chapel – Bev Graham, Contemporary – Jan Fisher
 Funeral Dinners: (Squad A) Margaret Battisti

Special Events Coming:

Women's Retreat – October 5-6, Saturday Leader is Pr Amy Little

Thankoffering Sunday – November 25, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaching at all services



EVERYONE LOVES A SALE!

WELCA is holding a **coffee and tea sale** on many of the items that we sell in the Equal Exchange Coffees and Teas project. Prices are reduced by 33% !!

We will have this coffee and tea sale going on throughout July and August. Stop by the coffee displays and check us out!

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

REMINDER: only the UPC CODE is needed when cutting labels from boxes and soup cans from Labels for Education products. Your diligence and support are a great ministry, but please **include the UPC Code** when clipping!



JUNE CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

Vice President Gene Harsch called the Tuesday, June 12, 2007 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Andy Jones opened the meeting with prayer.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones reported that the leadership team for the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign is: Chris and Angie Kaschube, Directors, Ken and Karen Frayer, Becky Pittman, Chris Cichanowicz, Nancy Pasheilich, Kay and Terry Leedy and Roscoe Thompson. The Pre-Campaign kickoff will be on September 16 and the first Sunday of the campaign will be September 23. There will be a celebration Sunday, November 4, with one combined worship service. The 175th birthday celebration of our church will be held September 9, along with Sunday School Rally Day and the annual church picnic at the Blackfork Retreat Center in the late afternoon.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Gene Harsch presented an executive committee recommendation that Ted Ellis, Don Harruff, Helen Brown and Wes Volz be appointed as the audit committee for 2007.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TASK FORCE REPORT: Tom Pasheilich presented a report about the Capital Campaign Task Force. The task force has met several times, and after much discussion, determined four items to include in the Capital Campaign:

1. Main structure roof replacement (including trim, gutters, painting and chimney removal).
2. Renovate undercroft kitchen.

3. Repair remaining west (Mulberry Street) side stained glass windows and install storms.
4. Repair plaster & paint main sanctuary walls and ceilings.

These items, with cost estimates, will be recommended to Council at the conclusion of the task force. The Council will then present the recommendations to the congregation for review and consideration. Council approved to contract with an architect, with fees not to exceed \$7,500, to assist with the preparation of preliminary details and cost estimates for all four aspects of the project. The funds for the architect will come from the amount remaining in the New Millennium appeal (approximately \$50,000) that the congregation approved to be allocated to the roof/kitchen project.

EVANGELISM: Steve Ritz presented an update on the Church Directory which will be available for distribution on the 175th anniversary celebration September 9. Steve expressed thanks to Henry Keultjes, Nancy Pasheilich, Kay and Terry Leedy who worked with Pastor Jones on the directory.

PERSONNEL: Sherry Winbigler presented a job description for a Coordinator of Music and the Arts, a contract position for approxi-

(continued)

mately 12 hours per week, at \$12.00 per hour. Sherry outlined the procedure followed by the Personnel Committee in writing the job description. The position was advertised; Becky Pittman applied for it and was interviewed May 21, 2007. Council approved hiring Becky Pittman for the position of Coordinator of Music and The Arts. She will work closely with Dr. Guenther to enhance the musical opportunities and ministry of our church.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Nancy Pashelich stated that plans continue to be made for the 175th anniversary celebration and congregational picnic September 9. Bill Schulz has been contacted about planting flowers at the Blackfork Retreat Center as part of that celebration.

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman reported that \$888.52 in Sunday School collections will be sent to the Kraft family missionaries in Bolivia. A church in Michigan made a commitment to pay for a water well in the Malawi village where Shadreck Chikoti works with the orphan project. Jeanne stated that our church is enrolled in the Meijer Community Rewards program and encouraged members to participate.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tim Guenther said 110 hymnals have yet to be received in addition to the 230 already on site.

SERVICE MINISTRY: Becky Sarbach reported that there was a blood drive May 4, 2007 with 13 pints of blood collected. The next blood drive will be held in August. St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bellville, is sponsor-

ing a State of Ohio disaster preparedness training Saturday, August 11, 2007.

YOUTH: Annette Doklovic said upcoming plans for the Junior & High School youth include a trip to Cedar Point with an overnight at Camp Sandusky, cleanup of the Blackfork Retreat Center and another service project to be determined. A "thank you" car wash will be held August 18 and 19 - more information to come. The Senior High School youth will meet throughout the summer during the Sunday School hour. Council approved renovation of the balcony classrooms to accommodate increasing numbers of young people in the high school and junior high school Sunday School classes.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: Linda Elgin stated 107 children are enrolled in CDS, with 35 campers who will have a fun summer. Recently, a parent or parents, treated all CDS staff to lunch at the Olive Garden.

WELCA: Cheryl Lantz reported that 34 prayer shawls have been given away. Appreciation was expressed for prayer shawls which were given to Daniel Nam, a foreign exchange student who spent the year with Pastor Jones and his family, and to Sam Hsueh, a foreign exchange student who spent the year with the Roscoe Thompson family. The annual WELCA retreat will be held Friday evening October 5 and Saturday, October 6, with Pastor Amy Little as the Bible study leader. WELCA Thankoffering service will be held Sunday, November 25, with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as guest preacher.

(continued)

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz reported that work on air conditioners continues. There has been an electric savings since energy saving light bulbs were installed in March. Tom Pasheilich, Bill Schwartz and Wes Volz installed new lighting for the front of the church, and the lawn was re-seeded. The exhaust system for the church bus was repaired for approximately \$700. Ceiling tile was removed from the basement ceiling of the

house at the retreat center by the Brenkus family. Shawn and a friend are installing new tile. The Richland County Steam Threshers Group held a work day at the retreat center.

This meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M. with prayer by Pastor Jones.

-- Mary M. Schwartz,
Congregation Council Secretary

PHOTO DIRECTORY SMASHING SUCCESS!

An ENORMOUS Thank You goes to every person who made the new Photo Directory a reality for First English. From planners to hosts to those who had their photo taken -- you all were a vital part of making the directory a big hit. Special Thanks go to the following people:

Directory Coordinator: Henry Keultjes.

Evangelism Committee Members: Steve Ritz, Nancy Pasheilich,
Pastor Andy Jones.

Layout Specialists: Terry Leedy and Kay Leedy.

Photo Hosts: Don & Jan Beddard, Wes & Sandie Volz,

Stan & Chris Cichanowicz, Lowell & Carolyn Weeks,

Jim & Lolita Scheiber, Marilyn Motson, Betty Baehrens,

Carol Pierce, Shirley Lane, Bill & Pearl West, Bob & Nip McCready.

PICTORIAL



CHURCH
DIRECTORY

Our new directories should be ready for our 175th Anniversary celebration in September!

WAY TO GO CHURCH!

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 Strohminger*, 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 Strohminger at the number above.

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

Roscoe Thompson, III, Worship Chair

419-522-7571

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

Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion Preparers

Proclaim! Communion Assistants

JULY VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

July 7	Jean Ridenour	July 21	Marian Owen
July 14	Jean Ridenour	July 28	Kay McNaul

GREETERS

Will & Dolores Esler
Juanita Baker

8:30 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance

USHERS

Bill West
Pearl West
Rob Skropits

8:30 A.M.

GREETERS

Marie Young
Mary Hujus
TBA

11:00 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance
West Entrance

USHERS

Gene Harsch
Jon Funk
Jack Leonard

11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TABLE HOSTS

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

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

July 1	Jim Scheiber, Jerry Gallagher
July 8	Lowell Weeks, Chris Cichanowicz
July 15	Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz
July 22	Mary Schwartz, Jane Starmer
July 29	Ken & Karen Frayer, Lowell Weeks

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

July 1	Terry Leedy	July 22	Annette Doklovic
July 8	Greg Hughes	July 29	Chris Kaschube
July 15	Stan Cichanowicz		

8:30 POWER POINT OPERATORS

July 1	Tom Sarbach	July 22	Tom Sarbach
July 8	Tom Sarbach	July 29	Paul Ward
July 15	Gordon Moxley		

ACOLYTES

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

8:30 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

July 1	A Trayce Prather	A Haley Pittman
July 8	A Kate Hogsette	A Elizabeth Volz
July 15	A Sarah Ward	A Alissa Ruth
July 22	A Trayce Prather	A Emily Blankenship
July 29	A Kate Hogsette	A Lindsey Brenkus

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

July 7	Jean Ridenour	July 21	Jean Ridenour
July 14	Kay McNaul	July 28	Kay McNaul

8:30 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

July 1	Amy Skropits	Bill Schulz
July 8	Sherry Winbigler	Diane Molyet
July 15	Jerry Gallagher	Terry Leedy
July 22	Pat Reed	Jo Wirstrom
July 29	Karyne Carey	Helen Anderson

11:00 NURSERY HELPERS

July 1	Marianne Sweat	July 22	TBA
July 8	Teri & Lindsey Brenkus	July 29	TBA
July 15	Jo Wirstrom		

COMMUNION PREPARERS

July 1	11:00 am	Bill & Mary Schwartz
July 8	8:30 am	Bill & Mary Hayes

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>July 1 - 11:00 am</u>	<u>July 8 - 8:30 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Asst Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West	Pat Smith	Steve Ritz
Cups West	Harold Simmons	Devera Ritz
Wine East	Jane Sprang	Tom Pasheilich
Cups East	Jo Wirstrom	Nancy Pasheilich
Intinction	Greg Hughes	Jerry Gallagher

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Worship Committee

11:00 SUNDAY INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAMS

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

PEW PAD GLEANERS

July 1	Ronda Rehm	July 22	Sharon Bowden
July 8	Lana Dunham	July 29	Teri Brenkus
July 15	Viola Deems		

JULY ALTAR WORKERS

Chapel:	Bev Graham
Nave:	Devera Ritz
Proclaim!:	Jan Fisher

+ + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

July 1 Cheryl Lantz and Tiffany Thompson
July 8 Cindy and Robyn Russell
July 15 Jerry and Lu Diday
July 22 Ted and Karen Ellis
July 29 Cheryl Lantz and Tiffany Thompson

July 15 Communion Preparer

Karen Ellis

July 15 Communion Assistants

Matt and Renee Blankenship
Tricia and Elizabeth Volz

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson

**Is Your
Pledge
Up to Date?**

IN OUR CHURCH LIBRARY . . .

Thank you, Pat Reed, for the beautiful bulletin board each month in the library! We welcome Linda Chapman as a library volunteer!

In the future, there will be new sections on health issues and cook books. Donations are welcome.

NEW SELECTIONS

Light from Heaven, Jan Karon

Narnia, DVD, Walt Disney Pictures

Every Storm, Lori Wick

The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel

Just As I Am, Billy Graham

Clippings from My Notebook, Corrie Ten Boom

Prayers and Poems of Inspiration, Ideals Publications

Brush of an Angel's Wing, Charlie Shedd

Drawing Near with Daily Bible Reading and Prayer, K. Boa & M. Anders

Living with Your Emotions, Sue Burnham

The Tender Years, Janette Oke

The Quilter's Apprentice, a novel by Jennifer Chiaverini

101 Amazing Things About God, Marsha Marks

Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow, C. P. Wagner

Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt

Eyes of Elisha, Brandilyn Collins



JUVENILE

A Tale from the Care Bears - Sweet Dreams for Sally, Amelia Hubert

The Upside-Down Frown and Splashes of Joy, Barbara Johnson



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

Bob and Denise Schmalzle's son, Jacob, graduated on May 12 from Wittenberg

University. Jacob lived eight years in Nairobi, Kenya, with his parents, who are Lutheran missionaries. Jacob's experience at Wittenberg helped him develop his business skills, and he is now in the process of setting up a fair trade U.S. import business called "Village Market Imports." Through the business, he will help artists buy materials and equipment so they can expand their business and lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty.

Aaron Schmalzle, son of Bob and Denise, is working this year with Lutheran Volunteer Corp in Milwaukee. He has been accepted in grad school at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Nick and Shannon Kraft have sent our church a DVD, "ABC Kids." This will be available on loan from the church library. The Kraft's youngest son, Tucker, will be four years old on July 6. The Sunday School collection in the blue globes for missionaries was voted unanimously by the youth and adult groups to be sent to the mission in Bolivia. We can make a difference!

World Mission Prayer League worker, Gloria Sauck, is in Kenya doing more "hands on"

eye work until more Kenyan nurses are trained in this specialty. Pray for Gloria to have stamina to meet the tasks she faces day by day.

July 15 is "Go and do likewise" Sunday. The gospel text: the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This is the opportunity for the congregation to focus on the programs of ELCA World Hunger, Stand with Africa, and Disaster Relief. Through our gifts we recognize, react, and remember. As good neighbors, we "Go and do likewise."

Have you registered for the Global Mission Event, July 19-22 at OSU in Columbus? This exciting event will include speakers: Immaculee Ilibagiza, survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, who helps others learn to forgive and heal from the long-term effects of genocide and war; Vitor Westhelle, a Brazilian theologian who teaches at the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago; ELCA Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson; and representatives of the Lutheran World Federation, celebrating its 60th anniversary.

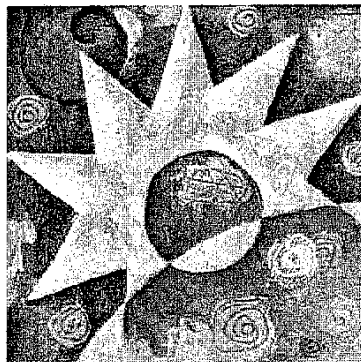
A special "THANK YOU" to all who have contributed their recyclables at Milliron Industries for the missions and missionaries supported by First English Lutheran Church.

Jeanne Hillman,
Global Mission Committee Chair

New Heaven and New Earth

2007 ELCA
Global Mission Event

July 19-22, 2007
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio



Experience a community of global companions!

At the ELCA Global Mission Event, Lutherans of all ages from all over the world celebrate God's mission and explore how to encourage and strengthen one another for global ministry.

Celebrate and learn

Experience global music and dance, and learn from your encounter with the global church.

Receive the witness of international Christians

This year's plenary speakers include Brazilian theologian Vitor Westhelle, Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza, and ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.

Enjoy global programming for all ages

Special programming for children ages three to 10, junior and senior high youth, and adults.

Gain global ministry skills

Encounter skills used in the accompaniment model for ministry as practiced in the worldwide Lutheran Communion.

Discover opportunities for global service and travel

From Argentina to Zimbabwe, ways to participate in God's global mission.

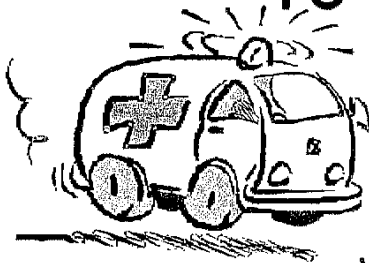
The Global Mission Committee encourages participation in the Global Mission Event (GME) at Ohio State University in Columbus, July 19-22. **Registration deadline is July 6.** For full details on the GME, including online registration, go to www.elca.org/gme or call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2642.

Do you have yard work you
JUST can't get done?

How about that large fence that
needs painted or the basement that
needs cleaned?

Do you have a daunting task you feel
will never get completed?

F.E.L.C. YOUTH to the rescue!



If you need help with a large
(or small) project, contact the
church office at 419-522-0662.

We will rally the youth to come
and assist you in getting that task completed. We
just ask for a donation to assist the youth in their
fund-raising efforts toward the Retreats/Missions
they would like to attend.

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH NEWS

Believe it or not, your youth leaders miss you! It's hard to go from meeting every Sunday to not having regular contact. We want to know about your summer activities and experiences!

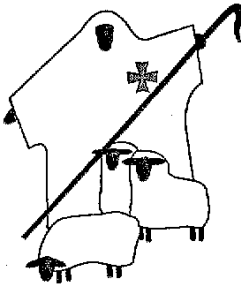
A youth leader will be in the youth space in the rear balcony between worship services (9:45-10:45) on July 1, 8, 22, and August 12. Come and share and stay in touch with the group this summer!



- Becky & Tom Sarbach, 419-589-7945

- Tricia Volz, 419-884-3273

- Chris Cichanowicz, 419-529-6593



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Allison Molyet to Diane Molyet: "Dear Jo Mama(!), Thank you for all of your support through the numerous ups and downs of my college life. Not only as my mother but as my closest friend, too. You will never know what you mean to me, never. I know I'm no good at showing it, and I know that I get frustrated sometimes, but you are my back bone, without you I would not be where I am today. You got me through

three years of college and a year of being all over the east coast, all by yourself. Your strength is something I hope to endure when I become a mother. All I can say now is **THANK YOU** and **I LOVE YOU**. With love in all ways for always, Allison Rita Molyet."

From Mary Lou DeLaney: "I want to thank everyone at First Church for the many cards and prayers during my recent months of illness! God's blessings to all!"

Welcome Becky Pittman!

New Coordinator of Music and the Arts

A new part-time Staff Position has been created by the Congregation Council to help all of us make better use of the wonderful gifts God has given us in the areas of Music and the Arts. We are pleased to welcome our own Becky Pittman to the Staff Ministry of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. Becky brings to our team ministry her years of experience as a licensed Music Therapist and her wonderful gifts in working with all age groups --- from tiny children to Alzheimer patients in nursing homes. We welcome her wonderful gifts and exuberance as our new ***Coordinator of Music and the Arts***.

Responsibilities

It will be the ministry of The Coordinator of Music and the Arts (CMA) to encourage and assist the worshipping community of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in discovering and developing their God given gifts in the areas of Music and the Arts, so that they might better use these gifts for the glory of God.

The CMA will work in cooperation with the Pastors, the Director of Music, and the Minister of Contemporary Worship to schedule individuals and groups to enhance our regular weekly worship services and special worship services and events.

For Example – Develop Leadership and Participation in:

- Instrumental solos and ensembles
- FELC Orchestra / Band
- Bell Choirs
- Vocal solos, duets, etc.
- Youth Choirs
- Special Choirs linked to a particular style of Music – Like a Gospel Choir
- Liturgical Dance
- Dramas
- Puppet Show Ministries
- Christian Art Shows: Featuring painting, photography, pottery, sculpture, etc.



The CMA will find music and materials appropriate to each age group and our Christian setting; Oversee the scheduling and directing of all necessary rehearsals; Develop a Team of Directors to work under his/her supervision; and appropriately publicize all rehearsals and performances.

The CMA will lead the weekly Christian Day School music time; and rehearse and lead special performances of the CDS children at the Christmas Program and on CDS Sunday. The CMA will also work in coordination with our children's Sunday School program and Vacation Bible School program to encourage our children in developing and using their artistic gifts and talents for the glory of God.

The CMA may call upon the Worship Committee, Education Committee, and the Youth Committee to assist him/her in encouraging persons of all ages to discover and develop their God given gifts in the areas of Music and the Arts.

We are excited to welcome Becky Pittman to our ministry team here at FELC! When it comes to music and the arts. → God has richly blessed our congregation with so many talented people. If you have any ideas of how you would like to become more involved in using your God given gifts in music and the arts, give Becky a call!

Psalm 33

- ¹ Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.
- ² Praise the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
- ³ Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ...
- ²¹ Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
- ²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.



JULY 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Best wishes to our members who are 80+ this month! We honor them on their special day, and thank God who has given them a long and full life. We pray for God's rich blessing on them now and in the years to come. May their hearts be filled with joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

JULY

2	Mr. Don Gestenslager	1090 Burkwood Rd.	44907-2412
5	Mrs. Helen Honse	355 Westlawn Dr.	44906-2313
9	Mrs. Mary Jackson	3125 State Route 430	44903-8590
15	Mrs. Marjorie Reining	594 S. Trimble Rd., Apt. B	44906-4114
17	Mr. Paul Johnston	1826 Evline Dr.	44904-1723
17	Mr. Robert Dorner	781 Pulver List Rd.	44905-2546
19	Mrs. Virginia White	91 Chestnut Court	44906
19	Mrs. Elaine Lemon	546 Connor Dr.	44905-2027
30	Mr. Richard Theaker	1671 Middle-Bellville Rd.	44904-1827
31	Miss Marilyn Motson	990 Briarwood Rd., Apt. 3	44907-2361

CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER DONATIONS . . .

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) sponsor this local outreach project. **Jars of creamy peanut butter** are distributed to the folks who come to our Wednesday Noon Lunches. We feel that peanut butter is a good commodity because you don't have to refrigerate it, and yet it is nutritious. **There are collection boxes clearly marked "Peanut Butter" both in the Narthex and in Luther Hall.** Keeping a supply on hand is on-going! So when you go to your favorite grocery, please remember to pick up an extra jar of creamy peanut butter (any size) and drop it off at church. God bless you for caring about those less fortunate than we are! It's such a small thing, and it can make a big, big difference!

- Jan Fisher for WELCA

GRACE MATTERS IS THE WEEKLY 30-MINUTE RADIO PROGRAM of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The program is currently heard on station WHK-AM1420 (Cleveland), 7:30 a.m. Sunday; WKVX-AM 960 (Wooster), 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and WZLP-FM 95.7 (Loudonville), 10:00 a.m. Monday.

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE AND HELP OUR MISSIONS!

Take your recyclable materials to **Milliron Industries**, 2384 State Route 39, Mansfield, and tell them **ACCOUNT #480**. The receipts of the recyclable materials we donate 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.

- Global Mission Committee

MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

A few months ago, we heard from Shadreck Chikoti about the needs of the **Kenyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries** in Malawi, Africa. The orphans there have needs for nutritious food, shelter, clothing and education. Plus, additional money can be used to start a variety of businesses that can help them become self-sufficient. Shadreck told us about the needs of just one orphan project that helps about 250 children.

Word and Deed, where we send our donations, also helps 5 other orphan projects in Malawi. At each one of these orphan ministries, they have the same basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and education. Some are still in need of wells for water and transportation to deliver food to the various centers. The following is a brief description of each of the orphan projects that Word and Deed helps and what need they would like met.

True Friends helps about 200 children at 3 centers. They are in need of laying hens and cows to provide nutritional food for the orphans.

Lizulu Orphan Care helps 360 orphans in 4 centers. They are in desperate need of a vehicle for transporting sick children to hospitals and food to outlying areas. They also need a bore well with a water tank so they can sell water to the community and have a self-generated means of support. (Partial funds have been received for both of these needs.)

Neighbour Mission Committee helps 850 orphans in 3 centers. They are in the process of adding children into the program and also training the teachers, most of whom have no formal training. Funds for additional food and more training for the teachers is a need.

Nkoma Orphan Care helps 9,000 orphans in 32 centers. World Vision has just agreed to help 5,000 of these children over the next 5 years leaving 4,000 to be helped by Word and Deed. There is a need for an agricultural training program, a multi-purpose hall for administration offices, training for orphan care givers, and a nursery school program for 11 centers.

Orphan Care and Social Rehabilitation helps 850 orphans in 3 centers. Training classes in cooking and sewing are available for women. The most pressing need here is for two hostels – one for boys and one for girls. There are a significant number of orphans without extended family who need shelter. They also need funds for school fees for children in secondary school.

Word and Deed is currently helping to support about 6,500 orphans in Malawi. They are also supporting other AIDS education programs. Next month look here to find out what those are.

Please remember to pray for these orphan projects as well as the leaders of Malawi. Also, please continue to give to our needy brothers and sisters in Malawi this summer.

–Joy Jones





FROM
the
PASTOR

FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR . . .

"America's Greatest Need" -- Psalm 139

In the Tennessee mountains years ago, government engineers were flooding a deep valley in connection with the electrical power program. Cabins on the mountainside had to be moved. One cabin was occupied by a rugged old mountaineer whose family had lived there for generations. He refused to move even though he was offered five times more than his cabin was worth. The government built a house of native stone and installed modern conveniences. They took the old gentleman to this fine, new house and informed him that he could have it if he would just move from his old cabin. His answer was, "Nope, won't move." Mystified, the engineers asked, "But why not?" Then the old man explained that his grandfather had started a fire on the hearth in the old cabin and had instructed his son to keep it going as a sacred family symbol. His father in turn had transmitted to him the heritage, now become sacred, of keeping the fires of his forefathers alight. The engineers, with typical American sentiment and resourcefulness, suggested that they gather up the fire and deposit it upon the hearth of the new house. Thus keeping the ancient fire alive in a new setting. To this the old man agreed, "All I want," he said, "is to keep alive the fires of my fathers."

It is very important for a nation to pause at intervals and solemnly inquire whether the ancient fires still burn. Have we allowed the flame of freedom to die down? As I considered this question, I asked myself what

is America's greatest need in 2007. I came to the conclusion that America's greatest need is a spiritual one. She needs to rediscover God.

As persons before us, we need to study the Word of God to determine who God is. We need to be reminded that there is a God governing the universe. I have chosen Psalm 139 to be our guide in seeking an understanding of God. Please follow along in your Bible as you read this.

Many regard life as "secular" today. To be secular means that we don't need God in our daily life. They claim we need to keep religion separate from other aspects of life, such as politics, education, etc. In so doing, we have divorced the spiritual dimension, the supernatural, from our daily existence. Because we have closed our eyes to God does not mean that God has closed his eyes on us. God is all-knowing. In Psalm 139:1-6 we read the extent of what God sees. In verse 6, the Psalmist is overwhelmed as his mind considers the fact that God knows him perfectly.

Many spend a whole lifetime on this earth without once having thought or tried to think seriously about the Being of God. Because of this failure to consider the reality and presence of God, our country is paying a heavy price in the secularization of our religion and the decay of our inner lives.

(continued)

Two problems exist in our day. One, is knowing about God without knowing him in a personal, relational way. The greatness of the Psalms is that David and others who wrote them were personally related to God as they wrote "O Lord, Thou has searched me and known me." The second problem today is that we can know a great deal about godliness without a knowledge of God. It is possible to have a second-hand knowledge about the practice of Christianity yet hardly know God at all.

To know God, one must first recognize God's presence, which is everywhere...man cannot hide or escape from God. Read verses 7-12. If God is everywhere, then he is present and in control. Verse 10: "Thy hand shall lead me."

Our society is permeated with pessimism and despair arising from the concept that man is an accident of nature. For some, this concept brought confidence and optimism. After two world wars and an impossible world situation, people have fallen into complete helplessness.

In verses 13-18, the Psalmist presents God as the author and sustainer of all life. This thought causes the Psalmist to burst out in praise..."Marvelous are Your works." America is founded on the principle that humans are much more than accidents of nature. We need to rediscover the sacredness of the Human Being, and that will occur when we rediscover the Creator who made us!

In verses 23-24, the Psalmist has come to an acceptance of being related to God. He now prays for God's guidance and help. These verses contain four thoughts: 1) "Search me."

Are we willing to open up the darkest parts of our being to God? Our nation's survival depends on its citizens praying this prayer, and meaning it. 2) "Try me." Do we long to be tested by God, or are we only concerned for our own physical pleasures and comforts? Do we realize that through testings and trials, we are able to draw near to God? 3) "See me." We are reminded that God does see us, every moment of each day. Being aware that God is an all-seeing and all-knowing God, we have a foundation upon which to stand in our personal lives. 4) "Lead me." Are we willing to be submissive to God? We say "lead me," but are we willing to follow? Only in submitting our lives to God will the spiritual confusion that we have in America today end. This is America's greatest need...to know God, to serve him who sees, surrounds, sustains and searches us daily.

The movie, *A Pocketful of Miracles*, is a story about Apple Annie, an old, beaten-down, alcoholic lady living in a near-skid-row situation. She learns that her daughter, who she has not seen since she was a baby but to whom she has always written, is coming for a visit, thinking she is a lady of high society. Annie is a broken woman but good, and her many friends, with much work and a lot of ruses, transforms Annie into a dowager lady of beauty and dignity. The meeting of daughter and transformed mother is touching and stunning. The greatness at the core of Annie is brought to the surface, if only for a moment. She is a new person.

America is a grand lady who has slid down a long way. If only we would seek to become the nation we were destined to be, we would

(continued)

once again be restored to dignity and beauty. But America must seek God and place God first in its daily life before such transformation can take place. My prayer is that we find the courage and fortitude to be willing to take this stand soon. A flower, cut from its source, will retain its beauty for a while, but in time it will shrivel and die.

Separated from God, our nation cannot hope to remain strong and vital.

America's greatest need is to rediscover God and to give God his proper place in our lives.

—Cloyd E. Kress,
Visitation Pastor



We remember the families and friends of those who died May 25 - June 22, 2007:

Adele Milne <i>(grandmother of Matt Pfleiderer)</i>	May 25
Frederick Mueller <i>(son-in-law of Mary Wendland)</i>	June 14
Paul Matyi <i>(friend of Nancy Long)</i>	June 16
Nick DeMiro <i>(father-in-law of Martha DeMiro, daughter of Carolyn Weeks)</i>	June 18
Mary Knoll	June 20

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.

PASTORAL ACTS

Wedding:	June 2, 2007	Abby Smollen and Frank Zalar by Pastor Jonathan Steingass
Memorial Service:	June 16, 2007	Joseph Andrasic, died January 29, 2007, in St. Petersburg, FL
Funeral:	June 23, 2007	Mary Knoll

HONORARIUMS

Malawi Orphan Care Ministries Fund

Pr Carl Cunfer's 45th Anniversary of Ordination

Margaret Runyon

Sherry & Louie Winbigler

Organ Maintenance Fund

Helen Anderson's 80th Birthday:

Anonymous

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Pastor Larson	felcplarson@neo.rr.com
Pastor Jones	felcassociate@rbiznet.com
Timothy Guenther (home)	tguenthr@richnet.net
Dot Blaney	felcoffice@neo.rr.com
Betty Guenther	felcbguenther@neo.rr.com
Christian Day School	felccds@rbiznet.com

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**

"Living in God's Amazing Grace. Thanks Be To God!"
"We show our thanks to God through Lutheran Disaster
Response"

Summary of the 2007 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly

The JohnS.KnightCenter in downtown Akron was the location on June 15-16 when the Northeastern Ohio Synod met in its regular assembly.

Last year's assembly was the same weekend, at which time the attendees learned of the procedure for electing a bishop to succeed the Rev. Marcus Miller. Bishop Miller left in July with a year remaining in his term to accept the position as president of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. A special assembly was held in December, at which time the voting members elected **the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton** as the third bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod.

Bishop Eaton presided with a wit and style that kept proceedings moving in a quick and relaxed manner, while maintaining a protocol that reflected the importance of the business at hand. In her report, she urged the importance of excellent, authentic liturgical worship, reflecting the value of our Lutheran heritage while celebrating our place in the whole Kingdom of God.

Credentials Report

A total of 552 persons attended the event, including 275 lay voting members, 11 rostered lay voting members (associates in ministry/deaconesses), 199 clergy, plus 67 visitors. The voting members were comprised of 59 percent lay persons and 41 percent clergy.

Elections

Elections were among the most significant business activities conducted, at which the following were elected and installed to serve:

Synod Council, three-year terms: **Barbara Mattern**, St. Mark, Tallmadge, Akron-Wooster; **the Rev. Abraham D. Allende**, Iglesia La Trinidad, Canton, Canton-Massillon; **AIM Edward A. Kirst**, Messiah, Fairview Park, Cleveland West; **the Rev. Cynthia Ishler**, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Brooklyn, Cleveland West; **Rick Thompson**, Emmanuel, Warren, Eastern; **the Rev. Pentti Maki**, Holy Trinity, Mansfield, Richland-Ashland; **the Rev. L. Scott Bacon**, St. Paul

Smithville, and **Benita Pearson**, Advent, Solon, at-large, and **H. Lynne Stiggers**, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Cleveland, treasurer.

The Rev. Dick Williams, retired, and **Joseph R. Malone**, Advent, Cleveland, were elected to six-year terms on the Consultation Committee. **The Rev. Jean Hansen**, Faith, Fairlawn, was elected to a four-year term on the Trinity Seminary Board.

Speakers

Presenters were invited to the assembly in support of the theme, which sought to "show our thanks to God through Lutheran Disaster Response." **Heather Feltman**, ELCA Disaster Response Director, was keynote speaker, reporting on responses to recent hurricanes, but also indicating that the organization responds to about 25 disasters a year, including those in Ohio, generally in areas affected by floods. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, more than \$27 million was donated through LDR, as well as 1.3 million volunteer hours, which helped clean, restore and rebuild 6500 homes. Feltman also led a workshop on helping congregations prepare and respond to disaster.

Preceding Feltman was **the Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade**, whose home congregation was First English, Mansfield, and former pastor at St. John, Canal Fulton. She began a call as pastor of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Baton Rouge, LA, the week after Hurricane Katrina hit. She also presented a workshop on serving her congregation following the hurricane.

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of ELCA Global Mission, gave the report of Churchwide activities, and presented a workshop entitled "Reconciliation: A Theological Dimension to Mission".

Workshops

Additional workshops available to all attending included local responses to Hurricane Katrina, by **the Rev. Ann Paynter**, Grace, Wadsworth, and **the Rev. James Zingale**, Grace, Hubbard; congregational hospitality by **Michelle Vanderzyden**, Trinity, Ashland; stewardship, by **the Rev. Cynthia Ishler**, chair of the synod stewardship committee; the relationship of Lutheran Social Services with Lutheran Disaster Relief, by **Rick Thompson**, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and **Mary Woodward**, Lutheran Social Services, Central Ohio; and sharing our faith stories, by **the Rev. Ronald Zoesch** and **Karen Kaufman**, synod staff.

Synod Council report

Synod vice-president **Robert Glessner** presented the report of synod council outlining some of the work the council has done throughout the past year.

Ecumenical greetings

Greetings were offered by some of our ecumenical partners: **Fr. Joseph Hilinski** of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland; **Fr. Joseph Witmer** of the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown; **the Rev. Susan Koenig**, eastern district, Northern Province of the Moravian Church; **the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth Jr.**, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, **the Rev. John Hopkins**, bishop of the Eastern Conference of the United Methodist Church, and **the Rev. Dr. La Taunya Bynum**, president of the Ohio Council of Churches.

Resolutions

"A Memorial to Respond to the Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee" presented to the assembly for possible consideration by the Churchwide assembly, was defeated. A resolution regarding environmental issues of food for fuel programs and world hunger was passed.

Budget

The budget, approved by the assembly, was noted for significant cuts in support to various ministries, including Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio, and the need was stressed for congregations to dramatically increase their support. Giving has remained nearly the same for almost 20 years while expenses, of course, have risen dramatically. That has resulted in major reduction in what can be done in ministry together.

Worship

Worship began and concluded each day's activities, with morning prayer lead by **the Rev. Abraham Allende**, Iglesia La Trinidad, Canton, and **the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla**, ELCA Global Mission. **The Rev. Jimmy Madsen**, First, Lorain, and **AIM Joanna Pretz-Anderson**, Christ the Redeemer, Brecksville, were cantors; and **the Rev. Karen Ullestad**, Church of the Master, Bedford, was on keyboard.

Friday evening eucharist was held at Holy Trinity, Akron, following a five-block procession from the convocation center. **Bishop Eaton** preached and presided, with **Michael Schwabe**, Trinity, Canton, assisting. **AIM Timothy Guenther**, First English, Mansfield, was organist. Also assisting were **AIM Ron Marenchin**, Trinity, Ashland, and **the Revs. Paul Toelke**, Grace Austintown, and **Robert White**, Lordstown, Lordstown. The worship offering of \$2,354 was designated for Lutheran Disaster Response.

Anniversary recognitions

During the service, congregations and pastors were recognized for significant anniversaries, and invited to assist with communion.

Recognized for ordination or consecration were **the Rev. George Swartzfager**, 60 years; **the Revs. Paul Milheim** and **R. Paul Stroup**, and **Associate in Ministry Edward Kirst**, 55 years; **the Revs. William Haggis, Donald Safford** and **Edward Ulseth**, 50 years; **the Revs. Linda Gregson, Jeffrey Hancock, Scott Henderson, Leonard Shatkus Jr.,** and **Mark Williams**, 25 years.

Congregations recognized included First English, Mansfield, and Shanesville, Sugarcreek, 175th; Trinity, Norton, 150th, and Calvary, East Cleveland, 100th.

Displays

Among the 32 displays set up by agencies and ministries was Olan Mills Church Directories, who took photos of synod rostered persons, synod council members, and staff for an updated synod photo directory. Other displays were presented by ELCA-related agencies, universities & seminaries, and synod-affiliated agencies, organizations, and committees.

Planning Committee

The Assembly Planning Committee, which received much praise for its excellent work before and during the assembly, included **Judi Wise**, synod staff, coordinator; **the Rev. Wayne Sherman**, St. Mark, Warren, chair; **the Rev. Andrew Jones**, First English, Mansfield, facility manager; **Mike Allan**, Messiah, Fairview Park; **the Rev. Scott Bacon**, St. Paul, Smithville; **Benita Pearson**, Advent, Solon; **the Rev. Jeffrey Steele-Steeber**, St. Paul, Newcomerstown and **the Rev. Julie Thoms**, Trinity, Clinton.

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.

THE VISITOR is published monthly by First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 41902-1698. Church office hours: 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday. Church phone: 419/522-0662. FAX: 419/522-1075. Website: www.felc-mansfield.org. Christian Day School phone: 419/522-7500.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Andrew W. Jones, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor
Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, Director of Music
Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts
Mrs. Cheryl Lantz, Christian Day School Director
Dorothy Blaney, Parish Administrator
Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary/Visitor Editor
Connie Stewart, Printer/Mailing Coordinator
Gina Hutchison, Christian Day School Secretary
John Meyer, Custodial/Maintenance
Gordon & Amy Strohminger, Security
Janet Kick, Nursery Care Worker

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Matt Blankenship	Personnel	Sherry Winbiger
Vice President	Gene Harsch	Property	Shawn Volz
Secretary	Mary Schwartz	Service Ministry	Becky Sarbach
Christian Day School	Linda Elgin	Stewardship	Renee Ward
Christian Education	Chris Cichanowicz	SCS Superintendent	Chris Cichanowicz
Congregational Life	Nancy Pasheilich	Worship	Roscoe Thompson, III
Evangelism	Steve Ritz	Youth Ministry	Annette Doklovic
Finance	Rob Skropits	Women of the ELCA	Cheryl Lantz
Global Mission	Jeanne Hillman		