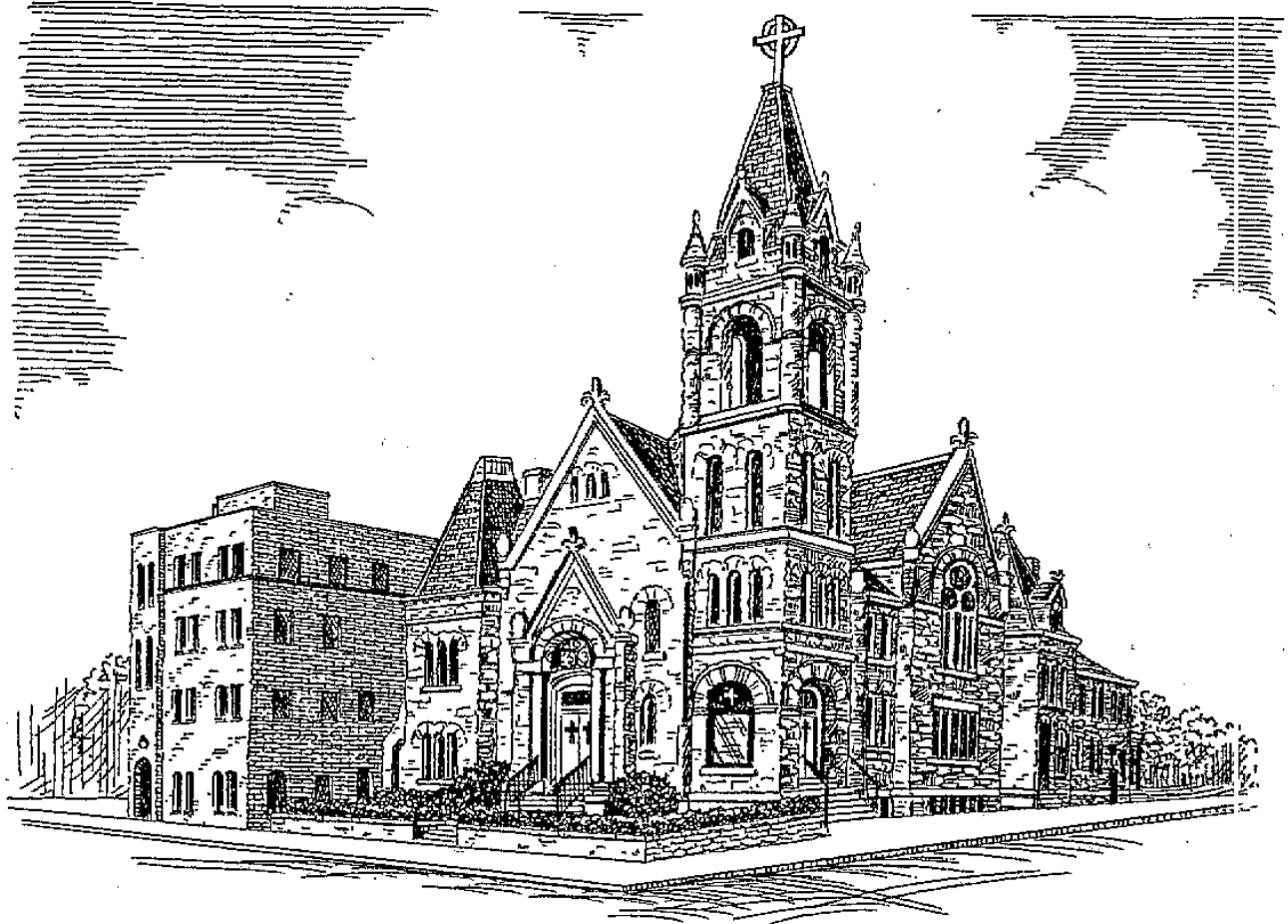


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

Volume 49

DECEMBER 2007

Number 12

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“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (RSV)

In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace, that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” Ephesians 1:7-8 (NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ:

Repeatedly, as I read God’s Word, I am struck by ALL the *superlatives*. The English language struggles to describe how Overflowing, Overabundant, Over-the-Top → GOD is, when it comes to His Giving. *“For God so loved the world that He gave...!”* God does not merely toss us a few crumbs of Grace in our direction. He *LAVISHES* the *RICHES* of His Grace upon us! He is passionately Generous! Jesus said: *“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45 (NRSV). This is Jesus’ Mission.

In our *40 Days of Purpose*, we just learned that Maturity in Christ, Discipleship, is growing to become like Jesus. To be like Jesus is to Serve and to Give. Serving and Giving are at the Heart of the Christian Life. That is why we celebrate Christmas by Giving. Every gift we give is to be a celebration of God’s First Giving His only Son to us. Truly, Christmas is a Celebration of God’s Generosity!

But, generosity has to do with so much more than the giving of tangible gifts. Generosity is a quality of the Christ-centered heart.

As I write this article, there are only forty more shopping days until Christmas. Though Christmas is still more than a month away, I know that many of you have already begun your Christmas shopping. Who is on your Christmas list this year? Your immediate family members? Close relatives? Intimate friends? These are the obvious choices.

[You probably think that I am about to encourage you to give a special Christmas Gift to the orphans of AIDS in Malawi → a Birthday Gift for Jesus → by giving to the poorest of the world’s poor. These are those Jesus spoke of when He called us to give to “the least of these.” Yes, I am certainly encouraging you to put these

first in your Jesus' Birthday Giving. But, actually, I'd like to speak to you about another kind of Generosity. It is the kind of generosity that comes from a Christ-filled heart.]

Remember that shopping list we just spoke of? Who is not on your Christmas shopping list? What about the person at work who rubs you the wrong way? The neighbor next door who has a questionable lifestyle? The relative who still holds a grudge against you? The person who works so hard to constantly slander your name? Are these people high on your Christmas list? Probably not, for gift-giving is usually directed towards those you love.

But, God's gift to humanity -- Salvation -- was provided "*while we were still sinners*" (Romans 5:8) ... when there was NOTHING lovely about us at all! The Apostle Paul describes those for whom Christ died as *sinners, ungodly, and enemies of God*. (Romans 5: 6-10).

What about those people in your life who at times can be "ungodly" towards you? It is much easier to be generous in our tangible outward gift-giving, than to be ***Generous of Heart***. Jesus is calling you and me to become like Him. The kind of generosity that flows from a Christ-filled heart is generous with patience, love, and understanding. It is a Spirit of gentleness and forgiveness. Who in your life needs this gift from you? Do we not ALL need this kind of Generosity? This is the Generosity that will "cut-you-some-slack;" interpret your actions in the kindest way; and speak to you that word of kindness, appreciation, and encouragement. We have a Generous GOD who has done all these things and More ... ALL for us. We have a Generous God who calls us to be His generous, Grace-Filled, people.

So who is on your Christmas list? With God's Love as the model, make out a new Christmas list of those in your life who need to receive from you → the Gifts of Forgiveness, and Patience, and Understanding ... Gifts of Kindness given unmerited ... unearned ... freely given ... no strings or expectations attached. This is how God GRACES you and me. Let us generously GRACE one another. Let us Give and Serve like Jesus.

In Jesus' Love,

Pastor Paul

December



**FIRST TUESDAY
MEETS DECEMBER 4 . . .**

First Tuesday meets on December 4 at 12:00 noon in the Emmaus Room. Cost of lunch is \$2.50. Scott Schaut, Director and Curator of Mansfield Memorial Museum speaking on the upcoming Bicentennial. Reservations to Pat Wells, 419-756-6863, or the church office, 419-522-0562, by Monday, December 3, are appreciated. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

The Lunch Bunch was renamed **FIRST TUESDAY** in an effort to reach out to and invite the downtown workers.

ADVENT COIN FOLDERS

Your filled Advent Coin Folders may be placed in the wooden boxes at the Nave exits before or after worship services, or brought directly to the church office during the week. Advent coin folder offerings should be in the church office by Thursday, December 27. *Our coin folder offerings will go towards the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries in Malawi.*



**Advent
Event**

**ADVENT EVENT -
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 . . .**

Everyone is invited! We begin the evening at 7:00 P.M. in the undercroft with some delicious snacks after which you will have an opportunity to bid on some terrific items in the silent auction. The program will be presented by Creative Home Gifts, a shop that displays the work of talented artisans in the Mansfield area and is located on the Square downtown. They will show us some decorating ideas and bring some unique gift suggestions.

Please join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship! - Pat Wells, coordinator

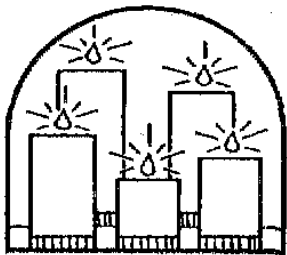
LWR FAIR TRADE FAIR
SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 2, 9, 16
AND AT THE ADVENT EVENT, DECEMBER 5



A *Fair Trade* Fair table will be in the Narthex on these Sundays, and this is the fourth year we'll have a Lutheran World Relief trade fair in conjunction with our annual Advent Event.

The LWR trade fair is open to everyone! We will be offering beautiful handcrafted goods from such places as Kenya, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, West Bank, Chile, Peru and many more. The sale of these goods provides a viable income for people who really struggle to support their families. We are privileged to be able to hold these sales. This year we will have offerings of jewelry, games, handcrafted boxes, baskets, pottery, nativity sets, Christmas tree ornaments, and much, much more!

Please join us in supporting this worthy cause. All funds raised go back to the craftsmen; none are kept here in Mansfield. This event is sponsored by WELCA of First English.



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT ASHLAND UNIVERSITY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 . . .

The Ashland University *Festival of Lights* will be held on Sunday, December 9, 7:30 P.M. in Memorial Chapel, corner of Claremont and College Avenues in Ashland. The Ashland University Choir, Ashland Area Chorus, Women's Chorus, and University Organist, **Dr. Timothy E. Guenther**, present this traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols for the Advent/Christmas season. Pre-service music begins at 7:00.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
Dec 2 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator:
Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,
Dec 2 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 a.m. They will sing at the 8:30 a.m. Holy
Communion service on December 9.
- Every
Sunday **Fireflies and Spirit!** children's and youth choirs rehearse during the 9:45 A.M.
Sunday school hour. Director: Becky Pittman.
- Monday,
Dec 3 **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.
- No Meeting
in Dec. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets at 7:00 P.M. in the Emmaus Room. Knitting
instruction and patterns provided. Contact: Karen Ellis, 419-884-1882 or Jan
Fisher, 419-589-2820.
- Wednesday,
Dec 5 **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. WELCA contact: Cheryl Lantz, 419-522-7500.
- Every
Wednesday **Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch**, 12:10 P.M. worship in the Chapel;
lunch following in the undercroft. *Note: **12:05 Communion December 19;**
no worship or lunch on December 26.*
- 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 Becky
Pittman, 419-529-3876.
- 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,
Dec 21 **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. *The group will attend the Advent Communion Service at 12:30 pm.*
- Sat/Sun
Dec 29 & 30 **Food Collection Weekend.** The October collection totaled 9 bags of groceries
for Catholic Charities, and \$159 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch
Program. Thank you for your continued generous support!

Who Is Saint Nicholas?

When it comes to Saint Nicholas, most of us have been fooled. The fat, red Santa Clauses that fill the shopping centers are poor imposters of the Godly man they supposedly represent.

Saint Nicholas was one of the important leaders of the early Church. He was the Bishop of the town of Myra, Turkey, and died around the year 342 A.D. Nicholas has traditionally been the "saint of the people," and more specifically of poor orphans. According to the legend, this friend of the poor fasted twice a week for his entire life. He was a man who lived the compassion and love of Jesus through faithful service and great personal sacrifice. The church traditionally marked December 6 as a special day for remembering Nicholas' powerful witness.

On **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**, as part of the Children's Sermon at the **8:30 and 11:00 A.M. worship services**, we will all have an opportunity to remember Saint

Nicholas, servant of Christ, friend of the poor. We will observe his Festival day as a **special time for giving gifts to the hungry**. During the Children's Sermon, we will pretend that Saint Nicholas has come to visit. But, there will be a twist. Instead of bringing a full bag of things for us, he will bring an empty bag for us to fill. **All members of the congregation** are encouraged to give to the needy of our congregation and community through this **special offering of canned goods**. **Adults** may leave their love gifts in the special boxes in the Narthex. The **children** are invited to bring their gifts forward during the Children's



St. Nicholas, pray for us.

Sermon.

What does your child think of when he or she sees a store-front Santa? Do they think of what they want to get? Or are they reminded of Jesus' sacrificial love and the many ways Christ calls us to serve and give? Maybe this Christmas we can begin to rightly remember the Christian witness of a man named Nicholas.



CDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Please come, all are welcome! Christian Day School Christmas Program **Monday, December 10, at 6:30 P.M. in the Nave.** Music! St. Nicholas! Refreshments! Also, please bring dry goods or monetary gifts for a family in need the CDS is sponsoring.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH!

We will be baking and decorating cookies on Friday evening, December 14, in the undercroft kitchen, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Cookie plates will be packaged on Saturday morning, December 15, 9:00



FUND RAISING EVENT!

A.M. to 12:00 Noon, and made available to the congregation after the 5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

service that evening and after the Sunday worship services on the 16th. Free-will donations will be accepted.

Senior High reminder: The "Zone" Retreat in Cincinnati is the weekend of March 7-9, 2008. Any Senior High youth that would like to attend should see Becky or Tom Sarbach. A \$35.00 registration fee is due by January 15, 2008.

Junior High reminder: your retreat is the weekend of February 15-17, 2008. It's not too late to register if you haven't already. Contact Trish Volz if you are still interested.

-Annette Doklovic

CALLING ALL COOKIE EATERS!

YOUTH FUND RAISER BAKE SALE DECEMBER 15 & 16...

Once again the youth will be baking and packaging plates of Christmas cookies which will be available at all services the weekend of **December 15 & 16** for a free-will donation.

This is a fund raiser for the youth to raise money for upcoming Youth Encounters, retreats and mission projects. We have many exciting faith-filled events planned for the youth, but they need to raise the money to help get them there. With the gracious support of our congregation, we will be able to send anyone wishing to go.



Come and pick up some cookies for yourself or your loved ones and support our youth. Questions, contact Tricia Volz at 419-884-3273.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 16..

Interested in spreading a little Christmas cheer? Come join in our annual Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 16. We'll have a light lunch at 12:30 prepared by Alicia Keultjes, and then proceed on to carol at 1:15 to church members at their individual homes and to care centers.

Parents, children, and grandparents are all welcome! Song books and route maps are provided; bring warm outer clothing and your Christmas joy to share. **Sign-up using the pew pad question in the December 2 and 9 bulletins.**

If you have any questions or know of anyone who might enjoy a caroling visit, please contact Angie Kaschube at 419-571-1734.

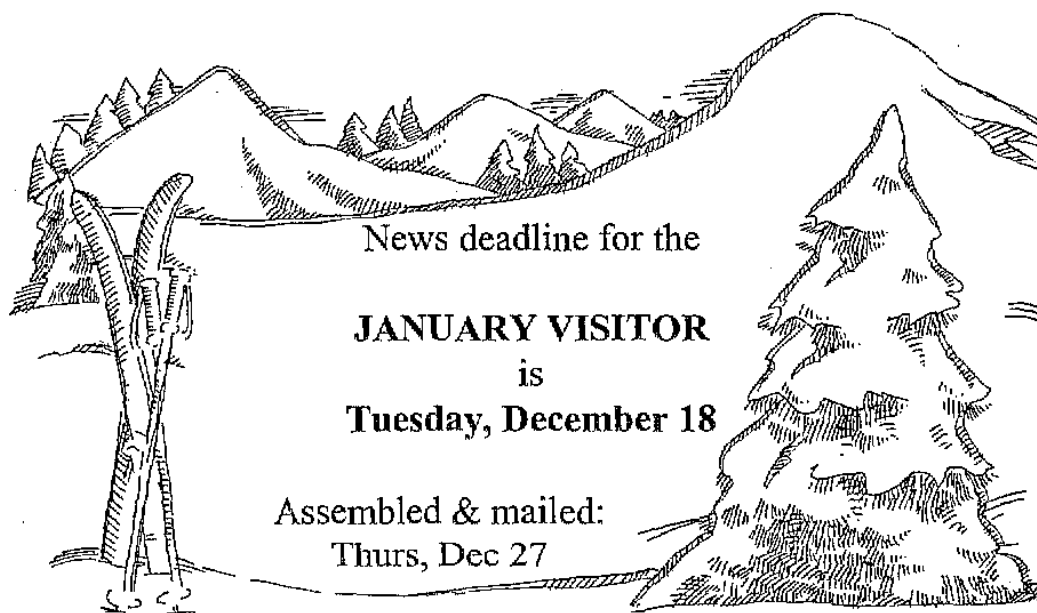
LUTHER FELLOWSHIP, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 . . .

The Luther Fellowship group will meet on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, in the Emmaus Room at 11:30 A.M. Lunch cost is \$5.00.



Our very own Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts, will be with us to spread Christmas cheer.

Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin boards; please include your phone number. Questions? Call Carolyn or Lowell Weeks at 419-756-1776.



News deadline for the
JANUARY VISITOR
is
Tuesday, December 18

Assembled & mailed:
Thurs, Dec 27



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, December 18

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

Thursday, December 20

9:30 A.M. Alterra Sterling House

ADVENT COMMUNION WORSHIP FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21 . . .

An Advent Communion service will be held in our Chapel at 12:30 P.M. on Friday, December 21. Everyone is encouraged to worship at this meaningful service in Advent as we anticipate the birth of our Savior!



The Friendly Friday Group will attend this service when they meet on Friday, December 21.

CHRISTMAS EVE BROADCAST

BULLETINS AVAILABLE

The 11:00 P.M. Christmas Eve service will be broadcast on **WMAN-AM Radio 1400**. If you are unable to attend church that evening and would like a copy of the worship bulletin to follow along with the broadcast, please call the church office, 419-522-0662, by Thursday, December 20, so we can get one mailed in time for you to receive it before Christmas Eve.

The bulletin for the service contains the complete texts of the liturgy and congregational carols to make it easy to follow along with the broadcast. Broadcast time is 10:30 P.M. to 12:15 A.M.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 24

- 7:00 p.m. Family Service of
Lessons and Carols
- 10:30 p.m. Music for the Holy Night
- 11:00 p.m. Festival Carol Eucharist

Radio broadcast begins at 10:30 p.m.
on WMAN - 1400 AM



THE FIRST SUNDAY

OF CHRISTMAS

Service of Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 29

5:00 pm Worship - Chapel

Sunday, December 30

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Proclaim! Contemporary

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Saturday, January 5, 2008

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion - Chapel

Sunday, January 6, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 11:00 a.m. Proclaim! Contemporary

OFFICES CLOSED

The church offices will be closed on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, and Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25. The Christian Day School will be closed December 24 through January 1.

DECEMBER 2007 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
EVE	NO MEETING			
PACK CHRISTMAS COOKIES	1	SATURDAY	9:00 A.M.	Undercroft kitchen.
SARAH	3	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room. Program: CDS children. Hostess: Jeanne Hillman.
LYDIA	3	MONDAY	6:00 P.M.	Dinner at Buckhorn Inn Bed & Breakfast, 8864 Ross Rd Lexington Program: Kay McNaul
FIRST TUESDAY	4	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room. Program: Scott Schaut, Director and Curator of Mansfield Memorial Museum will speak on the upcoming Bicentennial Celebration.
WORKDAY LADIES	5	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
ADVENT EVENT	5	WEDNESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Undercroft. Silent Auction, -- Program by Sue Kochheiser & friends of Creative Home Concepts & Gifts. Items from Lutheran World Relief.
MARY	14	FRIDAY	9:30 A.M.	Emmaus Room. Program: Thoughts of Christmas. Bring a plate of Christmas cookies.
PLANNING MEETING	17	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room

Funeral Dinners: Squad B, Jackie Moxley

Altar Workers: Nave – Beth Harruff & Jan Shenberger, Chapel – Cheryl Lantz, Contemporary – Jan Fisher

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE PROJECT . . .



Would you believe we have been "filling coffee (and justice) to the brim" here at First English for more than four years? Yes, we have been selling Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and cocoa for that long! And we have sold a sizeable amount in that time. We should be very proud that we do such a great job of supporting the LWR coffee project! We have helped many coffee farmers earn their living, and frankly the coffee is superior in quality and may cost a mere \$1.00 to \$1.50 more than the brand you buy at Kroger's or Meijer.

A new shipment of coffee and tea has just arrived! Think about these products as a hostess gift or a thank you gift for someone at Christmas. It is a welcome treat to enjoy some of those gourmet flavors.

- The WELCA Coffee Ladies, Jan Fisher and Cheryl Lantz



DECEMBER NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Our theme this month is Advent and Jesus' Birth; Luke 2:1-20, The Christmas Story. Our growth areas will be love, peace, joy, thankfulness, and prayerfulness.

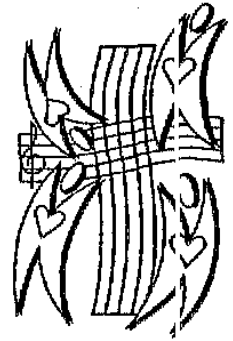
Our Christmas program is on Monday, December 10, at 6:30 P.M. Please come and hear the Christmas story as told by the day school children.

A big thank you to all of our church family who helped with the day school Thanksgiving Feast! Thank you!! Have a blessed Christmas.

- Cheryl Lantz, CDS Director

COORDINATOR OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS . . .

It was wonderful to hear the bells ringing again here at FELC! Cindy Russell, Pat Smith and Barb Hannemann added such beautiful music to the *40 Days of Purpose* Celebration service on November 4. Thanks to Dr. Guenther and the Senior Choir for giving us the opportunity to accompany their anthem.



I appreciated all of the helping hands from our Sunday School teachers on Veterans Day. The cards and flag treats that were made by our children were super. A special "thank you" to Marianne Sweat for setting up the table in the Narthex and leading the kids in honoring our veterans.

Dana and Alissa Ruth-THANK YOU! for lifting up your voices together and praising God. It was a blessing to hear the mother-daughter duet!

Please contact me at zacandbecky@earthlink.net or call 419-529-486 if YOU have a talent you would like to share here at FELC.

- Becky Pittman

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH LIVE-IN SECURITY POSITION

The congregation is looking for a person or couple (non-smokers) who can provide live-in security for our downtown church buildings. The position would include living in the two-bedroom apartment located on the 4th floor of Luther Hall. Persons who are interested should contact the Chairperson of Personnel, Sherry Winbigler (419-526-3795) or Gene Harsch (419-774-0247).

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

Greeters

Lay Readers

Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

Roscoe Thompson, III, Worship Chair

419-522-7571

Communion Preparers

Communion Assistants

Sound Booth Operators

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247

Ushers

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

Children's Church Leaders

Chris Cichanowicz,

Sunday School Superintendent

419-529-6593

Nursery Helpers

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304

Pew Pad Gleaners

Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090

8:00 am Sunday Prayer Partners

Barb Hill, 419-756-4998

Blood Pressure Nurses

Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion Preparers

Proclaim! Communion Assistants

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

Dec 1	Elva Bonser	Dec 22	Elva Bonser
Dec 8	Marian Owen	Dec 29	Marian Owen
Dec 15	Joci Kirst		

GREETERS

Ken & Vi Deems
Lois McCullough

8:30 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance

USHERS

Paul Theaker
Steve Ritz
Mike Anderson

8:30 A.M.

GREETERS

Susie LeMunyon
Shelley Shupp

11:00 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance

USHERS

Jeff Davis
Annette Doklovic
Tom Hillman
Gary Simmons

11:00 A.M.

GREETERS

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec 24, 7:00 pm: Steve Ritz family
Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec 24, 11:00 pm: Greg & Linda Hughes

8:00 A.M. SUNDAY PASTORS PRAYER PARTNERS TEAMS

Dec 2	Lowell Weeks, Chris Cichanowicz	Dec 23	Ken & Karen Frayer, Mary Schwartz
Dec 9	Jim Scheiber, Ken & Karen Frayer	Dec 30	Jim Scheiber, Jerry Gallagher
Dec 16	Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz		

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Dec 2	Chris Kaschube	Dec 23	Greg Hughes
Dec 9	Bob McCready	Dec 30	Stan Cichanowicz
Dec 16	<i>(SCS Christmas program)</i>		

LITURGISTS (Worship Leaders)

Lessons and Carols

Dec 29: 5:00 pm Chapel: Mike Hill, III
Dec 30: 8:30 am Nave: Chris Kaschube
11:00 am Nave: Stan Cichanowicz
11:00 Proclaim!: Becky Pittman

ACOLYTES, CRUCIFERS, TORCHBEARERS

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

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Dec 2	A Trayce Prather	A Alissa Ruth C Chelsea Heidlebaugh
Dec 9	A Kate Hogsette	A Erin Blankenship
Dec 16	(SCS Program at 11:00)	A TBA
Dec 23	Casey Kelley	A Elizabeth Volz
Dec 30	Sarah Ward	A Haley Pittman

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, <u>7:00 pm</u>	A TBA
Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, <u>11:00 pm</u>	A Erin Blankenship C Bryan Eyerly T Sara Hannemann T Alissa Ruth

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

Dec 1	Kay McNaul	Dec 22	Jean Ridenour
Dec 8	Jean Ridenour	Dec 29	Kay McNaul & Jean Ridenour
Dec 15	Kay McNaul		

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>	
	Dec 2	Mary Hujus	Dan Shupp
	Dec 9	Liz Prather	Stacey Crall
	Dec 16	Sherry Winbigler	(SCS Christmas Program)
	Dec 23	Juanita Baker	Chris Kaschube
Lessons and Carols	Dec 30	1 Amy Skropits	1 Chris Cichanowicz
		2 Karyne Carey	2 Carol Pierce
		3 Mary Hujus	3 Shirley Lane

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec 24, 7:00 pm: Pat Reed, Mary Hujus, and Annette Doklovic
Christmas Eve, Monday Dec 24, 11:00 pm: Bill Schulz

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Dec 2 11:00 am Jim & Lolita Scheiber
Dec 9 8:30 am TBA

Christmas Eve Dec 24 11:00 pm Wes & Sandie Volz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>Dec 2 - 11:00 am</u>	<u>Dec 9 - 8:30 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West	Jane Sprang	Jane Starner
Cups West	Gene Calver	Jerry Gallagher
Wine East	Lana Dunham	Paul Theaker
Cups East	Bob McCready	Margaret Runyon
Intinction	Beth Harruff	Sherry Winbigler

Christmas Eve

(continuous communion)

December 24 - 11:00 pm

Front stations

Bread Servers	2 pastors
Wine West	Gene Harsch
Cups West	Gene Calver
Wine East	Mary Schwartz
Cups East	Bill Schwartz
Intinction	Marianne Sweat

Back station

Bread Server	TBA
Wine West	TBA
Cups West	TBA
Wine East	TBA
Cups East	TBA

11:00 NURSERY HELPERS

Dec 2	Marianne Sweat	Dec 23	TBA
Dec 9	Jo Wirstrom	Dec 30	Mary Shaffer
Dec 16	TBA		

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:30 am</u>
Dec 2	Keultjes	Hujus
Dec 9	Russell	Hillman
Dec 16	Schwartz	Guenther
Dec 23	W. Volz	Mumaw
Dec 30	Cichanowicz	Hujus

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec 24: 6:15 - 7:15 pm Guenther
9:45 - 11:10 pm Hujus

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Christian Education/Youth

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

December 2: Barb Hill

8:30 POWER POINT OPERATORS

Dec 2	Paul Ward	Dec 23	Paul Ward
Dec 9	Tom Sarbach	Dec 30	Tom Sarbach
Dec 16	Gordon Moxley		

PEW PAD GLEANERS

Dec 2	Marilyn Dinges	Dec 23	Gene Luedy
Dec 9	Gene Luedy	Dec 30	Gene Luedy
Dec 16	Marilyn Motson		

DECEMBER ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Devera Ritz
Proclaim!: Jan Fisher
Chapel: Cheryl Lantz

+ + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

Dec 2 Ted & Karen Ellis
Dec 9 Cheryl Lantz and Tiffany Thompson
Dec 16 *(combined 11:00 in the Nave for SCS Christmas program)*
Dec 23 Jerry & Lu Diday
Dec 30 Renee and Emily Blankenship

Communion Preparer

Dec 23 Cheryl Lantz

Communion Assistants

Dec 23 Cheryl Lantz and Tiffany Thompson
Tricia and Elizabeth Volz

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson





NOVEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

Matt Blankenship called the Tuesday, November 13, 2007 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church

Congregation Council to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Jones opened the meeting with prayer.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson expressed appreciation to everyone who worked hard to make our "40 Days of Purpose" such a success, with over 200 people participating. Chris and Angie Kaschube, Ken and Karen Frayer, Kay and Terry Leedy, Renee Ward, Nancy Pasheilich, Tim Guenther, Becky Pittman were all recognized for their efforts with the campaign and the November 4 Celebration Sunday worship service and meal. There will be sign-up sheets for small groups available November 17 and 18, 24 and 25 and December 1 and 2.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones stated that, as of Sunday, November 11, \$6,473 has been received in the Malawi Mini-Bus Fund. Confirmation classes began November 11 with three 8th graders and five 7th graders. Council approved donating the Thanksgiving Eve offering to the Malawi Mini-Bus Fund. Pastor Jones stated there were a number of participants in the "Christians and Concerned Citizens for a Drug Free Richland County" community march which is just the beginning of the campaign.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tim Guenther thanked everyone for their cooperation for the November 4th "40 Days of Purpose" combined worship service.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Annual Budget meeting was set for Sunday, January 27, 2008, 9:45 A.M. Efforts will be made to enable Sunday School teachers to attend the meeting.

The Council/Staff Christmas party will be held in the Emmaus Room on Friday, January 11, 2008, 6:00 P.M.

SERVICE MINISTRY: Becky Sarbach said the committee is focusing on an Adopt-A-Family for a Christmas project. Donations of items and money have been coming in for the "Support the Troops" project.

STEWARDSHIP: Renee Ward invited feedback about the Ministry Fair. Discussion included the need for Time and Talent Sheet sign up since it appears many people did not understand the Ministry Fair was in place of the Time and Talent Sheets.

WELCA: Cheryl Lantz reported 50 prayer shawls have been distributed.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits said Finance Committee is working on the 2008 budget, and that the finances of the church are in good shape for this point in the year.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz reported that Purdy Construction repaired the Luther Hall parking lot drain. Guenther Mechanical installed a new heating/air conditioning unit in the Chapel. The Luther Hall roof project will be done in the future. A price for cleaning or replacing the sanctuary pew cushions will be obtained. Tom Pasheilich has information that to renovate the penthouse, including the roof, will cost \$61,180. Bill Schwartz will handle sidewalk snow

removal during the week days and weekends. Shawn expressed appreciation to Tom Pasheilich for the good job he is doing as property manager.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Nancy Pasheilich thanked Gene Harsch and Bill Schulz for planting 175 daffodil bulbs at the Blackfork Retreat Center to commemorate the 175th anniversary of our congregation. One hundred sixty people were served at the November 4th "40 Days of Purpose" celebration meal. Christmas caroling will be held Sunday, December 16, following a lunch prepared by Alicia Keultjes. Angie Kaschube and her small group will schedule the routes for carolers.

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman reported that Sihar Gurning will be married January 4, 2008. Shadreck Chikoti's wife, Yamikani had a miscarriage, which is a great disappointment to them.

WORSHIP: Roscoe Thompson reported he had many people sign up during the Ministry Fair for his committee's work, including new volunteers as well as those who wish to continue their volunteer work. There is an interest in a Youth Worship leadership team which will start practicing following the Sunday Proclaim worship services.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz said \$14,500 was collected in the CROP Walk, with 25% going to local charities. Council approved the Junior High Sunday School class to sell hot chocolate in mugs or in packets to help them earn \$500 which will be given to the ELCA to purchase a cow for an impoverished Third World family. The Senior

High School Sunday School class is continuing to meet on Sunday nights as a youth group under the leadership of Tom and Becky Sarbach. Anyone teaching or working with our youth who has not already had a police background check needs to contact Chris Cichanowicz for the policy procedures to have this completed. Many thanks to Angie Kaschube and her sister, Dana Graham, for finishing the wrap-around Noah's ark mural in the preschool Sunday School classroom.

YOUTH: Annette Doklovic reported that guidelines for the "Hire a Youth" fundraiser are being drawn up. The Steam Engine show fundraiser was successful, and appreciation was expressed for congregational support during the "impromptu" lunch on a following Sunday. Three new volunteers were signed up during the Ministry Fair. Some items have been donated from the "wish list": a new DVD player, ping pong table and a TV set. The youth will bake cookies December 14 and 15 which will be available at worship services December 15 and 16. The "40 Days of Purpose" meetings for youth were well attended, and the group is continuing to meet from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. Sunday evenings. Parents will be asked to take turns providing dinners for the youth. Eecky Sarbach is working on details for the Senior High Youth Mission trip during late June 2008.

PERSONNEL: Sherry Winbigler presented information of the possibility of getting into group coverage under Workers Compensation.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. with prayer by Pastor Jones.

—Mary M. Schwartz,
Congregation Council Secretary

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Please continue to place your care package items in the two bins located in the Narthex and the undercroft. You're also welcome to assemble your own complete care package and we will ship it for you.

Shipping of these packages costs \$8.95 each for priority mail. If you would like to help with the shipping costs, please place your donation in an envelope marked with "Support Our Troops," your envelope number and the amount, and place it in the offering plate or turn it in at the office.
- Kay Leedy, coordinator, 419-884-0405

CARE PACKAGE SUGGESTIONS: there is a complete list of suggested items at the donation bins.

Food Items:

Beef jerky, dried fruit, trail mix, sunflower seeds

Granola bars, Protein bars, Breakfast bars, etc

Cookies (not homemade) - Individual packs good also for when out in the field

Toiletries:

Toothpaste, new brushes, floss

BABY WIPES – THIS IS A BIG NEED (small packages best – they fit in their pockets)

Small bottles of hand sanitizer (they carry this every day in the field to keep from getting ill)

Single packs of Kleenex, Chapstick, sunscreen

Personal Items:

Socks, white, crew length (higher the better)

Bug spray with high DEET level

Moisturizing eye drops

Shaving cream gel (check bottom of can ... cannot have small button)

Gillette or Schick three-blade disposable razors (most used)

Dr. Scholl's (Memory foam WORK insoles)





MALAWI

ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES



ZIKOMO KWAM BIRI!!! Thank you very much to all who donated to the gift of a minibus and to those who continue to donate to the ongoing orphan ministry in Malawi. They are donations that are changing the lives of God's children and according to Shadreck, giving them hope for the future.

The Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries was very happy that we were able to send money to them in September. When they received the money, they had 1 ½ bags of maize and 2 bags of beans left. Since they had so little food, they had stopped the nursery school program and were feeding the children only on Saturdays. With the money that they received, they were able to purchase more food for the children as well as start an HIV/AIDS program. As Shadreck wrote, "Once again, this just proves God's faithfulness to us."

He also wrote, "We established HIV/AIDS youth clubs and we have asked the two nursery school teachers to be coordinators for the HIV program. We have registered about 40 young people who are part of the youth clubs. The youth are very excited to be in these groups. They are doing drama, poetry and all entertaining things. What we are looking for right now are Christian materials for this program."

Our advent coin folder offerings this year will go to help this new HIV/AIDS program. It will also help their other ongoing programs such as the nursery school program, the feeding program, and continue to pay tuition for some of the orphans' high school education. In Malawi, December and January are the months for planting the new crops. This money may also be used to purchase seed for the caregivers and the orphan project's garden. Please give as you are able, the people of Kanyenyeva are very thankful for all that you give.

Very sadly, I write that Yamilani, Shadreck's wife, had a miscarriage. Words cannot describe the sadness that they feel at the loss of their baby. She is back to work after taking a few weeks off, but the sadness remains. Please pray for Yam. and Shadreck at the loss of their baby.

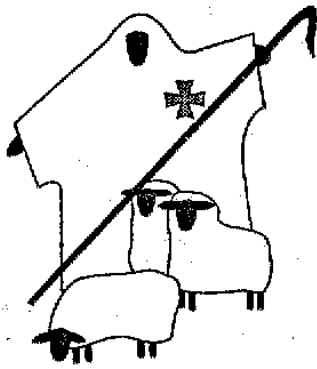
Other prayer requests:

-a successful planting of the seeds and a successful growing season.

-for the children to make choices that will promote a healthy life.

-for others in the community to see the love of God in this orphan project and come to know Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives.

- Joy Jones



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

Many thanks to all those who participated as walkers or contributors in this year's CROP WALK. Special thanks also to Barb Hannemann whose help made it possible to receive an additional \$363 from the Ashland-Richland Chapter #30786 of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. With Thrivent's contribution, our grand total amounted to \$1,453. Out of 18 participating churches, First English placed second in contributions. Great

Job!! God bless you for caring.

- Chris Cichanowicz, CROP Walk coordinator

Many thanks to Bill Schulz and Gene Harsch for planting the 175 daffodil bulbs at the Blackfork Retreat Center. The bulbs were planted in the shape of a cross as part of our 175th Anniversary Celebration. We look forward to their blooming in the spring!

- Nancy Pasheilich, Congregational Life Chair

From Pastor Cloyd & Alice Kress: "We wish to thank the congregation for the many cards and expressions of sympathy following the death of Cloyd's sister, Leota Abner, on October 19. They were much appreciated."

Many thanks to all of you - from the third through fifth grade Sunday School Classes to multiple small groups - who gave your time and used your hands to help with the *40 Days of Purpose* Celebration Meal on November 4. Your efforts are much appreciated. Thank you for your willingness to serve this congregation. -Nancy Pasheilich, Congregational Life

Thank you to all those who contributed their time and talents to make this year's *Anderson Lecture Series* a success. This includes the members of the Anderson Committee, Helen Anderson, Dr. Tim & Betty Guenther, our Pastor's, Shirley Lane for decorations, Ray Ellison and the clean up crew, and of course all those who attended this year's lecture by Dr. Paul Westermeyer. Excellence in theology and the arts...the Anderson Lecture Series vision!

-Terry Leedy, Anderson Committee Chair

From Mildred Them: "Dear friends, Sending a big thank you for allowing my family to use the Emmaus Room for the surprise 90th birthday for me. I was so surprised and in shock that so many relatives, friends and family came to surprise me. I'm grateful to all that came. Please thank the ladies that took care of them. Thank you again as I feel really blessed."

(continued)

From Weldon Lemon: "Thanks for signing the paper for my illness."

From Ernie & Donna Urban: "Once again we wish to thank the fine people of FELC for their out-of-the-ordinary caring. Thanks for the cards and posters. The cards from the children are always a lift. A special thank you to Margaret Battisti for the great food she brought us. It was a wonderful surprise when Jan Fisher came and brought us each a prayer shawl. Thanks to Jan and all the knitters of the much-appreciated Prayer Shawl Ministry. Also, our continuing thanks to the Prayer Chain whose devotion is a blessing to everyone."

From Harmony House: "Thank you for your donation to Harmony House. We appreciate your support for the homeless men, women and children in our community. You help make our world a brighter place!"
Vicki Kane, Executive Director

From Catholic Charities: "Thank you for your donation of food to Catholic Charities enabling us to assist the less fortunate of Richland County. We really appreciate your efforts to continue to supply food for our pantry, as the need continues to grow in our community."
- Rebecca Owens, Site Manager, Mansfield Office

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2008

Altar flower sponsors are not yet assigned for the following dates in 2008. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call the church office, 419-522-0662, to reserve date. Cost per week is \$35.

January

6, 13, 20, 27

June

1, 8, 29

October

5, 12, 19, 26

March

23 (Easter), 30

July

13, 20, 27

November

2, 16

April

6, 13, 20

August

24

December

7, 14, 21, 28

May

4, 25

September

7, 14, 21, 28



DECEMBER 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Warm greetings to our members who will be 80+ years old this month! We extend our best wishes to each of them, and honor them for their faithfulness through the years. God grant His blessing on each of them and fill their hearts with joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

DECEMBER

3	Mrs. Mabel Wolf	682 Katherine Ave., Unit A, Ashland, OH	44805
3	Mrs. Ruth Schmunk	1355 Beechdale Dr.	44907-2801
4	Mr. Robert Bottomley	1211 W. Cook Rd.	44906-3570
4	Mr. Nick Angle	1066 Lexwood Rd.	44907-2920
7	Dr. Betty Reed	PO Box 367, Butler, OH	44822-0367
10	Mr. Edward Holder	1159 Wyandotte Ave., #206	44906-1940
14	Mr. Paul Conrad	1081 Burkwood Rd.	44907-2411
18	Mr. Edward Hoover	2004 Osbun Road, #1	44903-5760
19	Mr. William Zacharias	107 Redwood Rd.	44907-2453
24	Mrs. Virginia Horvath	455 Logan Rd., Apt. 25	44907-2874
25	Mrs. Marjorie Huffman	5 Aspen Drive, #205 South Burlington, VT	05403-6267
29	Mr. Henry MacDonald	328 Muth Rd.	44903-1922

Editor's note: if you DO NOT WANT your 80+ birthday published in The Visitor in 2008, please let the church office know, 419-522-0662.



We remember the families and friends of those who died October 20 - November 16, 2007:

Carl Good	October 29
<i>(brother of Dorothy Stallsmith)</i>	
Elizabeth Holder	November 1
Doris Bridges	November 3
Dr. Barbara Reed	November 9
Albert Noletti	November 11
<i>(brother-in-law of Wilda Soka)</i>	
Judy Estep	November 13
<i>(friend of Katherine Coon)</i>	
Wilma Elizabeth McPeck	November 13
<i>(great-aunt of Larry Lantz)</i>	

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

Funerals:	November 6, 2007 (graveside)	Elizabeth Holder
	November 7, 2007	Doris Bridges
Memorial services:	November 10, 2007 (Columbus)	Carl Good
	November 15, 2007 Bellville Snyder Funeral Home, The Rev. John Guliano, officiating.	Dr. Barbara Reed

FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...



Christmas Past, Present and Future

– Matthew 2:11

In a famous Christmas story by Charles Dickens, Scrooge is given visions of Christmas past, Christmas present, and Christmas future. Let us follow this guideline in looking at Christmas in our lives.

First, let us examine Christmas past. Originally, it was considered a pagan custom to celebrate the birth of a person. In fact, early Christians felt a person's "death-day," when they entered into eternal life, was much more important than his "birth-day." Over the first three centuries, Christ's birth was not considered important. Christians celebrated Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection. About 350 AD, the Bishop of Rome established December 25 as Jesus' Day of Birth. Once Christmas became an established festival, it rapidly became a magnet drawing to it many pagan customs and practices. With the rise of Puritanism in the 17th century in England, objections were raised against the excesses in the yuletide celebration. When the Puritans reached America, they continued to shun the celebration of Christ's birth. The celebration of Christmas was suppressed in England and in the early American Colonies because they held Christ in such high esteem that they would rather not celebrate his birth than to observe it in a way that would dishonor him.

As we examine Christmas present, worshiping in honor and gratitude to the Saviour is the meaning of Christmas. How does that translate into 2007?

Ursula had just arrived in New York City from Switzerland to live in an American home and to perfect her English. In return, she was willing to act as a secretary, to mind the grandchildren, and to do anything she was asked. One task her employer gave her was to keep track of the Christmas presents as they arrived. There were many, and all would require acknowledgment.

Ursula was grateful to her American friends, and she wanted to show her gratitude by purchasing a gift. There was nothing she could buy from her small allowance that could compare with the gifts she was recording daily. Besides, it seemed like her employer already had everything. In the solitude of her little room a few days later, her secret idea came. It was almost as though a voice spoke clearly inside her head. "It's true that many people in this city have much more than you. But surely there are many who have far less. If you will think about this, you may find a solution to what's bothering you."

Ursula thought long and hard. Finally, on her day off, which was Christmas Eve, she went to a large department store, bought something, and had it wrapped in gaily colored paper. As she went out into the street, she went to a doorman and inquired, "Can you tell me where to find a poor street?" "A poor street, Miss?" said the puzzled man. "Yes, a very poor street, the poorest in the City." The doorman looked doubtful. "Well, you might try Harlem...or down in the Village...or the lower East Side." But these names meant nothing to Ursula. She thanked him and walked along until she came to a tall policeman. "Please, can you direct me to a very poor street...in Harlem?" The policeman

looked at her and shook his head. "Harlem's no place for you, Miss." Then he blew his whistle and sent the traffic swirling past.

Ursula continued to walk. If a street looked poorer than the one she was on, she took it. Darkness began to fall. Ursula was cold and discouraged and afraid of becoming lost.

Through the traffic's roar, she heard the cheerful tinkle of a bell. On the corner opposite to where she was standing, a Salvation Army person was making his traditional Christmas appeal. At once Ursula felt better. The Salvation Army was part of the life in Switzerland, too. Surely, this man could tell her what she wanted to know. When the light changed, she crossed over to him. "Can you help me? I'm looking for a baby. I have here a present for the poorest baby I can find." She held up the package with the green ribbon and the gaily colored paper. The man's overcoat and gloves seemed a size too large, but his eyes were kind. He looked at Ursula and stopped ringing his bell. "What sort of present?" he asked. "A little dress. For a small, poor baby. Do you know of one?" "Oh, yes," he said, "more than one, I'm afraid." "Is it far away?" she continued, "I could take a taxi, maybe?" "If you want to wait, and if you can afford a dollar taxi ride, I'll take you to a family in my own neighborhood who needs just about everything." "And they have a small baby?" "A very small baby." "Then," said Ursula joyfully, "I'll wait!"

When the substitute bell ringer arrived, they entered a taxi and began their journey. Ursula told her new friend about herself, how she came to be in New York City, and what she was trying to do. He listened in silence, and the taxi driver listened, too. When they reached their destination, the taxi driver said, "Take your time, Miss. I'll wait for you." Ursula stared up at the forbidding tenement, dark and decaying.

She shuddered. "They live on the third floor," the Salvation Army man said. "Shall we go up?" Ursula shook her head. "They would try to thank me, and this is not from me." She pressed the package into his hand. "Take it up for me, please. Say it's from...from someone who has everything."

The taxi took her swiftly from the dark streets to lighted ones, from misery to abundance. Arriving at the apartment house on Fifth Avenue where she lived, she fumbled in her purse. But the driver flicked up the flag. "No charge, Miss." "No charge?" Ursula echoed bewildered. "Don't worry," the driver said. "I've been paid." He smiled at her as he drove off.

The next morning was Christmas. Ursula was up early and set the table with care. By the time she had finished, the family was awake and there was the excitement and laughter of Christmas morning. Soon the living room was a sea of gay discarded wrappings. Ursula thanked everyone for the presents she received. Finally, when there was a lull, she began to explain why there seemed to be none from her. She told about going to the department store. She told about The Salvation Army man. She told about the taxi driver. When she finished, there was a long silence. No one seemed to trust himself or herself to speak. "So you see," said Ursula, "I try to do a kindness in your name. And this is my Christmas present to you."

But what about Christmas future? We must never limit what God can do! The future is his! None of us knows what the future may bring, yet, with Christ's Spirit within us, we need not fear.

Alice and I wish a very happy and blessed Holiday Season to all!

— Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor

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.

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

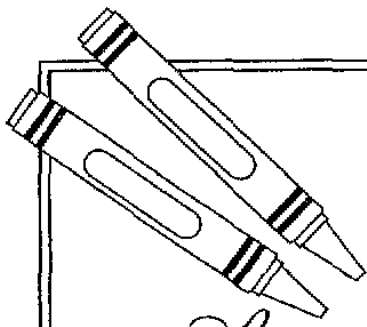
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE AND HELP OUR MISSIONS!

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 Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries, Malawi. A list of recyclables accepted is on the table in the Narthex.

– Global Mission Committee

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

REMINDER: only the UPC CODE is needed when cutting labels from boxes and soup cans from Labels for Education products.



Just for **KIDS**

The Son of the Highest

A new baby brings joy and the anticipation of what he or she will grow up to become. Jesus' birth was miraculous, but His life was prophesied and planned by God.

Unscramble the words below, matching them to their correct spelling. Then use the numbers to fill in the correct words to complete Luke 1:32-33 (NIV).

- 12. taerg he
- 8. eh Jacob
- 13. gHhi father
- 7. aDvid give
- 10. bocla great
- 3. reafth High
- 4. vieg David

- 2. noS forever
- 11. seouh end
- 5. northe Son
- 1. roevefr house
- 6. dingmok throne
- 9. den kingdom

"He will be _____ and will be called the _____

 of the Most _____. The Lord God will _____

 him the _____ of his _____

 and _____ will reign over the _____

 of _____; his _____ will

 never _____."

Luke 1:32-33, NIV

Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David 8. he 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Pastor Larson	felcplarson@neo.rr.com
Pastor Jones	felcassociate@rrbiznet.com
Timothy Guenther (home)	tguenthr@richnet.net
Becky Pittman (home)	zacandbecky@earthlink.net
Dot Blaney	felcoffice@neo.rr.com
Betty Guenther	felcbguenther@neo.rr.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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27, 2008

9:45 A.M. — Nave

- Presentation and Vote: 2008 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly
Lay Voting Members.
- Presentation and Vote: Proposed 2008 Budget.

Biographical information on our Synod Assembly candidates and the Proposed 2008 Budget will be printed in the January 2008 issue of The Visitor.

Only agenda items announced in this notice may be considered at this meeting.

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 44902-1698. Church office hours: 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday. Church phone: 419/522-0662. FAX: 419/522-0075. 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		