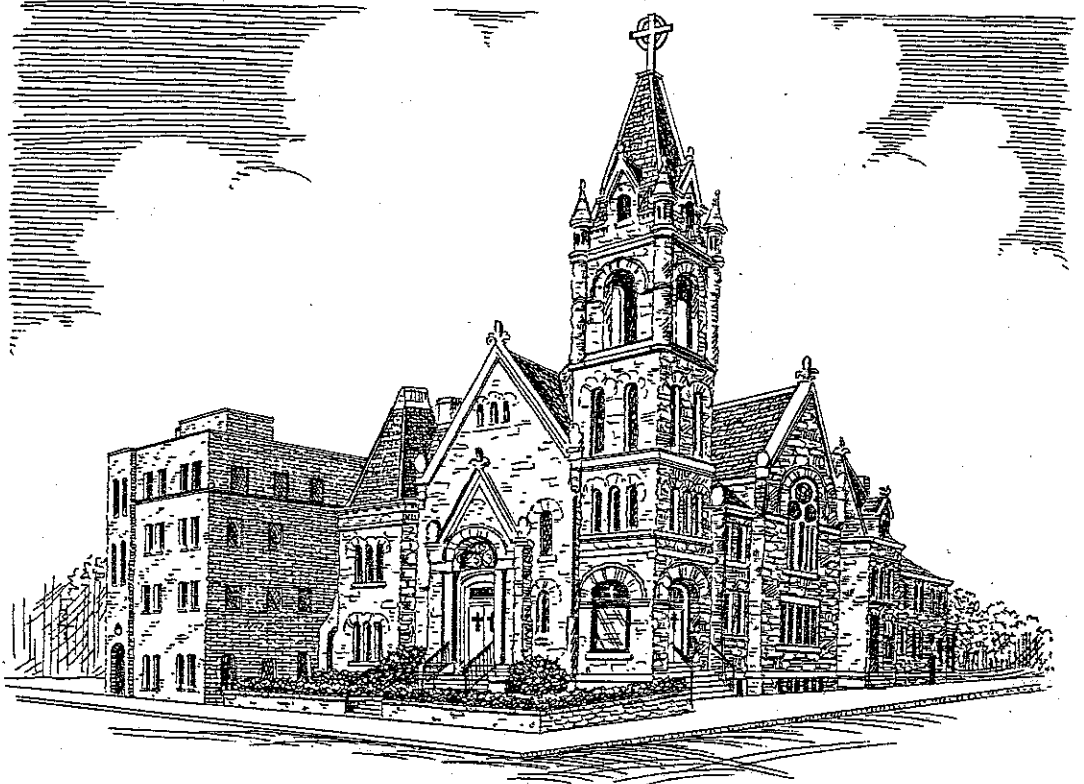


THE VISITOR

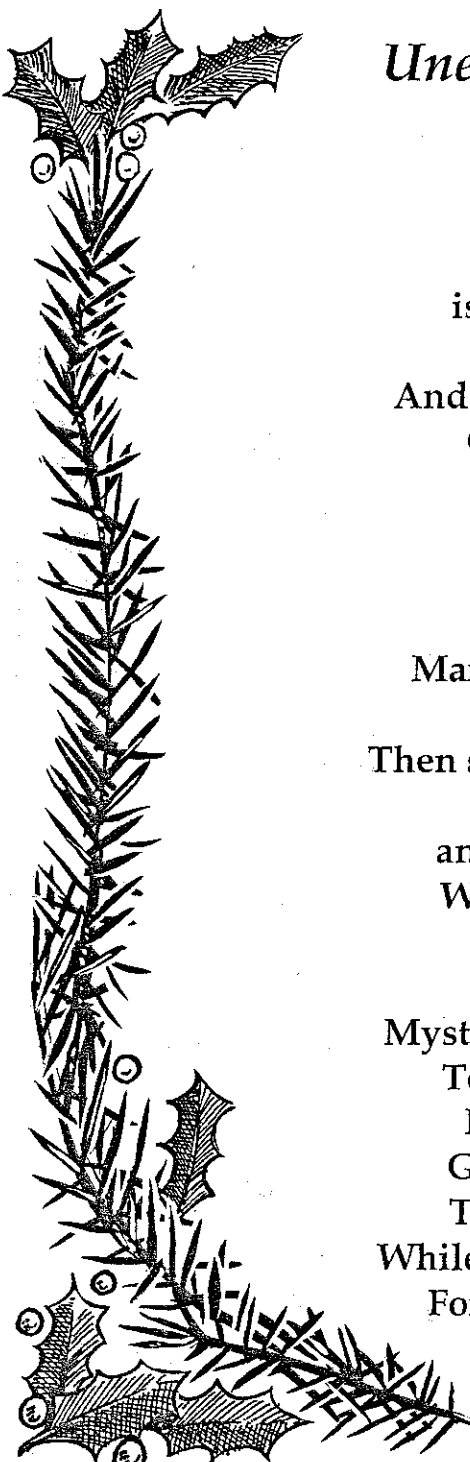


The First English Lutheran Church

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

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Unexpected and Mysterious

Unexpected and mysterious
Is the gentle word of grace.
Everloving and sustaining
is the peace of God's embrace.
If we falter in our courage
And we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us
As a mother tends her own.

In a momentary meeting
Of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry
both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God's compassion,
of Elizabeth's great joy,
and she ran to greet the woman
Who would recognize her boy.

We are called to ponder
Myst'ry and await the coming Christ,
To embody God's compassion
For each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing
To bring healing to the earth,
While we watch with joy and wonder
For the promised Savior's birth.

Jeannette M. Lindholm

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the time of Advent: the season of darkness before the Light, the weeks of waiting in hope, an opportunity to encounter the presence of God in new and surprising ways. As the above poem from Jeannette Lindholm expresses, Advent is filled with the unexpected and the mysterious. It is the story of God come amongst us when and where we would least expect Him.

Unexpected and mysterious indeed! The appointed Bible lessons for this Advent season speak of those surreal images of stars falling from the sky and the Sun gone blood-red dark. These are the great end time's prophecies when God will come again to rule all in all. With financial markets falling from their lofty highs there are plenty of voices these days speaking of economic end times. Modern doomsday prophets fill the nightly news talk shows. With the gods of Materialism, Wall Street, and Congress failing us ... people are still desperately seeking for an economic savior. But, Advent calls us to seek our True Savior. For it is precisely when and where we might least expect it ... God comes to us.

During this season, our Gospels reflect on John the Baptist, a wild man crying in the wilderness, pointing beyond himself to the promised One, the great mystery of Emmanuel, *God-With-Us*. We pause in wonder and awe to contemplate the unexpected and mysterious coming of God. In the darkness, in the cold, in a peasant village, in poverty, in a feeding trough, God comes to us. Quietly, in the night, in the completely unexpected form of a newborn babe, God comes to us.

God not only comes "to us" in this Holy Season. We are reminded that He also desires to come "through us." Lindholm writes: "*We are called to ponder Myst'ry and await the coming Christ, to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.*" It is the awesome Miracle that God not only meets us; He calls us now to be His hands, His embrace in a hurting world.

May you be Blessed in this Holy Season to experience God's Hand of Love and Compassion upon your life. And may you be Blessed to be His hands of Love and Compassion for those He would bring into your life! "For even as you have done it unto one of the least of these," says Jesus, "so you have done it unto me."

May God bless you richly this Advent season as you ponder the unexpected and mysterious ways in which God comes to you!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Paul



FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP MEETS DECEMBER 2 . . .

Join us for *First Tuesday* on December 2 in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at noon. Cost is \$2.50. Speakers are Paula Ness and Kris Kretzmann from the Y-Can organization. Everyone is welcome! Call Pat Wells, 419-756-6863, with reservations by Monday, December 1.

READ YOUR BIBLE — YOU MAY HAVE A TEXT MESSAGE.

— Library Committee

ADVENT EVENT DECEMBER 3!

This year's Advent Event is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 P.M. in the undercroft.** Have you decided what you will contribute for the Silent Auction? Homemade goodies such as cookies, candy, nut bread, etc. are always popular. Handcrafted items with a holiday theme such as wreaths, wall hangings, table runners, place mats, etc. run a close second. What a great time to find that special something for yourself or someone on your Christmas list!



Our presentation will be "Christmas Traditions in flowers and foliage" for your holiday entertainment. Come for an evening of fun, food and fellowship! And please let me know what you will donate for the auction.

— Pat Wells, 419-756-6863



MUSIC THERAPY AT FELC WITH RICHLAND NEWHOPE . . .

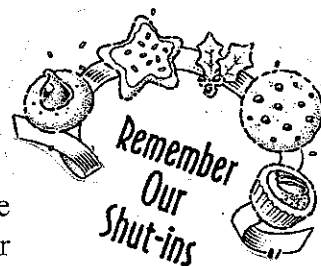
Would you like to have a new opportunity to "BE the church" right inside our own place of worship? Beginning **Thursday, December 4**, and every **Thursday, from 9:15-10:15 A.M. in the Emmaus Room**, we will welcome age 60+ individuals from Richland Newhope Industries. Becky Pittman, a Board Certified Music Therapist, will lead the one hour sessions.

YOU also are invited to this special Community Outreach program every week or simply when your schedule permits. What are the requirements if you do decide to join us? **HAVE FUN!** We will sing together, you can assist our Newhope individuals with rhythm instruments, or simply be a friend! It is an opportunity to help others feel the love of Christ through music, laughter, and relationships.

Questions? Please call Becky Pittman at 419-529-3876 or email at bpittman@felc-mansfield.org.

COOKIES FOR SHUT-INS NEEDED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 . . .

Your donation of Christmas cookies helps brighten the Christmas season for the home-bound members of our congregation who so enjoy being remembered in this way. We'll be packing Christmas cookies to deliver to our shut-in members on Saturday, December 6.



Please bring your favorite Christmas cookies (2 to 4 dozen or whatever amount you wish) to the undercroft kitchen by Friday, December 5. Clearly mark your package "Cookies for shut-ins." We ask that they be nut-free, as nuts can be problematic for some folks. The more cookies we have, the nicer the packages we can deliver.

- Karen Ellis, coordinator, 419-884-1882

SNOW-BIRDS AND ANYONE MOVING: Let us know the dates when you are going/coming back or making your move so we can keep our mailing data base up to date. The church pays 75¢ per piece if your mail is returned because we don't have an updated address for you.

DECEMBER WORSHIP

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

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER:

- Dec 7 ➔ Inter-Church Council Advent Candle Lighting exchange
 ➔ The Rev. Carl Cunfer guest pastor, 11:00 Proclaim! contemporary service
- Dec 14 ➔ A visit from Saint Nicholas, 8:30 & 11:00 services
 ➔ New Members Received
- Dec 21 ➔ Sunday School Christmas Program at 11:00 worship in the Nave
 ➔ **Proclaim! contemporary and 11:00 combined worship in the Nave**
 ➔ Christmas Caroling: 12:30 lunch; 1:15 caroling
- Christmas Eve,
- Dec 24 ➔ 7:00 pm Family Service of Lessons and Carols
 ➔ 11:00 pm Festival Eucharist
- Dec 28 ➔ Service of Lessons and Carols at 5:00 Saturday and 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
Dec 7 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator: Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,
Dec 7 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 A.M. Holy Communion service on December 14.
- 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 1 **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.
- Wednesday,
Dec 3 & 17 **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. *If you can sew patches to make quilt tops at home, contact Pat Reed at 419-756-1372.*
- 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 17; NO worship and lunch on December 24 or 31.**
- 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 19 **Friendly Friday Group**, 10:30 A.M. program in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at 11:30; games until 2:00. Rides available. Coordinator: Margaret Battisti, 419-526-4381.
- Sat/Sun
Dec 27 & 28 **Food Collection Weekend.** The October collection totaled 6 bags of groceries for The Salvation Army and \$143 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued support!



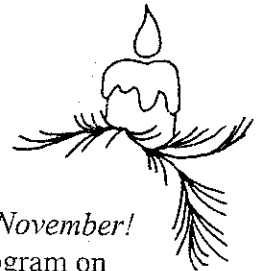
LWR FAIR TRADE FAIR
SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 7 & 14
AND AT THE ADVENT EVENT, DECEMBER 3

A *Fair Trade* Fair table will be in the Narthex on these Sundays, and in conjunction with our annual Advent Event.

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. All funds raised go back to the craftsmen; none are kept here in Mansfield. This event is sponsored by WELCA of First English.

DO YOU HAVE KEYS TO THE CHURCH? Please contact Jim Scheiber, Property Manager, 419-756-3336, or leave a note in his mail box, to let him know which keys you have so an accurate inventory can be made.

CDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8



Note: this is a change in date from the Advent Calendar mailed in November!
Please come, all are welcome! Christian Day School Christmas Program on **Monday, December 8, 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.

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 14**, 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.

2008 ADOPT-A-FAMILY . . .

This Christmas season, FELC is going to sponsor Harmony House for our "Adopt-a-Family" program. Harmony House is a local organization that provides assistance to the homeless. They are in great need of items to support those using their facilities. **Below is a donation list of much appreciated items that can be placed in the Narthex from December 14 - 28.**



- God Bless, Becky Sarbach, Service Ministry Chair

Personal Care Items

deodorant
soap
toothpaste
toothbrushes

Cleaning Supplies

bleach
Lysol
toilet paper
large trash bags

Food

Kroger gift cards
Wal-Mart gift cards
milk, meat, eggs
(perishables should be delivered
directly to Harmony House at
124 West Third Street)



Our Nursing
Home Ministry

COMMUNION SERVICES AT NURSING HOMES . . .

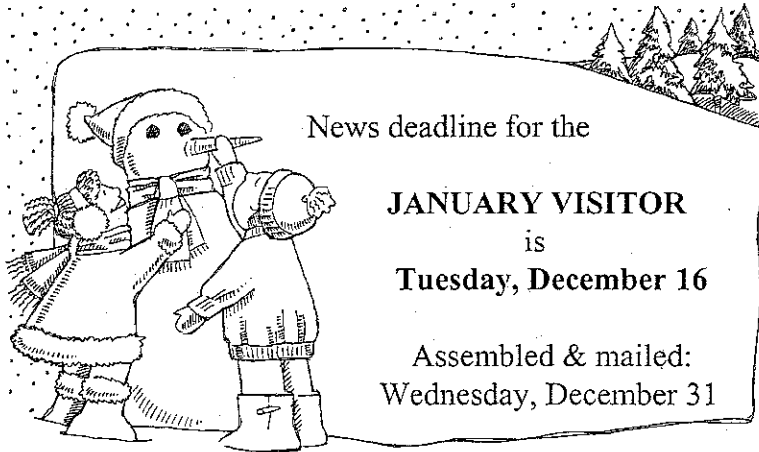
In order to provide communion for First Lutheran members who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, monthly worship services are scheduled in four locations with Communion Deacons assisting the pastors. All residents of the facilities are invited to attend, and members of First Lutheran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

Tuesday, December 16

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

Thursday, December 18

9:30 A.M. Brookdale Sterling House



News deadline for the

JANUARY VISITOR

is

Tuesday, December 16

Assembled & mailed:
Wednesday, December 31



CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 21..

Interested in spreading a little Christmas cheer? Come join in our annual Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 21! We'll have a light lunch at 12:30 and then go caroling 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 7 and 14 bulletins.**

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

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 Monday, December 22, 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.



ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPES

Our Advent offerings are designated to support Malawi Orphan Care Ministries. A designated envelope was included in the Advent Calendar of Events mailing in November.

Advent offerings may be placed in the offering plate at any worship service, or brought to the church office any time before Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24.

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2009

Altar flower sponsors are not yet assigned for the following dates in 2009. 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
11, 18, 25

June
7, 14

October
4, 11, 25

February
1, 15

July
5, 12, 19, 26

November
1, 15

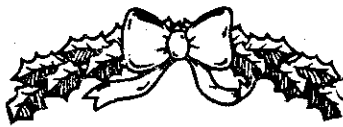
April
12 (Easter), 19

August
2, 30

December
6, 13, 20, 27

May
24, 31

September
6, 13, 20, 27



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE Wednesday, 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 27
5:00 pm Worship - Chapel

Sunday, December 28

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday Church School

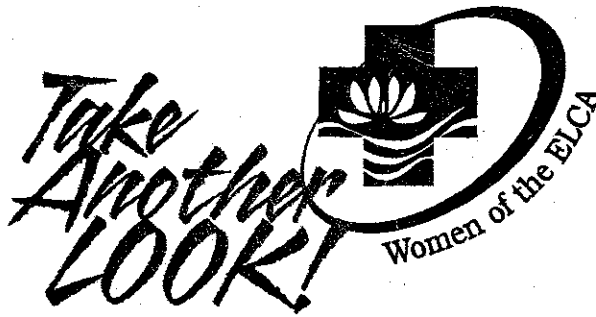
11:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Proclaim! Contemporary

Please use the **Mulberry Street entrance** for the **11 p.m. Christmas Eve** worship service on Wednesday, December 24. The lift is available at that entrance for those who find stairs difficult. The Luther Hall door will be open from 6:45-7:05 P.M. for the Christmas Eve Family service.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25**

The church offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day. The Christian Day School will be closed December 24 - January 4.



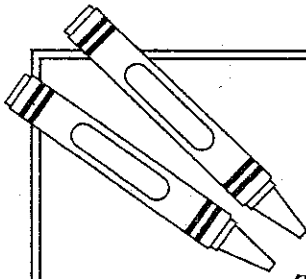
DECEMBER 2008 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
EVE	NO MEETING			
SARAH	1	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room. Program: CDS children
LYDIA	1	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	At the home of Ruth Sweval Program: TBA
FIRST TUESDAY	2	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room. Program: Y-Can Organization
WORKDAY LADIES	3 & 17	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
ADVENT EVENT	3	WEDNESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Undercroft. Silent Auction Program by Pat Wells "Holiday Traditions in flowers and fabric"
PACK CHRISTMAS COOKIES	6	SATURDAY	9:00 A.M.	Undercroft kitchen.
MARY	12	FRIDAY	10:00 A.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Thoughts of Christmas Hostess: Virginia Blizzard
PLANNING MEETING	NO MEETING			

Funeral Dinners: Squad D, Jackie Moxley & Shirley Shupp

Altar Workers: Nave – Beth Harruff & Jan Shenberger, Chapel – Bev Graham, Contemporary – Jan Fisher

SPECIAL MEETING: Advent Event December 3



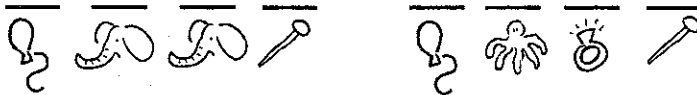
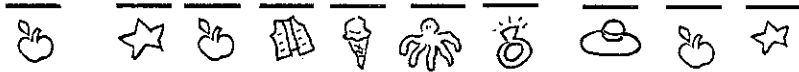
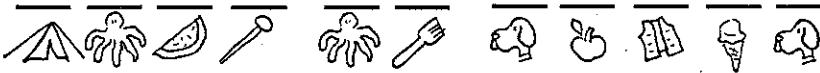
Just for KIDS

The Shepherds and the Angel

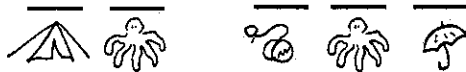
What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?
(Luke 2:11)

Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

“



”



Answer: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.



DECEMBER NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

Our Bible theme for December is: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. We will also be reading many Christmas stories this month. The children will be busy making decorations and gifts, practicing for the Christmas program, and visiting the mall to see Santa.

Our Christmas Program is on Monday, December 8, 6:30 P.M. in the Nave. *Note: this is a change in date from the Advent Calendar mailed in November!* Everyone is invited to come and hear the children sing. The Day School will be closed from December 24 through January 4. We wish everyone a blessed holiday season!

- Terry Bianchi, CDS Director

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2009

9:45 A.M. — Nave

- Presentation and Vote: 2009 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly Lay Voting Members.
- Presentation and Vote: Proposed 2009 Budget.

Biographical information on our Synod Assembly candidates and the Proposed 2009 Budget will be printed in the January 2009 issue of The Visitor.

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

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 *Carol Lauthers, 419-756-8870*. 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 Carol Lauthers 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 6	Elva Bonser	Dec 20	Joci Kirst
Dec 13	Elva Bonser	Dec 27	Joci Kirst

GREETERS 8:30 A.M.

Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon	Narthex
Jan Swartz	East Entrance

USHERS 8:30 A.M.

Bill West
Pearl West
Rob Skropits

GREETERS 11:00 A.M.

Bill & Mary Ellen Schulz	Narthex
Mary Shaffer	East Entrance

USHERS 11:00 A.M.

Eugene Calver
Greg Hughes
Pat Smith

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

Dec 7	Dec 21
Dec 14	Dec 28

PEW PAD GLEANERS

Dec 7	Gene Luedy	Dec 21	Gene Luedy
Dec 14	Vi Deems	Dec 28	Pat Smith

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Dec 7	Annette Doklovic	Dec 21	(SCS Christmas Program)
Dec 14	Stan Cichanowicz	Dec 28	Chris Kaschube

ACOLYTES, CRUCIFERS, TORCHBEARERS

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Dec 7	A Stephen Ward	A Haley Pittman
Dec 14	A Casey Kelley	A Katilyn Stransky
Dec 21	(SCS Program at 11:00)	A Lindsey Brenkus
Dec 28	A Sarah Ward	A Elizabeth Volz

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 pm A Katie Ritz

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 11:00 pm A Emily Blankenship
C Bryan Eyerly
T Sara Hannemann
T Alissa Ruth

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

Dec 6	Kay McNaul	Dec 20	Kay McNaul
Dec 13	Jean Ridenour	Dec 27	Jean Ridenour

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
	Dec 7 Sherry Winbigler	Annette Doklovic
	Dec 14 Karyne Carey	Sandie Volz
	Dec 21 Jerry Gallagher	(SCS Christmas Program)
Lessons and Carols	Dec 28 1 Sherry Winbigler	1 Carol Pierce
	2 Pat Reed	2 Shirley Lane
	3 Karyne Carey	3 Diane Molyet

Christmas Eve, Wed, Dec 24, 7:00 pm: Pat Reed, Liz Prather, Dan Shupp, Mary Hujus
Christmas Eve, Wed, Dec 24, 11:00 pm: Terry Leedy

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

December 7: Penny Ekegren

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Dec 7 11:00 am Jim & Lolita Scheiber
Dec 14 8:30 am Bill & Mary Hayes
Christmas Eve Dec 24 11:00 pm Wes & Sandie Volz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>Dec 7 - 11:00 am</u>	<u>Dec 14 - 8:30 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West	Jane Sprang	Margaret Runyon
Cups West	Don Harruff	Jerry Gallagher
Wine East	Lana Conry	Paul Theaker
Cups East	Bob McCready	Carol Fry
Intinction	Beth Harruff	Sherry Winbigler

Christmas Eve

(continuous communion)

December 24 - 11:00 pm

Front stations

Bread Servers	Pastor & Asst.
Wine West	Gene Harsch
Cups West	TBA
Wine East	Mary Schwartz
Cups East	Bill Schwartz
Intinction	Marianne Sweat

Back station

Bread Server	Pastor
Wine West	
Cups West	
Wine East	
Cups East	

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Congregational Life Committee

DECEMBER ALTAR WORKERS

Nave:	Beth Harruff and Jan Shenberger
Chapel:	Bev Graham
Proclaim!:	Jan Fisher

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:00 am</u>
Dec 7	Henry Keultjes	Tom Hillman
Dec 14	Stan Cichanowicz	Ron Rehm
Dec 21	Wes Volz	Betty Guenther
Dec 28	Cindy Russell	Jodi Mumaw

Please use the **Mulberry Street** entrance for the **11 p.m. Christmas Eve** worship service on Wednesday, December 24. The lift is available at that entrance for those who find stairs difficult. The Luther Hall door will be open from 6:45-7:05 p.m. for the Christmas Eve Family service.

+ + + + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

Communion Preparers

Communion Servers

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson





CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, November 11, 2008 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 P.M. Lu Diday opened the meeting with prayer.

MUSIC THERAPY AS COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Becky Pittman and Cindy Russell were introduced and presented information about a music therapy program for the age 60+ population of Newhope Industries, Inc. Becky Pittman, a board certified music therapist, will provide the therapy sessions which will be held weekly on Thursdays, 9:15 to 10:15 A.M. in the Emmaus Room. There is no cost to our church, and the leaders involved will be responsible for any furniture rearrangement and/or restoring the room to its previous arrangement. Church members will also be invited to participate. Council approved the proposal for the Music Therapy program to be held at First English Lutheran Church.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson expressed appreciation to all the Youth, Becky Pittman and the adult leaders for their participation in Youth Sunday, November 9, 2008. New members will be received during the Sunday, December 14, 11:00 A.M. worship service in the sanctuary. The children's Christmas program will be presented Sunday, December 21, at a combined 11:00 A.M. worship service. He will be on vacation December 27 through 31, 2008.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones stated that he and Ken Frayer recently attended a Synod meeting on Healthy Congregations. He and Joy attended a seminar about leading a mission trip. His last vacation

Sunday will be on November 30.

WELCA: Cheryl Lantz reported \$655 was collected for the Global Mission water project and will be sent to the ELCA Good Gifts water project. One hundred five Prayer Shawls have been distributed. Council approved Church Women United to hold their May Fellowship Day at our church on Friday, May 1, 2009, 12:00 noon. The Advent Event will be held in the undercroft on Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 P.M.

PERSONNEL: Council approved hiring Jim Scheiber as the part time Property Manager of FELC retroactive to November 1, 2008.

FINANCE: Pastor Larson stated that the September 2008 income was \$8,477.60 lower than expenses year to date. Income is \$43,451.93 less than projected in the budget. The Renewing God's House total gifts to date are \$189,079.34 and total expenses to date are \$203,829.13. Arrangements are being made to take a loan from the General Endowment Fund to cover RGH expenses that are above current income. The church received a \$30,000 bequest from the Leona Miles estate, with that amount put into the General Endowment Fund. Pledges from Commitment Weekend are about \$86,000 behind what was pledged at this time last year. Council approved purchasing a Riso duplicating

(continued)

machine from the Memorial Fund. The present Riso machine is so old it can no longer be repaired.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: **Shawn Volz** showed pictures of some of the roof damage in the area where water was leaking into the rear of the sanctuary near the circular windows. Shawn reported the roofers have done a nice job, and should be finished soon. The original contract for the project was \$226,870 with \$20,028 change orders for a total of \$246,898 to date. Another \$5000 to \$6000 in expenses will likely be necessary. The magnetic Luther Hall doors have been tied into the fire alarm panel. Church members are asked to not park in the middle Mulberry Street lot when at the church during the week since that lot has rented spaces. Council approved the Steam Threshers Group to use the Blackfork Retreat Center for their annual show for a period of ten years. This group has done some maintenance and upgrading of the property and donated \$250.00 for use of the retreat center this year. Heating system maintenance was done by Tom Pasheilich, Jim Scheiber and Bill Schwartz. The church bus is stored at the retreat center until needed by the CDS in May.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: **Lu Diday** reported they are preparing and serving the meal for the Anderson Lecture Series.

WORSHIP: **Ken Frayer** reported for **Roscoe Thompson** that he is working on the communion schedule for the first half of 2009. Pastor Larson, Ken Frayer and Roscoe Thompson attended a "Sunday Morning Excellence" Synod meeting in October.

Pastor Larson will lead a communion deacons training session in the Emmaus Room for present and new deacons on Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 to 8:00 P.M.

STEWARDSHIP: **Renee Ward** reported her committee prepared stewardship campaign letters, and that the Advent mailing will be sent in late November

SERVICE MINISTRY: **Becky Sarbach** stated the flu shot clinic was cancelled due to lack of interest. Council approved the Thanksgiving Eve offering to benefit the Salvation Army food pantry with monetary donations and non-perishable food items, and a Christmas service project of a food and item drive to benefit Harmony House. It was reported that a donation of \$4,125.00 to benefit Wednesday Noon Lunch has been received from the MedCentral Hospital Mansfield Civic Fund.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: **Chris Cichanowicz** gave an update on Crop Walk proceeds of \$1320 from our church, with a total of \$13,386.81 from Mansfield area churches.

YOUTH: **Annette Doklovic** mentioned the weekly Sunday evening high school youth meetings with continued need for providing meals for this group.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: **Linda Elgin** said there are 94 children currently enrolled. Approximately \$1000, including a Thrivent matching funds grant, was earned in the Squirrel's Den gift certificate fund raiser. The CDS Children's Christmas program will be held Monday, December 15, 6:30 P.M. *(Note: this was later changed to December 8.)*

(continued)

NEW BUSINESS: The Annual Congregational budget meeting, with election of Synod Assembly delegates, will be held Sunday, January 25, 2009, 9:45 to 10:45 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M. with prayer by Ken Frayer and all praying the Lord's Prayer.

—Mary M. Schwartz,
Congregation Council Secretary



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

A note from Henrik and Patty Christopherson, World Mission Prayer League missionaries to Peru, November 3, 2008: "Beautiful fall greetings! We marvel at God's paintbrush, making the trees shine with brilliant colors. The gold, red and yellow are vibrant with the afternoon sun. We want to say

thanks for the invitation to come to Ohio and visit all of you again. It was a blessing and encouragement to be able to see you and fellowship with you. We give thanks to God each day for allowing us to learn a bit more in school. Many times I learn something and think, 'I wish I would have learned this 20 years ago!' Rejoice with us as the church in Chiclayo, Peru, ordains their first three national pastors in early December." (*Editor's note: a two-page letter about the family is posted on the bulletin boards.*)

Thanks to all who made generous donations during the month of October for CHAP (Community Health Access Project):

8 baby quilts (<i>from our Workday Ladies</i>)	5 bibs	1 pair shoes
5 sheets	4 padded hangers	3 pair socks
2 blankets	48 plastic clothes pins	1 pair slipper socks
package of 80 baby wipes	15 pull-up diapers	3 long sleeve tops
3 Ivory soap	6 plastic diaper covers	7 sleepers
19 wash cloths	5 baby sweaters	3 pants
	5 knitted caps	13 play sets

May God bless you all!

— Jeanne Hillman, Chair, Global Mission Committee

MALAWI

ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

We received this note from Shadreck in November:

"I am filled with excitement and praises to God as I write you. We had the primaries yesterday and I won with an overwhelming support.

This was not going to be possible without God's will for I was disadvantaged in so many areas, finances, campaign team, and other areas. My opponents, it was rumored, had visited witch doctors to get charms to help them. My team was scared and had advised me to do the same, but I said no, I believe in God. That disappointed them, and some of them were withdrawn. My opponents were telling people I was young and was not supposed to be voted for. This win is a testimony even to these people of what God can do, and I believe I will continue to testify and witness to the people about God's grace."

By relying on God only, Shadreck won the primary for his district. We thank God for the witness that he can be in his country. **Please pray** for strength for Shadreck to continue to rely on God even when he is encouraged by his political advisors to visit witch doctors.

The general election will be in May 2009. Please continue to **pray for** Shadreck as

he volunteers with the children, as he campaigns for the election next May, and as he continues with his job.

Please pray for:

- the children of Kanyenyeva to grow in Christ and stay healthy physically;
- Shadreck, Yami and Shamiso;
- for continued safety for Shadreck during his travels for the orphan project and his campaign;
- for the people of Malawi to work to end the HIV crisis and not ignore it;
- for good nutrition and health for the orphans and their caregivers;
- for adequate housing for the orphans and their caregivers;
- for a proper well to be dug at the orphan project;
- for the bus business to continue to succeed;
- for God to be glorified in the work of the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries;
- for the witness of Calvary Church and its pastor, Tom Mambo;
- for guidance in how FELC, Calvary Church and the Orphan project can work together to glorify God and help the people of Kanyenyeva.

– Joy Jones



June 2009 Mission Trip to Malawi Information Meeting . . .

If you are interested in learning more about a mission trip to Malawi, Africa, to help the people of Kanyenyeva build a feeding hall, share about Christ with their neighbors and help at the orphan project that we help to support, please join us on for an **information meeting on Tuesday, December 2, at 5:30 P.M. in the Emmaus Room.** -Joy Jones

ANDERSON LECTURE THANKS AND KUDOS . . .

Another year, the fifteenth for the Bertil E. Anderson Lecture Series, has come and gone, but the lingering memories of Dr. David L. Miller's presentations continue to permeate my thinking and hopefully my actions. Many people made this event happen, and deserve recognition and thanks. They are:



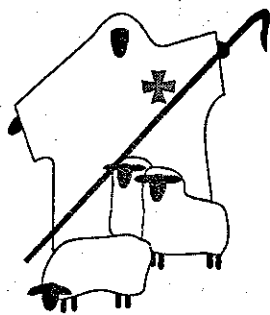
Dinner Chef: Luella Diday (deliciously professional)
Servers & Clean Up: (proficient & pleasant)
Decorations: Shirley Lane (artistically beautiful)
Music: Dr. Tim Guenther (melodious, appropriate)
Sound Board: Pastor Andy Jones and Chris Kaschube
(heroic emergency measures due to the roof leak)
Leadership: Alicia Keultjes (capable, delightful)

Leaders for the past 2 years and Advertising: Terry & Kay Leedy (amazing talents)
Office Staff: Connie and Karen (reservations, name tags, and table cards - well done)
Taxi Service: Joe & Karyne Carey (BMW to the airport)
Congregation: those who came (enthusiastic!!)

For all who attended the dinner and presentation on Saturday evening, November 15, the forum and worship services on Sunday, November 16, gave of their time and talent, plus contributed generously to the Anderson Fund, you all have my sincere thanks. May God continue to give us direction as we begin planning for next year!

- Helen Anderson

MID-WEEK PARKING. Please remember NOT to park in our middle lot on Mulberry Street on weekdays. These parking spaces are numbered and reserved for those who have paid to rent these spaces from the congregation. Thank you!



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

Congratulations and welcome to Jim Scheiber, our new Property Manager!

From Mildred Them: "I would like to thank all the members of First English Church for the card they sent me helping to celebrate my 91st birthday. I bless them all for the kindness on my day. Also, the children that made me a birthday card.

They are all so precious! Thank you all so much."

From Bill Hayes: "A big thank you to those of who said a prayer, made a call, or sent a card or note during my recent recuperation from broken ribs suffered when I fell from an extension ladder. These expressions meant so much. To the ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, an especially warm thank you for the soft, comforting shawl. Your time, talent, and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. A heartfelt thank you also to Bill Schwartz and his daughter, Chris Mills, for their help with getting us ready for the winter."

From Dot Blaney: "Many, many thanks to all who signed the poster, sent cards, prayers and other well wishes for my retirement! You all made it a very memorable occasion. We are settling into our winter home and enjoying some relaxing times. Blessings to all."

From Edna Stevens: "Dear friends at First Lutheran, What a wonderful 90th birthday I had, and I thank all of you for the many cards. Also, thanks to all who came to my party. Thanks to Becky for singing Happy Birthday, and to Pastor Paul and Kristi, and Pastor Cloyd and Alice Kress for helping to celebrate with dinner at Elmcroft."



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	c/o Paul D. Conrad 7506 81 st Place SE, Mercer Island, WA	98040
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 2009, please let the church office know, 419-522-0662.*



FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...

Fear filled the hearts of those who lived in the Prophet Isaiah's day. They knew the fear of defeat and destruction as a nation, having been conquered and many citizens carried off to the land of Babylon. To these people of Israel, Isaiah wrote words of hope and encouragement found in the book of Isaiah, chapter 35:4-6a: "Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, fear not! Behold your God will come. He will come and save you.' And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind, and unstop the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap up like a deer, and those who could not speak will shout and sing!" What a beautiful word picture of confidence in the security of God's presence and renewal in the midst of fear. The lives of Mary and Joseph illustrates the fear and uncertainty present at that time. Let us travel to Bethlehem and hear Joseph's story:

"Mary and I were engaged to be married. Three months before our wedding, Mary told me she was with child. I rushed out into the hills in torment. What had Mary meant when she said she bore God's child? Being unfaithful was bad enough, but she had to make mockery of the whole affair! Mary's parents arranged for her to journey to visit with her relative Elizabeth.

I could not take her for my wife now. I studied how best to divorce her. Finally, I decided to do it privately. One night in my sleep I saw an angel who announced that Mary's child was truly conceived by the Holy Spirit, and that I was to take her as my wife. The angel also said she would bear a son and we were to call him Jesus, for he was to save his people from their sins. The next day I was surprised by Mary's return. I quickly took her as my wife. We did not fear for we both knew this child was God's doing.

Our love grew in those wonderful days. Then I heard the Roman government was demanding more taxes and each was required to register in the city of their ancestors. My and Mary's family came from the family of David, and I was required to return to Bethlehem to register. Mary would soon deliver, and I said she should stay with her parents, but she refused, demanding that she go with me. Her father quoted from the prophet: "But thou, O Bethlehem...though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth to be ruler in Israel." The Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem.

The journey was difficult, and when we arrived here in Bethlehem, the city was over-flowing with people; there were no

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rooms anywhere. In desperation, I sought shelter, for Mary's pains were upon her. We found this stable in which the baby was born. The star appeared on the night of his birth, it has been above us ever since. Come to the manger to worship the new born King."

In 1741, George Frederick Handel was in despair. He was sixty years old, bankrupt, with his health shattered. At the end of his rope, he was living in fear of tomorrow, in a darkness he had never known before. One day he received a sacred oratorio from Charles Jennens who asked him to compose the music. Scanning the pages, a passage caught his eye: "He was despised and rejected of men." Handel felt a growing kinship with the words as he read further. "He trusted in God...God did not leave his soul in hell...He will give you rest...I know my redeemer liveth." And then followed the words to the Hallelujah Chorus. The words came alive for Handel, and a light was born in his darkness. He took his pen and began to write the music. At last, having finished the music for MESSIAH, he fell exhausted on his bed. While all his problems didn't disappear, he now had the strength to deal with them. Christ had come into his darkness, and where Christ is, there is light!

God knows when you are fearful and need his faith and courage. We need to make the same response made by Mary and Joseph. They stood in awesome fear be-

fore the Lord and his angels. Even though they experienced fear, Mary and Joseph followed through on God's plan for them. Mary accepted the conception with humility. Joseph yielded to the Angel's message, abandoning his plans for divorce. Jesus Christ knows our fears. He faced fear as He knelt in the garden of Gethsemane and prayed, "Father, if it be thy will, let this cup pass from me." Jesus experienced fear as he faced the angry crowds who sought to stone him. Jesus never gave into fear. Instead, he faced it and defeated it. The world was in desperate condition in those days when a virgin named Mary was engaged to a carpenter named Joseph. There seemed to be no hope for the Messiah to come. But with God we cannot say "impossible!"

Those fears which fill your heart and mind, fears which are so secret you could not mention them to another person, are making you weak and powerless. But God wants us to stand in his strength. Remember our text: "Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, fear not! Behold your God will come. He will come and save you.'" That is what Christmas reminds us. God is faithful. In our fears, let us trust God!

Alice and I wish a very meaningful and blessed Christmas to each member and friend of the First English Lutheran Church.

— Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor



We remember the families and friends of those who died October 25 - November 21, 2008:

David Harmon	October 28
<i>(friend of Eggeman family)</i>	
Jane Marchant	October 29
<i>(great-aunt of Zac & Becky Pittman)</i>	
Stephanie Barry	October 30
<i>(daughter of Robert Enskat)</i>	
Susan Watson	November 1
<i>(daughter of June Carpenter)</i>	
David Wolf	November 5
Betty Newlon	November 10
<i>(sister of Frances Pore and Marilyn Boling)</i>	
John Edward Hoover	November 16
Isabel Rehm	November 19
<i>(mother of Ron Rehm)</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

Funeral:	November 11, 2008	David Wolf
	November 20, 2008	John Edward Hoover

A Living Legacy

Recently, we were blessed to receive a bequest from the estate of Leona Miles for the General Endowment Fund of FELC in the amount of \$30,000. Her gift will now be a *Living Legacy* of her great love for Jesus and her church. Through her gift, she will continue to support God's Kingdom work.

Billy Graham was asked on the occasion of his 80th Birthday, "Dr. Graham in your 80 years of living, what have you learned about life?" Dr. Graham responded: "*Life is Short.*" For someone who could preach long and profound sermons, this sermon was short and profound. Truly, the older we become, the greater the truth we hear in Billy Grahams words. Yes, "Life is Short!" And what Legacy will you leave for Eternity?

Jesus said: "*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that fruit should abide;*" (John 15:16a)

What is the "*Fruit that Abides*"? It is the fruit that lasts for all Eternity. God has created you and me for one purpose: To Bring Glory to His Name. Miss this one and we have missed life! When we witness for Christ; when we do good deeds for Christ; when we give of our financial resources for Christ → we do the Work of His Kingdom. The proof is in our motives! This is the Fruit that Abides!

When you die, will you leave behind a *Legacy of Faith*? As Christians living in a land where we are blessed with *SO* much, we have a special opportunity → to Give a Gift that Keeps-On-Giving! This is called Legacy Giving!

As members of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, we invite you to participate in *Legacy Giving*. Consider tithing (10%) your estate or insurance policy to the ongoing Kingdom Work of our Lord Jesus through your own home congregation. Many different secular and civic organizations these days are eager to invite us to support their good causes. But why not put God's Kingdom work FIRST. Invest in the "*Fruit that Abides*". Give a gift that keeps on working for God's Kingdom until Jesus Comes! Through giving to the Endowment Funds of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church you will leave a *Living Legacy* that will continue to give the Gift of Eternal Salvation through the Miracle of Jesus' Love.

MEMORIALS

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Donald Beddard, MD:

Paul Theaker
Clancy & Carol Lauthers

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL FOR MUSIC ENRICHMENT

Donald Beddard, MD:

FELC Senior Choir
Lydia Circle

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL FOR A NEW COMPUTER

Donald Beddard, MD:

Tom & Linda Elgin
Roger & Eileen Miller
Pete & Susan Bailey
Marion D. Wisdom
Bob & Linda Barkett

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

David Wolf:

Bernice Campbell
Miriam Rader
Tom & Dot Blaney

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND

Donald Beddard, MD:

Tom & Dot Blaney
Vernon & Joyce Korte
William & Mary Ellen Schulz
Wanda E. Donnan
Ettore & Joan Ciudioni
K. F. Conley
Frederick & Linda Haring
Helen Anderson
John B. Black
Peter M. Black

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Donald Beddard, MD:

Bill & Mary Schwartz
Wes & Sandra Volz
Sherry Winbigler
Marilyn Dinges
Tom and Jeanne Hillman
Ruth Sweval
Steve & Devera Ritz

David Wolf:

Tom & Jeanne Hillman

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL - STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Donald Beddard, MD:

Robert & Nip McCready

Stephanie Barry:

Wesley & Sandra Volz

David Wolf:

Wesley & Sandra Volz
Marilyn Dinges

SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donald Beddard, MD:

Norm McCracken
Lawrence DeBower
Joanne E. Jones
James & Kristine Novak
Joseph & Mebane Stolfi
Marshall & Evelyn Smith
Dennis & Polly Davis
Eugene Harsch

MEMORIAL FUND

Donald Beddard, MD:

Melva Jean Kluck
Irene Kohler
Betty Herde
Daniel & Dorothy Hildebrandt
Raymond G. DeBower
Elizabeth J. DeBower
Allen & Bonita Horejsi
Mark & Carrie Horejsi
Craig & Michelle Horejsi
Bill & Pearl West
Will & Dolores Esler
William A. Rathburn
Paul & Lana Conry
Donald & Anna Sullivan
Edna C. DeBower
James Hannewald
Margaret Runyon
Margaret Beddard
Alan & Kelli Miller
Mary E. Akers
William C. Ingram, Jr.
Ken & Bev McCally
Dave & Barb Moody
Thomas & Janet Beck
Sheldon & Leota Miller
Stan & Chris Cichanowicz
Ted & Karen Ellis
Lois McCullough
James & Gloria Clendenon
Carolyn Weeks
John and Sandra Siegenthaler
Diane K. Sutliff
Betty Adair
Lowell & Janice Smith
Dan & Sue Phallen
James Lorentz
Juanita Baker
Eugene & Edna Marshall
Ken & Karen Frayer

Laura Brant:

John & Sandra Siegenthaler

Robert Donnan, for new Lectern Bible:

Richard Donnan and family
FELC Senior Choir

LaVonne Rhodebeck:

J. Todd & Linda Snyder
William & Joanne Huggins
Don B. & Marilyn L. Rhodebeck
John & Tammy Delucia
Robert E. Pullman
Mark K. & Connie S. Boyd

David Wolf:

Lois McCullough
Miriam Dye
Harold & Norma Kahl
Audrey Laser & family
Helen Anderson
Albert & Joanne Marvin
David & Susan Wilbur
Cathy Moore
Chris & Nancy Hunt
Catherine Stroup
Philip & Sarah Schroeder
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Ross, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin C. Ross
Mr. Steven W. Ross

WELCA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Donald Beddard, MD:

Donna Behmer
Dean DeBower

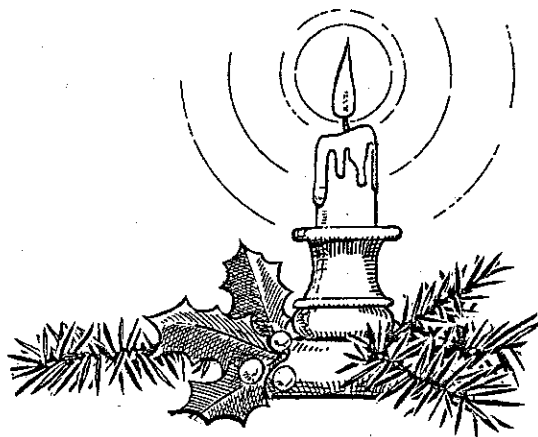
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HONORARIUMS TO
RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Harry & Lois McCullough,
Russell & Eleanor McCullough:
Robin McCullough-Bade

Janice, Todd and David Beddard:
Margaret Beddard

Dot Blaney – in honor of her many
years of dedicated service to First
English Lutheran Church:
Sherry Winbigler



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Pastor Larson	plarson001@neo.rr.com
Pastor Jones	ajones@felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Kress	ckress@felc-mansfield.org
Timothy Guenther	tguenther@felc-mansfield.org
Becky Pittman	bpittman@felc-mansfield.org
Karen Frayer	kfrayer@felc-mansfield.org
Betty Guenther	bguenther@felc-mansfield.org
Connie Stewart	cstewart@felc-mansfield.org
Church Office	office@felc-mansfield.org

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

Emergency cell phone numbers if the pastors cannot be contacted at church or home:
Pastor Paul Larson, 419-632-1875. Pastor Andy Jones, 419-989-3715.

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. Terry Bianchi, Christian Day School Director

Karen Frayer, Bookkeeper	John Meyer, Custodial/Maintenance
Connie Stewart, Parish Secretary/Printer	Jim Scheiber, Property Manager
Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary/Visitor Editor	Janet Kick, Nursery Care Worker
Michelle Myers, Christian Day School Secretary	

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

Bolivia, South America: Rev. Nick and Shannon Kraft, and children Madison, Tanyon, Moises, and Tucker
World Mission Prayer League Missionaries to India: Brian and Barbara Sorge and family
World Mission Prayer League Missionaries to Peru: Henrik and Patty Christopherson

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Ken Frayer	Personnel	Sherry Winbigler, convener
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	Luella Diday	Worship	Roscoe Thompson, III
Evangelism	Steve Ritz	Youth Ministry	Annette Doklovic
Finance	Rob Skropits	Women of the ELCA	Cheryl Lantz
Global Mission	Jeanne Hillman		