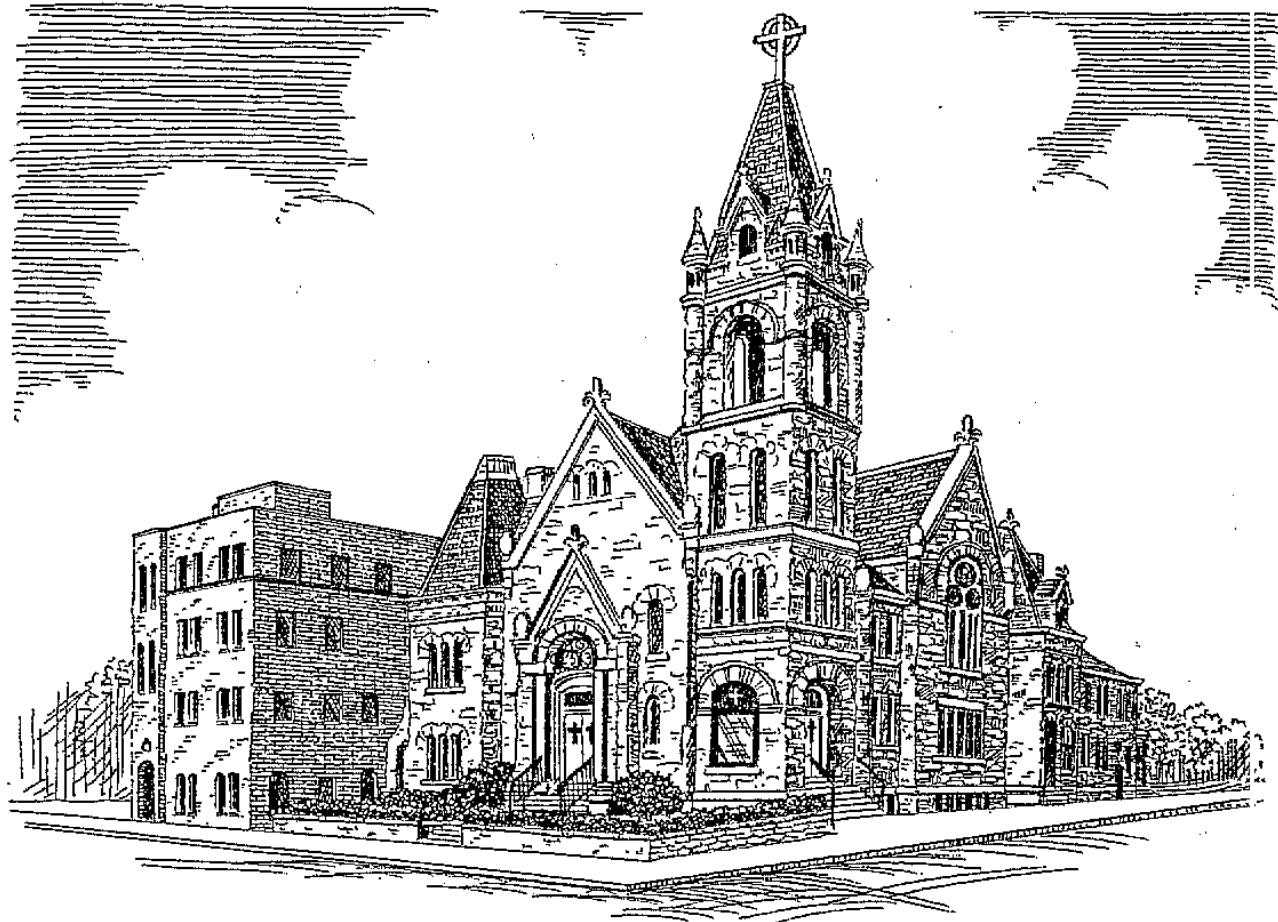


# THE VISITOR



## *The First English Lutheran Church*

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

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*Dear Friends in Christ,*

No doubt, many of you are familiar with some of the details in the story of Moses. He was born a Hebrew slave in ancient Egypt. Because of an edict from the Pharaoh that all Hebrew male infants should be put to death --- Moses should have died at birth. But, miraculously through God's intervention, his life is spared and he is raised in the courts of pharaoh for the first 40 years of his life. Then in one foolish moment of anger, he throws away all the benefits of his unusual position of power and influence. He kills an Egyptian, and now must flee into the wilderness as a condemned murderer.

For the next 40 years of his life, Moses lives as a shepherd in the wilderness. It is ample time for him to reflect on his failures. He concludes that he is permanently disqualified from God's Service. Then at the age of 80, God appears to Moses in the burning bush and lets Moses know that HE has plans for him. Moses though has given up on himself. For that matter, it sounds like he has given up on God as well. The two usually go hand in hand.

In a remarkable debate with the living God, Moses offers God four excuses for why God has chosen the wrong man for the mission. He basically tells God - "Go find someone else!" Finally, when God assures Moses that HE will even provide his brother Aaron to be his mouthpiece, Moses goes and confronts Pharaoh. As anticipated, Pharaoh not only denies God's demands, but also increases the misery of the Hebrews. Moses' popularity with his own people plummets, but God assures Moses the HE will keep His Promise of Deliverance!

The church has often been likened to a football game in which thousands of spectators desperately in need of exercise are watching a handful of players desperately in need of rest. Are you a Spectator or a Player?

Before you can pull out your list of reasons excusing you from active duty in your congregation, eavesdrop on an eighty-year-old shepherd as he argues with a burning bush! With good reason, Moses anticipated resistance and rejection from his own people --- to say nothing of Pharaoh! Besides, Moses had a speech impediment and an inferiority complex. Surely, God was showing poor judgment in His choice of a deliverer. Moses thought himself to be smart enough to know that God was wrong!

Patience, thoroughly, God gave His rebuttal: 'I can use this bush, that staff in your hand, or even your stammering lips --- whatever is available --- to accomplish My plan and fulfill My promises. For all that you lack and everything that you are not, **I AM!**'

God probably isn't recruiting you to lead a nation out of bondage. But HE definitely wants to show you what HE can accomplish through you. In response to His promise that "*I AM all that you need,*" will you answer, "*I am available*"?

Together, We Serve our Lord in the Confidence of His Promises!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Paul

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP

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

### SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY:

- Feb 3      ➔ 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service  
➔ Four week sermon series ends: "Getting Along When the Going Gets Tough"  
➔ Souper Bowl of Caring donations (youth banging pots!)
- Feb 10     ➔ 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service  
➔ Youth fund raiser Valentine Cookie sale
- 

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 3	8:30 am Communion
Sunday, February 10	11:00 am Communion

This is to facilitate Pastor Andy preaching at both 11:00 services (Nave and Proclaim!) on February 3 to complete the sermon series. Pastor Larson will be attending the ELCA Head of Staff conference January 30 - February 3. (No change for 5:00 p.m. Saturday Holy Communion on February 2).



## BRING YOUR PALMS!

Remember the palm crosses you received last year on Palm Sunday? Many of you have kept them as visual reminders of Christ's life-giving death and resurrection for you. It's time again to bring them back to church.

Palms brought back to the Saturday chapel service **February 2**, and at the Sunday services on **February 3** will be burned to make the ashes used for the Imposition of Ashes (sign of the cross on our foreheads) at Ash Wednesday services, February 6.

---

## **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3!**



BANG! BANG! BANG! Remember the enthusiastic beating of the soup kettles last year? Better bring some ear plugs! The kids are excited once again to participate in this event along with thousands of other youth across the country. ALL of the money collected in the pots will be given to help feed the poor and homeless in Mansfield. Please remember to bring an extra dollar or more to the worship services on February 2 and 3.

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:34

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,  
Feb 3      **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator:  
Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,  
Jan 27      **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 a.m. They will sing at the 8:30 a.m. Holy  
Communion service on February 3.
- Every  
Sunday      **Fireflies and Spirit!** children's and youth choirs rehearse during the 9:45 A.M.  
Sunday school hour. Director: Becky Pittman.
- Monday,  
Feb 4      **Men's Group** meets at 9:30 A.M. the first Monday of the month for breakfast at  
Denny's on West Fourth Street in Ontario. Contact: Hal Simmons, 419-529-6586.
- Tuesday  
Feb 5      **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets at 7:30 P.M. in the Emmaus Room. Knitting  
instruction and patterns provided. Contact: Karen Ellis, 419-884-1882 or Jan  
Fisher, 419-589-2820.
- Wednesday,  
Feb 6 & 20      **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.
- 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,  
Feb 15      **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  
Feb 23 & 24      **Food Collection Weekend.** The December collection totaled 12 bags of groceries  
for Catholic Charities, and \$160 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch  
Program. Thank you for your continued generous support!

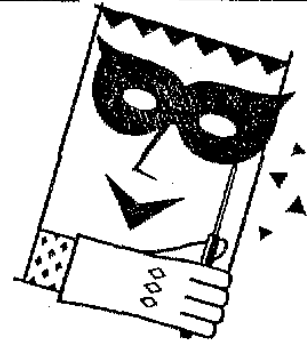


## FIRST TUESDAY MEETS FEBRUARY 5 . . .

Dr Tom Croghan, retired physician and one of the original founders of the Renaissance Theatre, will speak on "The Real Renaissance in Mansfield" at the First Tuesday (formerly Lunch Bunch) meeting on February 5; lunch is served at noon. Cost is \$2.50. This is open to EVERYONE. Call Pat Wells, 419-756-6863, or the church office, 419-522-0662, with reservations by Monday, February 4. You won't want to miss this inspiring speaker!!

## FASTNACHT DINNER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
6:00 P.M. - Undercroft



Dinner provided! Menu: Salisbury steak, sausage and sauerkraut mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables. BRING YOUR MOST DECADENT DESSERT TO SHARE!

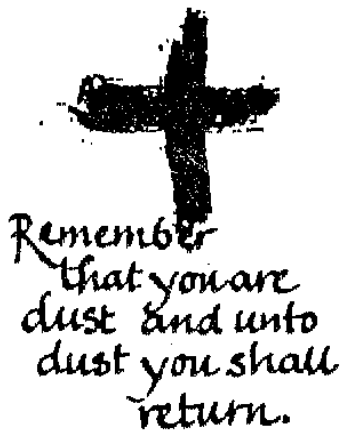
Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!



## ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 . . .

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6. Two opportunities for worship will be offered that day:

- |            |        |  |
|------------|--------|--|
| 12:05 P.M. | Chapel | Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion<br><i>(lunch following in the undercroft)</i> |
| 7:00 P.M.  | Nave   | Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion   |



## ASH WEDNESDAY . . .

*Why ashes?* On Ash Wednesday, we enter into the Lenten Season through a special service of penitence and reflection upon the quality of our faith and life. The Ash Wednesday liturgy marks the beginning of a penitential discipline. This season of penitence climaxes in the absolution and the peace of the special Maundy Thursday Service of blessing, forgiveness, and Holy Communion.

Ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in the ancient customs and practices of our faith. Coming from our Old Testament traditions, ashes in a Jewish or Christian context suggest God's judgement and His condemnation of sin. They remind us of our human frailty and our total dependence upon God for life. In churches where the imposition of ashes is practiced, the pastor uses ashes made from the burned palms of Palm Sunday to make the sign of the cross on the believer's forehead. As he does so, the pastor says to each person, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Thus we are forcefully reminded of the words of the committal in the burial service, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." One day, these words will be said over all of us. Not only do the ashes become a visual reminder of our total dependence on God for our life and salvation, they also become a visual symbol of our repentance. They are our public humiliation in the spirit of the Old Testament tradition of repenting in sack cloth and ashes. In ashes we publicly admit to God and to our neighbors our failures to live in all righteousness toward them. We openly confess our sins, seeking forgiveness from God and from one another.

Moreover, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday, the ashes have sometimes been understood as a penitential substitute for water, thus symbolizing our baptism.

In Luther's *Small Catechism*, brother Martin writes: "What does Baptism mean for daily living?" "It means that our sinful self, with all evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever."

Baptism is a primary emphasis of Lent. Water both stifles and refreshes, drowns and makes alive. Likewise, the ashes also tell of both death and renewal. Another example of death and renewal found in the symbol of ashes comes from the ancient practice of burning the fields in the spring. The old is destroyed and from the ashes rises the new life of spring.

It is this death-to-life, repentance unto salvation motif which we find reflected in the very name of this season of Lent. "Lent" is from the old English word meaning "springtime," and so it is to be understood as the springtime of the soul, a time for repentance, a time for preparation, planting and growth. Yes Lent is a time of death. It is a time of dying unto ourselves, being crucified with Christ. As surely as we have died with Him, so shall we be raised with Him to the glory of God our Father. Lent is a time for the cross and resurrection.

-- Pastor Larson

## *Dear Friends in Christ,*

I am excited to share with you that something beautiful is happening again this year with our Lenten Folder Offerings. In our 2008 Budget, we have again voted to designate this offering as a Benevolence Offering for our *Lithuanian Ministries*. For several years now, through the wonderful work of Joe and Karyne Carey, we have been able to participate in showing Christ's Love to the people of Lithuania. We have been so thankful for the Careys' mission trips each summer, and the opportunity they have given us to join them in ministry through our offerings. The Careys always cover all of their own travel and personal expenses. Our offerings go directly to benefit the people they serve in Lithuania. This year's Lenten Folder Offerings will go to continue this important ministry of Christ's Love.



Irmantas - Orphan Scholarship

How are we showing Christ's love in Lithuania? We have provided much needed scholarships for young people to come and learn English at the *Lithuanian Christian College* in Klaipeda. The college provides a Christian setting in which young people are not only equipped with important life skills, but also come to learn and experience the Love of Jesus. Young people from across the former eastern European communist countries come to *LCC* and receive a solid education in a Christ-centered environment. It is an excellent opportunity to present the Good News of Jesus' Love to the future leaders of Eastern Europe.

We were very honored last year when the President of LCC, Dr. Jim Mininger and his wife Virginia came to visit us at First English Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Through your offerings, you have also been able to provide desperately needed food and basic living supplies (toilet paper, soap, toothbrushes, socks, clothing, shoes, etc.) to the children of the *Rytas Orphanage*.



Children of the Rytas Orphanage

This Lent, I pray that each one of us will give a special sacrifice of love so that this important ministry for *Lithuanian Missions* will continue and grow!

Christ has blessed us richly!  
Freely we have received!  
Freely let us give! The LORD  
Loves a Cheerful Giver! When  
we realize all the good we are  
able to do for others in the  
Name of our Lord Jesus, one

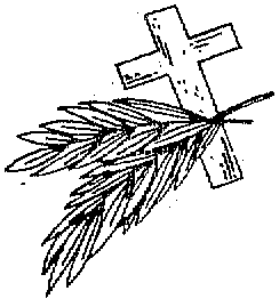
cannot help but give with great Joy and Generosity! Your Love Offering may be placed in your special Lenten Lithuanian Missions Offering Envelope. This year, instead of spending significant funds to purchase and mail out the traditional "coin folders," our Council is encouraging everyone to make use of their Lenten Lithuanian Missions Offering Envelope. Please make Checks payable to First English Lutheran Church (Memo: Lithuanian Missions).

Serving Together in the Love of Jesus,

*Pastor Paul L. Larson*

# LENTEN COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 9, 2008



9:00 AM Holy Communion in the Chapel  
10:00 AM Breakfast & Program in the Emmaus Room

**Cost of breakfast is \$6**

**Tickets on sale the weekend of February 2 & 3**  
or call the church office, 419-522-0662  
(deadline for tickets is Wednesday, February 6)

If you've never made the Lenten Breakfast a part of your Lenten tradition, you might want to add it to your calendar this year. In fact, it would be a great idea to bring a friend, coworker, daughter, Mom, Dad, or your husband! It is an event open to everyone.

The date is Saturday, February 9, beginning at 9:00 A.M. with a communion service in the chapel with breakfast in the Emmaus Room following. Cost per ticket is \$6.00. We have a wonderful inspirational message coming to us via our speaker, the Rev. Faith Proietti, who is well known in the Mansfield area.

– Jan Fisher

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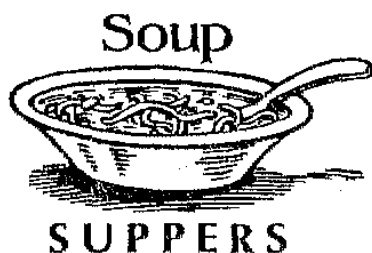
## **YOUTH FUND RAISER**

### **VALENTINE COOKIE SALE FEBRUARY 9 & 10 ...**

The youth will be baking and packaging plates of Valentine cookies which will be available at all services the weekend of **February 9 and 10** for a free-will donation. Treat yourself or your sweetie to some Valentine cookies!

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 this year, 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.





## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 . . .

On the Wednesdays in Lent, February 13, 20, 27, March 5 and 12, a simple soup supper is served at 6:00 P.M. in the undercroft followed by the Lenten Study in the sanctuary at 7:00. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

### MID-WEEK LENTEN STUDY

6:00 P.M. Soup Supper in the undercroft  
7:00 P.M. Lenten Study in the nave

#### GENESIS: *In the Beginning*

February 13	The Creation	Genesis 1-2
February 20	The Rebellion; The Flood & Babel	Genesis 3-11
February 27	Abraham	Genesis 12-24
March 5	Isaac & Jacob	Genesis 25-36
March 12	Joseph	Genesis 37-50



GENESIS begins "*in the beginning.*" Its fifty chapters sketch human history from The Creation to The Tower of Babel (Genesis 1-11) and from Abraham to Joseph (Genesis 12-50). The first two chapters introduce our Creator God, who in His great Love and by the Power of His Word, calls into existence ALL of creation. We learn of the beginning of life - created in such beautiful harmony and balance. It is a creation that is proclaimed to be "*Very Good!*" In chapters 3-11, we see the arrogant rebellion of humanity -- the entrance of Sin and Brokenness into God's perfect creation; the resulting Judgment of God; and the unfolding of God's ultimate plan for our Salvation. The remainder of the book of Genesis focuses on the lives of the four great patriarchs of the Faith: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob/Israel, and Joseph. It is through their descendants that God will call forth His People Israel and ultimately the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ. Come and join us for this special mid-week Lenten Series.



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.

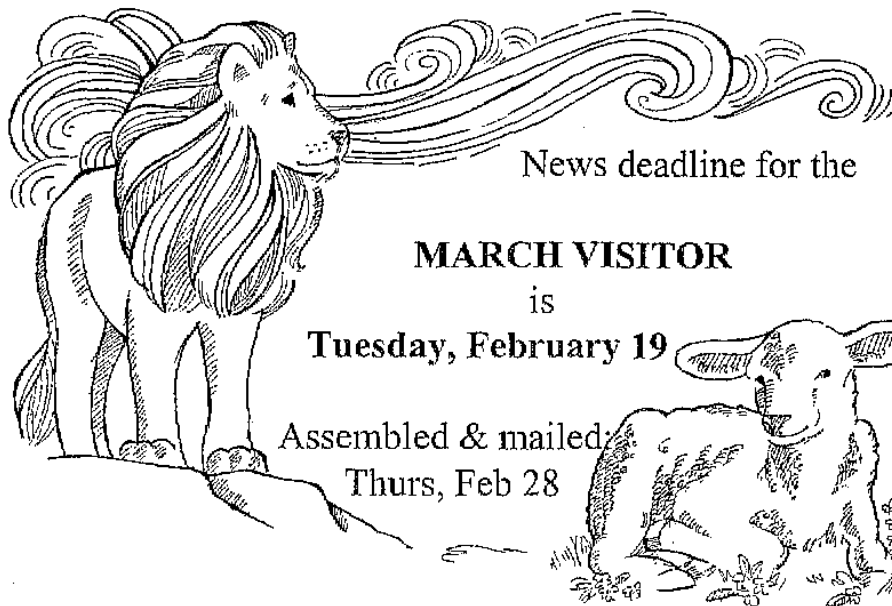
### Tuesday, February 19

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

### Thursday, February 21

9:30 A.M. Alterra Sterling House

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Please use this form if you would like to give an Easter lily or daffodil plant in honor or in memory of a loved one.

**DO NOT PUT YOUR ORDER IN THE OFFERING PLATE.** Bring your order and payment in directly to the church office or drop it in the mail. This will help us prevent names from being inadvertently omitted from the listing.

The deadline for orders is **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5.** The cost of lilies is \$9.25 per plant; the cost of daffodils is \$9.25 per pot.

The lilies and daffodils will decorate the church Easter morning, March 23; they may be taken after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

**INSTEAD OF RECEIVING A PLANT,** you may make a donation to one of the listed funds.

---

**2008**

**Lily Order:** Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$9.25 per plant)

**Daffodil Order:** Number of pots \_\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$9.25 per pot)

**Donation (no plants):**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Christian Day School Endowment Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Building Maintenance Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Malawi Orphan Care Ministries

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Person ordering \_\_\_\_\_

## LUTHER FELLOWSHIP, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26...



Luther Fellowship meets on Tuesday, February 26, at 11:30 A.M. for lunch in the Emmaus Room. Cost is \$5. Note: this is the *fourth* Tuesday of the month.

Pastor Paul Lintern will be the featured speaker filling us in on upcoming events for Mansfield's bicentennial celebration this year, and the play that he has written for the occasion. You know that he always surprises us!

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

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## FEBRUARY NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Our Bible verse for February is John 10:3, Jesus leads us and takes care of us. Our special days in February are Groundhog Day, February 2; Ash Wednesday, February 6; Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12; Valentine's Day, February 14; and George Washington's birthday, February 22.

We are blessed to have our new secretary, Donna Turney. She works Monday through Friday, 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. We have 111 children enrolled in our Christian Day School.

- Cheryl Lantz, CDS Director

## ATTENTION PARENTS!

Turn to your March calendar and make note! There will be **NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday, March 23**. Come and celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with your family by worshiping and eating the wonderful Easter breakfast served from 9:45 to 10:45 that morning!

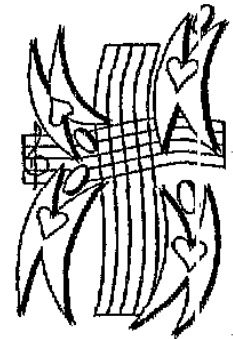
– Chris Cichanowicz, Sunday School Superintendent

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### COORDINATOR OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS . . .

FELC is bursting with talent! I thank God that I can help "tap" into the gifts you are willing to share with our congregation.

I would like to thank Debbie Olson, Emily Blankenship, and Julie Coon for assisting me with our Lessons and Carols service. Your musical gifts created a wonderful worship experience on December 30.



Renee and Rachel Shupp sang a wonderful duet at the Epiphany service at Proclaim! while Tim Ludwig was praising God upstairs on the organ. More "thanks" go to Allison Molyet and Jessika Volz for sharing their talents at all three of our Sunday worship services.

Our Sunday School teachers also deserve recognition for shuttling our younger children all over the church when the "Fireflies" and "Spirit" choirs sing at both 11:00 services.

Our youth Christian rock band officially began on January 20! We will rehearse briefly immediately following the 11:00 Proclaim! service each week.

You can contact me at my home email address: [zpittman@neo.rr.com](mailto:zpittman@neo.rr.com) or through our new church email address: [bpittman@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:bpittman@felc-mansfield.org)

– Becky Pittman

## FEBRUARY 2008 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
MARY	NO FEBRUARY MEETING			
SARAH	4	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room. Program: Jerry Gallagher Hostess: Vi Deems
LYDIA	4	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Home of Penny Ekegren, 510 Broken Oak Ct. Program: Carolyn Weeks Hostess: Penny Ekegren
FIRST TUESDAY	5	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room. Program: "The Real Renaissance in Mansfield" by Tom Croghan
EVE	5	TUESDAY	7:30 P.M.	Emmaus Room. Prayer Shawl
WORKDAY LADIES	6 & 20	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
PLANNING TEAM	18	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room.

Altar Group Workers: Nave – Devera Ritz; Chapel – Bev Graham; Proclaim! – Jan Fisher

Funeral Dinners: Squad B, Marianne Sweat.

COMING EVENTS: World Day of Prayer – March 7, 2008 – Place TBA – 1:00 P.M.

Lenten Breakfast – February 9, 2008 – Rev. Faith Proietti – 9:00 A.M.

Pack Valentine Cookies – February 9, 2008 – Noon

Richland/Ashland Cluster - April 29, 2008 – FELC – 6: 30 P.M.

Mother Daughter Banquet – May 9, 2008 – 6: 30 P.M.

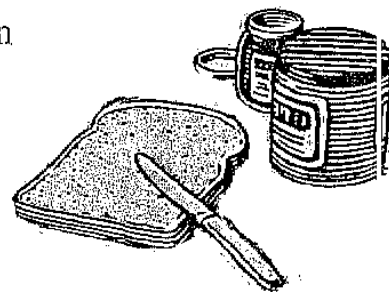
### Church Women United **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** Friday, March 7, 2007 – 1 P.M.

Church Women United *World Day of Prayer* is Friday, March 7, 1:00 p.m. at a place to be announced - watch the Sunday bulletins! The program is entitled "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding," written by women from Guyana.

– Helen Anderson, CWU Representative.

# WELCA SPONSORS PEANUT BUTTER MINISTRY

An outreach program of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA) here at First English is the peanut butter ministry. Most Wednesdays during the Wednesday Noon Lunch, WELCA passes out peanut butter and bread to those attendees who need it.



We are most thankful to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Ashland/Richland Chapter, for awarding us a Care Abounds in Communities grant to help fund this program! We have actually decided to expand it this year to the extent of **also offering jelly** with the peanut butter and bread. Please consider buying an extra jar or two of creamy peanut butter when you are getting your groceries. Jelly or jam is also quite welcome! It can be deposited in the collection boxes either in Luther Hall or the Narthex. And many thanks to all those dedicated folks who have continued to donate peanut butter over the past year and a half. Sharing our bountiful goods is one of the things Jesus taught us! God bless you all for caring for your less fortunate brothers and sisters.



## **WELCA Thanks you for your support!**

In December, WELCA had to cancel the Advent Event due to a bad snow storm. None the less, we were able to carry out our silent auction and Fair Trade Fair on Sunday mornings! WELCA wants to thank all of you who supported these two events. The money we raise from the silent auction of donated gift items helps us to fund the many important programs that we carry out here at FELC. (You might be interested to know that we have one of the largest, most thriving Women's units in our Ashland/Richland chapter.) The Fair Trade Fair benefits the artisans who make those wonderful and unusual items. We do not make a profit from those sales, nor do we make a profit on the coffee sales. It is our goal to be a means of support for those two entities, supporting people in other countries who have a difficult time making a viable wage.

God has richly blessed us here at First English, and we thank you for sharing in passing on that blessing to others.

- Advent Event Committee

## REQUESTS TO THE PRAYER CHAIN

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

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## 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

**Chris Cichanowicz,**

**Sunday School Superintendent**

419-529-6593

Nursery Helpers

**Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304**

Pew Pad Gleaners

**Roscoe Thompson, III, Worship Chair**

419-522-7571

Communion Preparers

Communion Assistants

Sound Booth Operators

**Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090**

8:00 am Sunday Prayer Partners

**Barb Hill, 419-756-4998**

Blood Pressure Nurses

**Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247**

Ushers

**Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162**

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion Preparers

Proclaim! Communion Assistants

**Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876**

Children's Church Leaders

# FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

## GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

Feb 2	Marian Owen	Feb 16	Elva Bonser
Feb 9	Joci Kirst	Feb 23	Marian Owen

### GREETERS

Devera and Katie Ritz  
Juanita Baker

### 8:30 A.M.

Narthex  
East Entrance

### USHERS

Paul Theaker  
Steve Ritz  
Mike Anderson

### 8:30 A.M.

### GREETERS

Tom & Stacy Crall  
Lana Dunham

### 11:00 A.M.

Narthex  
East Entrance

### USHERS

Gene Harsch  
Jack Leonard

### 11:00 A.M.

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

Feb 3	Jim Scheiber, Jerry Gallagher
Feb 10	Chris Cichanowicz, Jim Scheiber
Feb 17	Mary Schwartz, Jane Starner, Rob Hogsette
Feb 24	Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz, Lowell Weeks

## LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:30 am</u>
Feb 3	Betty Guenther	Tom Hillman
Feb 10	Cindy Russell	Ron Rehm
Feb 17	Henry Keultjes	Betty Guenther
Feb 24	Mary Hujus	Jodi Mumaw

**Ash Wednesday, Feb 6, 6:15-7:05 pm: Mary Hujus**

## 11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Feb 3	Stan Cichanowicz	Feb 17	Annette Doklovic
Feb 10	Terry Leedy	Feb 24	Greg Hughes

## ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS

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

		<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Transfiguration	Feb 3	A Trayce Prather	A Emily Blankenship C Chelsea Heidlebaugh
	Feb 10	A Kate Hogsette	A Sara Hannemann
	Feb 17	A Casey Kelley	A Erin Blankenship
	Feb 24	A Sarah Ward	A Alissa Ruth

**Ash Wednesday, Feb 6, 7:00 pm:** A Elizabeth Volz  
C Chelsea Heidlebaugh

## LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

Feb 2	Jean Ridenour	Feb 16	Jean Ridenour
Feb 9	Kay McNaul	Feb 23	Kay McNaul

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Feb 3	Liz Prather	Shirley Lane
Feb 10	Amy Skropits	Diane Molyet
Feb 17	Mary Hujus	Bill Schulz
Feb 24	Karyne Carey	Terry Leedy

**Ash Wednesday, Feb 6, 7:00 pm:** Karyne Carey

## 11:00 NURSERY HELPERS

Feb 3	Amy Elgin	Feb 17	Angie Kaschube
Feb 10	Shelley Shupp	Feb 24	TBA

## PEW PAD GLEANERS

Feb 3	Elizabeth Sprang	Feb 17	Lolita Scheiber
Feb 10	Brenda Eyerly	Feb 24	Marilyn Dinges

### COMMUNION PREPARERS

	Feb 3	8:30 am	Carol Fry and Margaret Runyon
Ash Wednesday,	Feb 6	7:00 pm	Bill & Mary Schwartz
	Feb 10	11:00 am	Betty Wilson and Marilyn Dinges

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>Feb 3 - 8:30 am</u>	<u>Feb 10 - 11:00 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Pat Fraifogl	Pastor & Assisting Minister
Wine West	Ken Frayer	Jane Sprang
Cups West	Karen Frayer	Lana Dunham
Wine East	Gene Luedy	Bill Schwartz
Cups East	Marilyn Motson	Mary Schwartz
Intinction	Jane Starner	Marianne Sweat

### Ash Wednesday - Feb 6 - 7:00 pm

(continuous communion)

Bread Servers	2 Pastors
Wine West	Greg Hughes
Cups West	Linda Hughes
Wine East	Terry Leedy
Cups East	Kay Leedy
Intinction	Lu Diday

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Stewardship Committee

### POWER POINT OPERATORS

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>
Feb 3	Tom Sarbach	Jim Scheiber
Feb 10	Gordon Moxley	Jim Scheiber
Feb 17	Paul Ward	Jim Scheiber
Feb 24	Tom Sarbach	Jim Scheiber

**BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE**

February 3: Carol Williams

**FEBRUARY ALTAR WORKERS**

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

+ + + + +

**11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

**Greeters/Ushers**

Feb 3 Cindy and Robyn Russell  
Feb 10 Renee and Emily Blankenship  
Feb 17 Jerry and Lu Diday  
Feb 24 Ted and Karen Ellis

**February 17 Communion Preparer**

Jan Fisher

**February 17 Communion Assistants**

Matt and Renee Blankenship  
Ted and Karen Ellis

**Intercessory Prayer Team**

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson





## JANUARY CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

**Matt Blankenship** called the Tuesday, January 8, 2008 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Larson opened the meeting with prayer.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Council approved that 2008 membership renewal dues of \$100.00 be paid to Main Street Mansfield.

**SENIOR PASTOR:** Pastor Larson expressed his appreciation to all the choirs and instrumentalists who assisted with the Advent and Christmas season worship services. He thanked Tom Pasheilich and Bill Schwartz for their work in the penthouse apartment. Wednesday evening Lenten services will be held February 13 through March 12 - "In the Beginning - Genesis" is the topic for study. Council approved revising the February, 2008 communion schedule as follows: February 3, 8:30 a.m. and Sunday, February 10, 11:00 a.m. The Easter Sunday, March 23, 11:00 a.m. worship services will be combined. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 9:45 a.m. Pastor Larson announced that Cheryl Lantz is retiring as the Christian Day School director, effective March 1, 2008. He spoke of many positive changes Cheryl has made as director of the CDS.

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Pastor Jones mentioned that following the 40 Days of Purpose small group meetings, there are 13 groups with 112 members continuing the five-purpose focused program. He stated he has received an invitation to preach at Bethany Lutheran Church in Northport, Michigan, on July 27 for their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (Bethany is where he served before coming to

FELC). Council approved this Sunday as a work day Sunday. He will attend a National Pastors Convention Tuesday, February 26 through Sunday, March 2.

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Tim Guenther thanked all who helped with the Advent and Christmas worship services and for those who decorated the church for the Christmas season.

**WELCA:** Cheryl Lantz reported they are continuing the bread and peanut butter ministry twice monthly. The Lenten breakfast will be Saturday, February 9 and the Mother Daughter banquet will be Friday, May 9, 6:30 p.m.

**FINANCE:** Rob Skropits thanked Council for their cooperation when Jim Hannewald presented budget information during the December 11, 2007 Council meeting. He thanked all for their prayers, concerns and the memorial gift given by Council upon the recent death of Elizabeth McLaughlin, his mother-in-law.

**PROPERTY:** Matt Blankenship presented a list of property item projects to be included in the Capital Fund Campaign that were presented to the congregation, in the following priority order (with their estimated costs), during a special January 13, 2008 Congregational Meeting:

Main structure roof replacement and related work \$300,000  
 Undercroft kitchen fire suppression system \$50,000  
 Repair remaining west side stained glass windows \$98,000  
 Repair plaster and paint sanctuary interior (and related work) \$174,700  
 Replace Luther Hall roof \$36,000  
 Repair front retaining wall along Park Avenue West \$9,500  
 Pew cushion replacement \$10,000  
 Remaining stained glass windows \$220,000  
 Sand blast, tuck point and seal exterior \$48,000  
 Luther Hall ventilation system update \$18,000  
 Ceilings and lighting upgrade in Luther Hall \$12,000  
 Replace windows in Luther Hall \$69,000  
 New water heaters \$7,000  
 Pave parking lot and repair wall \$55,000  
 Install gate between buildings \$8,000  
 New carpet in sanctuary \$27,000  
 Complete undercroft kitchen project \$45,000  
**TOTAL \$1,187,200**

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:** Nancy Pasheilich stated Fastnacht is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, and Lenten soup suppers are planned.

**EVANGELISM:** Steve Ritz the committee is working to update The Visitor mailing list with a comment in The Visitor as to whether people would rather receive it via mail, online or on the church website.

**GLOBAL MISSION:** Jeanne Hillman reported that \$10,737, less a \$50 bank transfer fee, was sent to Shadreck Chikoti to enable

the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries to purchase a mini bus. An informational meeting about a proposed mission trip to Malawi was held Tuesday, January 15. The following funds have been distributed: \$500 (including \$61.02 from Milliron Recycling) to the Rytas Orphanage in Lithuania; \$750 to the Kraft family support and \$500 for the Sorge family support. Council approved the Global Mission Committee to enroll in the Meijer Community Rewards Program, with funds received to be allocated to our Missionary Fund. Jeanne reported that Advent folder contributions of \$3,280.75 and the giving of \$1,023.74 during the 2007 fourth quarter will be given to support the Malawi Orphan Care Ministries.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Renee Ward said the Advent folder offerings totaled \$3,280.75. She further reported that approximately 92% of the Advent offerings were checks or cash, rather than quarters. Some persons gave above the suggested \$15.00 if the quarter slots were filled.

**SERVICE:** Becky Sarbach reported five more "Support the Troops" packages have been sent with more to be sent. Many items were collected during the 2007 adopt-a-family project which benefitted Harmony House. She expressed appreciation to the congregation for their generous support.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Chris Cichanowicz presented a recommendation from the Christian Education Committee to approve proposed revisions to FELC's Child Safety Policy. Council approved revisions, contingent upon review by legal counsel. Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday is February 3.

**YOUTH:** Annette Doklovic reported that progress on the youth meeting space continues, with a need for someone to install carpet. There was a profit of \$594.36 on the December 14 and 15 cookie baking project. The Youth will be baking cookies which will be available for donation February 9 and 10 for Valentine's Day. The Senior High School Youth Group continues gathering from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday evenings. Parents and interested persons are being asked to provide a meal for the group. The Senior High School Zone retreat will be held March 7 to 9 in Cincinnati. The Junior High Quake retreat is scheduled February 15 to 17 in Huron with approximately 14 youth attending. The Spud Fest will be held March 16, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The Senior High Mission trip to Gatlinberg, TN, will be June 29 to July 5, 2008.

**CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL:** Linda Elgin mentioned that when she was informed by Cheryl Lantz of her March 1, 2008 retirement, she called the CDS committee members to inform them. Cheryl will remain on the CDS committee and is willing to substitute in the CDS. Enrollment is 105. There were no complaints heard about the 3% tuition increase beginning January 1, 2008.

**ADJOURNMENT:** This meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. Pastor Larson closed the meeting with prayer.

– Mary M. Schwartz,  
Congregation Council Secretary

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## VOTING RESULTS

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 13, 2008 - 9:45 A.M.**

**Recommendation #1** - to proceed with a Major Capital Funds Campaign: 92 Yes; 8 No

**Recommendation #2** - to borrow the money and do the roof project this summer: unanimous voice vote.

**Recommendation #3** - to hire Resource Services, Inc. (RSI) to assist with the Major Capital Funds Campaign: 80 Yes; 24 No; 5 unmarked.



## GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

*Kel and Sharon are the couple who worked with Joe and Karyne Carey in Lithuania. They went shopping together to buy things for the orphanage:*

Dear First English Lutheran Church, Aciu - thank you - so much for giving to the children at Rytas orphanage in Klaipeda. We really appreciate your generously giving \$500 to help the children. Thank you for also supporting our on-going, long-term Vineyard Klaipeda ministry at the orphanage. Even more, we appreciate your emotional support and prayers. As you know, prayers can help God change our world.

We spoke with the orphanage director and she was thrilled to receive your church's help again. She said they need supplies including toothpaste, soap, shower gel, hygiene products for the girls, after-shave for the boys and toilet paper. She remembered all the toilet paper your money bought last time! She also said the children really lack simple sports shoes and if possible, could some of the money be used to buy some. Kel and I hope to soon take one of the former orphanage boys and his girlfriend to help us buy these supplies to bless the children.

The toiletries etc are things that the government does not supply. Consequently, the orphanage is really grateful for them.

With the money you gave for our Vineyard ministry at the orphanage, we hope to buy much-needed outdoor supplies such as balls and sand-pit toys for our summer activities with the children. Last year we wanted to buy more supplies but could not afford it; so thank you.

Some of these children have no or only one parent, usually incapable of looking after them. Their parents may be alcoholics, drug addicts, severely mentally-ill or live at the rubbish dump, where up to 60 families live. Between 65 and 80 children live at the orphanage, some of them for their entire life until 18, some of them just for a few years. Please pray for them. They lack love and emotional support. We see this as part of our role, to help God and the staff provide this. The physical elements such as your money will buy also help a lot!

May God bless and keep you, Kel & Sharon

**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

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## **HELP RAISE MISSIONARY FUNDS: join the Meijer Community Rewards Program**

Our First English Lutheran Church Missionary Fund was \$1,811 short for 2007. FELC has enrolled in the Meijer Community Rewards (MCR) program to help raise money for this fund.

Using code number **115283** to support our Missionary Fund, join MCR in one of three ways:

- (1) Complete and mail an application (available in the Narthex). Receive the Meijer 1 Card (store customer card, not a credit card) and key tags in approximately three weeks.
- (2) Apply online and receive the Meijer 1 Card and key tags within two weeks.
- (3) In-store, apply for a Meijer credit card.

To earn rewards, the Meijer 1 Card or key tag is scanned. **Only cash, a PIN-based debit card, or a Meijer credit card are eligible for MCR (not checks)**. The Meijer MasterCard may be used at other locations to pay for purchases, but rewards are only earned at Meijer, Meijer gas

stations, Meijer convenience stores, Meijer car washes, and online Meijer purchases.

The program is free to all customers. It works best with a group effort. The more that participate, the greater the rewards. There is no limit to what our Mission Fund can earn.

MCR is based on payment method. Purchases paid with cash or a PIN-based debit card along with a Meijer 1 Card earn 0.5%; purchases paid with a linked Meijer credit card earn 1%. Before rewards are computed, the current "Giving Share" is applied and this determines net purchase. Purchase totals are then recorded towards the designated organization. Once a month, when FELC's Missionary Fund rewards reach \$100 or more, Meijer will mail a check to FELC.

The 6-digit code number to use when joining is **115283**.

**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 21**

**Attention committee chairs and organization leaders!** Your annual report for May 2007 through April 2008 is due in the church office on Friday, March 21. *Be sure to include a list of your committee members.* Reports submitted by e-mail or on diskette are greatly appreciated (bguenther@felc-mansfield.org).

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**MALAWI**  
**ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES**

THE FOLLOWING IS A THANK YOU LETTER FROM SHADRECK REGARDING THE MINIBUS:

Dear Joy [Jones],

I write this letter to you and to First English Evangelical Lutheran Church on behalf of the children and the board at Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries.

We are more than happy to hear that God has answered our prayer of a minibus. When I shared this with the board, we could not believe it. We have seen the hand of God in this and are very grateful to you. We accept this gift with gladness and praise to God Almighty.

The board, as well as myself, assures you that the funds that are going to be sent will be used for the purpose of purchasing a minibus that will be used to generate income for KOC. The remaining funds, as suggested by Roscoe [Thompson], will be used for fixing the vehicle and to register it so that the ministry owns it.

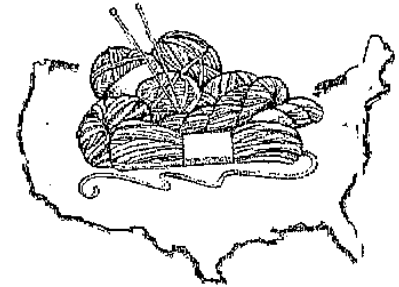
Please do inform our brothers and sisters at First English that we have accepted this gift and that we are very thankful to all those who gave their money, their time and more importantly their prayers. We can't find the best word to describe this gift. It is an amazing present.

May God richly bless you. In Christ,  
Shadreck Chikoti

## WARM UP AMERICA! UPDATE

Thank you to all who volunteered their skills and yarn to the Warm Up America! project in 2007! Twelve multicolored afghans were given to the needy in our community in 2007 through EMPAC, The Shelter, Harmony House, and the Main Street Methodist Community Outreach program.

Warm Up America! is an on-going ministry. If you would like to participate, patterns for the 7" x 9" knitted or crocheted pieces are available through the church office or on-line at [www.warmupamerica.com](http://www.warmupamerica.com). You can put your finished pieces in the box in the narthex. If you have leftover yarn or new skeins to donate, you are welcome to put the yarn in the box! Anyone can pick up the yarn and make pieces!!!



Volunteers are always needed to crochet borders on finished pieces or to sew the pieces together. If you can help or if you have questions, call Karyne Carey at 419-589-7253.

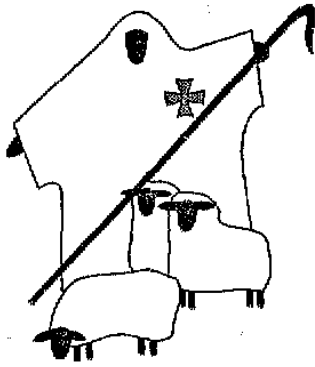
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## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS UPDATE

Heartfelt thanks to ALL who have donated to the Support Our Troops project! This project continues to be a success and we have brightened the day of some very deserving Marines and Sailors. A special thanks to Debra Rei for placing donation boxes in some of the schools. Through her efforts we received lots of treats and many great letters and drawings from the school children.

**We will continue to send care packages through the end of March so your donations are still needed.** The collection boxes will continue to be in the Narthex and undercroft for those who wish to continue to donate to this project! Thank You!

- Kay Leedy (419) 884-0405



## WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Jan Fisher: "I want to say a big thank you for the poster sent to me from church. The prayers of so many in our church community were greatly appreciated and very effective. God was listening, as always, and has been a big part of my speedy recovery."

From George Stafford: "For your cards, calls and prayers. For Pastor Andy's and Pastor Kress' calls, prayers and visits. For the prayer shawl knit and brought to me by Karen Ellis. All of these actions help me to keep a positive attitude. Thank you, and God bless all of you."

From Glen and Jane Eggeman "We wish to thank everyone for the expressions of sympathy following the death of our sister-in-law, Mary Eggeman."

From Bill and Pearl West: "We send a big thank you for all the cards, letters and prayers during Pearl's knee surgery and recovery, and Bill's lung cancer treatments and continuing chemo and radiation therapy."

From Charles and Ida Joan Koehler (friends of Norma Cushing): "To all who prayed for my husband during his illness, I thank you and love you."

From Adele Kinton: "I wish to thank the church for administering Communion to my mother, Maxine, the tasty Christmas cookies and poinsettia during her stay at Lexington Court. They made her day."

From the family of Elizabeth McLaughlin: "We wish to thank all of our brothers and sisters in Christ for all the prayers, phone calls, and cards sent during Elizabeth's short illness. We would also like to thank those that helped in providing the delicious meal that was served after the funeral. We all praise God that she is no longer suffering. We know that the road of grief will be difficult but we also know that all of you will make that road a bit easier with your continued prayers."

- In Christ's Love, Glen McLaughlin and the families of:  
Eric McLaughlin, Andy McLaughlin, Rob Skropits,  
Terry Freund, and David Boliantz

*(continued)*

From Anna Marie McCracken: "Dear church family, What a surprise! All the birthday cards I received brighten my days. They expressed chuckles, prayers, and good wishes. We are truly blessed to be part of a very loving church family. Thank you, and God bless you all."

From Weldon Lemon: "I want to thank everybody for the birthday cards."

Congratulations to Joel and April Keener on the birth of their first child, Parker James, born on December 14, 2007 weighing 9 lbs. 8 oz. Ken and Karen Frayer are proud grandparents.

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

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## **LABELS FOR EDUCATION**

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

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## **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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).



## FEBRUARY 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Best wishes to our members who are 80+ years of age this month! We honor them on their special day, and thank God who has given them a long and full life. We pray for God's rich blessing on them now and in the years to come.

### FEBRUARY

2	Mr. Robert Glasscock	522 Cline Ave.	44907-1026
3	Mr. Frank Ackard	919 Lexdale Lane	44907-2511
3	Mr. Leland McKean	1973 Rosewood Dr.	44906-1722
3	Mrs. Rosemary McKean	1973 Rosewood Dr.	44906-1722
7	Mrs. Isabelle Smith	1332 Park Ave. E.	44905-2536
11	Mr. George Stafford	230 Valley Hi Drive, Lexington	44904-9792
12	Mrs. Elinore Cuning	248 Saxton Rd.	44907-1114
12	Mrs. Ruth Wolford	1457 Wolford Rd.	44903-9736
17	Mrs. Mary Pore	475 Beechwood Dr.	44907-2303
18	Mrs. Wanda Hill	Winchester Terrace, 70 Winchester Road	44907
19	Mr. Harold Dickson	139 Lind Ave.	44903-2103
21	Ms. Theresa Schambre	1568 Lexington Ave., Apt 1A	44907-2635
22	Mrs. Betty Newlon	PO Box 414, Tonto Basin, AZ	85553-0414
22	Mrs. Emma Shaum	11728 Hickory Lane, Tavares, FL	32778
23	Mr. William Cairns	1458 N. Stewart Rd.	44903-7761
25	Mrs. Marie Kiner	318 James Ave., Apt. A2	44907
25	Mrs. Evelyn Smith	1065 Partridge Circle, #101, Naples, FL	34104



We remember the families and friends of those who died December 21, 2007 - January 25, 2008:

<b>Scott Pastor</b>	<b>January 9</b>
<i>(dear friend of Lola Reid)</i>	
<b>David Eckstein</b>	<b>January 12</b>
<b>Janet Hanna</b>	<b>January 12</b>
<i>(wife of David Eckstein)</i>	
<b>Max Dye</b>	<b>January 13</b>
<b>Pat O'Connell</b>	<b>January 16</b>
<i>(brother-in-law of Bill Hayes)</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.

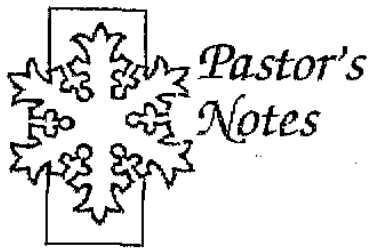
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## PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals:	January 16, 2008	Max Dye
	January 19, 2008	David Eckstein
Baptism:	January 13, 2008	Katilyn Marie Stransky, daughter of Matt Stransky and Deanne Kuhn (granddaughter of Carol Pierce; great-granddaughter of Betty Baehrens)

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**HELP NEEDED WITH FUNERAL DINNERS!!** Will you help with this ministry by providing a covered dish for our funeral dinners or by helping to set up, serve, or clean up? Please contact Ruth Sweval at 419-526-5090 or res1366@yahoo.com.



## FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...

### *Letting Go of The Past* Psalm 139

Psalm 139 is a discourse by a man who has made an astounding discovery - that God knows him personally. The psalmist believes that God not only knows everything about him, God is also aware of the smallest detail of his life. Even the purposes of his mind before they take thought-form. So overwhelmed by the awareness of this knowledge, there seems to be only two persons in the universe, himself and God. So he prays: "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away, you know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me, and tell me where to stop and rest! Every moment you know where I am! You know what I am going to say before I even say it. You both precede and follow me, and place your hand of blessing on my head." (Psalm 139:1-5 Living Bible). The Psalmist does not understand how God, with the whole universe to care for, can be interested in one human being nor does he try to understand, "This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe!" (vs 6)

Forsaken by his fiancé who refused to share his blindness, George Matheson came in his bitterness of spirit to the Cross where he found a love that would never let

him down. He poured out his devotion by composing the hymn "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go."

This is the God we encounter in Psalm 139. A stubborn, restless pursuing God who loves us so much that He will not let us go. We may lose our hold on him, but he does not lose his hold on us. We may turn our backs on him, but he does not go away. We may run and hide from him, but he tracks us down and finds us. There is no escape from the relentless love of our God. The Psalmist confesses it in the prayer in verses 7-12.

This Psalm inspires us to examine our understanding of God. We ask the question: "As we comprehend the vastness of the universe, which was created by Almighty God, how could anything as small as this earth or even as small as the people who inhabit this earth be of concern to God?" The doubt that Almighty God is concerned for us, his created beings, is founded on the false view that something is of value according to its size. Is a nickel worth more than a dime because it is bigger. Would you love a baby more if it were born six feet tall? When we ask how God could be concerned for a human being who is only a speck in the eye of the cosmos, we need to reassess our understanding of God.

Although God is a person or personality, he is all-knowing. He knows when the sparrow falls and the number of hairs on our heads. God is great! To gain a correct understanding of God's greatness, we must first remove from our thoughts that God is limited.

My point is that we often live in spiritual poverty because we do not comprehend the majesty and power of God and his willingness to give good gifts to his children. It is time that we let go of the past. He knows our every thought and deed, and he continues to love us and accept us as we are. He gives us forgiveness of our sins and empowerment to live victoriously. Let go of your past and live today as though it were the first day of your life.

A story is told of an expedition of scientists who were on a mission to capture a particular species of monkey in the jungles of Africa. It was important that the monkeys be brought back alive and unharmed. The scientists devised a trap consisting of a small jar with a long neck into which they placed a handful of nuts. Several of these jars were staked out, and the scientists returned to their camp confident of catching the monkeys. Scenting the nuts in the bottle. A monkey would thrust his paw into the long neck and take a fist full of nuts. When he tried to withdraw his prize, he discovered that his clenched fist would not pass through

the narrow neck of the bottle. He was trapped in the anchored bottle, unable to escape with his booty, and yet unwilling to let go of it. When the scientists returned, they easily took the monkeys captive.

We may smile at the monkeys thinking how foolish they were, but in some respects we are just like them. We cling to the very things that hold us captive, remaining captive through sheer unwillingness to let go. We feel we have been unjustly treated in our work or by some friend or associate. Often, someone will say, "I will never forget this as long as I live!" Thus they hold on to the grudge (like a hand full of nuts), spending the rest of their days complaining about the unfairness of life, but being unwilling to let go.

God made the monkey to climb and run free, but the monkey "devised" the clasping of his hand on a nut so that he was trapped. He was never at any time less than the free monkey which he was intended to be. He was bound by his own faulty evaluation of himself. He had the power at any time to say to his hand, "open." You, too, have the power to let go of fear and worry and resentment and regret. At any time, when life has made a monkey out of you, you have the power to let go and turn from fretting, locking forward to the future God has for you.

- Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor

## MEMORIALS

### Building Maintenance Fund

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Wes & Sandie Volz

### Capital Campaign Fund

**Max Dye:**

Helen Anderson

**David Eckstein:**

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### Christian Day School Memorial Fund

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**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.

## **DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY**

### **Sign up and Renewal**

Since July 2003, Ohioans have been able to place home phone, fax, pager, and cell phone numbers on the Do-Not-Call Registry to prevent unwanted telemarketing calls from most companies which is valid for five years.

So if you signed up in 2003, you will need to renew your name and number(s) on the registry in 2008. You can join the Do-Not-Call Registry at any time. It can be accessed online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling toll free at 1-888-382-1222 from the telephone number you wish to register. Registering in 2008 would again be valid for five years.

For additional information, contact the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel at 1-877-742-5622, or email [occ@occ.state.oh.us](mailto:occ@occ.state.oh.us)

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### **FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE**

Pastor Larson	<a href="mailto:plarson@felc-mansfield.org">plarson@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Pastor Jones	<a href="mailto:ajones@felc-mansfield.org">ajones@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Pastor Kress	<a href="mailto:ckress@felc-mansfield.org">ckress@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Timothy Guenther	<a href="mailto:tguenther@felc-mansfield.org">tguenther@felc-mansfield.org</a>
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Dot Blaney	<a href="mailto:dblaney@felc-mansfield.org">dblaney@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Betty Guenther	<a href="mailto:bguenther@felc-mansfield.org">bguenther@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Connie Stewart	<a href="mailto:cstewart@felc-mansfield.org">cstewart@felc-mansfield.org</a>

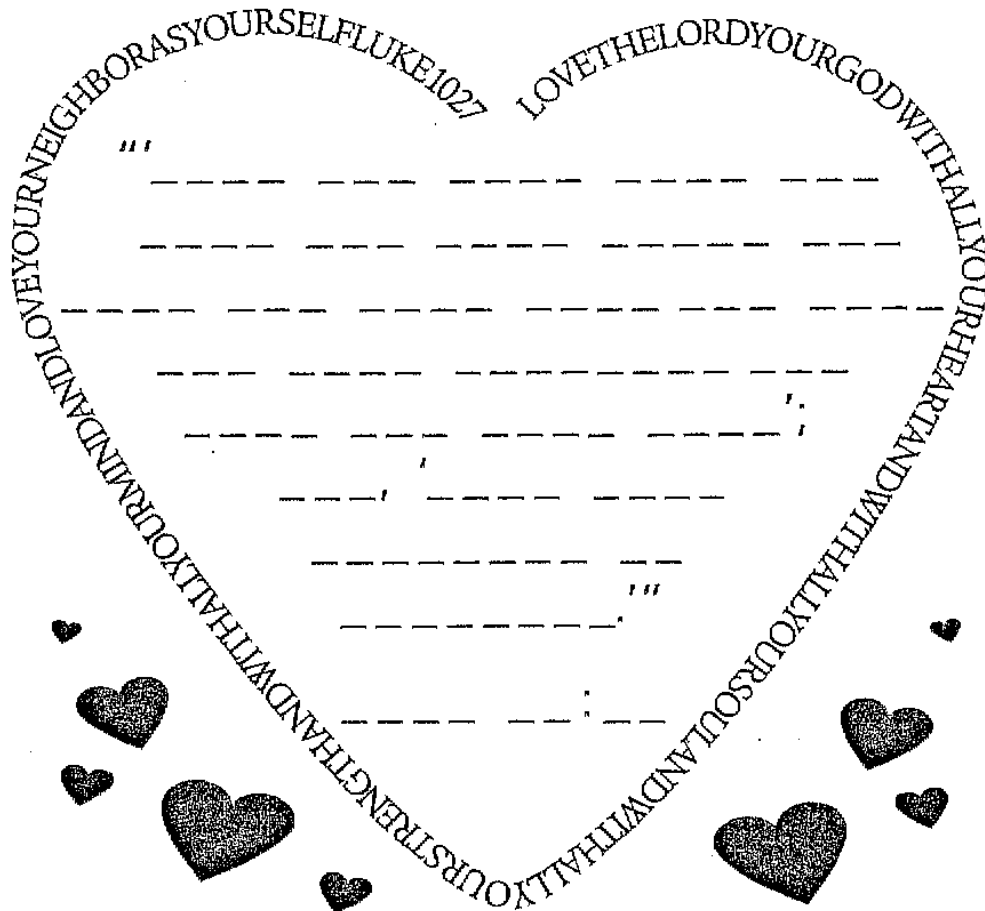
*Please, no junk mail, cutesy stories, or chain letters.* Reserve the use of church e-mail for important correspondence with the staff. **Visit our web site at: [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)**



# Just for KIDS

# LOVE

In the Bible, Jesus says there are two greatest commandments. Below is a heart with continuous words around it. With your pencil, draw lines between the words. Then copy the words onto the lines below to complete Luke 10:27, NIV.



LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF LUKE 10:27

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“ ”

Answer: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself.”

## MISSION STATEMENT

### First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio

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

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

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

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

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#### CHURCH STAFF

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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  
Donna Turney, Christian Day School Secretary  
John Meyer, Custodial/Maintenance  
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

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Vice President	Gene Harsch	Property	Shawn Volz
Secretary	Mary Schwartz	Service Ministry	Becky Sarbach
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