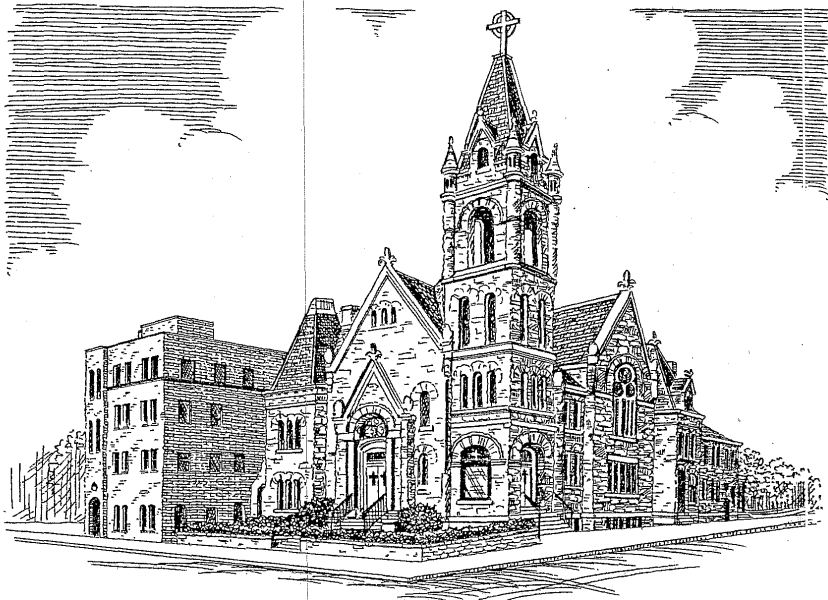


# THE VISITOR



## *The First English Lutheran Church*

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

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Volume 50

JULY 2008

Number 7

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"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one. So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together let no one put asunder." Matthew 19:5-6

## *Dear Friends In Christ,*

It's Summer time and wedding bells are ringing! Though people do get married throughout the year, the months of June through August are typically the favorite times chosen by most couples to get married. I know that both Pastor Andy and I have been busy meeting with couples for their premarital counseling. It is an exciting time to work with people as they plan for their new life together as "Husband & Wife."

Typically, we meet with each couple about six times (1½ to 2 hours for each session) over at least a six-month period leading up to the wedding date. One thing that we try to impart to every couple is our desire to help them build a Christ-Centered Marriage and Home. We pray that each couple will experience God's Blessing of a life-long future of joy and love together.

But good marriages never "just happen." They are the result of a husband and wife truly committed to one another: committed to investing their time, their energy, their BEST in daily making a good marriage. Strong healthy marriages result in strong healthy families. Strong healthy families result in a strong healthy society. For the sake of our marriages, our children, and our society, husbands and wives need to learn to put their relationship of marriage first.

As a Christian, the most important relationship God will ever give to me is my relationship with Him. This must be my 1<sup>st</sup> priority – to invest my time, energy, and attention in growing my relationship with Christ. I can't allow myself to become too busy... to worship, to pray, to read His Word. If I neglect and mess-up this relationship, I will mess-up all the other ones in my life.

Because God has gifted me with a spouse, my second most important relationship to nourish and protect is my relationship with my wife, Kristi. She is (and indeed must be) the most important human being in my life. This is GOD's natural order for priorities. She is my very best friend.

Because God has gifted us with children, our children are our third most important priority in our lives. Children are naturally more emotionally secure and feel more loved when they know and see that Daddy and Mommy are totally committed to each other. Mothers in our society often make the mistake of prioritizing their children over their relationship with their husband. Likewise, fathers in our society often make the similar mistake of prioritizing their work over their relationship with either their wife or their children. If you are married, are you making time for just the two of you each day? Messed-up priorities result in messed-up lives.

The fourth priority in life is God's gift of close family members and friends. Note that parents, grandchildren, and old friends do not come before your spouse.

The fifth priority in life should be our occupations. Admittedly, most of us regularly get these priorities all turned around. When that happens, problems just naturally follow.

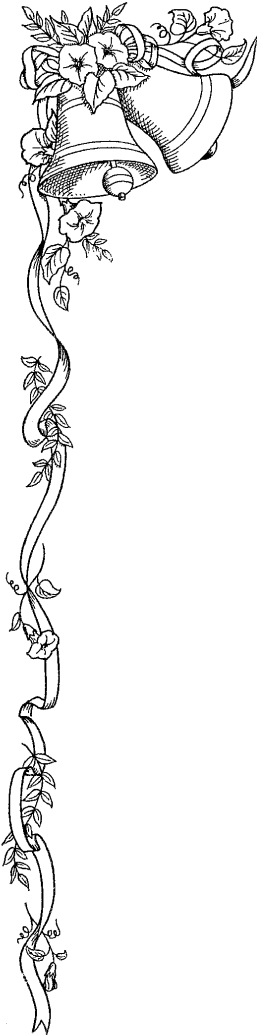
I share this with you, not because I do a perfect job of keeping these God-given priorities in proper order. I often get them terribly confused and flipped around. But, if we don't know what our IDEAL should be, we are then often clueless to the source of our problems. Christ must be First in all of our lives. From Him all the other good gifts follow. He is the one who gives us the Love, Patience, Forgiveness, Honesty, Integrity, and Boldness that we all need to be:

Loving – Committed spouses,  
Caring – Nurturing parents,  
Responsible family members and friends,  
Hardworking – Honest employees.

In all of life, let us learn from Christ, the giver of every good and perfect gift.

On the following page is a poem that hangs on our wall next to our Wedding picture. It is a good daily reminder of how to cherish and nurture the gift God gave to Kristi and me 33 years ago. I pray it is a blessing for you.

Together In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Paul L. Larson



## *The Art of Marriage*

*A good marriage must be created.  
In the marriage the little things  
are the big things ...*

*It is never being too old to hold hands.  
It is remembering to say "I love you"  
at least once a day.*

*It is never going to sleep angry.  
It is having a mutual sense of values  
and common objectives.*

*It is standing together facing the world.  
It is forming a circle of love that  
gathers in the whole family.*

*It is speaking words of appreciation  
and demonstrating gratitude  
in thoughtful ways.*

*It is having the capacity  
to forgive and forget.  
It is giving each other an atmosphere  
in which each can grow.*

*It is a common search for the  
good and the beautiful.*

*It is not only marrying  
the right person —  
It is being the right partner.*

*- Wilferd A. Peterson*

## CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED JULY 4

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

---

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,  
July 6      **NO Matins Choir rehearsal.** The Director will be on vacation
- Monday,  
July 7      **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,  
July 2 & 16      **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.
- Friday,  
July 18      **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  
July 26 & 27      **Food Collection Weekend.** The May collection totaled \$130 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program and 4 bags of groceries for Catholic Charities. Thank you for your continued support!

### SCHEDULE NOTES:

**Blood Pressure** readings will resume the first Sunday in September.

**Prayer Shawl** knitters will not meet in June/July/August.

**Fireflies and Spirit!** children's choirs will rehearse/sing again in September

## JULY 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).
	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 JULY:

- Sat, July 5      ➤ Mr. Scott Berry, organist, 5:00 p.m. Saturday Chapel  
Sun, July 6      ➤ Mrs. Jeanette Neuhaus, organist, 8:30 & 11:00 Nave
- Sat, July 12     ➤ Mr. Mike Hughes, seminarian, guest preacher at 5:00 p.m. Chapel  
Sun, July 13     ➤ Mr. Mike Hughes, seminarian, guest preacher at all 3 Sunday services.
- July 20           ➤ 11:00 a.m. Proclaim! Contemporary Worship at the Blackfork Retreat  
                                Center in conjunction with the VBS Retreat.  
                                ➤ 11:00 a.m. Nave Holy Baptism for Mr. Matt Criss and daughter,  
                                Elizabeth.
- July 27           ➤ The Rev. Ed Winkler, supply pastor, 8:30 & 11:00 Nave

**SUMMER WORSHIP.** At the June 10, 2008 meeting, the Congregation Council approved to keep our present Sunday morning worship schedule during the summer. Please be aware that the Saturday 5:00 p.m. worship service is held in the air conditioned chapel.

---

## NO FIRST TUESDAY in JULY or AUGUST

The First Tuesday lunch group will not meet in July or August. The next First Tuesday will be on September 2.



Our Nursing  
Home Ministry

## COMMUNION SERVICES AT NURSING HOMES . . .

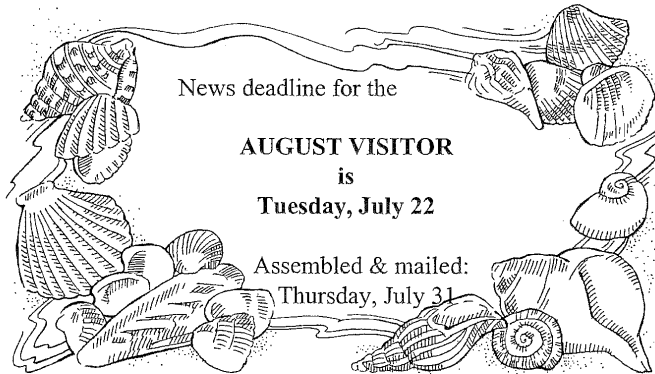
In order to provide communion for First Lutheran members who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, monthly worship services are scheduled in four locations with Communion Deacons assisting the pastors. All residents of the facilities are invited to attend, and members of First Lutheran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

### Tuesday, July 15

9:00 A.M. Elmcroft of Ontario  
10:15 A.M. The Waterford  
2:00 P.M. *Mifflin not scheduled*

### Thursday, July 17

9:30 A.M. Alterra Sterling House





**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HAS A NEW FORMAT** this year as a family-centered weekend retreat at the Blackfork Retreat Center beginning **Saturday, July 19, at 10:00 A.M. and ending with a Sunday, July 20, 11:00 A.M. worship service** (our Proclaim! contemporary) and 12:30 P.M. congregational potluck lunch at the B.F.C.

(The regular Saturday 5:00 P.M. and Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 worship services in the Nave will be held at FELC that weekend in addition to the Sunday morning Proclaim! service out at the Retreat Center).

Families are encouraged to bring tents or campers. There will be many activities, and the Kraft family, missionaries to Bolivia, will be present. **New and exciting! Read below!**



Come camp out with us! 2008 brings some exciting changes to V.B.S. at First English Lutheran Church; we are going to have a two day V.B.S. Family Camp out. It will officially begin on Saturday July, 19, 2008 at 10:00am in the morning and end with a church service and pot luck afterwards. Not into camping you can still come and participate for part or all of the weekend, just go home at night sleep and come join us in the morning.

If we have kids that want to join us for camping out but your parents can't, see Tricia Volz and we will see if we can work something out. The Kraft family (missionaries from Bolivia) are planning on joining us for the weekend so we should have a great learning experience as well. All are invited from young to old come enjoy our retreat site and fellowshiping with others.

## JULY 2008 WELCA CALENDAR

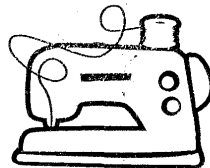
CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
FIRST TUESDAY EVE SARAH LYDIA PLANNING TEAM	N O M E E T I N G			
WORKDAY LADIES	2 & 16	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
MARY	11	FRIDAY	11:30 A.M	Lunch at The Upper Crust, 189 Marion Ave.

Funeral Dinners: Squad A, Margaret Battisti

Altar Group Workers: Nave – Pat Wells, Chapel – Bev Graham, Contemporary – Jan Fisher.

### WORKDAY LADIES NEED MACHINE SEWERS!

Patchwork comforter production has gotten behind, and we could use some help sewing the patches together to make the colorful tops. We have been able to complete a few lap robes, but full-size comforters for Lutheran World Relief, area agencies in need, and our high school graduates are in short supply.



If someone could help us by doing some machine sewing at home, it would be appreciated! We have plenty of patches ready! Call **Pat Reed at 419-756-1372** if you would like to help.

*Thank you to those who have already done some sewing and completed quilt tops for us!*

# DAYSPRING BIRTHDAY PROJECT 2007-2008...

A sincere thank you to the following people who supported our Dayspring Birthday Project! Each resident gives us ideas of what they would like to receive. Our average gift amount is \$10. The gift is wrapped or put in a festive bag, plus a birthday card signed by the person and "First English Lutheran Church."  
- Margaret Battisti, coordin ator

## June 2007

Vi Deems  
Margaret Battisti  
Megan Goings  
Mary Hayes

## July 2007

Lolita Scheiber  
Helen Anderson  
Donna Rettig  
Jean Ridenour  
Pat Wells  
Betty Baehrens

## August 2007

Marilyn Calver  
Shirley Bender  
Margaret Battisti

## September 2007

Vi Deems  
Margaret Battisti  
Jerry Gallagher  
Liz Prather  
Eileen Miller

## October 2007

Jackie Moxley  
Kay Leedy  
Evelyn Smith

## November 2007

Jan Beddard  
Margaret Battisti  
Mabel Wolf

## December 2007

Mary Schwartz  
Ruth Sweval  
Jeanne Hillman  
Norma Price  
Cheryl Strohminger  
Susie LeMunyon  
Margaret Battisti

## January 2008

Pat Reed  
Nancy Pasheilich  
Wilda Soka  
Carolyn Weeks

## February 2008

Loretta McBride  
Eileen Miller

## March 2008

Chris Cichanowicz  
Juanita Baker  
Jo Wirstrom  
Mary Leonard  
Margaret Battisti

## April 2008

Pat Fraifogel  
Lois McCullough  
Lu Diday  
Margaret Battisti

## May 2008

Sandie Volz  
Karyne Carey  
Susan Hogsette  
Shirley Bender  
Margaret Battisti

## June 2008

Miriam Dye  
Emma Shaum  
Virginia Blizzard  
Marilyn Dinges  
Shirley Shupp



Many  
Thanks

## 2008 SCHOOL KITS, HEALTH KITS, SEWING KITS, AND LAYETTES FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF . . .

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

### SCHOOL KITS

Pads or notebooks of ruled paper  
approximately 8 ½ x 11" containing  
150-200 sheets of paper

One blunt-nose scissors

One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with  
centimeters on one side and inches  
on the other

One pencil sharpener

Six new pencils with erasers

One eraser approximately 2 ½" long

12 sheets of construction paper in  
assorted colors

One box of 8, 16 or 24 crayons

One cloth bag (provided)

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

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

### LAYETTES

Two shirts

Two gowns, sleepers, or onesies

Two receiving blankets

Four cloth diapers

One sweater

Two wash cloths

One bath-size bar of soap

Two diaper pins

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

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

*(continued)*

## HEALTH KITS

One hand towel  
One washcloth  
One bath-size bar of soap in original wrapping  
One toothbrush in original wrapping  
One tube of toothpaste, unwrap packaging  
One comb, wide tooth preferred  
One metal file or nail clippers with file, unwrap packaging  
Six Band-Aids, preferably 1/2 to 3/4"

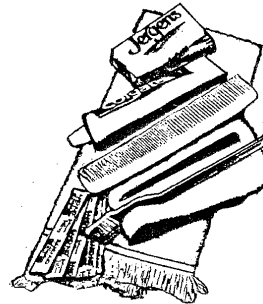
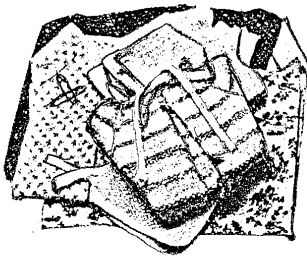
Wrap items in towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn.

**All kits must be returned to the church as a complete kit ready for shipping. The deadline to turn in completed kits is October 5. They will be packed and then taken to Seville, Ohio, later in October for shipping.**

## SEWING KITS

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

Wrap items inside fabric and tie with string or yarn.



— Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820



## JULY NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

Summer is here! The campers have been busy visiting various parks in the area as well as the zoo. They have made their own t-shirts, gone fishing and skating so far this summer. This month they will see an Indians game, tour Ye Old Mill, and hike at Mohican.

The three and four year olds have been enjoying the library shows and listening to stories for the summer reading program. They also went to the fire station, Maple Park, and North Lake Park.

Our Bible theme for July is God protects and comforts us (Psalm 23). We are enjoying the summer, and we wish everyone a safe and fun-filled summer!

– Terry Bianchi, CDS Director

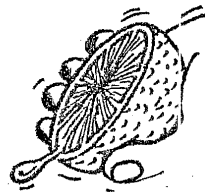
**From Linda Elgin, CDS Committee Chair:** *I am pleased to announce that effective June 15, 2008, Theresa (Terry) Bianchi has been selected to fill the position of Christian Day School Director of the First English Lutheran Church. Please join me in congratulating her!*

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## IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY . . .

Thank you to all who have donated books for our church library. Gail Elder, our member in Florida, has mailed new books for the library. Summer is a great time to relax and enjoy reading.

Jerry Schmalenberger's recently published autobiography, "Life in a Hurry" is available on the library table in the narthex. His book is available far below his cost to produce as he and Carol would like to move them out of their garage. For first class mail, send \$10; or \$15 for priority mail to: Jerry Schmalenberger, 162 Pelican Loop, Pittsburg, CA 94565. "Life in a Hurry" contains 112 photos and 224 pages.



SQUEEZE IN SOME  
GOOD READING

– Jeanne Hillman

## MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

We thank God for everything that has happened at the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries in these past few years. We thank God that the feeding program is ongoing, for the bus that has been purchased, for the well that will soon be dug, for the youth programs and nursery school program that have been started.

We also know that there is much more to do. The bus business is able to provide most of the funds for the feeding program and the nursery school. However, they still need help purchasing seed and fertilizer for the upcoming planting season and they need funds for the youth program. They would also like to build a feeding hall, two houses for workers and guests and have a little more money for the revolving loan program. **Please continue to support this ministry with your prayers and donations.**

Shadreck has prayerfully determined that he should seek a role in the government of Malawi. He wrote that his purpose is to *"participate in the building up policies for*

*this nation. I am promising God to advance the Gospel in Malawi and to really help the people in my area...I am trusting God so much for this and the future."* He is running against one other participant in the primary election in July. If he wins that election, he will run in the general election for a seat in the Malawian Parliament in May of 2009.

### **Please pray for:**

- God's will to be done regarding Shadreck's participation in the Malawi elections in July.
- for safety for Shadreck during his travels for the orphan project and his campaign.
- for good nutrition and health for the orphans and their caregivers.
- for adequate housing for the orphans and their caregivers.
- for the bus business to continue to succeed.
- for God to be glorified in the work of the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries.
- for continued good health for Yamikani and her baby during her pregnancy.

- Joy Jones



## 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

# JULY VOLUNTEERS

## GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

July 5	Elva Bonser	July 19	Marian Owen
July 12	Elva Bonser	July 26	Marian Owen

## GREETERS 8:30 A.M.

Bill & Mary Ellen Schulz	Narthex
Steve Ritz Family	East Entrance

## USHERS 8:30 A.M.

Larry Faith
Rebecca Faith

## GREETERS 11:00 A.M.

Greg & Linda Hughes	Narthex
Mary Shaffer	East Entrance

## USHERS 11:00 A.M.

Jeff Davis
Annette Doklovic
Tom Hillman
Gary Simmons

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

July 6	Chris Cichanowicz and Lowell Week
July 13	Rob Hogsette and Steve Ritz
July 20	Mary Schwartz and Jane Starnier
July 27	Ken & Karen Frayer and Lowell Weeks

## 11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

July 6	Greg Hughes	July 20	Bob McCready
July 13	Chris Kaschube	July 27	Terry Leedy

## ACOLYTES

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
July 6	Paul Hogsette	Katilyn Stransky
July 13	Katie Ritz	Sara Hannemann
July 20	Stephen Ward	Alissa Ruth
July 27	Kate Hogsette	Haley Pittman

## LAY READERS

### 5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

July 5	Kay McNaul	July 19	Kay McNaul
July 12	Jean Ridenour	July 26	Jean Ridenour

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
July 6	Pat Reed	Diane Molyet
July 13	Liz Prather	Dan Shupp
July 20	Bill Schulz	Chris Kaschube
July 27	Sherry Winbigler	Chris Cichanowicz

### 8:30 Power Point Operators

July 6	Tom Sarbach	July 20	Paul Ward
July 13	Gordon Moxley	July 27	Tom Sarbach

## JULY ALTAR WORKERS

Nave:	Pat Wells
Chapel:	Bev Graham
Proclaim!:	Jan Fisher

### COMMUNION PREPARERS

July 6 11:00 a.m.  
July 13 8:30 a.m.

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

July 6 - 11:00 am                      July 13 - 8:30 am

Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West		
Cups West		
Wine East		
Cups East		
Intinction		

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Service Ministry Committee

### PEW PAD GLEANERS

July 6	Ronda Rehm	July 20	Viola Deems
July 13	Lana Dunham	July 27	Sharon Bowden

### LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:10 am</u>
July 6	Cindy Russell	Mary Hujus
July 13	Betty Guenther	Jodi Mumaw
July 20	Stan Cichanowicz	Ron Rehm
July 27	Betty Guenther	Mary Hujus

+ + + + +

## 11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

### Greeters/Ushers

July 6 Cindy and Robyn Russell  
July 13 Renee and Emily Blankenship  
July 20 TBA  
July 27 Ted and Karen Ellis

### July 20 Communion Preparer

Karen Ellis

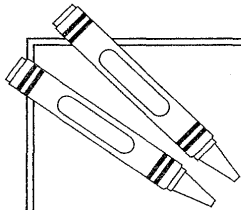
### July 20 Communion Servers

Tricia and Elizabeth Volz  
Ted and Karen Ellis

### Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson





# Just for **KIDS**

## THE POWER TO GIVE

In the New Testament, Jesus emphasizes the importance of giving and doing for others. In the Old Testament, Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tells us what not to do.

Cross out ALL of the following letters to reveal Proverbs 3:27.

..... **B J K Q X Z** .....

Write the remaining letters (in order) on the spaces below.

B W J I T J H Q H O B L Z D G B O O K  
D K F Q R O M T B H J O B S Q E W H O  
X B D B E K Q S E Z X R Z V J E Z X I B  
T W K H Q E N I K Q T I Z S I Z N B Y  
J X J O Z U X R P Q O K W J J E B B R T  
O A Q C Z T

"DO NOT \_\_\_\_\_

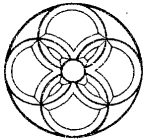
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_."

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act."



## Congregation Council

# JUNE CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, June 10, 2008 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Larson opened the meeting with prayer.

## S E N I O R PASTOR: Pastor

**Larson** reported that as of this date, pledges of \$678,482 have been received for the Renewing God's House of Prayer campaign. Mike Hughes will preach at worship services July 12 and 13.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council approved hiring Theresa Bianchi as director of the First English Lutheran Church Christian Day School, effective June 15, 2008, at the salary of \$24,000 yearly. Mrs. Bianchi has been serving as interim CDS director since March 2008.

**PROPERTY:** **Shawn Volz** reported the youth room has been painted, carpeted, new lights were installed and it is ready for use. The youth will remove the overhead door on the west side balcony Sunday School room and then Roscoe Thompson will sell it on E-Bay. Following an insurance inspection of the Blackfork Retreat Center, it was stated that the gym set and sand box need to be removed, rubber seats installed on the swings and mulch put under the swings. Tom Pasheilich will meet with Mid State

Contractors about the sanctuary roofing project. The fence at the top area of the CDS playground was repaired.

**GLOBAL MISSION:** **Jeanne Hillman** mentioned the Kraft family, missionaries to Bolivia, will be in the area July 19 and 20, will stay at the Blackfork Retreat Center and participate in Vacation Bible School. The Sunday, July 20, Proclaim! contemporary worship service will be held at the Retreat Center with a congregational potluck lunch to follow. Jeanne expressed her gratitude to all the volunteers who work to keep our retreat center in good condition.

**WORSHIP:** **Roscoe Thompson** expressed his appreciation to Pastor Larson, Pastor Jones and Tim Guerther for their work in preparing our worship services each Saturday and Sunday.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** **Chris Cichanowicz** reminded all of the Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 19 and 20 at the Blackfork Retreat Center. Help is needed during the summer for Children's Church. Contact Chris Cichanowicz or Becky Pittman to offer help.

**YOUTH:** **Annette Doklovic** said the youth have had calls to help with yard work. The Senior High Sunday School room is finished, with Annette expressing appreciation to everyone who worked on that room and also the game room.

**CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL:** **Linda Elgin** stated there are 109 children enrolled in CDS.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Ken Frayer** said he has been approached by a couple people in the congregation as to whether, during the summer months, could the 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. sanctuary worship services be com-

bined into one service? Following discussion of pros and cons, council approved continuing to offer as many worship opportunities as possible by keeping our present worship schedule. This decision will be communicated via the bulletin and The Visitor with the additional statement that the 5:00 P.M. Saturday worship service is held in the air conditioned chapel.

**ADJOURNMENT:** This meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M. with prayer by Pastor Larson and all praying the Lord's prayer.

– Mary M. Schwartz,  
Congregation Council Secretary



**GORDON FOOD SERVICE (GFS)** will credit your personal purchases to our First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, rebate account. Just tell the checkout person, this is what you wish to do. (Be sure to say FELC *Mansfield* as there are other First English Lutheran churches in the area!)

## GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .



Linda Elgin, Jan Fisher, Jerry Gallagher, and Cheryl Lantz will represent us at

the Global Mission Event, July 17-20, 2008. It will be held at the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Dr. Jerry L. Schmalenberger, ELCA Global Mission Volunteer, has returned home from his mission in Sumatra, Indonesia. First Lutheran members were very concerned of his well-being during the earthquake that happened while he was there. From his e-mail, "I am fine after being knocked out of bed by the 6.1 earthquake. I did a wedding the next morning and taught at the Bible Frau school for 3 hours. ...My Myanmar students are the ones really suffering."

In Dr. Jerry's report from Sumatra, he relates that he was on the fourth floor of a seaside hotel when the earthquake happened. He says that the fourth floor is not good for earthquakes, but much better in case of a resulting tsunami which, fortunately, did not happen. The after-shocks continued for several hours.

The HKBP General Secretary approved Dr. Jerry to perform the wedding of Mathilda Nainggolan and Nando Hutabarat. Mathilda is an ordained deaconess whom Jerry and Carol have supported through school and brought to the U. S. for clinical pastoral education. She

now serves in the ELCA Global Mission supported ministry in AIDS education and prevention. The 10 A.M. wedding began at 11:45 and took one hour in the little village church where Nando is a member. The families processed out of the village and into the church which claims a membership of 300 families.

Rev. Benny Sinaga at the seminary had worked out a printed program in English and Batak and Dr. Jerry used the ELCA's Occasional Services book. His homily was based on John 2:1-11, the wedding at Cana in Galilee. A translator stood by to help if needed.

After the service, about 300 walked about half a mile through the village to the place for the party which numbered about 400. The women from each side of the family then processed to the place with the traditional sacks of rice on their heads, dancing to the gondong drums and guitars. Huge containers of rice cooked over open fires and two pigs had been butchered for the wedding feast. Everyone sat on the mat-covered ground to eat. Then began the TorTor dance when all the guests dance up to the bride and groom and place gifts in their hands. No honeymoon for the newlyweds as the next day, "Thilda" was to meet with ELCA's Joseph Chu (PLTS grad) about her ministry which they support.

On the return trip, Dr. Jerry "had to stay at an old minus 3 star hotel in Tarutung. It was a room fronting on the busy, noisy street,

*(continued)*

absent glass in the windows. All night it sounded as if the diesel trucks, motorcycles and junker cars were driving through the hotel lobby and exiting through my room."

Dr. Jerry also taught in the Bibelvrouw School in Luguboti and the Medan seminary, among others. In May, he took a group of seminary students to Tuk Tuk on Lake Toba for a spiritual retreat studying the Parables of Jesus. A huge fire broke out and spread up the mountain unimpeded by any attempt to stop

it. The village fire truck and water tanker is "broken" and up on blocks. The fire burned for a day and night, lighting up the lake and sky which caused some discomfort from the thick smoke.

Returning home on June 3rd, Dr. Jerry says, "I will return home with a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that I have done my best for my Bataks."

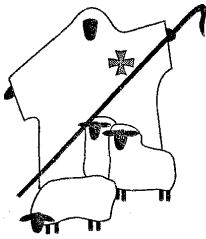
Jeanne Hillman, reporting for: the  
Global Mission Committee

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**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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**CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY FOR THE NEEDY**, a WELCA outreach ministry with our Wednesday Noon Lunch Program. Donation boxes are in the Narthex and Luther Hall lobby.



## WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Tim Hannemann to the Lydia Circle: "Dear ladies at the church who are responsible for my having received baked goods during the Valentine season, That time of year is particularly difficult at Northwestern University, as it is very near exam season. I was unusually stressed about academics, and the box of baked goods was a welcome distraction. The mini-cupcakes were moist, the cookies were soft, the candies were sweet, and everything was delicious. In school, when I'm behind on my work, my professors, boss at work, and my jobs are all making demands from me, it starts to feel like I'm the only one 'on my team.' Packages like the one you sent help remind me that there are people rooting for me, and praying for my success. Thank you."

From Leonard & Betty Claypool: "Thank you to all our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We wish to thank you for our birthday cards, prayer cards, the cards from the children, and especially our big 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary card. We love to pick out the names of the ones we still know and see many new ones. Thank you, Pastor Kress, for his visits. May God be with you in your daily walk."

From Tom Hillman: "Thank you, and God bless! I truly enjoyed the birthday cards and notes. Special thanks to Margaret Runyon for a delicious birthday cake. God blessed my family with perfect weather for a weekend at the Blackfork Retreat Center. We have two sons and their wives, one daughter, seven grandsons and their wives, four great grandsons, and four great granddaughters. They asked if we could make it an annual event at the Retreat Center."

Congratulations to Tom & Jeanne Hillman on the birth of their newest great grandson, Joshua David Hillman, who was born June 4, 2008. His parents are Geoffrey and Suzanne Hillman.

From Frances Pore: "A big thank you to the Pastors, members of FELC, and children of the Christian Day School for the special card and the many members who sent cards. I was overwhelmed! God bless all of you."

*(continued)*

From Jack and Pat Leonard: "Thank you sincerely to our wonderful FELC family for the cards sent, and personal expressions received, during this difficult time in our family's life. Before anyone could know of the passing of our son-in-law Jim, there were welcome cards for my birthday (Pat) and our anniversary. For the CDS youngster's card, and from Pastor, the PCC members, the signed poster and many others, thank you. Then the support shown in our loss, cards and personal expressions, meant so much. Jim's passing fell on my birthday and two days before our anniversary. This, along with several other important events within our family, all falling at this same time, caused us to experience some bittersweet days. Your loving expressions of support and concern helped so much. God bless each of you."

From Pat Reed: "Thank you to everyone who prayed or sent cards during John's illness and passing. Pastors Jones, Larson, and Kress were a great comfort to us at this difficult time. Thank you to WELCA and the men who helped with the dinner after the services. God bless you all."

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Youth Ministry Fund

**Jim Morrow:**

David Prather

**John Reed:**

Jim & Rita Cushing

Lana Dunham

Jack & Helen Rosenbluh

Memorial Fund

**John Reed:**

Tom & Jeanne Hillman

Women of the ELCA

**John Reed:**

Charlie & Jennifer Briner Family

Global Mission

**John Reed:**

David Prather

Honorarium to Christian Day School

**To the Glory of God in honor of  
Hayden Skropits' baptism:**

Clancy & Carol Lauthers



## JULY 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

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

### JULY

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



We remember the families and friends of those who died May 24 - June 20, 2008:

<b>Ruby McGee</b>	<b>May 29</b>
<i>(friend of Helen Anderson)</i>	
<b>Jim Morrow</b>	<b>June 4</b>
<i>(son-in-law of Jack &amp; Pat Leonard)</i>	
<b>Alvin Holtrop</b>	<b>June 7</b>
<i>(husband of Joy Jones' mother)</i>	
<b>Quinn Wilde</b>	<b>June 7</b>
<i>(2 months old; nephew of Mike Frayer's fiancée)</i>	
<b>Luke Conrad</b>	<b>Early June</b>
<i>(25 yrs old in Arizona; grandson of Paul Conrad)</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.

## FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...



From the Pastor

### *There is None Righteous*

*No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the Law: rather through the Law we become conscious of sin.*

— Romans 3:20

Beginning with this July issue of *The Visitor*, I will share insights into the Letter which the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome. This series will continue through September 2008. Paul has something to say to the Jewish Christians of his day as well as to us of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In presenting his case, Paul does not lose sight of the importance and value of humankind. Though men and women are guilty of sin, in deep trouble with God, each other and the earth, Paul does not consider a human being a worm or object of contempt. Humankind was created in the image of God and was considered by God of great value and worth.

Paul reminds us that the principle ingredient in the crisis of humankind is freedom, which humankind has never lost. Humankind's ability to choose his or her freedom is the key to their greatness as well as the source of their tragedy. The tragedy of humankind is the breakdown of the vital relationship between humankind and God. In Paul's view, humankind must be rightly related to the Creator to be fully human. When this relationship is severed, humankind seeks to fill the void, seizing idols and images to worship. Sooner or later, this false worship gives way, collapses, and followers are compelled to shift loyalties. "It isn't long before they are living in a pigpen, smeared with filth, filthy inside and out. And all this

because they traded the true God for a false god, and worshiped the god they made instead of the God who made them. They traded the glory of God, who holds the whole world in His hands, for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand." (1:23) Refusing to know God, they soon didn't know how to be human either.

C.S. Lewis, in his book The Great Divorce, characterizes hell as the state of being where each person lives an infinite distance from every other person. There is a story of a man who was given the opportunity to leave hell and come to heaven. In hell, part of the punishment was that everyone had stiff arms and could not bend them at the elbow. This meant no one could eat since they could not reach their mouth. But when he arrived in heaven, he found everyone there also had stiff arms. But he was amazed that everyone in heaven looked well fed and happy. Inquiring, the man was told that in heaven, everyone fed each other. Such is the picture presented by Paul. Many in our world are isolated from God, from oneself and from one's neighbor. Humankind can do nothing for himself, he is lost in his sin.

As we read Romans, we get the picture of God's judgment in these dreadful words, "God gave them up..." Rom 1:24. "God said, in effect, 'If that's what you want, that's what

you get.” Although the words, “He gave them up” appear final, they are actually the “next to the last word” that must be heard and experienced before the “last word” can really be heard.

The last word is found in the Gospel of John. Christ said, “the one who comes to me I will certainly not cast out.” (John 6:37) The confusion and chaos which results from our sin becomes the seed-bed for God’s grace and mercy. But we often cannot hear the last word, the word of grace, until we have heard the next to the last word, the word of judgment. So, humankind’s path is blocked on every side. Our escape from sin never succeeds and we live in a generation which has lost its soul.

In Romans 2:1-11, Paul make one further point to establish the case even more completely. Rom 2:1: “You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself.” God is kind, but he’s not soft. When we judge another, we also stand in the same judgment seat. No one gets away without self-condemnation. Rom 2:8-9: “Make no mistake, in the end you get what’s coming to you.”

Since the Law is a part of the universe, we cannot ignore it. Neither could God. The penalty of sin is death. So God, in Jesus Christ, took our place at the whipping post, taking upon himself the penalty of sin.

Therefore, we cannot look upon one another with the same judgment which we were judged before we were forgiven of our sin. We stand under the same condemnation as our brother. We all stand before God as sinners.

Our only hope is found in Christ, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ; the righteousness which is of God by faith.

In Romans 3:10-18, Paul brings together a group of Old Testament passages, primarily from the Psalms to proof-text his argument that both Jew and Gentile stand guilty before God. What this means is that the origin of the human crisis is the broken relationship between humankind and God. This crisis quickly spread throughout the whole creation. The Law of God makes the problem even more clear, yet the Law or 10 Commandments are of no help. “No man is put right in God’s sight by doing what the Law requires; what the Law does is to make man know that he has sinned.” (3:20) We are all in the same sinking boat.

What the Law or 10 Commandments succeeds in doing, it does well, since “through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.” We conclude the presentation with the awareness that we need outside help to find God. And that outside help will come soon, as we turn to Romans 3:21 next month.

– Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor

## ***LUTHERAN MEN GATHERING IN AUGUST . . .***

Men from throughout North America will attend the "**Coming of Age**" Lutheran Men's Gathering in Omaha, Nebraska, August 6-8, 2008.

Featured speakers will include former Nebraska coach and congressman, Tom Osborne, *Coming of Age* authors David Anderson and Paul Hill, as well as Larry Clark, Ernie Hincjosa and others. Musical entertainment will include Dakota Road, a popular band at youth gatherings and men's events, and Peter Mayer, lead guitar for Jimmy Buffett's band.

Conceived to bring men of all ages into a deeper relationship with God, the event will also offer attendees opportunities to build Habitat for Humanity sheds and also participate in games. For more information, and to register for the event, visit [www.elca.org/lmm](http://www.elca.org/lmm) or call 800/638-3522, ext. 2595.

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### **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
Dot Blaney	dblaney@felc-mansfield.org
Betty Guenther	bguenther@felc-mansfield.org
Connie Stewart	cstewart@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](http://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.

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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](http://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  
Dorothy Blaney, Parish Administrator  
Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary/Visitor Editor  
Connie Stewart, Printer/Mailing Coordinator  
John Meyer, Custodial/Maintenance  
Nancy Thompson, Nursery Care Worker

### First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

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

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	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		