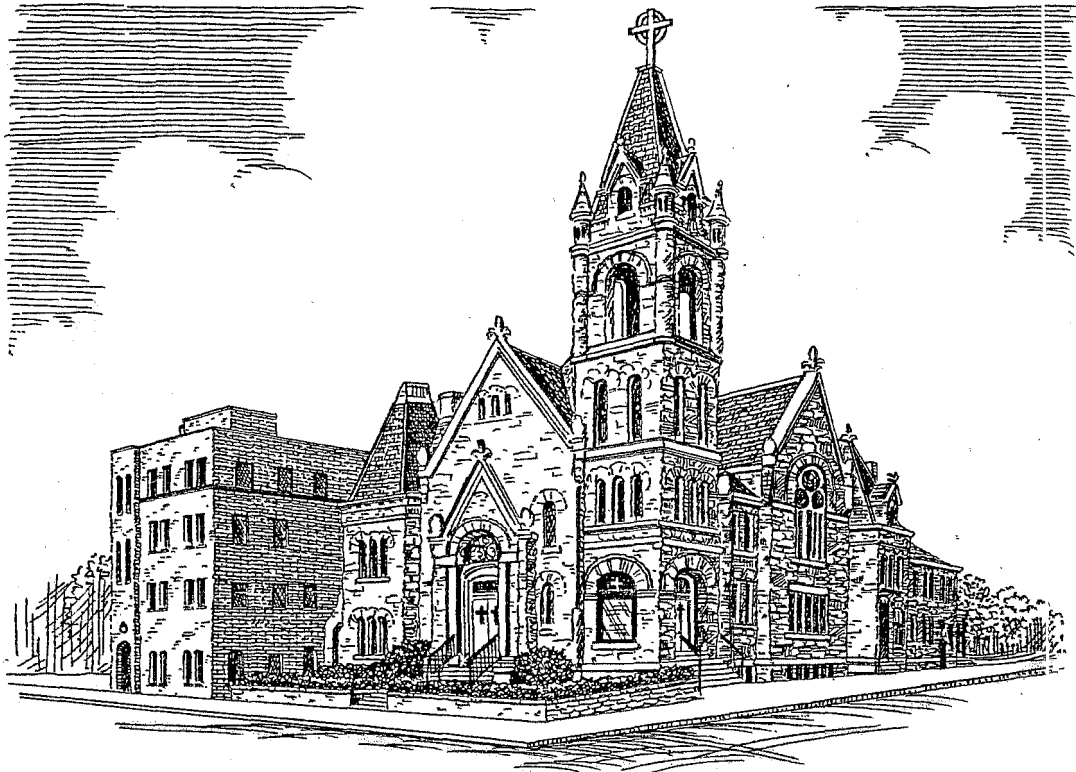


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

Volume 50

MAY 2008

Number 5

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“They gave themselves first to the LORD, and , by the will of God, then to us.”

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Dear Church Family,

Truly, these are momentous days for us at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. As we proceed through our *“Renewing GOD’s House of Prayer Appeal,”* I want you to know that I am so glad to be your Pastor. When I think about God’s goodness to us in the past, I am filled with gratitude. And when I think about what God is doing in us, and through us, and for us, I am filled with joy and anticipation.

When we **REMEMBER** the long and faithful history of our congregation, we cannot help but feel moved by the great witness of those Saints who have come before us. It was in the late 1800’s, at the dawn of the 20th century, that Church Council members actually mortgaged their homes to secure the land upon which our historic sanctuary now stands.

We are now being called to **RENEW** the great Gift that previous generations have entrusted into our care. Our beautiful buildings are now in need of serious repairs. From the roof over our Sanctuary, to our stained glass windows, to the kitchen in our undercroft, our buildings are in serious need of renovation. Yes, the need is great! But, this is also a time of great opportunity.

This is the exciting spiritual reality. As we step out in Faith to Renew God’s House of Prayer, our very Faith in Christ will be **REKINDELED**. Truly, this is a defining moment in the great history of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church! We believe that God is now calling us to lay the physical and spiritual foundations for ministry at this dawn of the 21st Century! To this end, we are committing ourselves to this major capital campaign: *“Renewing God’s House of Prayer!”*

Our campaign’s prevailing theme is, *“Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice.”* This theme challenges us to do the extraordinary, to give “over and above” sacrificially, for the next three years. Sacrificial giving is significantly different from regular “gift giving.” When you give sacrificially - the very giving of the gift changes YOU. It changes your priorities; ... it changes your life. It is a transformational act of Love and Devotion. Sacrificial giving puts GOD first: *“Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice.”* The theme reminds us that GOD is calling every single one of us to make a true Sacrifice for His Kingdom’s work.

Too often, we think of giving to the Church as a financial decision rather than as a FAITH decision. We short-cut the process. We get out our calculators; crunch the numbers; look at what is “left-over;” and then fill the number in on a pledge card. We rush the process. As a result, we may make a donation to the Church. But we do not make a Faith commitment.

To make a Faith decision, first means doing some serious praying, before we even consider the financial aspect of our giving. It means opening our hearts and our lives to God’s plans and God’s possibilities. It means time spent in searching prayer: **“LORD, What would you do through me, to accomplish your will for our Church?”** Making a Faith decision means giving ourselves FIRST to the LORD, before doing any financial accounting. FIRST things FIRST!

In 2 Corinthians 8:5, the Apostle Paul says of the Macedonian church, **“they gave themselves first to the LORD, and then to us in keeping with God’s will.”** FIRST things FIRST --- means determining your willingness to truly sacrifice BEFORE deciding your financial position. Such a truly God pleasing decision, means responding to a deeper calling of Faith, not reacting to a quick accounting. This decision is first and foremost a Faith commitment, not a financial calculation.

FIRST things FIRST! They gave themselves to the LORD. That is the place to begin a conversation about your Faith decision.

“Renewing God’s House of Prayer” provides each one of us a wonderful opportunity. It is the opportunity to know in a fresh way the blessings that come through giving. Jesus said, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over...” Luke 6:38.

I earnestly believe that we, the people of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, are ready for the great challenge that the Lord has set before us. Let us each enter into this great effort prayerfully and enthusiastically.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Paul L. Larson

**RENEWING GOD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER
SERMON SERIES:**

Apr 13 How God Guides Exod 13:17–14:31
Apr 20 The Risk of The Steward Matt 25:14-30
Apr 27 The Grace of Giving 2 Cor 8:1-9, 12-14
May 4 The Vision and The Gift I Chron 29
May 11 Crossing Over Joshua 3
May 18 Commitment Sunday! (one weekend
worship service at 11:00 a.m.)

RICHLAND/ASHLAND CLUSTER OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA SPRING RALLY, TUESDAY, APRIL 29, HERE AT FELC . . .

First English Lutheran Church will host the Spring Rally of the Richland/Ashland Cluster of the Women of the ELCA on April 29, 2008. Registration begins at 5:30 P.M. in the undercroft. A Salad Buffet meal begins at 6:30. Bring one salad for every 3 persons attending.

The speaker for the evening is Mary Woodard of Ohio Lutheran Disaster Response. This group was most recently involved in the flooding Shelby and Mansfield experienced. She will have some interesting stories to tell and lots of information to share. A portion of the offering is earmarked for this organization as are any of the items listed below which we are able to bring to this meeting. A truck will be available to receive the items.

Plan to attend with area Lutheran women and learn about this arm of Lutheran assistance. As we are hosting, let's have a good turn out! Call Pat Wells for more information, 419-756-6863.

Spring Rally!



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

ITEMS ACCEPTED MAY 4 - 11

at Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

Local contact: Rev. John & Doris Wanamaker 419/281-9012.

couches - 74	full bed & frames - 4
living room chairs - 36	computers - 16
kitchen table & chairs - 40	coffee & end tables - 4
beds: full size mattress/box springs - 6	microwaves - 10
twin size mattress/box springs - 27	water heater - 1
queen size mattress/box springs - 2	recliners - 15
refrigerators - 18	love seats - 10
freezers - 10	desk - 2
washers - 10	entertainment centers - 2
electric dryers - 17	TV - 11
gas dryers - 3	fans - 8
electric stove - 13	sweepers - 8
gas stove - 4	Bedding
dressers - 60	Linens
twin bed & frames - 4	Kitchen ware - dishes, cooking utensils, etc.

GERANIUMS



GERANIUMS

The Festival of Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 11. This festival is the climax of the "Great Fifty Days" of the Easter Season, and we will decorate the chancel with bright red geraniums, symbolic of the fire of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to sponsor a plant in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office either in person or by mail.

THURSDAY, MAY 1st, is the deadline for orders.

Cost is \$3.50 per plant.

The geraniums will decorate the chancel for our Pentecost services on May 11; they may be taken after the 11:00 service that day. We encourage you to plant them in your garden at home as a continual reminder throughout the summer of the work of the Holy Spirit in your own life.

GERANIUM ORDER 2008

____ Number of Geranium Plants \$____ Amount (\$3.50 per plant)

____ I will take my geranium on Sunday, May 11.

____ I will pick up my geranium by Wednesday, May 14.

____ Please plant my geranium in the church yard.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Person ordering _____

✚ RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE ✚

FRIDAY MAY 2, 2008
9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

\$1,000 Gas Card Giveaway

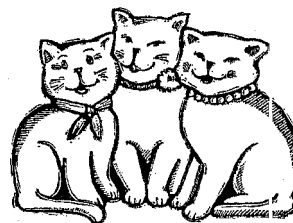
If you are in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds you can donate a pint of blood as often as every 56 days and a single donation can save up to three lives!

The Red Cross will award one lucky winner a \$1,000 gas card! All those who attempt to donate blood during the month of May (i.e. go through the health history – even if they determine you are not able to donate) will be entered into the drawing for the \$1,000 gas card!

We need your help to make this blood drive a success ... please call Kay Leedy at 419-884-0405 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Church Women United **MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY**

When: Friday, May 2, 2008
Where: St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(Marion Avenue at Park Ave. West)
Time: 12:00 Noon Luncheon
Cost: \$5.00



May Friendship Day

Theme: "God's Wisdom Inspires Hospitality." Plant a seed of hospitality, reap a bouquet of friendships! Least Coin offerings will be presented. This is the 50th anniversary of the Least Coin project.

Reservations are required by Monday, April 28, 2008. Call Helen Anderson at 419-756-0381.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 4, 2008

9:45 A.M. — Nave

Elections will be held after there is an opportunity for nominations from the floor. A consent to serve must be obtained from anyone whose name is put in nomination.

Council positions to be elected are:

President: Ken Frayer

Christian Education: Chris Cichanowicz

Congregational Life: Luella Diday

Evangelism: Steve Ritz

The names of the nominees for the **2008-2009 Nominating Committee** for a one year term are listed below. **We will vote for 5 names.** The person receiving the most votes will serve a two year term and become the chairperson for the committee:

Alicia (Keultjes) Schulz

Mike Hill, III

Mike Anderson

Beth Harruff

Nancy Pasheilich

Sherry Winbigler

Gordon Moxley

Brief biographies of the candidates have been published in the Annual Report which was mailed on April 18.

*The agenda for the annual meeting is open,
and there will be time for any discussion.*

**BRING YOUR COPY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE MEETING!**

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

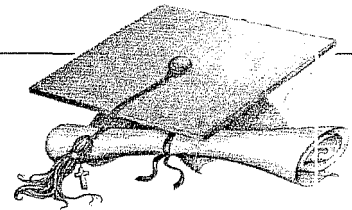
- Sunday,
May 4 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator: Barb Hill, 419-756-4998. *Note: this is the last reading until September.*
- Sunday,
May 4 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion service on May 11.
- Every
Sunday **Fireflies and Spirit!** children's and youth choirs rehearse during the 9:45 A.M. Sunday school hour. Director: Becky Pittman.
- Monday,
May 5 **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
May 6 **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets at 7:00 P.M. in the Emmaus Room. Knitting instruction and patterns provided. Contact: Karen Ellis, 419-884-1882 or Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820.
- Wednesday,
May 7 & 21 **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,
May 16 **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
May 24 & 25 **Food Collection Weekend.** The March collection totaled 4 bags of groceries for The Salvation Army, and \$120 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued support!



FIRST TUESDAY MEETS MAY 6 . . .

Join us for First Tuesday on May 6 in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at noon. Cost is \$2.50. Deputy Rick Gunder, Richland County Sheriff's Department, will speak on "IDENTITY THEFT." Everyone is welcome to attend! Call Pat Wells, 419-756-6863, with reservations by Monday, May 5.

GRADUATES' NAMES REQUESTED



Please call the church office if your child is graduating this spring from high school, college or technical school, 419-522-0662. A listing of graduates will be published in the June Visitor (deadline, May 20). High School Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 1 at the 11:00 worship service in the Nave.



MOTHER & DAUGHTER BANQUET FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

The annual **Mother and Daughter Banquet**, sponsored by WELCA, will be held on Friday evening May 9, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. in the undercroft. Tickets will be on sale Sunday, April 27 and Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4. Adult price is \$6.50 and children's price is \$4.50.

We have some fun things planned (make it-take crafts!) so be sure to bring your Mom, daughters, granddaughters, mother-in-law, sisters, and friends. All women are welcome to join us for this evening of dining and fellowship, plus a nice program. We hope to see you there!

– Cheryl Lantz, WELCA Coordinator

NO LUTHER FELLOWSHIP MEETING IN MAY

The Luther Fellowship group will not meet in the month of May.

FESTIVAL OF PENTECOST, MAY 11: RITE OF CONFIRMATION . . .

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost, May 11, 2008, at the 11:00 AM combined service in the Nave (no Proclaim! contemporary service that morning). The liturgical color of the day is RED; wear something red to church to symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit!



Having completed their catechism instruction, these 8th graders will affirm their faith:

Kate Elise Hogsette

Sarah Elizabeth Jones

Tiffany Grace Thompson

A cake reception will be held in the Narthex following the combined 11:00 worship service in honor of the confirmands.

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY May 16 & 17, 2008

The Northeastern Ohio Synod of the ELCA will hold its annual Assembly at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio, on Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17. Please keep our staff and lay voting members in your prayers as they participate in the business of the Synod and greater Church: Pastor Paul Larson, Pastor Andrew Jones, Paul Theaker, Roscoe Thompson, III, Alicia Schulz (Keultjes), and Sherry Winbigler.



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, May 20

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

Thursday, May 22 *

9:30 A.M. Alterra Sterling House

* 4th Thursday in the month

One Worship Service at 11:00 this weekend!

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2008

*(No 5:00 Saturday Chapel on May 17
No 8:30 or Proclaim! Contemporary on May 18)*

Renewing God's House of Prayer
Celebration Sunday!!

We will make our pledges to the Capital Funds Campaign

Celebration Meal in the undercroft!



News deadline for the

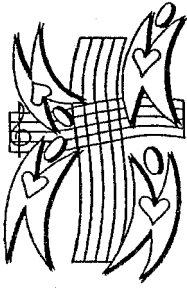
JUNE VISITOR
is
Tuesday, May 20

Assembled & mailed:
Thursday,
May 29

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED MAY 26

The church offices and Christian Day School will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2008 for the Memorial Day holiday.

SUNDAY NURSERY WORKER POSITION. FELC needs an adult Nursery Caregiver to look after children from infancy through age 3 during Sunday worship hours, 8:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. **The position will last from May 11 through mid-October** with pay at \$7/hour. If interested, contact Chris Cichanowicz at 419-529-6593.



COORDINATOR OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS . . .

Our youth kicked off their Christian rock band on April 20! Thanks to Haley Pittman, Adam Rehm and Roscoe Thompson on guitars, Stuart Brenkus on drums, and Jessika Volz and Lindsey Brenkus vocals. What a fun way to praise the Lord! Join us at Proclaim! on May 4 for their second performance. They will be playing "Forever." (Isaiah Thompson on the drums!)

FELC is blessed to have so many string players in our midst! Thanks to Kate Hogsette for performing a violin solo on April 6 and for joining our string ensemble on April 27, which consisted of Sarah Jones and Sarah Ward, Elizabeth and Jessika Volz and Jackie Lux.

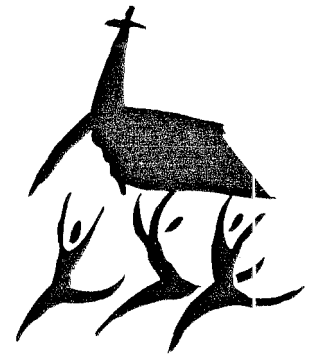
Thank you, Robyn Russell, for sharing "Amazing Grace" with us at Proclaim! We also always look forward to hearing our "Fireflies" children's choir each month.

Come and hear our FELC bell choir at the 11:00 combined worship services on May 11 and May 18! God's blessings to all of you.

- Becky Pittman

YOUTH USING "BRICKS" TO HELP FUND THE NEW ROOF!

Everyone is involved - even the Sunday school children! Each child has been given a cardboard "brick" bank. The idea is for the children to find ways of earning money which will go towards our **Renewing God's House of Prayer** capital funds campaign. Jobs around the house, generous neighbors - it will all help! Bricks should be returned to church on Sunday May 11.



On Campaign Commitment Sunday, May 18, there is only one 11:00 worship for the whole weekend. Each child will come forward to present their brick at this worship service to help "renew" our church building!

-Chris Cichanowicz and Teri Brenkus
Campaign Children's Education Leaders

Renewing God's House of Prayer

CAMPAIGN POSTER FESTIVAL

(All of our children and youth are invited to join the fun of creating a poster for the campaign. Every poster will be displayed.) Below are the guidelines.

1. ALL ENTRIES SHOULD BE ON ½ OF A STANDARD SIZED POSTER BOARD (We will provide this on April 20)
2. ART CAN BE HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL
3. POSTER MUST BE DONE ON ONE OF THESE THEMES:
 - * *It is fun to give.*
 - * *Lord, what do you want to do through me?*
 - * *I love my church*
 - * *Sacrifice*
 - * *Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice*
 - * *Renewing God's House of Prayer*
4. Parents can help with ideas, but the art work must be done by the child. (Parents may help preschool children)
5. The child's full name should be on the front of the poster.
6. Write the theme you have chosen as a part of the poster.
7. Bring the poster to church by Sunday morning, May 11.

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION

MAY 2008 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED FRIENDSHIP DAY	2	FRIDAY	NOON	St. Luke's Lutheran, Marion Ave April 28 deadline for reservation \$5 to Helen Anderson
SARAH	5	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Margaret Battisti Hostess: Miriam Dye
LYDIA	5	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Home of Pat Wells, 2185 Woodville Rd Program: Flower arranging highlighting Bible stories.
FIRST TUESDAY	6	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room. Program: Identity Theft by Rick Gunder, Deputy Richland County Sheriff
EVE	6	TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Prayer Shawl Ministry
WORKDAY LADIES	7 & 21	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
MARY	9	FRIDAY	9:30 A.M.	Lunch at Bob Evans Hostess: Esther Morrison
MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET	9	FRIDAY	6:30 P.M.	Undercroft Door Prizes Program: "Make It, Take It Craft" Adults - \$6.50, Children - \$4.50
PLANNING MEETING	19	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room

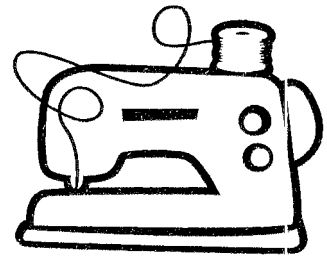
Funeral Dinners: Squad B: Marianne Sweat

Altar Workers: Nave – Devera Ritz, Chapel – Bev Graham, Contemporary – Jan Fisher

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.

WORKDAY LADIES NEED MACHINE SEWERS!

The dedicated Workday Ladies have been hit hard by the weather this winter! Every first and third Wednesday in January, February, and March was snowed or iced out!



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.

WELCA Prayer Shawl Ministry



Would you believe that in one and a half years our WELCA Prayer Shawl Ministry has lovingly given eighty four (84) lovely prayer shawls to people within our church as well as people out in the community? Yes, we have some very dedicated knitters and crocheters! And we all love making these shawls. God has blessed us with this gift and we are happy to share it! The reasons to give a shawl can be as diverse as: new baby, wedding, thanks for a great job, getting well from illness, moving to new home – you name it! If you know of someone who could use the love and prayers connected with receiving a prayer shawl, please contact us.

Recently some generous person donated some beautiful new yarn to our cause. It is available if anyone reading this article is interested in working on a shawl. There is no set pattern or stitch style. We do have patterns available, however, if you need ideas. You are welcome to work on a shawl at your own pace, on your own time. Of course we'd love to have you join our group, too, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Emmaus Room. But that part is not required. (We don't meet in June, July, or August when it's a little hot for knitting.)

Any questions can be directed to Jan Fisher or Karen Ellis.

REQUESTS TO THE PRAYER CHAIN

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

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

The monthly volunteers list is published in The Visitor and is posted on the bulletin boards. The following are responsible for scheduling the listed areas of volunteer ministry:

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary
419-522-0662

Acolytes

Assisting Ministers

Greeters

Lay Readers

Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

Roscoe Thompson, III, Worship Chair
419-522-7571

Communion Preparers

Communion Assistants

Sound Booth Operators

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247

Ushers

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

Children's Church Leaders

Chris Cichanowicz,
Sunday School Superintendent
419-529-6593

Nursery Helpers

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304

Pew Pad Gleaners

Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090

8:00 am Sunday Prayer Partners

Barb Hill, 419-756-4998

Blood Pressure Nurses

Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion Preparers

Proclaim! Communion Assistants

MAY VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

May 3	Elva Bonser	May 24	Elva Bonser
May 10	Marian Owen	May 31	Joci Kirst
May 17	<i>(one 11:00 Sunday service)</i>		

GREETERS

Sherry Winbigler
Janet Shenberger

8:30 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance

USHERS

Paul Theaker
Steve Ritz
Mike Anderson

8:30 A.M.

GREETERS

Greg & Linda Hughes
Marie Young

11:00 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance

USHERS

Bill & Mary Schwartz
Hal Simmons
Dick Layer

11:00 A.M.

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

May 4	Lowell Weeks, Chris Cichanowicz
May 11	Ken & Karen Frayer, Jim Scheiber
May 18	Mary Schwartz, Jane Starner
May 25	Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:10 am</u>
May 4	Wes Volz	Tom Hillman
May 11	Stan Cichanowicz	Mary Hujus
May 18	Betty Guenther	Jodi Mumaw
May 25	Henry Keultjes	Ron Rehm

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

May 4	Stan Cichanowicz
May 11	(2 pastors - 11:00 combined with Proclaim! for Pentecost/Confirmation)
May 18	(2 pastors - one 11:00 service for the weekend)
May 25	Greg Hughes

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFER

		<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
	May 4	A Kate Hogsette	A Elizabeth Volz
Pentecost	May 11	A Casey Kelley	A Emily Blankenship C Bryan Eyerly
Campaign			
Commitment	May 18	A <i>(one 11:00 service)</i>	A Sara Hannemann
	May 25	A Trayce Prather	A Alissa Ruth

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

May 3	Sermon Series	May 24	Kay McNaul
May 10	Sermon Series	May 31	Jean Ridenour
May 17	<i>(one 11:00 Sunday service)</i>		

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
May 4	<i>Sermon Series</i>	<i>Sermon Series</i>
May 11	<i>Sermon Series</i>	<i>Sermon Series</i>
May 18	<i>(one 11:00 Sunday service)</i>	
May 25	Mary Hujus	Sandie Volz

8:30 Power Point Operators

May 4	Tom Sarbach	May 18	<i>(one 11:00 service)</i>
May 11	Gordon Moxley	May 25	Gordon Moxley

MAY ALTAR WORKERS

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

COMMUNION PREPARERS

	May 4	11:00 a.m.	Jim & Lolita Scheiber
Pentecost	May 11	8:30 a.m.	Bill & Mary Hayes
Pentecost	May 11	11:00 a.m.	Wes & Sandie Volz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

May 4 - 11:00 am

Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister
Wine West	Greg Hughes
Cups West	Linda Hughs
Wine East	Lana Dunham
Cups East	Annette Doklovic
Intinction	Pat Wells

Pentecost - May 11

(continuous communion)

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u> (combined with Proclaim!)
Bread Servers	2 Pastors	2 Pastors
Wine West	Gene Luedy	Ken Frayer
Cups West	Marilyn Motson	Karen Frayer
Wine East	Margaret Runyon	Donna Rettig
Cups East	Jane Anderson	Dawn Butterman
Intinction	Sherry Winbigler	Lu Diday

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

May 4: Sandie Volz
(last reading until September)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Christian Day School Committee

PEW PAD GLEANERS

May 4	Marilyn Dinges	May 18	Stacey Crall
May 11	Lolita Scheiber	May 25	Jane Sprang

+ + + + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

May 4 Cheryl Lantz and Tiffany Thompson
May 11 *(11:00 combined worship in the Nave)*
May 18 *(one 11:00 service for the weekend)*
May 25 Cindy and Robyn Russell

May 11 Proclaim! Communion

Pentecost/Confirmation 11:00 combined worship in the Nave

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson

DOOR SECURITY ALERT! If your group/committee is having an evening or weekend meeting at the church and outside doors are unlocked or propped open for attenders, someone from your group must be present to act as monitor until the doors are locked again at the beginning of your meeting. This is for your personal safety and the security of the building. Please also be sure all outside doors are locked and closed before leaving the building. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.



MAY NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

It was great to have the children participate on CDS Sunday at the 11:00 service on March 30. I would like to thank Becky Pittman for all her hard work, and I would also like to thank all our parents who attended. Our children did a great job.

The children enjoyed the warmer weather in April by taking field trips to Kingwood Center and helping with the Earth Day cleanup on April 22. The older classes also participated in a community project sponsored by Kroger's and Cornell's IGA in Shelby. They decorated grocery bags with their drawings of nature to be distributed by the stores on Earth Day.

Our classes also participated in the Pizza Hut reading program. They received free pizza certificates for 75 minutes per week of reading in the classroom and at home. It is a great program that we have participated in for many years to encourage reading.

Our Bible theme for May will be: "A friend loves at all times," Proverbs 17:17. We will be reading Bible stories about David, and we will be working on manners and sharing. The children will be busy making presents for their mothers this month, and the Carpenter Kids will also be receiving tree seedlings to plant from the Department of Soil and Water Conservation as part of a Green project. We are looking forward to another fun-filled month at the day school, and we all appreciate your continued encouragement and support!

- Terry Bianchi, Interim Director

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

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



APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Matt Blankenship called the Tuesday, April 8, 2008, meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 P.M. Roscoe Thompson opened the meeting with prayer.

ASSOCIATE

PASTOR: Pastor Jones reported that over 100 people are involved in the Renewing God's House of Prayer Capital Funds Campaign. On Vision Sunday, April 13, 2008, a six minute video highlighting the focus of the campaign will be shown and given to each household. Commitment Sunday will be held Sunday, May 18, for a combined weekend worship service. Pastor Jones issued a reminder of the May 4, 9:45 A.M. Annual Congregational meeting.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tim Guenther expressed thanks to all who helped in any way with the worship services during the busy Easter season.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Matt Blankenship said the Executive Committee has been working on Pastor Availability Guidelines. Matt thanked all Council members for their service. Council members expressed appreciation to Matt for his dedication and service as president of the congregation.

PERSONNEL: Sherry Winbigler reported that Terry Bianchi is doing a nice job as Interim Director of CDS. An advertisement for the CDS director position ran Sunday, March 31, in Richland and Crawford Counties, at the cost of \$240. As of April 8, five resumes had been received.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits said that income during February was more than expenses. For January and February, we are short on revenue roughly \$15,000. CDS is \$2,049.08 over budget on salaries, and as a whole was \$923 over budget through February. Approximately \$10,000 was drawn from the Major Capital Improvements Endowment Fund to be used for expenses of remodeling of the penthouse.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz stated that the small red door on Mulberry Street was found unlocked by the custodian on Monday morning, April 7, and on the same date, doors were propped open and unattended at the Luther Hall parking lot entrance during an evening meeting. Caution needs to be exercised by all groups using our building that all doors are monitored when unlocked, and that upon leaving the building, doors need to be checked to make certain they are locked.

Council approved The Road Riders for Jesus group to use the Mulberry Street parking lot for a bike show during the Mansfield Cruise-In August 23, 2008.

New signs have been installed in parking lots.

Worner Roofing began working on the new roof over the penthouse apartment and the elevator shaft on Monday, April 7. The Luther Hall penthouse apartment renovation is complete, for a cost of between \$12,000 to \$15,000, less than the \$25,000 budgeted for

the work. The work of many volunteers resulted in keeping expenses low.

Tom Pasheilich presented information about three bids received for the sanctuary roof project. Council approved Midstate Contractors, Inc. of Marion, Ohio, for a contract in the amount of \$226,870 to complete the roof project. Property Committee was approved to authorize addition/deduct work, if required, up to but not exceeding a total of \$300,000. Tom explained that would include possible replacement of roof sheeting. Council approved that while Midstate Contractors, Inc. are on site that they tear down the chimney at the southeast corner of Luther Hall. This chimney was used for the old boiler system and allows some water to enter the boiler room during rain storms.

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman reported that the Kraft Family would like to visit our congregation during July 2008.

WORSHIP: Roscoe Thompson stated he has heard many positive comments about the musical talents which are being shared with our congregation. Steve Ritz spoke of the blessing we have with the worship leaders in our congregation.

STEWARDSHIP: Renee Ward reported \$2389.50 was received in the Lenten offering, which is \$1162.90 less than in 2007. This offering is designated for Lithuanian Missions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz reported that cardboard “brick” banks have been distributed to Sunday School children for the Capital Campaign. There will be a children’s Capital Campaign poster festival May 11. A nursery worker is needed from mid May until October 2008. The person would work from 8:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. each Sunday for \$7.00 per hour.

YOUTH: Annette Doklovic expressed a big thank you to all who worked on the Senior High School meeting space. The senior high youth continue to meet on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. There is a need for parents, individuals or groups to take turns to make supper for them.

Five youth and one adult are going on the senior high mission trip June 29 to July 5, 2008 to Gatlinburg, TN. A county-wide Thrivent Financial for Lutherans youth game night will be held May 3, 7:00 to 10:00 P.M., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M. Roscoe Thompson closed the meeting with prayer.

—Mary M. Schwartz,
Congregation Council Secretary

Following the meeting, Council members toured the newly renovated Luther Hall penthouse apartment.



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .



Together in Prayer, global news from the World Mission Prayer League (WMPL), brings us the following news:

Edner and Fern Holmen

have recently moved into a senior housing apartment and have started a Bible study there. Edner served 22 years on the WMPL board and he and his wife have also served as Area Representatives. For 25 years they organized and led weekend mission camps in North Dakota, Iowa, and New York. At these events, missionaries shared about God at work. People came to meet missionaries, become more informed, and pray more effectively for God's work in the world.

Fern and Edner loved to share with people. Taking WMPL displays to churches, schools and camps, a few became missionaries, most became further involved in praying and giving. Edner and Fern challenge others, "Let God work His good pleasure in your lives."

Lift up in prayer WMPL associates **Bob and Denise Schmalzle** and their parish ministries in Nairobi. Thank the Lord for many outreach opportunities in Nairobi.

Materialism of the West has gained a stronghold in the Maldive islands. The majority of the people there are poor, but desire a better life. Pray that they will discover the One in whom they can have spiritual riches. Pray for **Brian, Barb, and Joshua Sorge** as they serve God among Muslims in Asia. Brian and Barb's son, David, is now attending college in the USA.

Nick and Shannon Kraft are presently on home assignment in the state of Washington. We are hoping they will visit FELC in July to share about their life and ministry in Bolivia.

WMPL is a Lutheran missionary community with headquarters in Minneapolis. Website: www.wmpl.org

Report #1, 2008 from Sumatra, Indonesia by **Jerry L. Schmalenberger**, ELCA Global Mission Volunteer: Dr. Jerry left March 31 on Singapore Airlines for the 14-hour flight to Hong Kong. While in Hong Kong, he approved a Batak student's proposal of her thesis, preparing her for a Master's degree at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. In Sumatra, Dr. Jerry mainly works with people of the Batak culture. They are one of the largest and best known minorities in the multi-ethnic country of Indonesia, which is the fourth largest population in the world (180 million). It has the largest Muslim population of any country in the world.

The homeland of the Batak is the island of Sumatra at the western end of the modern Republic of Indonesia. It is the fifth largest island in the world and has 31 active volcanoes.

This is the sixth time that Dr. Jerry is teaching there. He is fascinated by the Bataks' great friendliness, openness and directness. They

(continued)

are a very dynamic and self-confident people. It is only in the last 100 years that their way of life and culture has undergone a great change under the impact of Christianity, Islam and colonialism.

Dr. Jerry says that he lives in a comfortable guest house which has hot and cold water on

part of the time and a flush toilet (by bucket). It is in the highlands of the island and thus cooler than where he will spend most of the two months at the HKBP seminary of Pematang-Siantar. Two months is all the Indonesian government give to Americans at the present time.



2008 ELCA GLOBAL MISSION EVENT SCHEDULED FOR WISCONSIN . . .

"God's Work, Our Hands" is the theme of the ELCA Global Mission Event, taking place July 17-20, 2008 at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The multigenerational GME includes programming for people of all ages. You will sing, dance, pray, study, and have communion with people from all over the world.

Registration is now open and will close on July 10, 2008. Adult fee for programs, meals, and lodging is \$240.00. Junior and senior high fees are \$220.00. Children ages 3-10 are \$140.00. Babysitting is available for children age 2 and under. That fee is \$75.00

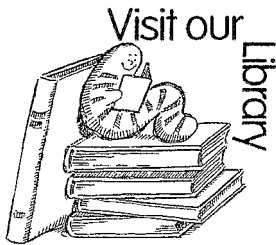
Lodging through the registration process will be on the University of Wisconsin -La Crosse campus, in double-occupancy, non-air-conditioned residence halls. All single registrants are assigned roommates. If you would like a particular roommate indicate his or her name on the registration form.

You are on your own for transportation. Also, there is scholarship money to be divided among participants to help defray the cost of registration and travel.

For more information or to register, visit the GME web site, www.elca.org/gme. You may also contact Linda Elgin at (419)756-8792.

– Linda Elgin, Global Mission Committee

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



IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY . . .

The Library is expanding! Children's books may be found in the Emmaus Room in Luther Hall. There is a table and chairs for the little ones. In the Narthex, children may also find a good book to take home and read. They may return books in the Narthex and check out other books to read at home.

Adults will find reference and study books in the Main Library on the third floor across from the elevator. Inspirational books, biographies, novels, and non-fiction books are available there as well as in the Narthex and the Narthex Lounge. Many thanks to **all** who have donated books to the church library for other brothers and sisters in Christ to enjoy!

A recent donation of children's books comes from Gail Elder in Florida:

Mouse Prints: Journey Through the Church Year - The Time of the Church, by Suzanne Richterkessing, illustrated by Susan Morris.

The Bible is For Me!, by Christine Tangvald, illustrated by Tony Griego.

The song by Sydney Carter *Lord of the Dance* accompanied by stories of Jesus retold from the Bible, illustrations by Jackie Morris.

Wishes for You, by Tobi Tobias, illustrated by Henri Sorensen. For ages 3-7.

What is God? by Etan Boritzer, illustrated by Robbie Marantz.

Animal Ark Books, *Where Have All the Animals Gone? Book One: In the Beginning...* autographed copy by creator James Dowling.

God Inside of Me, illustrated by Yvonne Buchanan. Della Reese weaves an inspirational story of a spunky little girl who discovers God within herself and others.

MALAWI

ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

This is rest of the report that Shadreck sent to us in March:

New land bought. KOCM has bought another piece of land in the same village where the Orphan Care Ministry is located. The original piece of land, where we have a building and a shade, will be used by the youth club as their place of meeting and the building will be used as an office. With the buying of the new land, KOCM will be able to put up the structures like a proper feeding hall, and a few houses for the center manager and other future employed staff and volunteers.

Feeding program. The feeding program still continues on Saturdays and Wednesdays. We have enough food for the next coming three or so months. We were late in applying fertilizer to our field and we might not yield as we had expected.

High school sponsorship. We have paid the school fees for eleven students at high school. Two dropped out of school and got married. So we have 11 students on the sponsorship program. Our wish is to send the girls to a boarding school where they can study without any disturbances.

Youth clubs. We have bought T-shirts for the youth club members and some sports equipment for them. We want to

hold some workshops for them and engage them in evangelism and make the youth club more vibrant.

Sports. We want to introduce a netball and a football [soccer] team for KOCM just to keep the children busy and happy.

Evangelism. We are planning to show the Jesus film during the time when we will be dedicating the new land that we have bought.

Please pray for:

the children of Kanyenyeva and their caregivers

–that they may have adequate food and shelter

–and that they have good health

the work of the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries

-safety and success for the bus business and the revolving loan program

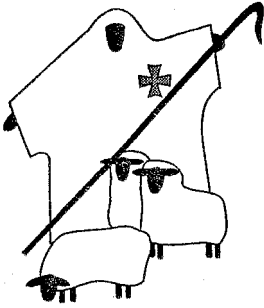
-that in all they do, God is glorified

-that they may continue to reach more people with the saving grace of Jesus

Yami's pregnancy, that she and their baby continue to remain healthy.



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .



The Penthouse Apartment on the fourth floor of Luther Hall has been completely renovated. The total cost of renovation was 40% below the estimated budget. Thanks to all who participated in this project and volunteered their time and talents to make it happen, especially John Fraifogl, Jeff Davis, Bill Schwartz, Larry Lantz, and Stan & Chris Cichanowicz.
- Tom Pasheilich, Interim Property Manager

From Marian Owen: "A most appreciative thank you to all who prayed for safety for my son-in-law, Thomas Humphries, while he served in Afghanistan. He arrived at his home base late Easter Sunday to Albuquerque, New Mexico. May God bless all of you for your thoughtfulness."

From Joci Kirst: "Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and poster during my surgery and recovery. Special thanks to Pastors Larson and Kress for visits to Shelby hospital."

From Frank & Alfreda Sqrow: "A very belated thank you to our church family for the good wishes for our 90th plus birthdays, also cards from Pastor Larson and special decorated card from the Christian Day School children. All helped to make them memorable. Best wishes and many blessings to all."

From Zora Wiley and family: "Dear church members, Thank you so much for the nice card everyone signed. You can't imagine how much that meant, for all of the signatures you all took the time to sign. It is a keeper. Death is a hard thing to accept no matter what age, and we do need God, especially at this time. He is always there for us. Thanks again for your kindness."

From Tom & Jeanne Hillman: "A great big THANK YOU to the Junior and Senior High young men who cleared our yard of the branches from the winter storms. They are all so polite, well-mannered, and willing workers. Special thanks to Paul Ward and Tom Sarbach who volunteer their time, as well as trucks and gas, to work with these young men. Also, we gratefully remember the young ladies who came out, as a service project, to rake our leaves in the fall. If you need work done around your house, we highly recommend the youth of our church. May God bless them all!"

(continued)

To our Funeral Food Workers: " I want to thank the 65 women who have helped prepare and serve food to the families and friends of our 'First Lutheran Family.' The funeral dinners were started in 1990, and since then, 191 dinners have been prepared for approximately 9,421 people. Thanks also to the men who run the dishwasher and help with clean up at the large dinners. We have six squads of leaders that arrange these dinners two months a year with 10 women on each squad. These meals are such a blessing to the families of the deceased." – Ruth Sweval, Chair, WELCA Funeral Food Committee

From Tracie (friend of Gail Elder): "To those Saints who prayed for me– I had lost 55 lbs in 9 weeks. My body and brain were shot, and it was a tremendous struggle to keep fluids, fiber and calories constant in my body. One night, I said, 'God, I don't care if I live or die.' He reminded me of all those praying for me that I didn't even know. I began to weep and said how dare do I quit. Thank you for your encouragement by signing your prayer sheet. I will keep it always as it reminds me how important prayer groups are. God bless you.

Thank you for your obedience to God and extending love to someone you don't even know. I have been blessed by your love."

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

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Pastor Larson	plarson@felc-mansfield.org
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**

YOUTH NEWS YOUTH NEWS YOUTH

Thanks to all of the people who helped renovate the **High School Youth Room**, and also a **BIG** thanks to everyone who has donated items for the room! We are still looking for additional items. Contact Annette Doklovic!

Check out our website at www.felc-mansfield.org
for new **youth photos!**

Mark your calendars! **June 16 - Cedar Point!**

Do you have yard work you
JUST can't get done?
How about that large fence that
needs painted or the basement that
needs cleaned?
Do you have a daunting task you feel
will never get completed?

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



If you need help with a large
(or small) project, contact the
church office at 419-522-0662.
We will rally the youth to come
and assist you in getting that task completed. We
just ask for a donation to assist the youth in their
fund-raising efforts toward the Retreats/Missions
they would like to attend.



MAY 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

We send greetings to our members who will be 80+ years old this month! We extend our best wishes to each of them and honor them for their

faithfulness through the years. God grant His blessing on each of them and fill their hearts with joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

MAY

4	Mrs. Polly Sowash	6266 Pinehurst Pointe Westerville, OH	43082-8522
10	Mrs. Marguerite Hollinger	1630 Friday Lane	44906-2302
16	Mr. David W. Wolf	Westminster Thurber Retirement 717 Neal Ave., Columbus, OH	43215
18	Mrs. Violet Oberlander	918 Greenfield Dr.	44904-2116
19	Mr. Chester Larabee	PO Box 1581	44901-1581
20	Mrs. Maxine Zimmerman	1742 Windsor Road, Apt. B	44905
23	Mrs. Evelyn Konves	208 Euclid Ave.	44903-1824
23	Mrs. Anna Dorner	781 Pulver List Road	44905-2546
27	Mrs. Frances Pore	1205 Warner Ave.	44905-2617
29	Mrs. Margaret Battisti	1002 Pearce Dr.	44906-2934
31	Mrs. Jane Brollier	Traditions at Bath Road, Rm 323 300 E Bath Rd Cuyahoga Falls, OH	44223
31	Mrs. Hilda Feiler	229 Bowland Rd.	44907-1158



From the Pastor

FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...

In the March Visitor, I shared half of the story. Now I will share with you the second half of my article on Prayer. Let me review the highlights of last month's article. Prayer may climb four steps, each are within the reach of anyone who would try:

- I First, prayer is an act.
- II Second, that impulse, once acted on, can grow into a habit.
- III This habit grows into a mental attitude which is measured by the sense of His presence rather than our need.

An English missionary tells the story about an Arab woman who had been brought up in the Islamic faith, came under Christian influences, accepted Christ as her personal Savior, and openly confessed her faith in Him. Her family was greatly disturbed and concocted a very subtle poison they mixed into the woman's food. As she ate, she noticed a peculiar flavor in the food, then quickly sensed what had been done. Already she had eaten enough to ensure her death.

A feeling of terror and desperation came as she realized her death, and not just a quick death, was certain. She could not pray aloud. That would only add to the anger of her household. She turned to God. She began repeating one word over and over under her breath with increasing intensity, "Jesus! Jesus!", all day long as she went about her tasks. She was conscious of a very real conflict going on in her body. It was as if a wave of death surged in, and when she repeated the Name of Jesus, a wave of life rolled in. At the end of the third day, she was totally free of the influence of the poison.

The fourth and last stage I would mention is when prayer becomes life. The actual act, the

daily habit, the involuntary mental attitude are all gathered in the life, which becomes one unceasing, vital, living prayer. In 1 Kings 17:1-19:21, we read of the life of Elijah, who is an illustration of a person for whom prayer had become his life. Not only did God answer Elijah's prayer, but the story also illustrates how closely Elijah walked with the Lord. Prayer and the life of Elijah were one.

Let me tell two stories: The first is about a little child who was quite ill and very weak. The mother, coming into the bedroom, noticed the child's hand lying open, palm up, on the pillow, as though put there purposely. She asked her child what it meant. The child replied: "Well, mother, you know I am very sick. I can't think of words I want to pray, so I put my open hand there on my pillow. Jesus will see it. He knows what I want." The child's hand was the prayer. So our life is a prayer as it is yielded to God.

The second story is how a life, which has become totally yielded to God, has power beyond human potential. The prosperous business man who lived in New York City was an active Christian and sought to yield his life to Jesus in all he did. Among his

many activities, he tried to help homeless, unfortunate men who were down and out. He provided warm lodging for them in winter and hot food and coffee free every night for those who stayed. Because he did not want to degrade these men in any way, he called the lodging "The Travelers' Club," and called himself president of the club. He wanted not only to relieve the misery of these men, but also hoped to reach their hearts.

One night, he had remained at the lodging past midnight, talking with the men, serving them food as they came in with unsteady step and bleary eyes. As he prepared to leave, he put his hat on the table. One of the men, in a mischievous temper, poured the coffee grounds remaining in his cup into the gentleman's silk hat. Noticing what had been done, he quietly emptied the coffee grounds, wiped his hat with his handkerchief, saying very quietly, "Excuse me, boys, I forgot to have a bowl ready for the coffee grounds. We'll do better next time." Putting on his hat with a smile and a warm good-night, he went out quietly. As his carriage began to pull away from the curb, a group of men ran out and stopped the carriage. Suspecting some mischief, the gentleman put his head out of the carriage window and said, "Now, now, boys, don't go too far." But the man who poured the coffee grounds into the hat was down on his knees, in the snow,

begging for his forgiveness. It proved a turning point in that man's life. He was a college graduate with marked ability who had become beaten by the problems of life and deteriorated into a bum on skid row. Yet, he became a minister, and God used him for many years in Christian service.

When prayer becomes a life, great things happen. What is our challenge? Wherever you are in the pattern of prayer, I would challenge you to take another step up.

If you have never developed the habit of a prayer life, take that step today and reach out to God in prayer.

If prayer is an act, begin to make it a habit. For the impulse of prayer, once acted on, can grow into habit.

The next step is difficult but possible for everyone who is willing to forget themselves. Pray, making your will as God's Will, seeking His guidance from His Word.

Last, as Elijah, make prayer your life. "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Put your life in the hands of the Master, Jesus Christ, and let him work through you. Then and only then, can you know the true joy of a living relationship with God.

— Cloyd K. Kress, Visitation Pastor

WHEN PLANNING FOR YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE, consider our First English Lutheran Church Columbarium. Brochures about our Columbarium are available in the tract racks, or contact the church office, 419-522-0662.



We remember the families and friends of those who died March 22 - April 18, 2003:

Norma Driskell	(March 17)
<i>(sister of Zora Wiley)</i>	
Robert Donnan	March 22
Linda Chapman	March 29
Stanley Hunter	April 9
<i>(father of Lynda Ringold)</i>	

We pray for Christ's gifts of healing and peace to touch their lives during this time of loss and sorrow that they may be comforted with the promise of the Resurrection through faith in Christ our Savior.

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals:	March 29, 2008	Robert Donnan
	April 2, 2008	Linda Chapman

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.



Memorials
To...



Christian Day School

Linda Chapman:

Clancy & Carol Lauthers

Robert Donnan:

Clancy & Carol Lauthers

Doris Enskat:

Clancy & Carol Lauthers

Global Mission

Linda Chapman:

David Prather

Sherry Winbigler

General Endowment Fund

Robert Donnan:

Helen Anderson

Eleanor Beine

Tom & Dot Blaney

Charlotte Bottomley

Bernice Campbell

Lana Dunham

Guy & Patsy Griggs

Jim Hannewald

Dee Hautzenroeder

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Olivieri

Bill & Mary Ellen Schulz

Marshall & Evelyn Smith

Dean & Pat Wells

Memorial Fund

Robert Donnan:

Juanita Baker

Doris Enskat:

Helen Anderson

James Baker

Juanita Baker

Jeanne Baldwin

Jack & Ann Bargahiser

Tom & Dot Blaney

Herald Carlson

Mark Collins

K F Conley

John & Katherine Fernyak

John & Dolores Gardner

Jim Hannewald

Bill & Mary Hayes

Marge Huffman

Lydia Circle

Bob & Char Mabee

Frank & Kay Mastandrea

Rich McCleery

Mrs. Olney F. Otto, Robert Otto,

Terrie Tonneas

Raymond & Rosemary Rallo

Dr. & Mrs. Aldo Santorum

Bill & Mary Ellen Schulz

Nancy Simon

Marshall & Evelyn Smith

Don & Marilyn Trauthwein

Zara Construction, Inc

(memorials continue)

Renewing God's House Appeal

Linda Chapman:

Tom & Jeanne Hillman

Robert Donnan:

Tom & Jeanne Hillman
Wes & Sandie Volz

Max Dye:

Marshall & Evelyn Smith

David Eckstein:

Wes & Sandie Volz

Doris Enskat:

Tom & Jeanne Hillman
Bill & Mary Schwartz
Wes & Sandie Volz

Anna Marie McCracken:

Bill & Mary Schwartz
Wes & Sandie Volz

Robert Starner:

Wes & Sandie Volz

Stained Glass Window Fund -

Renewing God's House Appeal

Robert Donnan:

Marilyn Dinges

Max Dye:

Marilyn Dinges

Seminary Student Fund

Robert Donnan:

Gene Harsch

Doris Enskat:

Gene Harsch

Earl Goetz:

Margaret Lindley

Anna Marie McCracken:

Margaret Battisti
John & Pat Fraifogl
Margaret Lindley
Margaret Runyon
Sarah Circle
Marshall & Evelyn Smith

Building Maintenance Fund

Robert Donnan:

Stan & Chris Cichanowicz

Doris Enskat:

Stan & Chris Cichanowicz

Youth Ministry

Doris Enskat:

David Prather



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

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, Interim 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

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