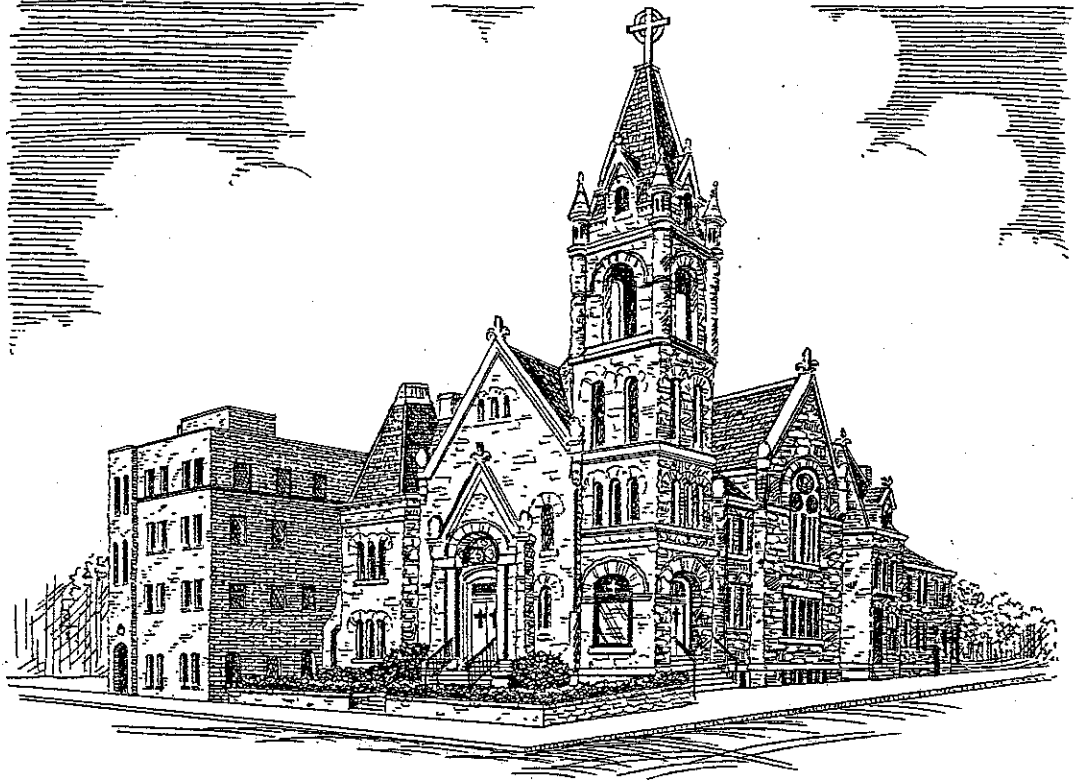


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

Volume 50

OCTOBER 2008

Number 10

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“A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”

*“Under His wings you will find refuge;
His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.”*

– Psalm 91:4

Dear Friends in Christ:

When the great 16th century German reformer, Martin Luther, took his famous stand on the truth and authority of Holy Scripture, he quickly met with opposition from every corner of the continent. At one meeting, the Cardinal Legate, in great anger, thundered at Luther, “The Pope’s little finger is stronger than all Germany. Do you expect your (German) princes to take up arms to defend you, a wretched worm like you? I ask you now. And where then will you be?” With calm and confidence, Luther responded, “Then, as now, in the hands of Almighty God!”

Quoting from the Psalms, he continued, “He who dwells in the shelter of the most high, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.’ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler.”

God’s faithful children have the sure confidence that underneath are His everlasting arms. They who put their faith and trust in the Heavenly Father will never find themselves shut out from the gracious mercies of the Almighty. Life can be so often filled with storms and adversity. We all experience the brokenness of creation; its sickness and disease; its human conflicts and torn relationships. But in the face of such powerful forces for evil we do not stand helpless and alone. We have the promise of our God in the Victory of the Resurrection that He is still more powerful.

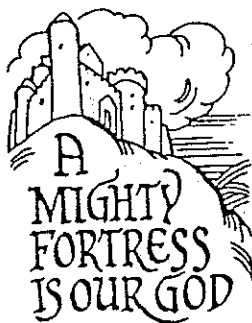
Therefore, no matter how terrible life’s battles may become, He has promised to never leave us or forsake us. He is our God, ever-present with us, and for us; giving us that Hope in the Resurrection which shall not be disappointed, and a faith and trust in Him which shall endure.

In Jesus Christ, the Son, God Himself has come to defeat the powers of Sin, Death, and the Devil. In our strife-torn world, we experience the forces of evil waging warfare against us. But in Jesus we have the promise of the great and final Victory. Underneath are the everlasting arms to hold us safe and secure in the promise of His never-failing Love, “For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

He is our rock & sure defense; His faithfulness is our shield & mighty fortress, a bulwark never failing!

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Paul Larson



Reformation Sunday
October 26th, 2008



CROP WALK!!

When: Sunday, October 5, 2008
Registration: 1:30 pm
Program: 1:45 pm
Walk begins: 2:00 pm

Where: Central Park Gazebo to South Park, to Maple Street then down Marion Avenue to Park Avenue West to Walnut Street and ending at the Carousel Park on West 4th Street. Walk will be held rain or shine.

What: The Walk will total 3 miles. Water will be distributed during the Walk, and snacks and a Carousel ride will be given at the end of the Walk.

Sign-up sheets for walkers and sponsors are in the Narthex. **Special CROP Walk envelopes are on the table in the Narthex for your donations.** THANKS for CARING!! See Chris Cichanowicz if you have any questions.

CAMP MOWANA Fall Festival and Benefit Auction Sunday, October 5, 2008 12:30 - 5:30 P.M.



**Live Music! Great Food! Hayrides! Crafts!
Pony Rides! Petting Zoo! Face Painting! Pumpkin Carving!**

Benefit Auction beginning at 3:30 features handmade quilts, fine handcrafts, theme baskets, and lots of other unique items. All proceeds will benefit summer camperships. Camp Mowana is located on Fleming Falls Road just north of Mansfield off US 42. Call the Camp for more information at 419-589-7406.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
Oct 5 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator: Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,
Oct 5 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 a.m. They will sing at the 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion service on October 12.
- Every
Sunday **Fireflies and Spirit!** children's and youth choirs rehearse during the 9:45 A.M. Sunday school hour. Director: Becky Pittman.
- Monday,
Oct 6 **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
Oct 7 **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,
Oct 1 & 15 **Workday Ladies Sew** patchwork quilts 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on the third floor of Luther Hall (bring a sack lunch). Tracing and cutting, ironing, machine sewing, and tying. WELCA contact: Cheryl Lantz, 419-522-7500. *If you can sew patches to make quilt tops at home, contact Pat Reed at 419-756-1372.*
- Every
Wednesday **Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch**, 12:10 P.M. worship in the Chapel; lunch following in the undercroft.
- 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,
Oct 17 **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
Oct 25 & 26 **Food Collection Weekend.** The August collection totaled 3 bags of groceries for The Salvation Army and \$133 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued support!

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

FUND RAISER

OCTOBER 4 – 12

We will have a **Squirrel's Den coupon fund raiser** from October 4 through October 12! The coupons are good for popcorn, nuts, candy and great chocolates at the Squirrel's Den in downtown Mansfield. Coupons will sell for \$10 each with \$4 of every coupon going toward the Christian Day School. **Proceeds will buy equipment and/or supplies for our Day School - see the Wish List below.**

Coupons will be on sale after the 5:00 chapel service on Saturday, October 4, and in the Narthex on Sundays, October 5 and 12. Or contact Terry Bianchi in the CDS Office during the week at 419-522-7500. (Checks payable to First English Lutheran Church. Memo line: CDS, Squirrel's Den).

We need your support, and thank you for your generosity, caring spirits, and prayers! Let us not forget that we are an important outreach of FELC. Our children are our future!



... shopping at The Squirrel's Den!

CDS WISH LIST

This is a list of some items the Christian Day School needs or would like to have to enhance the classrooms. Proceeds from the sale of The Squirrel's Den coupon fund raiser will go towards the purchase of items. Or if you would prefer to just make a donation of an item (or an amount towards an item) without buying a coupon, please make checks payable to First English Lutheran Church and write the name of the item on the memo line.

???	Computer (donated)	\$30	Under the Sea Gear Set
\$200	Printer	\$18	Lunch Foods Play Set
\$30	CD Player	\$20	Sign Language Puzzle
\$40	Rest time cot (or set of 5 for \$195)	\$20	Root-Vue Farm
\$125	Alphabet Carpets	\$15	Multi Colored Links
\$30	Tangrams Class Pack	\$20	Teddy Bear Counters & Cards
\$26	Play coffee maker	\$20	Multi Colored Links & Pattern Cards
\$26	Deluxe Kitchen Set	\$10	Washable Stamp Pads

The children and staff thank you for your continued support!

FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP MEETS OCTOBER 7 . . .



Join us for *First Tuesday* on October 7 in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at noon. Cost is \$2.50. Mr. Stan Baumberger, licensed real estate appraiser, will explain how appraisals are done in our area.

Everyone is welcome! Call Pat Wells, 419-756-6863, with reservations by Monday, October 6.

2008 WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT October 10 and 11 . . .



Come join us for the Women's Fall Retreat on Friday evening, October 10 (optional) and Saturday, October 11, at the Blackfork Retreat Center on Route 603. Friday evening's fun begins at 7:00 P.M. until 9:30. Bring a snack to share. You have the option to sleep over at the retreat center. Saturday we will begin at 9:00 A.M. with a Continental Breakfast followed by a mixer for fellowship, and then **Bible Study led by Pastor Amy Little of Norwalk, OH, a daughter of our congregation.** After a provided lunch, we will continue with Bible Study and a prayer walk, closing at 3:00 P.M.

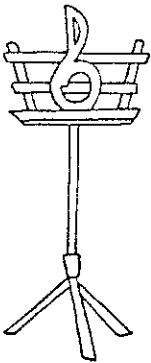
The focus of our retreat will be that ONE person CAN make a difference. It is based on Family Systems and each person's own "self-differentiation." Developing these skills can change your family, your church, and your community. This is a wonderful way to expand your *spiritual life* and deepen your understanding of *God's Word*. Do this for yourself! We are all on a spiritual journey, and this can be part of it!

All women are invited to attend, bringing a friend, daughter, mom or mother-in-law if desired. (You don't have to be a member of FELC!) **The cost is \$15.00. Registrations will be taken the weekends of September 27-28 and October 4-5. We hope to see you there!**

- Cheryl Lantz

MUSIC & WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

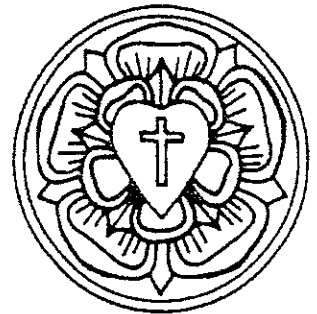
Sunday, October 12, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Mansfield. The Twelfth Annual **Donald Bernhardt Memorial Chamber Music Concert**, music by Vaughan-Williams, Hindemith, Klughardt, and Lalo, performed by The Mansfield Chamber Music Players.



Sunday, October 12, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 129 West Walnut Street, Galion, OH. **Dr. Timothy Guenther** will lead a **hymn festival** featuring hymns from the ELCA's new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal based on the theme, "**Let Everything that Has Breath Praise the Lord!**" from Psalm 150. A freewill offering will be received for the benefit of Cooperative Christian Services of Galion. **The festival will also be followed by a benefit dinner** for that agency. The public is cordially invited to attend! Directions: Take OHIO 309 West from Mansfield to Galion. Turn right on Harding Way East (OH 19). Turn left on South Market Street and almost immediately turn right on West Walnut Street. The church is on the left side of the road.

Sunday, October 26, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 525 W. Cook Road, Mansfield. Richland-Ashland Conference **Reformation Festival Worship** with Holy Communion, combined choir, Pastor Paul Lintern on Local Lutheran Heritage and Our Faith. Offering received for Lutheran Disaster Response. **Potluck supper at 5:30 p.m.** Sandwiches, beverages, table service provided; **bring a salad or dessert** to share; Jello creations encouraged!

Sunday, October 26, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 508 Center Street in Ashland. **Bach Vespers service**, patterned after the order and flow of a Lutheran service from Bach's day, presented by choral and instrumental musicians from Trinity and the Ashland University Music Department. Featured music will include Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata #80, "*A Mighty Fortress*" for the Sunday of the Reformation, as well as other selections. **Dr. Rowland Blackley** of Ashland University will direct the choir and orchestra, and **Dr. Timothy Guenther** of First English, Mansfield will be organist. **Pastor Sanford C. Mitchell** of Trinity, Ashland, will preach. The service is open to the public. A freewill offering will be received. The church building is accessible to persons with handicapping conditions.



Missionaries Visit from Peru!

Henrik, Patty, and Rebekah Christopherson will be here on Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19. **Henrik** will speak at the 5:00 Saturday chapel service and at the 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday services.

Also, during the 9:45 - 10:45 Sunday school hour, Henrik and Patty will tell of their mission work in Peru.



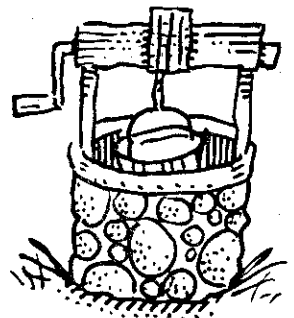
**Mission
Festival
October 18 & 19**

A congregational meal in honor of the Christopherson family will follow the 11:00 services. A main dish will be provided; please bring a salad or dessert to share.

If you would be able to provide overnight housing for the Christophersons for October 18 and possibly October 19, please call Jeanne Hillman, 419-529-5197.

GLOBAL MISSION and WELCA WATER PROJECT

Remember to support the ELCA Good Gifts water project to provide clean water to an impoverished country by filling the coin boxes distributed on September 14! All monies will be collected on Reformation Sunday, October 26.



But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

- Amos 5:24



Our Nursing
Home Ministry

Communion Services at Nursing Homes . . .

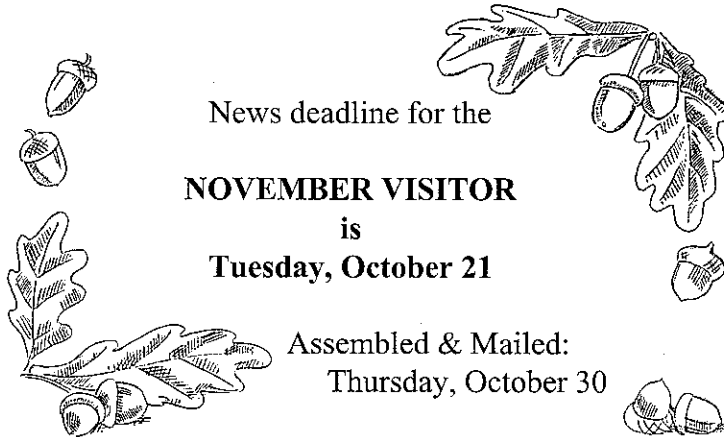
In order to provide communion for First Lutheran members who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, monthly worship services are scheduled in four locations with Communion Deacons assisting the pastors. All residents of the facilities are invited to attend, and members of First Lutheran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

Tuesday, October 21

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

Thursday, October 23

9:30 A.M. Sterling House



News deadline for the
NOVEMBER VISITOR
is
Tuesday, October 21

Assembled & Mailed:
Thursday, October 30

FELC BOOKKEEPER POSITION

Because of Dot Blaney's retirement at the end of October, FELC is looking for an experienced, part-time bookkeeper. If you, or someone you know is interested, please call Sherry Winbigler at 419-526-3795 and/or submit a resume by no later than Wednesday, October 1, 2008.

CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY FOR THE NEEDY is a WELCA outreach ministry with our Wednesday Noon Lunch Program. Donation boxes are in the Narthex, undercroft, and Luther Hall lobby. Keeping a supply on hand is on-going! So when you go to the grocery, please remember to pick up an extra jar of creamy peanut butter and/or jelly (any size) and drop it off at church.



OCTOBER NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

The Bible verse for October is "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27. The children will also be reading Bible stories about Moses this month.

October is fire safety month, so the children will be learning about fire safety and they will visit Fire Station No. 1. A police officer is also coming to visit. Later in the month, the pre-school children will be walking to the Renaissance Theater to attend a performance of "If You Give a Pig a Pancake" on Wednesday, October 29.

Our Book Fair is the week of October 20-24. Scholastic always has many great books for the children to choose. **Our Open House for parents will be Wednesday, October 22, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.** This will give parents an opportunity to observe their children in their classrooms and to discuss the child's progress with their teachers.

The children and staff at the Day School would like to remind everyone to take the time to appreciate the beautiful scenery God has given us at this special time of year.

- Terry Bianchi, CDS Director



OCTOBER 2008 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
WORKDAY LADIES	1 & 15	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
SARAH	6	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Jeanne Hillman Hostess: Margaret Battisti
LYDIA	6	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Home of Mary Schwartz, 1844 W Longview Ave Program: Kay McNaul
FIRST TUESDAY	7	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room. Program: Stan Baumberger, Real estate appraiser
EVE	7	TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Prayer Shawl Ministry Hostess: Karen Ellis
MARY	10	FRIDAY	9:30 A.M.	Upper Crust, 189 Marion Ave Hostess: Wanda Donnan
PLANNING MEETING	20	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room

Funeral Dinners: Squad D: Jackie Moxley & Shirley Shupp

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

Special Events: October – All circles to donate to the baby shower for CHAP

Oct 11 & 12 – Women's Retreat – Blackfork Retreat Center. Cost \$15.00 includes lunch.

Pr Amy Little, leader

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. A list of items for each kit has been published in The Visitor for several months. All kits must be returned to the church as a complete kit ready for shipping. **Deadline to turn in completed kits is October 5.** They will be packed and then taken to Seville, Ohio, later in October for shipping.

The shipping costs are quite high to get these goods delivered overseas. **Monetary contributions towards the shipping costs** may be placed in a pew envelope and clearly marked LWR SHIPPING with the amount and your envelope number. Contributions will be accepted through Sunday, October 5. — Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820

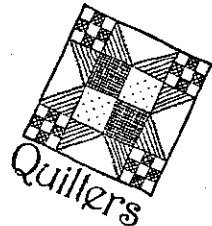
QUILTS and KITS WILL BE BLESSED during the worship services the weekend of October 4 & 5 before shipping them to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to the Workday Ladies for creating the quilts, and to those who helped by sewing blocks together at home to make quilt tops:

Workday Ladies:

Bev Bishop
Virginia Blizzard
Jan Fisher
Jerry Gallagher
Adelia Hautzenroeder
Lynn Kinsey
Esther Morrison
Nancy Pasheilich
Patricia Reed

Quilt top sewers:

Karyne Carey
Karen Ellis
Betty Claypool



WORKDAY LADIES HAVE A REAL NEED for clean, used bed sheets of any size to use for linings in quilts. They don't have to be perfect, but should be without holes. Please deposit them in the LWR Kits boxes in Luther Hall and in the Narthex. Thank you for your support of this vital outreach project!

And remember that machine sewers are needed to sew patches together to make the tops! Call Pat Reed, 419-756-1372, if you can help by sewing at home.

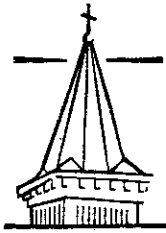
FAIR TRADE/EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE

Twenty two years ago, Fair Trade/Equal Exchange interfaith cooperative was established. This organization gives the small coffee and tea farmer the ability to make a living wage in the countries where they live such as Nicaragua, India, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Ethiopia. By banding together to make a larger buying and selling unit, these people are better able to compete in the marketplace:

- They can support their families.
- They can send their children to school.
- They can keep their property.
- This gives women an opportunity for entrepreneurship.
- It links with organizations such as Lutheran World Relief.
- WELCA here at First English Lutheran Church does NOT make a profit on this coffee. All funds go back to Equal Exchange and the farmers.



WELCA thanks you for your continued support of this very important project!



Congregation Council

SEPTEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, September 9, 2008 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Larson opened the meeting with prayer.

SENIOR PASTOR :

Pastor Larson told of upcoming dates: Crop Walk - October 5; Family Covenant Sunday for Catechism - October 12; The Henrik Christopherson Family visit and preaching at all services, with a congregational potluck meal following the 11:00 a.m. worship service - October 18 and 19; Reformation - October 26; Consecration weekend in conjunction with All Saints Sunday - November 1 and 2; Youth Sunday - November 8 and 9, and the Anderson Lecture Series with David Miller, former editor of *The Lutheran* on Saturday, November 15 and Mr. Miller preaching on November 16.

Dot Blaney has announced her retirement effective the end of October, 2008.

Laura Brant has named FELC to receive 14% of her estate.

The Council asked Pastor Larson to contact World Mission Prayer League to receive information about the possible use of our remodeled "penthouse" as a place for missionaries to live when they are home on furlough.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits mentioned committee budgets need to be submitted.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Dr. Tim Guenther stated he is teaching two course sections three days of the week at Ashland University. Tim will be on vacation October 18 and 19, with Scott Berry as substitute chapel organist and Joanne Wrasse playing organ on Sunday, October 19.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Lu Diday mentioned upcoming activities: the congregational picnic on Rally Day, Sunday, September 14; the congregational potluck to welcome the Christophersons (our missionaries to Peru) on Sunday, October 19; and Anderson Lecture Series dinner November 15.

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman received letters of thanks from: the Kraft family for support; Lithuania Christian College for contribution of \$200 for Summer Language Institute scholarships; from the ELCA Mission Committee for support for the Pastor Robert Schmalzle family, missionaries in Kenya, and from Brian and Barbara Sorge for our support. Jeanne expressed thanks to all who donated items for Harmony House.

(continued)

WORSHIP: Roscoe Thompson expressed appreciation to Stan and Chris Cichanowicz and Bill Schwartz for painting the Proclaim worship platform area. Becky Pittman is working on new ideas for Proclaim.

STEWARDSHIP: Renee Ward mentioned Consecration weekend will be held November 1 and 2.

YOUTH: Annette Doklovic said the Junior High and Senior High Youth Groups had an overnight at the church Saturday, September 13, and the youth group will have a concession at the Blackfork Retreat Center for the September 27 and 28 Steam Threshers show.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: Linda Elgin said 91 students are enrolled. Council approved CDS to hold a fund raiser of selling Squirrels Den gift certificates October 4, 5, 11 and 12, and

for "wish list" items to be purchased or for cash donations, to be published on bulletin boards October 4, 5, 11 and 12 and in the October Visitor. Students are being transported by Mansfield City Schools to before and after school care.

WELCA: Cheryl Lantz reported that approximately 98 prayer shawls have been given out to this date. The peanut butter, jelly and bread ministry is going well. The water project will be held September 14-October 26.

LOVE OFFERING: Council approved a love offering to be received for the Christopherson family when they are present for all worship services on October 18 and 19.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M. with prayer led by Pastor Larson.

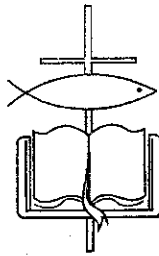
- Mary M. Schwartz
Congregation Council Secretary



BERTIL E. ANDERSON LECTURE SERIES

NOVEMBER 15 & 16, 2008

Mark November 15 & 16 on your calendar so you can be sure to attend our fifteenth annual Anderson Lecture program. We are pleased this year to have Dr. David Miller as the guest speaker for Saturday's dinner lecture and Sunday's sermon and lecture program.



the specific charter of "Encouraging Excellence in Theology and the Arts, Especially as Those Disciplines Heighten the Proclamation of God's Good News."

The Anderson lecture series and memorial fund was established in 1994 in memory Bertil E. Anderson, Senior Pastor at First English church from 1980 to 1989, with

The lecture series has brought a remarkably talented and diverse group of speakers to Mansfield over the years. Be sure to attend and invite friends and family to this year's event.

THE 15TH ANNUAL
BERTIL E. ANDERSON LECTURE SERIES
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008
GATHERING - 6:00 P.M. & DINNER - 6:30 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: THE REV. DR. DAVID MILLER

**LOOK FOR THE DINNER RESERVATION FORM
IN THE NOVEMBER VISITOR and SUNDAY BULLETIN**

Due to popular demand, this year's dinner and lecture will again be held at First English in the undercroft, with the meal prepared by our own Congregational Life group!

Dinner details are not yet finalized but will surely be delightful and delicious.

*Reservations need to be returned by Friday, November 7, 2008
Mark your calendar and watch for the reservation form!*

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.

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

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

Oct 4	Elva Bonser	Oct 18	Marian Owen
Oct 11	Marian Owen	Oct 25	Elva Bonser

GREETERS 8:30 A.M.

Ken & Vi Deems	Narthex
Lois McCullough	East Entrance

USHERS 8:30 A.M.

Larry Faith
Rebecca Faith

GREETERS 11:00 A.M.

Shelley Shupp	Narthex
Marilyn Dinges	East Entrance

USHERS 11:00 A.M.

Gene Harsch
Jack Leonard

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

Oct 5	Mary Schwartz, Jane Starner
Oct 12	Chris Cichanowicz, Jim Scheiber
Oct 19	Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz
Oct 26	Ken & Karen Frayer, Lowell Weeks

8:30 POWER POINT OPERATORS

Oct 5	Tom Sarbach	Oct 19	Gordon Moxley
Oct 12	Paul Ward	Oct 26	Tom Sarbach

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Oct 5	Stan Cichanowicz	Oct 19	Greg Hughes
Oct 12	Terry Leedy	Oct 26	Annette Doklovic

ACOLYTES, CRUCIFER, TORCHBEARERS

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Oct 5	A Katie Ritz	A Elizabeth Volz
Oct 12	A Stephen Ward	A Emily Blankenship
Oct 19	A Casey Kelley	A Lindsey Brenkus
Reformation Oct 26	A Kate Hogsette	A Katilyn Stransky C Bryan Eyerly T Erin Blankenship T Sara Hannemann

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

Oct 4	Jean Ridenour	Oct 18	Jean Ridenour
Oct 11	Kay McNaul	Oct 25	Kay McNaul

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Oct 5	Pat Reed	Diane Molyet
Oct 12	Mary Hujus	Chris Kaschube
Oct 19	Liz Prather	Dan Shupp
Oct 26	Sherry Winbigler	Terry Leedy

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:10 am</u>
Oct 5	Henry Keultjes	Jodi Mumaw
Oct 12	Betty Guenther	Ron Rehm
Oct 19	Cindy Russell	Tom Hillman
Oct 26	Wes Volz	Pat Reed

COMMUNION PREPARERS

	Oct 5	11:00 a.m.	Jim & Lolita Scheiber
	Oct 12	8:30 a.m.	Bill & Mary Hayes
Reformation	Oct 26	8:30 a.m.	Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon
Reformation	Oct 26	11:00 a.m.	Wes & Sandie Volz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>Oct 5 - 11:00 am</u>	<u>October 12 - 8:30 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West	Terry Leedy	Renee Ward
Cups West	Kay Leedy	Becky Sarbach
Wine East	Wes Volz	Jane Anderson
Cups East	Sandie Volz	Jo Wirstrom
Intinction	Pat Wells	Paul Theaker

REFORMATION SUNDAY

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(continuous communion)

	<u>Oct 26 - 8:30 am</u>	<u>October 26 - 11:00 am</u>
Bread Servers	2 Pastors	Pastor & Assisting Minister
Wine West	Steve Ritz	Gene Calver
Cups West	Devera Ritz	Donna Rettig
Wine East	Gene Luedy	Susanne LeMunyon
Cups East	Marilyn Motson	Jo Wirstrom
Intinction	Jerry Gallagher	Greg Hughes

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Global Mission Committee

OCTOBER ALTAR WORKERS

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

PEW PAD GLEANERS

Oct 5	Lana Dunham Conry	Oct 19	Sharon Bowden
Oct 12	Jane Sprang	Oct 26	Gene Luedy

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

Oct 5: Janet Swartz

+ + + + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

Oct 5	Cindy & Robyn Russell
Oct 12	Elizabeth Volz & Haley Pittman
Oct 19	Cheryl Lantz
Oct 26	Emily Blankenship & Ashley Rehm

Communion Preparers

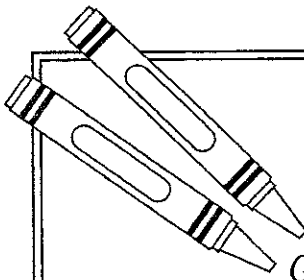
	Oct 19	Karen Ellis
Reformation	Oct 26	Renee Blankenship

Communion Servers

	Oct 19	Ted & Karen Ellis and Tricia & Jessika Volz
Reformation	Oct 26	Matt & Renee Blankenship

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson



Just for KIDS

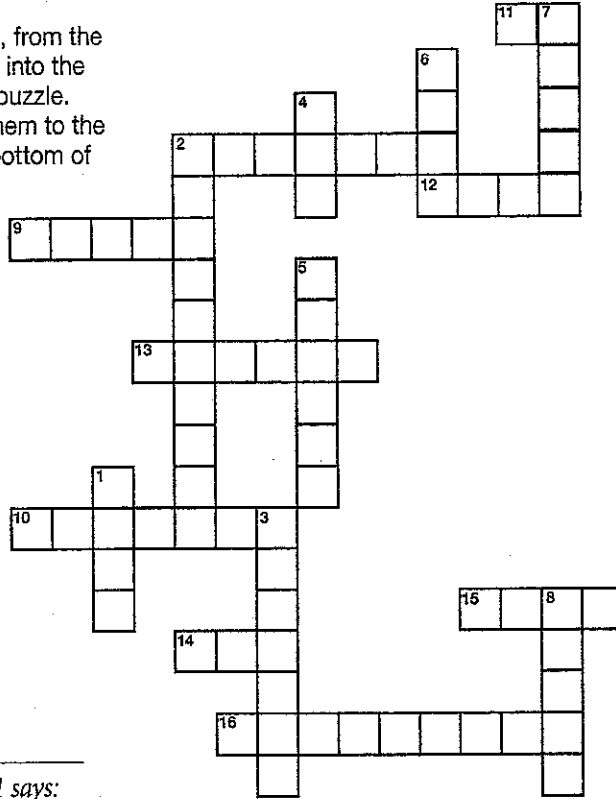
God Does Wonderful Things!

October is a season of change. God causes all things to change for his purpose. Find out some other things God does.

Fit these words, from the Book of Daniel, into the squares of the puzzle. Then transfer them to the blanks on the bottom of the page.

Word List

- up
- God
- his
- ever
- sets
- wise
- name
- power
- times
- kings
- praise
- wisdom
- changes
- seasons
- deposes
- knowledge
- discerning



Daniel 2:20-21 says:

"_____ be to the _____ of _____ for _____ and _____;
 _____ and _____ are _____. He _____ and _____;
 He _____ _____ _____ and _____ them.
 He gives _____ to the _____ and _____ to the _____."

Answer: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning."

2009 MISSION TRIP TO MALAWI

A mission trip is planned for June or early July of 2009. Currently 7 people are interested in going to meet and help the people of Kanyenyeva.

We at First English Lutheran Church have been asked to help the people of Kanyenyeva build some structures. **At the right is a picture of the type of shade they use made with sticks and leaves** in which to feed the orphans or teach the children. As Shadreck wrote, *"It is always difficult during the rainy seasons to have the feeding program under the shade."* One of the priorities of the orphan project is to build a permanent feeding hall. They would also be able to use the hall for lessons and other gatherings. (The feeding hall will be larger than the structure that they plan to build with money from our recent donations.)



They have asked that we help them build this feeding hall when we come in 2009. They would also like for us to help in the nursery school and feeding program and to help with evangelism efforts in the community. Any medical personnel that go would be able to use their skills while they are there, if they wish to do so.

Is God calling you to go?

Can you stack bricks, put food on a plate, hold and play with a child or witness for Christ?

Is God calling you to go?

Please prayerfully consider your involvement in this trip to Malawi.

Is God calling you to go?

If you would like more information, please contact Joy Jones at 419-884-1016, or the church office at 419-522-0662 and leave your name and number.

MALAWI

ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

We thank God for the birth of Shadreck and Yamikani's daughter, Shamiso. We also thank God for good health for her and Yami. **Shamiso was born to Shadreck and Yamikani on September 10, 2008.** I am sure that Yami and Shadreck are already thinking about the future of Shamiso. Like all parents, they want her to have a good education when she is older. They know that in Malawi, having a good education can make a big difference in life. They know that having an education is having hope and the ability to change lives.

Children all over the world have gone back to school. In Malawi, they go to school knowing that the education that they receive can help them have a better life. In elementary school, they know that if they do well on their exams, that they might have the opportunity to attend high school. They know that if they are able to graduate from high school, they can get a job. They know that if they do well in high school and on their college entrance exams, they might be able to go to college. They also know that high school and college are not free. They know that if they are able to go to high school and college, they are a privileged few because most people in their country do not attend high school and even fewer attend college. They know that those that do attend high school and college have been given a great opportunity to help change their own lives and sometimes the lives of others in their country.

Through your donations to Malawi Orphan Care Ministries, you have given some students in Malawi, Africa, the opportunity to go to high school, to make a difference in their lives and maybe to make a difference in their country. They thank you for that opportunity. They know that they have been given a privilege and an opportunity. They thank you for the hope that you offer to them through your donations to Malawi Orphan Care Ministries. Zikomo kwambiri, thank you very much.

Please pray for the upcoming primary elections in Malawi. Shadreck was recently informed that the primary elections will begin on November 3. The elections usually last 2 or 3 days in order to give everyone the opportunity to vote. Please pray for a fair and honest election and for Godly people to help run their country.

Please pray for:

- Shadreck, Yami and Shamiso;
- God's will to be done regarding Shadreck's participation in the Malawi elections;
- for continued safety for Shadreck during his travels for the orphan project and his campaign;
- for the people of Malawi to work to end the HIV crisis and not ignore it;
- for good nutrition and health for the orphans and their caregivers;
- for adequate housing for the orphans and their caregivers;

(continued)

-for the bus business to continue to succeed ;
-for God to be glorified in the work of the
Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries;
-for the witness of Calvary Church and its
pastor, Tom Mambo;

-for guidance in how FELC, Calvary Church
and the Orphan project can work together to
glorify God and help the people of
Kanyenyeva.

-Joy Jones



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

IT'S A BABY SHOWER! You've seen the signs around town -
"CHAP," and probably wonder what those initials stand for.
CHAP stands for Community Health Access Project.

If a young mother is homeless or does not have enough food for herself or maybe other children, then she is not likely to access prenatal care or other medical services. Prenatal care is one of the most critical interventions to reduce the rate of low birth weight. Babies born low birth weight are 50% more likely to need special education, are at increased risk for asthma, diabetes, cerebral palsy, and have an average cost of more than \$40,000 in excess medical expense in the first year of life alone.

CHAP helps families with health resources, and has worked with hundreds of homeless families and ensured they have safe and stable housing, helped hundreds of individuals complete their GED, and guided more than 200 at risk unemployed clients to become self sufficient.

During the month of October, baskets marked "CHAP" will be in the Narthex, Luther Hall, and the undercroft for your "Baby Shower" donations: Diapers, baby powder, baby lotion, receiving blankets, shirts, gowns, sleepers, sweaters, Wet Ones or Wipes, wash cloths, and Ivory soap.

Thank you for your help!

- Global Mission Committee

"Reaching out beyond our church to help others."

SUMMER SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SORGE FAMILY -- 2008

In June, David and Joshua worked together to finish up 5th grade home school. After school came the tickle fights, linguistic discussions, and Stratego games. Our family time was very rich this summer, and it was hard to let David go again on August 21. *Thank you for blessing our time through your prayers!*

The heavy, continuous rains of monsoon never came – just intermittent showers – so we could enjoy the beach and sun throughout June and July! We didn't have those weeks of musty-smelling clothes that we usually have when our "solar dryer" is less-functional because of monsoon (June/July)! YEAH!

David got quite involved in Islanders' lives again this summer – sharing with friends his age as well as tutoring a 5th grade Island boy new to school here. One of his friends told him, "I haven't gotten much read in the English Bible you gave me because my brother keeps reading it!" *Pray that God will open doors to follow up with these young men.*

Adam (an Islander) and Brian began reading parts of the Qur'an together and looking at the Bible too. Adam was challenged to think – not just to go by what he has been told. We rejoiced when Adam shared his new understandings about God with another Island friend, generating quite a discussion! *Ask God to continue the work He has begun in drawing Adam to Himself. Ask God to guide Brian as he interacts with Adam.*

While David was away for a month-long mission experience farther north in this country, the rest of the family attended a conference in Thailand. We were refreshed by the incredible beauty of the place. We spent time with other workers in prayer, hearing God's Word, and talking about our work. Very encouraging! David's experience was also very positive. He was with workers involved in translating the Word into various languages, helping them in practical ways, and learning with them too.

Barb's Mom and Dad visited just after we arrived back from Thailand. *Thank God for the extended family time together.*

This week, a dear Islander friend unexpectedly announced that she is returning to the Islands to live. After years of living here, her husband has suddenly divorced her. *Please pray for Alison in this life change. Ask God to help her see her need for a Savior and that Jesus is the Savior she longs for.*

Zach, the Islander who was helping doing translation, is choosing to remain trapped in the lies he believes. *Ask God to give him the courage to let go of lies, repent, and receive God's gracious forgiveness so he can walk in the truth. Continue to ask God to raise up Islanders to help with translation. Thank God for Mary's continued willingness to test drafted Scripture - pray that the truths will speak to her heart.*

(continued)

Joshua began home school 6th grade last week. We're off to a good start, although it's hard to get back into the school schedule again. This week, our German teammates who have been away for the summer rejoin us. Joshua looks forward to having his good friend Samuel back, and we look forward to having our teammates here too!

During the first week of September, a small group of believers from another nearby country will be here in our city to reach out to Islanders. *Ask God to glorify His Name among Islanders through their efforts. Pray that this experience of sharing will deepen their desire to be involved in the growth of God's Kingdom.*

Ramadan, the Islamic fasting month is September 1 - 30 this year. It is a month of intensified religious activity, no food or drink or smoking during daylight hours, and special foods eaten at night. Each year, Ramadan is different for us -- some years bring greater opportunities to share with Islanders and others bring a slower schedule with more opportunity to pray. We invite you to join believers worldwide in praying for the Muslim world during this month. See <http://www.30-days.net> for details.

Thank you for partnering with us!
With joy,
Brian & Barbara Sorge, and Joshua and David
(starting a new term at Rice in Houston)



RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 REPORT . . .

Total income	\$160,836.34
Total Expenses	<u>126,445.64</u>
NET	34,390.70

Thank you to everyone who has already honored their 3-year commitment in a lump sum or paid ahead. This has helped to reduce the amount needed to be borrowed to pay for the new roof.

- Steve Ritz and Rob Hogsette
BRIDGE Team Leaders

IT'S ALL MY STUFF!

SO WHAT'S GOD GOT TO DO WITH IT?

There is no finer Biblical understanding of Life's many blessings than the one St. Paul developed in his efforts to raise an offering for relief of the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem. This offering and the request by Paul that the Corinthians help with it was remarkable. Most of the Christians in Jerusalem were Jews. The Corinthian Christians were nearly all Gentiles. The hatred between the two had stood for centuries. But the Apostle Paul said to the Ephesian Christians that "Christ has broken down the dividing wall of separation" between Jew and Gentile. The offering he gathers in Corinth is living proof of that fact. It is a sign of God's Love and our unity in Christ.

In II Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9, the Apostle Paul calls us to open our hearts to experience God's daily blessings in a spirit of Joy, Generosity, and Gratitude.

STEWARDSHIP IS PROPORTIONATE TO INCOME.

St. Paul reminded the Corinthians that the Macedonians "gave according to their means." (II Cor. 8:3). Stewardship is not giving to budgets or any other external goal designed to elicit contributions. God asks us to look at our income and give proportionately to Him. We give to our Lord from the blessings He entrusts to our care.

STEWARDSHIP MEANS THE GIFT OF YOURSELF, IT IS AN ATTITUDE.

The Macedonians gave for the poor. St. Paul says, "but first they gave themselves to the Lord." (II Cor. 8:5). Nothing - and no amount of money - is pleasing to the Lord until we first give ourselves to Him. The Christian is someone who has fallen in love with Jesus. In love, we long to do what our "beloved" desires.

STEWARDSHIP IS THE PROOF OF THE GENUINENESS OF OUR LOVE.

The manner in which we "put our money where our mouth is" is the tangible demonstration of what is really in our hearts. St. Paul pointed out to the Corinthians that their participation in the offering was the way they would prove "that your love also is genuine." (II Cor. 8:8).

STEWARDSHIP IS SELF-SACRIFICING.

IT IS BASED ON THE SELF-SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ shared the eternal glory of the Godhead with the Father, yet for our sakes he became "poor;" He gave that all up to make us "rich" toward God

through His cross and resurrection. (II Cor. 8:9). When we give our very best, with love and generosity, we are following Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP TAKES PEOPLE WHO ARE READY FOR GOD'S CALL.

The Holy Spirit makes stewards out of people through their faith. Have you genuinely prayed that God would open your heart? Have you asked God to be the potter and fill you with His Spirit of generosity and sacrifice? Are you ready to be the clay in His hands? St. Paul said, "For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a man has..." (II Cor. 8:12).

STEWARDSHIP IS A JOINT VENTURE WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

"What I give is my business," says the cynical, self-centered "Christian." Nothing could be farther from the truth. Stewardship involves me, my brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ, and Christ Himself. It is a sharing within the Body of Christ, as St. Paul pointed out to the Corinthians. (II Cor. 8:14). Every part of the Body is called to give their Best and their First Fruits for Jesus our Lord.

STEWARDSHIP IS HONEST & HONORABLE AMONG CHRISTIANS.

Many people are extremely nervous when it comes to "talking about money" in the church. Stewardship is more than "money," but it is also "money." More often than not, there is a direct connection between a person's wallet and their heart. St. Paul reminded the Corinthians, "We aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of men." (II Cor. 8:21). We do not need all sorts of high-pressure tactics and "gimmicks" to make Christian stewardship work. **WE DO NEED THE GOSPEL** to change our attitudes and lives.

STEWARDSHIP REQUIRES COMMITMENTS.

Some may say "I don't believe in pledging. Pledging isn't Biblical." But the exact opposite is true. St. Paul talked to the Corinthians about their pledge, their commitment, when he talked to them about "this gift you have promised." (II Cor. 9:5). Note, however, that the word he used to describe their commitment was not pledge, but promise. "Pledge" really talks about money, "promise" talks about a response to God's promises and is a faith-word. Nonetheless, the Corinthians pledged! They made a faith-commitment.

STEWARDSHIP CALLS US TO TRUST IN THE PROMISES OF GOD.

Note the "string" of God's Promises that St. Paul holds out to the Corinthians. That is the answer to our motivation for Christian giving. "CHALLENGE MY FAITH, LORD!" God calls us to Trust in HIM and Grow in Faith! There is a direct correlation

between growing in Faith and growing in Giving. Look at God's Promises for His children:

"He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." II Cor. 9:6

"God loves a cheerful giver." II Cor 9:7

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance." I Cor. 9:8

"He (God)...will supply and multiply your resources." II Cor. 9:10

"You will be enriched." II Cor. 9:11

"You will glorify God by your obedience." II Cor. 9:13

STEWARDSHIP IS OUR WAY OF SHOWING OUR FAITH IN JESUS.

Finally, there is a tangible way to show that we believe the promises that God has given us in Christ. We need to give in order to draw on all the promises He has made, and respond to His blessings with our obedience. St. Paul said, "Under the test of this service, you will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the Gospel of Christ." (II Cor. 9:13). How we give is the acid test of where our faith and our hearts are!

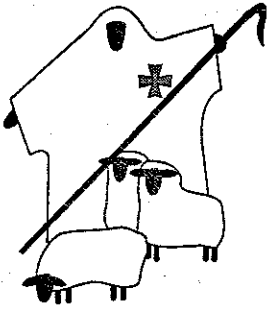


Begin praying now about your Faith Commitment for Jesus.

"LORD, What Can I Do for You and Your Church?"

COMMITMENT WEEKEND

November 1-2, 2008



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Virginia Hanawalt: "I want to thank Pastors Larson, Jones, and Kress and all the friends for signing the poster. Thank you to the Pastoral Care Committee. Also to the children for the cute card from the Christian Day School. I enjoyed it. God bless to all."

From Edna Stevens: "Dear Friends at First Lutheran Church, I want to thank you for signing the get well poster, and also for your prayers and for the help given to me by Alice and Pastor Kress."

From Ray Ellison: "Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and signed poster during my recent illness."

From Katherine Coon: "I want to thank everyone for the birthday cards sent to me for my birthday. They were greatly appreciated. The poster with all the signatures for the recovery of my hip surgery really cheered me. I'm doing well and recovering quickly."

From Harold Simmons: "I would like to say thank you for the many cards I received, and to the friends who attended my 90th birthday party. I would like to thank my family for the party, especially my daughter, Pat, for her work, and son Gary for the altar flowers. It was a great time, thank you."

From Jan Fisher: "I want to thank everyone who signed the poster sent to me upon the death of my beloved twin, Judi Maxwell. I felt God's hand in all of her medical treatment and subsequent life eternal. I, as well as my family, am grateful for the prayers and concerns. I know where she is and that gives me much comfort!"

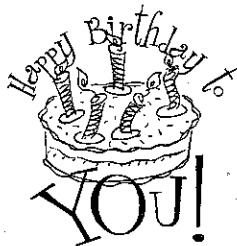
From Hospice of North Central Ohio: "On behalf of Hospice of North Central Ohio and the Board of Directors, thank you for your donation of 25 chairs to be used for the volunteer classes at the new thrift store, "What Goes 'Round," located at 113 North Main Street, Mansfield. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated."

- Ruth Lindsey, RN
Executive Director

PASTOR DICK BEAL CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION . . .

Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, will celebrate The Rev. Dick Beal's 30th ordination anniversary at their 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 19, 2008. An informal reception will follow at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Beal was associate pastor here at FELC from 1986 to 1992. The congregation is invited to the celebration service and/or send greetings to Pastor Beal at St. Paul's.

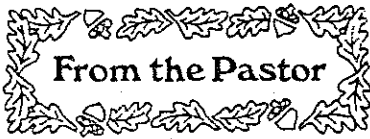


OCTOBER 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Best wishes to our members who will be 80+ years of age this month! Your friends in our congregation send warm greetings to you. We thank God who has blessed you through the years and who has given you a full and good life. May you remain strong in faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

OCTOBER

1	Mrs. Dorothy Giffin	10 Blymyer Ave., Apt 702	44903-2350
1	Mr. William Graham	540 Sunset Blvd.	44907-2706
1	Mrs. Geraldine Wycoff	116 Harvard Ave.	44906-2819
2	Mrs. Thelma Dise	c/o Richard Welsh, 126 Sherbrook Rd.	44907
4	Mr. Forest Marlow	78 Massa Ave.	44907-1224
5	Mrs. Helen Wappner	385 Abbeyfeale Rd.	44907-1014
6	Mrs. Jean Ridenour	1160 Hazelwood Dr.	44905-1557
16	Mr. Leonard Claypool	1510 Victory St.	44905-2251
19	Mr. Daryl Heiser	PO Box 9159	44904-9159
24	Mrs. Martha Brune	2127 Crimson Rd.	44903-8859
25	Mrs. Eleanor Lime	1296 S. Trimble Road, #204	44906-2973
31	Mrs. Mildred Them	1249 Walker Lake Rd.	44906-1817



FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...

The Way to Abundant Life. *"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you*

– John 5:39-40 NIV

refuse to come to me to have life."

In order to understand our text, we must examine the context. In the beginning of chapter 5, we read of the man who had been ill for 38 years, lying beside a pool. He was waiting for the waters to be disturbed, possibly the bubbling up of a natural spring, that he might enter the pool and be healed. It was believed the first person to enter the pool after the bubbling would be healed. Jesus asked him if he really wanted to be healed. Rather than replying to the affirmative, the man remarks that he has no one to help him into the pool when the waters become troubled. What is significant is that the man does not see any other way out of his predicament. He is talking to the one who is the source of healing, and yet he concerns himself with a pool which only gives a remote opportunity for healing. Jesus then commands the man to pick up his bed and walk. This he does, being healed at that moment. Jesus slips away becoming lost in the crowd.

The healed man now begins to rejoice, being filled with joy at his new found health. He walks around telling others of his good fortune, still carrying the bed upon which he was lying. It was the Sabbath and the Jews had a law that it was unlawful for someone to carry anything on the Sabbath. They based their teaching on such passages as Jeremiah 17:21-22, "This is what the Lord says: Be careful not to carry a load on the Sabbath Day

or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem. Do not bring a load out of your houses or do any work on the Sabbath, but keep the Sabbath Day holy as I commanded your forefathers." When the religious leaders confronted the healed man with his unlawful act, he told them that a man, who had healed him, commanded him to carry it. Later, the healed man went to the temple, perhaps to worship God for his new found healing. There Jesus found him. The man later returned to the Jews and told them it was Jesus who had healed him.

The Jews found Jesus and confronted him with healing on the Sabbath. Jesus' reply upset them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." (John 5:17 NIV). Jesus is saying, "Even on the Sabbath, God must continue sharing His grace and mercy with men." Jesus' reply inflamed the Jews because Jesus claimed equality with God as he spoke of God being his Father. The remainder of the 5th chapter focuses on the Jews' inability to accept Jesus' testimony. The chapter concludes with our opening text, John 5:39-40 NIV.

Because these Jewish leaders had refused to hear the words of Jesus, they were dead or without life. What is the basic difference between someone who is alive and one who is dead?

(continued)

Paul Tournier, a Swiss Christian physician and psychiatrist, gives this definition. "What characterizes the living being, when compared with the in-organic world, is a constant instability. There is no life without fluctuation. This constant instability is nevertheless controlled by a regulator, by a directing thought, since in the normal state of being the extent of the fluctuation is always limited. It is as if a mysterious unseen will were engaged in conducting this complex organism in a chosen direction, constantly bringing back on to its course each element, the moment it deviates from its course."

To illustrate, Dr. Tournier suggests that the world of living things is like a motor-car which enjoys a certain margin of deviation from one side to the other side of the road. Its course is kept perfectly straight by means of continual corrections to the right or left applied through the steering wheel. All of this is automatic, and once a certain course or road has been chosen, we are able to do quite well through the practice of our automatic actions. When the driver comes to a cross road, his action in turning the steering wheel to take the road to the left or the right is a different matter. Here the automatic action gives over to the process of making a conscious decision. He exercises his will to go right or left then turns the wheel.

To summarize, we could say there are two phases to a living being. First is the automatic reactions which control us under normal conditions, keeping us from running off the road, helping us in all our normal acts of living. Second, there is the act of the will, which will change the direction of our lives.

Dr. Tournier goes on to say that the automatic actions can become the tomb of death for some. These persons will become set in a rigid mode of thought and habit, and life becomes extinguished in them. They always repeat the same formula of word and action. This appears to be the condition of these Jewish leaders to whom Jesus spoke. They had become so set in their minds how God was going to send the Messiah into the world, that they would not deviate from this pattern. Their minds were closed to Jesus, even though the Scriptures witnessed to him.

The way to abundant life is not only living in an automatic way, but it involves following our Lord Jesus Christ in what ever way he may lead.

— Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor

Note: This lesson will be continued in the November Visitor. To retain the continuity, next month review this October issue and continue the message.



IF YOU ARE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM OR ADMITTED to MedCentral Hospital or any other hospital in the area, **PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE, 419-522-0662**, to let us know (because of the privacy laws, the hospital won't call). **Don't let your hospital stay go by without Pastoral care!**



We remember the families and friends of those who died August 23 - September 19, 2008:

Robert Sneeringer	August 25
Marjorie MacDonald	August 29
Sharon Dotson	September 8
Todd Strohenger	September 18

*(former director of music at FELC;
husband of Ruth Sweval's cousin)*

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:	August 29, 2008	Robert Sneeringer (graveside)
	September 2, 2008	Marjorie MacDonald
	September 13, 2008	Sharon Dotson



Memorials
To...



MEMORIAL FUND

Sarah (Betty) Luedy:

Ralph & Joan Beer
Marie Stainbrook

Marjorie MacDonald:

Jim Hannewald
Virginia Rocci
Mary Taylor
Lucelle Sora

Gertrude Wachter:

Helen Anderson
Karen Devault

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Maxine Kinton

Norma Price
Wes & Sandie Volz

Marjorie MacDonald

Virginia Blizzard

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 missionaries and missions we support: the Kraft, Schmalzle, Sorge, and Christopherson families; the 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



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 2

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday, November 2.

Turn your clocks **BACK** one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, November 1!

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

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



MISSION STATEMENT

First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio

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

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

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

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

THE VISITOR is published monthly by First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1698. Church office hours: 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday. Church phone: 419/522-0662. FAX: 419/522-0075. Website: www.felc-mansfield.org. Christian Day School phone: 419/522-7500.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Andrew W. Jones, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor
Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, Director of Music
Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts
Mrs. Terry Bianchi, Christian Day School Director
Dorothy Blaney, Parish Administrator
Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary/Visitor Editor
Connie Stewart, Printer/Mailing Coordinator
Michelle Myers, Christian Day School Secretary
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
World Mission Prayer League Missionaries to Peru: Henrik and Patty Christopherson

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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