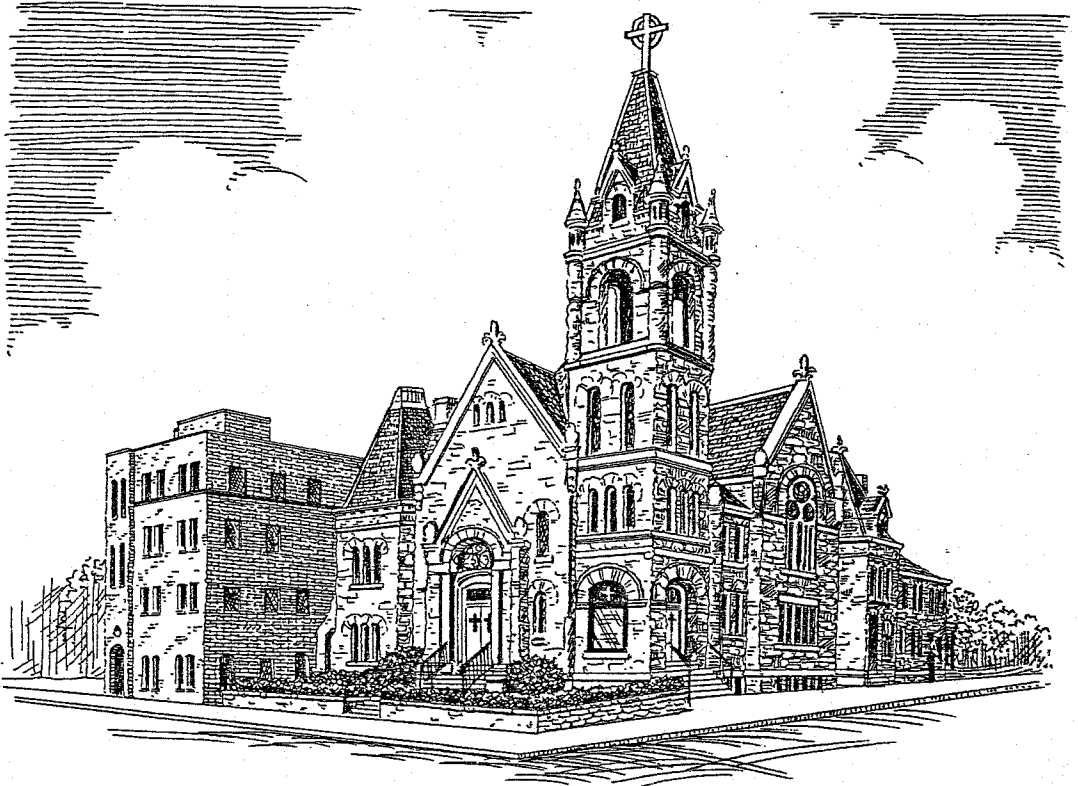


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

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March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2009

May

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30AM - Workday Ladies (3rd) 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:10PM - Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:00PM - Lenten Soup Suppers (UC) 7:00PM - Lenten Study (Nave)	2 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 2:00PM - Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC) 7:00PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00AM - Prayer Partners (NL)	4 2:00PM - 4 PM Private Party(ER) 5:00PM - Holy Communion (Chapel)
5 8:30AM - Festival Worship (Nave) 9:30AM - Fellowship/Coffee 9:30AM - 10:45 Blood Pressure Reading 9:45AM - Sunday School all ages 11:00AM - Proclaim! Contemp (UC) 11:00AM - Holy Comm (Nave) 12:00PM - Fellowship/Coffee *PALM SUNDAY*	6 9:30AM - Men's Group @ Denny's 1:00PM - Sarah Circle (ER) 7:00PM - Property Committee (UC) 7:30PM - Lydia Circle (ER)	7 9:30AM - CDS Chapel 12:00PM - First Tuesday (ER) 12:00PM - 1 PM Bible Study (NL) 6:00PM - 8 PM Malawi Mission Trip Meeting (FR) 7:00PM - Prayer Shawl Ministry (ER)	8 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:05PM - Holy Comm & Lunch (C/UC)	9 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 12:05PM - Maundy Thursday Holy Comm (Chapel) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC) 7:00PM - Maundy Thursday Holy Comm (Nave)	10 7:00AM - Prayer Partners (NL) 10:00AM - Mary Circle @ Virginia Blizzard 12:05PM - Interchurch Good Friday (Nave) 7:00PM - Tenebrae Service (Nave) ***CDS Closed***	11 8:00PM - Easter Vigil (Nave)
12 8:30AM - Festival Eucharists (Nave) 9:30AM - Fellowship/Coffee 9:30AM - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast(UC) 9:45AM - Sunday School all ages 11:00AM - Proclaim! Contemp (UC) 11:00AM - Festival Eucharists (Nave) 12:00PM - Fellowship/Coffee **EASTER SUNDAY**	13 2:00PM - Finance Meeting (FR) 6:30PM - Small Group (ER)	14 9:30AM - CDS Chapel 12:00PM - 1 PM Bible Study (NL) 6:00PM - 8 PM Malawi Mission Trip Meeting (FR) 7:00PM - Council (UC)	15 8:30AM - Workday Ladies (3rd) 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:10PM - Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 1:15PM - 2:45 PM Small Group (ER)	16 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 2:00PM - Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC) 7:00PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00AM - Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30AM - 2:00PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER)	18 5:00PM - Worship (Chapel)
19 8:30AM - Worship (Nave) 9:30AM - Fellowship/Coffee 9:45AM - Sunday School all ages 11:00AM - Combined Worship & Proclaim (Nave) 12:00PM - Fellowship/Coffee 12:30PM - Youth Fundraiser Meal (UC) 5:30PM - 7:30 Confirmation Class (ER) ***YOUTH/CDS SUNDAY***	20 7:00PM - WELCA Planning (ER)	21 9:00AM - Holy Comm (Elmcroft) 9:30AM - CDS Chapel 10:15AM - Holy Comm (Waterford) 12:00PM - 1 PM Bible Study (NL) 2:00PM - Holy Comm (Miffiin Care) 6:00PM - 8 PM Malawi Mission Trip Meeting (FR) **Visitor deadline**	22 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:10PM - Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 1:15PM - 2:45 PM Small Group (ER)	23 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 9:30AM - Holy Communion (Sterling House) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 2:00PM - Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC) 7:00PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00AM - Prayer Partners (NL)	25 5:00PM - Worship (Chapel) **FOOD COLLECTION**
26 8:30AM - Worship (Nave) 9:30AM - Fellowship/Coffee 9:45AM - Sunday School all ages 9:45AM - Congo Meeting (UC) 11:00AM - Combined Worship & Proclaim (Nave) 12:00PM - Fellowship/Coffee **Confirmation** **FOOD COLLECTION**	27 6:30PM - Small Group (ER)	28 9:30AM - CDS Chapel 12:00PM - 1 PM Bible Study (NL) 6:00PM - WELCA Spring Rally (Trinity Ashland) 6:00PM - 8 PM Malawi Mission Trip Meeting (FR)	29 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:10PM - Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 1:15PM - 2:45 PM Small Group (ER)	30 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 12:30PM - VISITOR Assembly (3rd) 2:00PM - Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC) 7:00PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal		

Legend:

- BRC - Blackfork Retreat Center
- C - Chapel in Luther Hall
- CDS - Christian Day School
- Ch Rm - Choir Room
- ER - Emmaus Room
- First Floor, Luther Hall
- FR - Fireside Room
- Second Floor, Luther Hall
- Nave - Main Sanctuary
- UC - Undercroft
- (church basement)
- 3rd - Third Floor, Luther Hall
- NL - Narthex Lounge

“Behold! I Make All Things New!”

I am struck by how every time in my life I lose someone close to me, the new loss, the new sorrow, has a way of opening up the times of grief and loss from the past. There is a common well of sorrow that runs through all those times of death. Therefore, I am not surprised when, on Good Friday, as I kneel before the cross of my Lord, the sorrow of His death takes hold of me.

In many ways, the Service of Good Friday is like every funeral. It is important to share grief in the midst of the people we love. God has not made us strong enough to bear such burdens alone. It is not so much the words that we speak to each other that bring comfort. Words grow thin. Sometimes the greatest strength is found in just being together. The presence of one another reminds us of the promise of Christ's presence with us. In our sorrow, the worship embraces and carries us.

In that Good Friday Service, I experience such a deep and powerful Promise of Love. It is the kind of healing love that is shared between friends and family at a funeral. I have come to share in your grief and you have come to share in mine. You too have come to stand with me in the darkness and witness The Cross upon which our Savior dies.

Barbara Brown Taylor writes in an article that I saved years ago from the “Christian Century”: *“It is not Easter yet, but it won't be long now. The only problem is that we have to walk through the graveyard to get there. Those who do not have the stomach for it will stay home from Palm Sunday through Good Friday, showing up just in time for the trumpets on Easter morning. The rest of us will hang on to each other as we slip past the tombs, telling every Resurrection story we can think of.”*

I try deliberately not to think of Easter too much on Good Friday. I try to let it sink in again that Jesus died a horrible death, that He died a horrible death for me! I try to focus on His suffering, His sorrow and His death, knowing that He didn't have to go there, but also knowing that He went there totally for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus went before us. He endured living hell through a tortuous dying that

not only included nails, thorns and spear, but also the weight of the SIN of the entire world. He endured in His own body on the Tree of the Cross the due punishment for every one of my sins, and yes, every one of your sins as well. He went before us through the most hideous horrors to face head-on the powers of Death ... to emerge safely on the other side. THIS is how great His Love is for you and me!

In Mel Gibson's movie "*The Passion*," he powerfully portrays the horror of Christ's passion for us. For so many, this movie has touched our lives, graphically revealing the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and love for all humanity. In the movie, as Jesus carries His cross to Golgotha, He stumbles and falls, and Mary His mother runs to His side. With a miracle of strength that can only be understood by Love, He resolutely takes up His cross again and turns to Mary declaring: "Behold, mother! I Make All Things New!"

This is the Miracle of Good Friday & Easter: That through this brutal death for us, ***JESUS Makes ALL Things NEW!*** Through His Cross and Resurrection, He defeats the Powers of SIN, DEATH and the DEVIL. He sets us free from the clutches of SIN that would hold us in bondage and despair. He liberates us from our pasts, claiming us as His own so that we might Live for Him. He gives us the Gift of HIS New Beginning. In Christ, You Are a NEW Creation! And in Jesus we receive the Gift of a New Life with GOD, which not even Death will be able to destroy! In Jesus, we have received the Miracle of GOD's Love, powerful enough to Heal our pasts and Transform all of our todays and all of our tomorrows.

On Good Friday, it is possible to grieve, to weep, to be thankful, and to hope... all at the same time, because we already know 'the rest of the story.' On Good Friday, we walk through the graveyard to an empty tomb and the Resurrection.

***CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!***

Together In Christ's Love,

Pastor Paul L. Larson



REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
April 5 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator: Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Every
Sunday **Fireflies and Spirit!** children's and youth choirs rehearse during the 9:45 A.M. Sunday school hour. Director: Becky Pittman.
- Monday,
April 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
April 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,
Apr 1 & 15 **Workday Ladies Sew** patchwork quilts 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on the third floor of Luther Hall. Tracing and cutting, ironing, machine sewing, and tying. WELCA contact: Cheryl Lantz, 419-756-5506. *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. *12:05 Holy Communion, Wednesday, April 8.*
- Every
Thursday **Music Therapy with Richland Newhope individuals**, 9:15-10:15 A.M. in the Emmaus Room with Becky Pittman, Board Certified Music Therapist. Join us! Contact Becky Pittman at 419-529-3876 or bpittman@felc-mansfield.org.
- 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,
April 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
Apr 25 & 26 **Food Collection Weekend**. The February collection totaled 5 bags of groceries for Catholic Charities, and \$165 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued support!

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 . . .



On the last Wednesday in Lent, April 1, a simple soup supper is served at 6:00 P.M. in the undercroft followed by the Lenten Study in the sanctuary at 7:00. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship! Thank you to everyone who has supplied the soup suppers on all the Wednesdays in Lent.



The Revelation of St. John *Jesus Speaks To The Church*

2009 Wednesday Evening Lenten Bible Study

April 1

Revelation 3:7-13

The Church that Was Worthy of Praise - PHILADELPHIA

The praise for the church at Philadelphia teaches us what God values.

Revelation 3:7-13

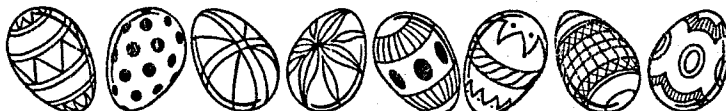
MID-WEEK PARKING. Please remember NOT to park in our middle lot on Mulberry Street during working hours on weekdays. These parking spaces are numbered and reserved for downtown workers who have paid to rent these spaces from the congregation. Thank you!

APRIL WORSHIP

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

SUNDAYS IN APRIL:

- April 5 ➔Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday; 11:00 Holy Communion
➔The adult handbell choir will play during the 11:00 prelude in the Nave and will perform during the Proclaim! worship service.
➔Mr. Chris Kaschube will assist in leading the Proclaim! contemporary service
➔Proclaim! worshippers will participate in a "Procession of the Palms"
- April 11 ➔Easter Vigil, Saturday, 8:00 p.m. (NO 5:00 p.m. chapel service)
- April 12 ➔Easter Sunday, Holy Communion at all worship services
➔Continental Breakfast 9:30-10:45 in the undercroft
- April 19 ➔Christian Day School/Youth Sunday
➔11:00 worship combined with Proclaim! contemporary in the Nave
➔Youth Fund Raiser Spud Fest Lunch, 12:30 pm in the undercroft
- April 26 ➔**Special Congregational Meeting, 9:45 a.m. in the undercroft**
➔Rite of Confirmation Sunday, 11:00 worship combined with Proclaim! contemporary in the Nave



† Holy Week & Easter Worship †

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

April 5

- 5:00 PM Saturday Festival-Holy Communion
8:30 AM Festival Worship
11:00 AM Festival Holy Communion
11:00 AM Proclaim! Contemporary

Wednesday in Holy Week

April 8

- 12:05 PM Holy Communion (chapel)
12:40 PM Lunch (undercroft)

Maundy Thursday

April 9

- 12:05 PM Holy Communion (chapel)
7:00 PM Holy Communion (nave)

Good Friday

April 10

- 12:05 PM Inter-Church Council
Ecumenical Good Friday
Worship at First English
Lutheran, Mansfield.
Preacher: Rev. Tom Hunt of
Providence Baptist Church.

7:00 PM Tenebrae Service (nave)

Holy Saturday

April 11

- 8:00 PM Easter Vigil and Eucharist
(No 5:00 PM worship)

Easter Day

Sunday, April 12

8:30 & 11:00 AM

Festival Eucharists

(Senior Choir at both services;
The Classic Brass Quintet at 11:00)

11:00 AM

Proclaim! contemporary worship
with Holy Communion
in the undercroft



EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 12

9:30-10:45 A.M. in the undercroft

Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!



Palm Sunday

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – APRIL 5 . . .

Palm Sunday/The Sunday of the Passion begins the events of Holy Week. Our 5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel service on April 4, and the 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday services April 5 will feature the traditional blessing of the palms and reading of the Passion Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

The palms that will be distributed will take the shape of palm crosses made by Christians in Africa. They are made through the ministry efforts of "African Palms."

FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP MEETS APRIL 7 . . .



Join us for *First Tuesday* on April 7 in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at noon. Cost is \$2.50. Guest speaker is Beth Pennell, Health Nurse, Signature Health presenting "What's available for Senior Citizens." Seniors won't want to miss this! There are things available for you that you might not know about. Everyone is welcome! Call Pat Wells with reservations by Monday, April 6, 419-756-6863.

LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPES



LENTEN OFFERING

Our Lenten offerings are designated to support Lithuanian Ministries.

A designated envelope was included in the Lenten Calendar of Events mailing in February.

Lenten offerings may be placed in the offering plate at any worship service, or brought to the church office any time before Good Friday, April 10.

GOOD FRIDAY
ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY WORSHIP, APRIL 10

The Inter-Church Council Ecumenical Good Friday service will be held here at **First English Lutheran Church at 12:05 p.m.** The Rev. Rev. Tom Hunt, Providence Baptist Church, will preach. Dr. Timothy E. Guenther is organist; the Senior Choir of FELC will sing.

PARKING FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Luther Hall door will not be open for the 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday or the 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae services. Please park in the Mulberry Street lot and use the Narthex entrance; the lift is available for those who find stairs difficult.

Luther Hall door will not be open Saturday, April 11, since the 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil begins outside on Mulberry Street. Please park in the Mulberry Street lot.

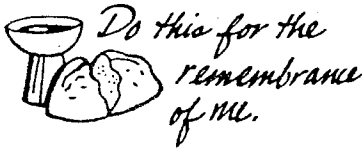
NO 5:00 P.M. WORSHIP
SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Our regularly scheduled 5:00 P.M. worship service in the chapel will **NOT** be held on Saturday, April 11. The Great Vigil of Easter will be celebrated that evening at 8:00 in the Nave.

TRIDUUM

— The Three Holy Days —

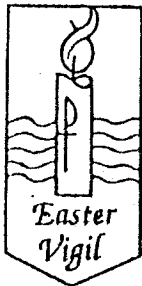
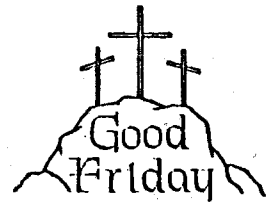
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Easter Vigil



Our celebration of the **Three Holy Days** begins with the **Maundy Thursday** evening communion service held at **7:00 on April 9** in the nave. The service begins with a sermon and instruction. Scripture readings focus on the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper of Christ and

his disciples. Confession and forgiveness are an especially important part of this service, as we finally receive the absolution which was intentionally left out of the Ash Wednesday services. The service concludes with the dramatic stripping of the Altar in preparation for the Good Friday observance. There is no benediction at the close of the service, since this is only the first part of the Triduum observance.

The second segment of the Three Holy Days continues with the **Good Friday Tenebrae** service at **7:00 P.M. on April 10**. The service is based on the biblical account of Christ's Passion According to St. John. The reading is interspersed with hymn singing and the extinguishing of seven candles. The historic Good Friday Bidding Prayer is the focus of our prayer time. A rough wooden cross is carried in procession. There will be a time of reflection and adoration of the crucified Christ when any may come forward to pray at the kneeling rail. There is no benediction; the service continues on Saturday evening.



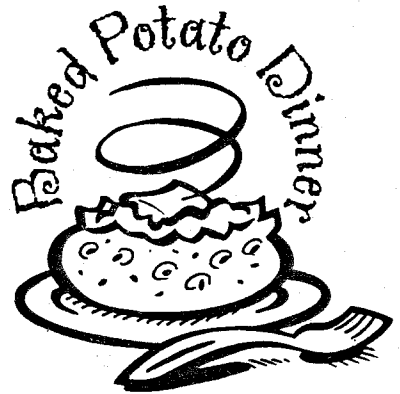
The **Great Vigil of Easter** on Saturday, **April 11 at 8:00 P.M.** is both the conclusion of our observance of the Three Holy Days, and the first service in celebration of the Resurrection. This service reverses the events of Good Friday, and moves us from darkness into light. We will begin the service by gathering in the middle of Mulberry Street to join with the congregation of St. Peter's Catholic Church as we kindle the fire, light our Paschal Candles, and process to our respective parishes. Hand candles are lit as we enter the church, and are held for the singing of the Easter Proclamation. They are extinguished, and we hear

a series of readings tracing the biblical history of our salvation from Creation, through the Exodus, promises of our salvation, and the three young men in the fiery furnace. We celebrate the renewal of our baptismal vows as a final cleansing in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The lights are raised, and the Easter celebration begins with a service of Holy Communion, breaking the Lenten fast by receiving Christ's body and blood.

YOUTH FUND RAISER SPUD FEST LUNCH, SUNDAY, APRIL 19 . . .

Everyone is invited to the **Spud Fest** congregational lunch following the 11:00 worship service on Christian Day School/Youth Sunday, April 19. **Baked potatoes and toppings, salad, dessert and beverages.**

Hosted by the youth group of First English. **Free-will donations.** Proceeds will help fund FELC youth activities.



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, April 21

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

Thursday, April 23 *

9:30 A.M. Sterling House

* 4th Thursday



News deadline for the

MAY VISITOR
is
Tuesday, April 21

Assembled & mailed:
Thursday,
April 30

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, April 26, 2009
9:45 a.m. — Undercroft

The First English Lutheran Church Council is calling a special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, April 26, 9:45 a.m. to make a **proposal to the congregation for the funding of the Luther Hall roof replacement project using Renewing God's House of Prayer appeal funds.**

This Congregational Meeting will be held in the undercroft due to pre-service set up for the 11:00 a.m. combined worship service in the Nave. The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated at the combined 11:00 Worship Service on April 26, 2009.

*Only the agenda item announced in this notice
may be considered at this meeting.*



RITE OF CONFIRMATION, SUNDAY, APRIL 26

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on April 26, 2009, at the 11:00 AM combined service in the Nave (no Proclaim! contemporary service that morning).

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

Michael Brenkus
David (Billy) Gleason
Haley Pittman

Robyn Russell
Elizabeth Volz

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

SPRING RALLY

**RICHLAND/ASHLAND CLUSTER OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ASHLAND, OH**



6:00 pm Registration (\$2.00)
6:30 pm Salad Buffet

The theme is "To God Be The Glory." Raylene Hlavaty will portray Fanny Crosby - the Queen of Gospel and the Blind Poetess.

The love offering will be directed to Camp Mowana, and In-kind gifts of Kleenex, paper towels, toilet tissue, sanitary tampons and disposable diapers size 4,5,6 will be collected for the Ashland County Food Bank.



APRIL NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

The tomb is empty. He is risen! (Luke 24:6) is our Bible theme for the month of April. The children will be reading the Easter story as well as dying eggs and having an Easter egg hunt. We will also

celebrate Earth Day. The children will be picking up litter and learning about recycling.

The Christian Day School will be closed on Good Friday, April 10. Youth/Christian Day School Sunday is April 19. The children will be singing at the 11:00 a.m. worship service which will be combined with the Proclaim! contemporary service in the Nave. We are excited, and we hope to see everyone there.

- Terry Bianchi, CDS Director

CARD TABLES NEEDED! The church needs at least 3 new or used-in-good-condition card tables. (We do NOT need the chairs). If anyone has a card table they would be willing to donate, contact the church office, 419-522-0662. Thank you!

- Jan Fisher

ALL WOMEN'S TEA
Saturday, May 2, 2009
11 a.m. in the undercroft



Save the date and watch for details!

REQUESTS TO THE PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain provides prayer support to those with special needs or concerns. Prayer requests for members or non-members may be called in to *Carol Lauthers, 419-756-8870 (home) or 419-612-4088 (cell)*. Join our prayer chain ministry and become a member of the Prayer Chain! There are no meetings to attend; just make one or two phone calls and pray! Questions about this ministry? Call Carol Lauthers at the numbers 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

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

Apr 4	Elva Bonser	Apr 18	Joci Kirst
Apr 11	(NO 5:00 Chapel)	Apr 25	Joci Kirst

<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>
Ken & Vi Deems	Narthex
Lois McCullough (4/5 & 26)	East Entrance

<u>USHERS</u>	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>
Larry Faith	
Rebecca Faith	

<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Marianne Sweat	Narthex
Marilyn Dinges	East Entrance

<u>USHERS</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Eugene Calver	
Greg Hughes	
Pat Smith	

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

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

PEW PAD GLEANERS

Apr 5	Gene Luedy	Apr 19	Mary Jackson
Apr 12	Jane Sprang	Apr 26	Gene Luedy

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Apr 5	Annette Doklovic	Apr 19	Stan Cichanowicz
Apr 12	Chris Kaschube	Apr 26	Bob McCready

COMMUNION SERVERS

Palm Sunday

(continuous communion)

April 5 - 11:00 am

Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister
Wine West	Jack Leonard
Cups West	Pat Leonard
Wine East	Bob McCready
Cups East	Lana Conry
Intinction	Marianne Sweat

Maundy Thursday

(regular communion)

April 9 - 7:00 pm

Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister
Wine West	Jim Sweat
Cups West	Marianne Sweat
Wine East	Donna Rettig
Cups East	Jackie Moxley
Intinction	Pat Wells

Easter Vigil

(continuous communion)

Saturday, April 11 - 8:00 pm

2 Pastors
Don Harruff
Beth Harruff
Carol Pierce
Linda Hughes
Chris Cichanowicz

Easter Sunday

April 12

(continuous communion)

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>
Bread Servers	2 Pastors	Pastor & Assisting Minister
Wine West	Gene Luedy	Terry Leedy
Cups West	Marilyn Motson	Kay Leedy
Wine East	John Fraifogl	Jane Sprang
Cups East	Pat Fraifogl	Annette Doklovic
Intinction	Paul Theaker	Mary Schwartz

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Palm Sunday	Apr 5	11:00 am	Jim & Lolita Scheiber
Maundy Thursday	Apr 9	7:00 pm	Wes & Sandie Volz
Easter Vigil, Sat.	Apr 11	8:00 pm	Bill & Mary Schwartz
Easter	Apr 12	8:30 am	Bill & Pearl West
Easter	Apr 12	11:00 am	Marilyn Dinges & Shirley Shupp

ACOLYTES, CRUCIFERS, TORCHBEARERS

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
April 5	A Casey Kelley	A Katilyn Stransky C Chelsea Heidlebaugh
April 12	A Kate Hogsette C Bryan Eyerly T Sara Hannemann T Erin Blankenship	A Rachel Shupp C Bryan Eyerly T Lindsey Brenkus T Alissa Ruth
April 19	A Sarah Ward	A Haley Pittman
April 26	A Trayce Prather	A Emily Blankenship

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. A Stephen Ward
C Chelsea Heidlebaugh

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Personnel Committee

APRIL ALTAR WORKERS

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

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

April 5: Carol Williams

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

Apr 4	Jean/Kay/Pastor	Apr 18	Kay McNaul
Apr 11	(NO 5:00 Chapel)	Apr 25	Jean Ridenour

8:30 A.M.

Palm Sun	Apr 5	Pat Reed, Sherry Winbigler, Karyne Carey
	Apr 12	Liz Prather
	Apr 19	Jerry Gallagher
	Apr 26	Mary Hujus

11:00 A.M.

Stacey Crall, Diane Molyet, Bill Schulz Dan Shupp Carol Pierce Annette Doklovic
--

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7:00 pm: Terry Leedy

Good Friday, April 10, 7:00 pm: Dan Shupp, Chris Cichanowicz, Shirley Lane,
Chris Kaschube

Saturday Easter Vigil, April 11, 8:00 pm: Shirley Lane, Jo Wirstrom, Sandie Volz

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:05 am</u>
Apr 5	Betty Guenther	Tom Hillman
Apr 12	Wes Volz	Jodi Mumaw
Apr 19	Cindy Russell	Pat Reed
Apr 26	Henry Keultjes	Shelley Shupp

Luther Hall door will not be open for the 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday or the 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae services. Please park in the Mulberry Street lot and use the Narthex entrance; the lift is available for those who find stairs difficult.

Luther Hall door will not be open Saturday, April 11, since the 8:00 pm Easter Vigil begins outside on Mulberry Street. Please park in the Mulberry Street lot.

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

Apr 5	Ted & Karen Ellis	Apr 19	<i>combined worship in Nave</i>
Apr 12	Haley Pittman	Apr 26	<i>combined worship in Nave</i>

April 12 Communion Preparer

Renee Blankenship

April 12 Communion Servers

Cindy & Robyn Russell

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson

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
Karen Frayer	kfrayer@felc-mansfield.org
Betty Guenther	bguenther@felc-mansfield.org
Connie Stewart	cstewart@felc-mansfield.org
Church Office	office@felc-mansfield.org

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

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

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.

NOTE: National brands of peanut butter (Jif, Peter Pan, Skippy) are not included in the salmonella recall).

APRIL 2009 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
SARAH	6	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Margaret Battisti Hostess: Miriam Dye
LYDIA	6	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Lynn Rush, discussing her bike trip Hostess: Jackie Moxley
FIRST TUESDAY	7	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room Program: Beth Pennell, Health Nurse, Signature Health, speaking on "What's available for Senior Citizens"
EVE	7	TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Prayer Shawl Hostess: Norma Price
MARY	10	FRIDAY	10:00 A.M.	Virginia Blizzards' home Program: Thoughts of Easter Hostess: Virginia Blizzard
WORKDAY LADIES	1 & 15	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
PLANNING TEAM	20	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room.

Altar Group Workers: Nave – Pat Wells; Chapel – Bev Graham; Proclaim! – Jan Fisher

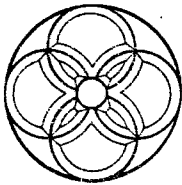
Funeral Dinners: Squad E, Nancy Pashelich & Beth Harruff

COMING EVENTS: APRIL 28 6:00 PM **Richland/Ashland Cluster Meeting** at Trinity Ashland

Program: Fanny Crosby, Queen of Gospel and a blind poetess

MAY 1, 11:30 AM **May Fellowship Day** at First English Lutheran Church

MAY 2, 11:00 AM **"All Woman's Tea"** \$6 per person First English Lutheran Church Undercroft



Congregation Council

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, March 10, 2009 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Larson opened the meeting with prayer.

MALAWI MISSION

TEAM: Joy Jones,

Ken and Penny Ekegren were present from the Malawi Mission Team. Copies of the grant application to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans were provided to each Council member prior to this meeting. Council approved funding in the amount of \$2,600.00 from the New Ministries and Missions Endowment Fund to help fund the mission trip to Malawi during the summer of 2009. The Malawi Mission Team will keep Council updated on progress of funding for the Thrivent Grant application and other fund raising efforts.

YOUTH: Annette Doklovic reported the Junior High and Senior High School Youth Group members returned from their recent retreats very enthused. The Youth Spud Fest will be held Sunday, April 19 on Christian Day School/Youth Sunday. Council approved funding in the amount of \$2,600.00 from the New Ministries and Missions Endowment Fund to help fund a local mission event for the FELC Youth Group during the summer of 2009.

CAMPERSHIP ASSISTANCE: Council approved \$150.00 campership assistance to each of the following youth members of First English Lutheran Church: Jacob Caseman, Alaina Doklovic and Tristan Kraft.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson thanked the Worship Committee for their suggestions for the hanging cross which worshipers marked with small crosses during the Ash Wednesday services. Wednesday Lenten soup suppers and Bible study continues. The noon Good Friday community worship service will be held at FELC with Pastor Tom Hunt preaching. Youth Sunday and CDS Sunday will be held April 19. Confirmation will be Sunday, April 26 with a combined 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Nave.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones stated he officiated at four funerals within 8 days in February.

WELCA: Cheryl Lantz reported the Lenten worship service and breakfast will be held Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m. The Mother Daughter banquet has been changed to an All Women's Tea on Saturday, May 2.

FINANCE: On behalf of Rob Skropits, Ken Frayer presented the Finance Report which stated that total offering income year to date is down \$21,250.59 from the budgeted amount. Through March 2, 2009, we are at 78.16% of the amount of giving compared to this time last year.

(continued)

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz mentioned the CDS fire inspection was done, blinds were installed in the Penthouse, backflow testing will be done, certificates were posted in elevators, the dimmer control was installed and is operating, the sound booth is working well, and they are looking into prices for natural gas supplies. The need to replace the Luther Hall roof was discussed. Council approved holding a special congregational meeting Sunday, April 26, 9:45 a.m. to make a proposal to the congregation for the funding of the Luther Hall roof replacement project using Renewing God's House of Prayer appeal funds. It was stated that the custodian found some doors unlatched, with a reminder to check all doors upon leaving the building. The owner of the building at the northwest corner of Park Avenue West and Mulberry Street has inquired about purchasing our parking lot, with 60 spaces, at the southeast corner of Park Avenue West and Mulberry Street for \$35,000. Consensus is not to sell the parking lot.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Lu Diday thanked Council members for bringing ingredients for the March 11 Lenten soup supper. She welcomes any ideas for the Easter brunch.

EVANGELISM: Steve Ritz mentioned the opportunity to sign up to house Tetelestai cast members following the March 27 performance. There is a great need to invite friends and family to attend the productions. Steve challenges each person to invite three families and stated there will be a grand prize to anyone who brings the most people to Tetelestai. Please pray for the cast members.

WORSHIP: On behalf of Roscoe Thompson, Pastor Larson presented a Worship Committee recommendation, approved by Council, to have a pew pad question about a having one large combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. on the 5th Sunday of the months in 2009 (specifically May 31, August 30 and November 29.) The proposal is to have one combined weekend service which would be followed by a congregational potluck. Council approved funding the Tom Croghan Jazz Concert on Sunday, May 17, 2009, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. through sponsorships to cover the cost of the musicians and to receive a freewill offering at the Jazz Concert that would be used to seed future events. Council approved funding the June 14, 2009 Andrew Ironside Worship Event by receiving a freewill offering at the event.

STEWARDSHIP: Renee Ward reported Time and Talent sheets are in process.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: Linda Elgin reported there are 100 students in CDS, with 14 additional students when schools are closed due to inclement weather. CDS Sunday is scheduled for April 19.

LAY LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE: Susan Hogsette was approved as a new member of the Lay Leadership Task Force.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. with prayer by Mary Schwartz.

Mary M. Schwartz
Congregation Council Secretary

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Attention committee chairs and organization leaders! Your annual report for May 2008 through April 2009 is due in the church office on Friday, April 10. *Be sure to include a list of your committee members.* Reports submitted by e-mail or on diskette are greatly appreciated (bguenther@felc-mansfield.org). By action of the Church Council, the Annual Meeting date is scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2009, 9:45 a.m. in the Nave.

MALAWI



ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES



Malawi, its motto is the **warm heart of Africa**. Malawi is known as a peaceful nation. It truly has been for decades. There are many different ‘tribes’ that live together cooperatively. In the past several years, there have been some minor conflicts between Christians and Muslims. However, there are also some stories of Christians and Muslims working together for the benefit of their children.

Next month, Malawi will hold its 4th election since gaining its independence. They will be electing a new president and 193 members of Parliament on May 19. The three previous elections and changes of government have been peaceful. So far, the coming election looks to be peaceful also. However, not all elections in

African nations are peaceful, as evidenced in the Zimbabwe elections in 2008. Also, not all African nations are free, as evidenced in Libya with the rule of Muammar al-Gaddafi. Since gaining their independence, many nations in Africa have not been able to keep democratic governments. Malawi is one of the few that have maintained a democratic form of government since its independence. We pray that this democratic government will continue.

Please pray for a peaceful campaign and election in the coming months. Please pray for the leaders of Malawi to make wise decisions that will help their country find its way out of its extreme poverty.

- Joy Jones

MALAWI MISSION TRIP UPDATE . . .

In July of this year, five people from FELC will be going to Malawi, Africa, on a mission trip. They are **Ken and Penny Ekegren, Gary Simmons, Andy and Joy Jones**. One of the several things that we plan to do while we are there is teach the people of Kanyenyeva about solar cooking. Most people in Malawi still rely on wood for cooking. By using wood, they are depleting their trees faster than they can grow. **Please check out the display in the Narthex to learn more about solar cooking**, a renewable energy source!

RECYCLE USED INK CARTRIDGES AND CELL PHONES . . .

First English Lutheran Church is receiving money for **recycling ink cartridges**. Staples has increased our rewards benefits by allowing us 20 ink cartridges per month. We could receive \$60 a month! Just bring ANY empty ink cartridges you have to the church office and we will take them to Staples. A special rewards card must accompany the cartridges when returning them, so please do not return them to Staples yourself.

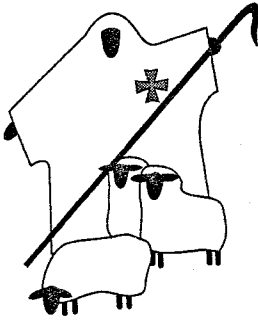
* * * *

Turn unwanted cell phones into lasting solutions for poverty and climate change. **Check it all out at www.GoodDeedFoundation.org/recycle.**

LOOK FOR THE DONATION BOXES IN THE NARTHEX AND IN LUTHER HALL.

DEADLINE FOR COLLECTION IS FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009

Question: What about my cell phone battery, charger and all of the accessories I bought for my cell phone? **Answer:** They can be recycled, too!



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

Congratulations to Chad & Loralee Eggeman on the healthy and safe delivery of their son, Drake Emmanuel, born March 18, 2009, 5 lb. 4oz. Drake Emmanuel is the grandson of Roger & Lori Eggeman and great-grandson of Glen & Jane Eggeman.

From Veronica (Roni) Burggraf: "Thank you, first English Lutheran Church, for praying for me and seeing me while I was hospitalized. Everything turned out A-OK. I'm on the mend. Thanks for caring about me. I really feel special now."

From Jean McFarland: "Thank you to all for your prayers, poster, and cards during my recent stay in the hospital. Also, thanks to the FELC Women's Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful prayer shawl. Thank you Pastor Paul and Pastor Andy for your visits. God bless each and everyone of you."

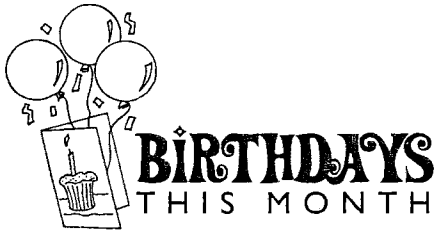
From Allyson Hannemann: "Dear congregation of First English, I was pleasantly surprised when a package arrived for me. I was much more pleasantly surprised when I opened that package and found it stuffed with treats for Valentine's Day. Sadly, I could not eat them because I was not supposed to eat goodies before my last swim meet. So, I spread the love to others by sharing with those unfortunate college students who do not have a congregation that sends them fun stuff. Of course, I kept some for myself to eat after the swim season ended, and you had better believe that I enjoyed it. Thank you so much for thinking of me."

YOUTH LOCAL SUMMER MISSION TRIP!

June 18 through June 23, 2009 . . .

A great opportunity for **youth** to serve the Lord by helping residents in our own community. Projects range from painting (both interior and exterior), mending/building porches, lawn care, basic carpentry and handiwork.

If any youth are interested, contact Tricia Volz (419) 884-3273 or Becky Sarbach (419) 589-7945 by **MAY 3, 2009**. A \$20 deposit is necessary to reserve a spot.



APRIL 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Greetings to our members who are 80+ years of age this month! We honor them on their very special day. May God grant to each of them His rich blessings and fill their hearts with His joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

APRIL

6	Miss Edna Berry	Woodlawn Home, Room 535 Lexington Ave.	44907
9	Mrs. Eleanor Laser	1260 Springbrook Dr.	44906-3543
10	Mrs. Evadine Smeltzer	800 Logan Rd., Apt. 214	44907-2758
10	Mrs. Lois Cairns	1458 N. Stewart Rd.	44903-7761
16	Mrs. Louise Dickson	139 Lind Ave.	44903-2103
17	Mr. Chris Reining	594 S. Trimble Rd., Apt. B	44906-4114
18	Mrs. Pat Simmons	1276 Silver Lane	44906-2465
22	Mrs. Elinor Angle	1066 Lexwood Rd.	44907-2920
25	Mrs. Nip McCready	1853 Graham Rd.	44904-9774
25	Mr. Bill Fry	691 Manchester Rd.	44903-1832
28	Mr. Kenneth Deems	1046 Ramsey Dr.	44905-2352



Pastor's Notes

FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...

I would like to share with you the story of one who was at Calvary:

Hello! I am Nicodemus. I am a rich, influential religious leader of the Jewish nation. Our family has been distinguished in Palestine for many years. In 63 BC, my great uncle was sent to the Roman Emperor Pompey to negotiate our surrender to Rome. My father was a Pharisee. He saw that I received the best education. I am proud to follow in their footsteps. I am a member of the Sanhedrin, which is the Supreme Court of the Jews. I study the law with diligence, and sincerely seek to be guided by the presence of God. I count myself as one open to God's leading, but I also test carefully each new teaching and thought.

This brings me to my relationship with Jesus of Nazareth. This Jesus was different. I first heard of him about three years ago. Jesus came that year to the Passover Feast to which every adult male in good health is required to be present to worship our God in His Sanctuary. Jesus taught the multitudes and performed many signs which caught my attention. We have a teaching in our Law which states: "If a prophet begins to prophesy (one who is still unaccredited) and gives a sign and miracle, he is to be listened to, otherwise, he is not to be heeded." I learned that Jesus had performed many miracles. He brought sight to the blind, wholeness to lepers, and power to the lame to walk. I sent word to Jesus that I wanted to meet with him. Since Rabbis often reserve the evening hours for study, I suggested we meet the next night.

I wanted to speak to Jesus alone. That's how it happened that I came to see Jesus late at night.

Jesus was kind and considerate, yet he seemed to speak in riddles. At one point, he said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." How could a person enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus then interpreted his saying spiritually: "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. You must be born from above." Now I was overwhelmed. All I could say was, "How can this be?" As we concluded our conversation, Jesus said something that eventually changed my life. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."

I left Jesus' apartment with these words imprinted on my mind. The image of the serpent that had brought life to those dying from the real serpent's bite. How would Jesus fulfill the serpent's role? I spent many sleepless nights thinking about this man. He continued to do these great signs and miracles, touching many lives and gaining many followers.

But not everyone followed Jesus. He also had his enemies, many being my friends here in

(continued)

the Sanhedrin. In fact, he had become a threat to the Jewish leaders, and they began to plot to arrest Jesus. During the Feast of the Tabernacles, temple police were sent to seize him, but they returned astonished at what they had heard and seen. They stated: "Never did a man speak the way this man speaks!" My fellow Pharisees retorted, "These men have also been led astray. Not one of the rulers or Pharisees have believed in Jesus, have they?" I jumped to my feet and proclaimed, "Our law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing." Being a senior member of the Sanhedrin, the others knew I was correct, so they called for adjournment.

Five days before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus returned to Jerusalem. A great multitude greeted him and proclaimed him king. After entering the city on a donkey, he strolled into the temple and chased the money changers and their animals from the temple with a whip. I stood near by as Jesus responded to those who confronted him. "If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all persons to myself." There it was again. The lifting up of himself as the serpent in the wilderness.

Events followed rapidly. The chief priests worked out a plan to arrest Jesus. I understand a disciple was recruited to betray him. Then a trial and the sentence of death by crucifixion. At 3 p.m. Jesus died, and Joseph of Arimathea secured permission from the governor to take Jesus' body. Together, we put him in Joseph's tomb. It has been the darkest day in my life. Yet, I believed God was not finished with this man. Perhaps, in the end, this darkest day in my life will be good. I must wait and see.

+++

Early in the 18th century, the German artist, Stenberg, was attracted by the face of a gypsy girl. He invited her to come to his studio and sit for him. With her as a model, he painted his "Dancing Gypsy Girl." The little girl was intrigued by what she saw in the artist's shop. She watched with great interest as he worked on a painting of the Crucifixion. She said to the artist: "He must have been a very bad man to have been nailed to the cross like that?" "No," replied the artist, "He was a good man. Indeed, he died for all men." "Did he die for you?" asked the girl. With that question in his heart, Stenberg happened to go to a meeting of the Reformers who opened the Scriptures to him, showed him the way of salvation, and brought him to a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

He then went back to finish the painting of the Crucifixion, working now not only with an artist's skill, but also with the love that comes of a believing heart. When the painting was finished, it was hung in the gallery at Dusseldorf. One day a young aristocratic German Count wandering through the studio paused before Stenberg's "Crucifixion." The painting moved him greatly, as did the words written beneath the painting, "This I did for thee; what has thou done for me?" That set the young Count thinking about what he could do for Christ. The result was the founding of the missionary brotherhood called the Moravians, who performed great acts of mercy and spread the love of God throughout the world.

The cross asks each of us today, "Did he die for you?" For in dying, Christ made eternal life available for us all.

- Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor

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



We remember the families and friends of those who died February 21 - March 20, 2009:

Greg Keefer **February 21**
(brother of Karen Ellis)

Florence Steward **February 23**

Rozetta Eggeman **March 10**
(aunt of Glen Eggeman)

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: February 27, 2009 Florence Steward

MEMORIALS

YOUTH MINISTRY

Greg Keefer:

David Prather

LITHUANIAN MINISTRIES

Greg Keefer:

Clancy and Carol Lauthers

MEMORIAL FUND

Evelyn Schwartz:

Thomas and Janet Beck

John and Carol Cornell

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Evelyn Schwartz:

Margaret Runyon

Jack and Betty Spangler

Cynthia Dorsey

Florence Stehle

Carole Johnson-Orsborn

Tom and Dot Blaney

FELC Church Council

Florence Stehle:

Bill and Mary Schwartz

LET YOUR LIFE BE A LEGACY

No matter what each person's individual situation may be in life, we can all leave a Living Legacy of Faith. How? ... by remembering your church in your estate planning. As a witness of your great love and faith in Jesus, we invite you to give the tithe (10%) of your estate to the eternal work of God's Kingdom. There are so many good organizations that seek our support, but only Jesus gives The Gift that "Keeps On Giving" ... The Gift of Forgiveness and The Joy of Eternal Life! Through Legacy Giving we now participate with Christ in giving a Gift that will "keep on giving" till Jesus comes. Let the Light of your Love shine forth through your Legacy Gift to the endowment funds of First English Lutheran Church.

*"O LORD, So teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12*

MISSION STATEMENT

First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Andrew W. Jones, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor

Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, Director of Music

Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts

Mrs. Terry Bianchi, Christian Day School Director

Karen Frayer, Bookkeeper

John Meyer, Custodial/Maintenance

Connie Stewart, Parish Secretary/Printer

Jim Scheiber, Property Manager

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary/Visitor Editor

Janet Kick, Nursery Care Worker

Michelle Myers, Christian Day School Secretary

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

Bolivia, South America: Rev. Nick and Shannon Kraft, and children Madison, Tanyon, Moises, and Tucker

South Africa: Paula Powell

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		