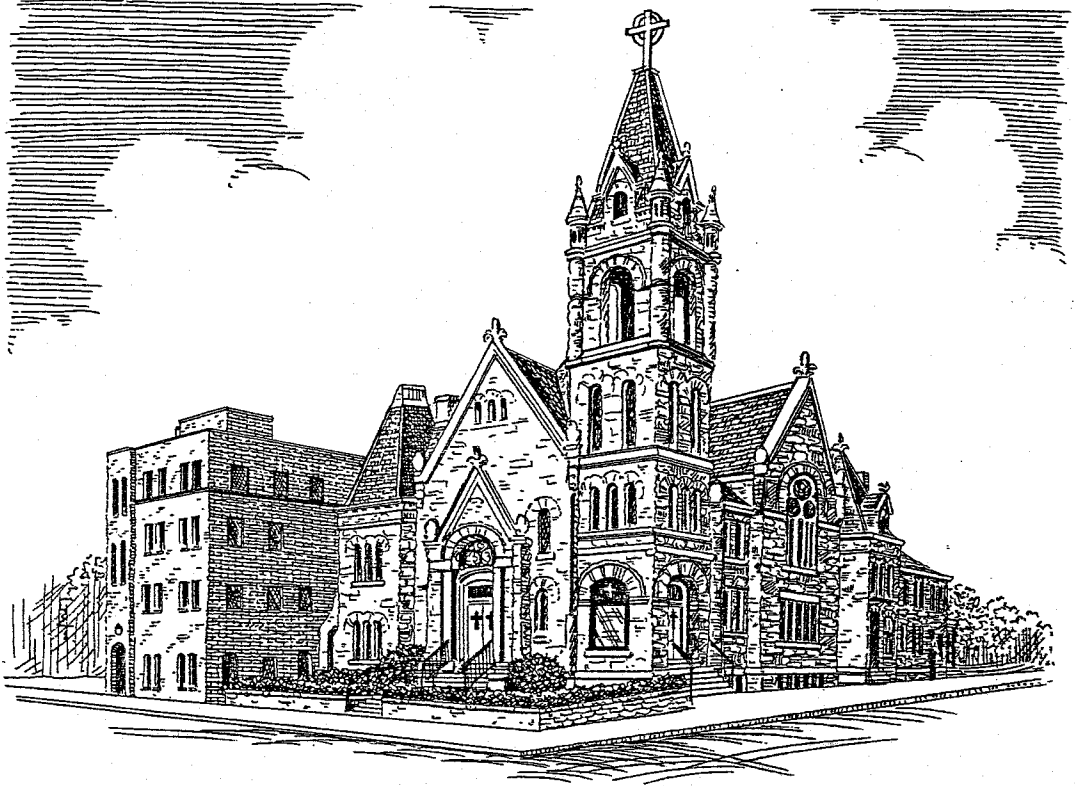


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

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“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (RSV)

In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace, that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” Ephesians 1:7-8 (NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ:

Repeatedly, as I read God’s Word, I am struck by ALL the *superlatives*. The English language struggles to describe how Overflowing, Overabundant, Over-the-Top → GOD is, when it comes to His Giving. *“For God so loved the world that He gave...!”* God does not merely toss us a few crumbs of Grace in our direction. He *LAVISHES* the *RICHES* of His Grace upon us! He is passionately Generous! Jesus said: *“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45 (NRSV). This is Jesus’ Mission.

To grow in Christian Maturity, Discipleship, is growing to become like Jesus. To be like Jesus is to Serve and to Give. Serving and Giving are at the Heart of the Christian Life. That is why we celebrate Christmas by Giving. Every gift we give is to be a celebration of God’s First Giving His only Son to us. Truly, Christmas is a Celebration of God’s Generosity!

But, generosity has to do with so much more than the giving of tangible gifts. Generosity is a quality of the Christ-centered heart.

As I write this article, there are only thirty-seven more shopping days until Christmas. Though Christmas is still more than a month away, I know that many of you have already begun your Christmas shopping. Who is on your Christmas list this year? Your immediate family members? Close relatives? Intimate friends? These are the obvious choices.

[You probably think that I am about to encourage you to give a special Christmas Gift to the orphans of AIDS in Malawi → a Birthday Gift for Jesus → by giving to the poorest of the world’s poor. These are those Jesus spoke of when He called us to give to *“the least of these.”* Yes, I am certainly encouraging you to put these first in your Jesus’ Birthday Giving. But, actually, I’d like to speak to you

about another kind of Generosity. It is the kind of generosity that comes from a Christ-filled heart.]

Remember that shopping list we just spoke of? Who is not on your Christmas shopping list? What about the person at work who rubs you the wrong way? The neighbor next door who has a questionable lifestyle? The relative who still holds a grudge against you? The person who works so hard to constantly slander your name? Are these people high on your Christmas list? Probably not, for gift-giving is usually directed towards those you love.

But, God's gift to humanity -- Salvation -- was provided "*while we were still sinners*" (Romans 5:8) ... when there was NOTHING lovely about us at all! The Apostle Paul describes those for whom Christ died as *sinners, ungodly, and enemies of God*. (Romans 5: 6-10).

What about those people in your life who at times can be "ungodly" towards you? It is much easier to be generous in our tangible outward gift-giving, than to be ***Generous of Heart***. Jesus is calling you and me to become like Him. The kind of generosity that flows from a Christ-filled heart is generous with patience, love, and understanding. It is a Spirit of gentleness and forgiveness. Who in your life needs This Gift from you? Do we not ALL need this kind of Generosity? This is the Generosity that will "cut-you-some-slack;" interpret your actions in the kindest way; and speak to you that word of kindness, appreciation, and encouragement. We have a Generous GOD who has done all these things and More ... ALL for us. We have a Generous God who calls us to be His generous, Grace-Filled, people.

So who is on your Christmas list? With God's Love as the model, make out a new Christmas list of those in your life who need to receive from you → the Gifts of Forgiveness, and Patience, and Understanding ... Gifts of Kindness given unmerited ... unearned ... freely given ... no strings or expectations attached. This is how God GRACES you and me. Let us generously GRACE one another. Let us Give and Serve like Jesus.

In Jesus' Love,

Pastor Paul

LUTHERAN CORE

COALITION FOR RENEWAL

"Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5)

November 18, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The past couple months since the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and Lutheran CORE's Convocation have filled us with a strong sense of hope. The Spirit has stirred up a remarkable outpouring of activity by traditional Lutherans across the country. Congregations are entering into discernment processes to determine their own future courses. Congregations and individuals are refocusing their benevolence giving on faithful ministries. New local and regional renewal movements are being formed almost weekly. Just this past week, we welcomed six new regional affiliates of Lutheran CORE, from Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia and the Southeastern US, as well as the Union of Oromo Evangelical Churches and the Seven Marks group of pastors.

It is now clear that a very substantial portion of the ELCA cannot and will not accept the decisions of the Churchwide Assembly this past summer. Along with the WordAlone Network and our other renewal movement partners, we in Lutheran CORE are now hard at work planning pathways forward for faithful Lutherans, both for those who decide to stay in and those who decide to leave the ELCA. This letter describes some recent significant decisions about those future pathways.

The Lutheran CORE Convocation in Fishers, Indiana, voted to transform our ministry into a free-standing synod, operating apart from any Lutheran church body. This free-standing synod will serve as a coalition of those who choose to leave and those who choose to remain within the ELCA. It will include congregations, reform movements, individual pastors and laypersons, synods, and schools, from across the USA and hopefully Canada as well. It will carry out many synodical functions and will serve in partnership with other reform movements. In this manner, Lutheran CORE will continue to be a confessing and confessional movement that is open to all faithful Lutherans.

Many of our members and friends, both congregations and individuals, will stay in the ELCA, at least for the time being. For them, the free-standing synod will provide a fellowship or community of traditional Lutherans and an ongoing connection to orthodox Lutherans who leave the ELCA. It will also provide, as a service to its member congregations, faithful synodical functions such as missions and evangelism support, assistance in the call process, and resources for theological education, congregational teaching and worship.

It has also become clear over the past few months that many faithful congregations will certainly leave the ELCA as a result of the ELCA's departure from Biblical teachings. Some of those congregations will join Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), an association of Lutheran congregations formed in 2001 which we view as a valued partner in mission. Other congregations, however, have come to us asking us to form a church body with a more traditional denomination structure and scope.

As a result of these conversations and requests, and after much prayer and deliberation, the Lutheran CORE Steering Committee has decided to explore the formation of a new Lutheran church body in North America. We do this in service to those congregations who wish to leave the ELCA, and perhaps also for congregations who might wish to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) as a result of similar issues in that church body, and to advance the mission of Christ by planting new churches across North America.

This new church would have a confession of faith and a constitution. It would have the competence to examine and ordain clergy, and a discipline process for congregations and clergy. It would be capable of reaching church-to-church relationships. Its constitution would provide for the election of officers and it would be governed by a representative assembly of delegates. The new church would provide for dual membership for congregations and ordained ministers. It would invite other Lutheran churches and entities to participate in shared ministry. It would utilize resources for ministry from already-existing para-church movements and from the WordAlone Network, and would develop other resources as needed. We intend for this new church to be complementary to the ministry and mission of LCMC.

The new Lutheran church body and the free-standing Lutheran CORE synod would cooperate closely in ministry and mission. Special attention will be given to the calling and mobility process, resources for ministry, local and global missions, and strengthening a sense of community and witness to the Gospel. The new Lutheran church body and the free-standing synod will also seek to develop close relationships

with other Lutheran churches and entities - particularly with LCMC, and also with others including the ELCA, the ELCIC, and the LCMS.

One thing we want to lift up clearly. We are seeking to do something that has proven difficult in other denominations: maintain tangible unity and organic relationships between those who leave and those who stay in the ELCA. For this reason we are forming both a new church body and a free-standing synod, and both are essential to our vision of continued fellowship and common ministry. Please join us in making a commitment to this important goal.

We have asked our Vision and Planning Working Group to develop narrative designs for the new Lutheran church and for the continuation of Lutheran CORE's ministry as a free-standing synod. Those designs will be published for review and comment in February 2010. After that, constitution task forces will prepare a constitution for the new church, as well as constitutional amendments necessary to implement the free-standing synod, for adoption at the 2010 Convocation of Lutheran CORE on August 26-27 in Columbus, OH.

In all that we do, we remain in prayer and seek to discern the will of God. Likewise please keep us and the members of the Vision and Planning team in your prayers. That team includes retired Bishops Paull Spring and Ron Warren, Pastors David Glesne, Dan Selbo, Michael Tavella and Cathi Braasch, Mrs. Carolyn Nestingen and Mr. Ryan Schwarz. Please feel free to reach out to any of them, or any of us, with your thoughts and suggestions.

Contact information is available on our website, www.lutherancore.org

We grieve that it has become necessary for so many to leave the ELCA and for so many others to alter their relationship with the ELCA, but we are heartened by the clear sense of mission and ministry that is motivating these changes. As we move forward, let us walk humbly as we seek to follow the path that God has in store for us.

In His Service,

The Lutheran CORE Steering Committee

COALITION FOR RENEWAL



FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP MEETS DECEMBER 1..

Join us for *First Tuesday* on December 1 for lunch at Noon in the Emmaus Room. Cost is \$2.50. Vicki Kane, director of Harmony House, will be guest speaker. Invite your friends to join us! Call Pat Wells with reservations by Monday, November 30, 419-756-6863.

ADVENT EVENT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 7:00 P.M. IN THE UNDERCROFT!

Christmas is coming! And so is the Advent Event! On December 2, 7:00 pm in the Undercroft, we will kick off the holiday season.



Along with the Silent Auction of handcrafted gifts, the Fair Trade gifts and the delicious food of the past years, we will have workshops reminiscent of the Advent workshops held many years ago. So please bring the entire family, especially the kids, to be a part of this great fellowship!

The committee previewed the workshop items and are very excited. We are asking you to pay a small fee to cover the cost of the items. For \$1.00 you can make a Christmas card to send or to keep, and for \$3.00 you can make a banner. There are sample banner designs of angels, Baby Jesus, a tree of life, Christmas tree, etc. to get the creative juices flowing, OR you can make up your own design. Come and be a part of this evening of family fun and creativity.

- Pat Wells, 419-756-6863

DECEMBER 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 DECEMBER

- Dec 6 ➔ Congregational Meeting 9:45 a.m. in the undercroft.
 ➔ Special *Council* Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Dec 13 ➔ A Visit from "Saint Nicholas" at the Sunday services.
 ➔ Sacrament of Holy Baptism for David Butterman at 11:00 worship.
 ➔ Congregational Meeting, 2:00 p.m. in the Nave.
- Dec 20 ➔ Sunday School Christmas Program, 11:00 in the Nave.
 ➔ Combined 11:00 service with Proclaim! contemporary in the Nave.
 ➔ Youth fund raiser bake sale.
 ➔ Christmas Caroling to home-bound members.
- Dec 27 ➔ Service of Lessons and Carols, 8:30 & 11:00 services.
 ➔ New Year's emphasis at the 11:00 Proclaim! service.



ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPES

Our Advent offerings are designated to support Malawi Orphan Care Ministries. A designated envelope was included in the Advent Calendar of Events mailing in November.

Advent offerings may be placed in the offering plate at any worship service, or brought to the church office any time before Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24.

**The Congregation Council calls a
Special Congregational Meeting to be held on
Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 9:45 am in the Undercroft
for the purpose of considering the Resolution printed below:**

**Resolution in support of borrowing up to an additional \$26,000 from the
General Endowment Fund of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Mansfield, Ohio (FEELC) to meet 2009 General Fund Expenses.**

Whereas, the current economic downturn has put a constraint on the income of a number of members of the FEELC congregation and

Whereas, the recent votes at the August, 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly have caused some members of the FEELC congregation to change their planned giving for the year and

Whereas, the current income from weekly offerings is continuing to trend behind the estimates for the 2009 budgeted income and

Whereas, we desire to finish the fiscal year with a balanced budget, therefore be it

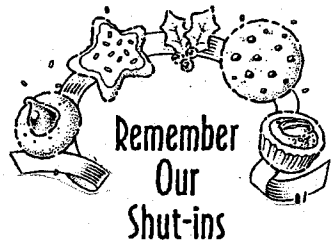
Resolved, that the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church Council recommends that the Congregation authorize the borrowing of up to \$26,000 from the General Endowment Fund for General Fund Expenses in 2009, to be repaid with an appropriate level of interest and term of loan, set by the Finance Committee.

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

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
Dec 6 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator:
Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,
Dec 6 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 A.M. Holy
Communion service on December 13.
- Monday,
Dec 7 **Men's Group** meets at 9:30 A.M. the first Monday of the month for breakfast
at Denny's, West Fourth Street in Ontario. Contact: Hal Simmons, 419-529-6586.
- Wednesday,
Dec 2 & 16 **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.
- 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,
Dec 18 **Friendly Friday Group**, 10:30 A.M. program in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is
served at 11:30; games until 2:00. Rides available. Coordinator: Margaret Battisti,
419-526-4381.
- Sat/Sun
Dec 26 & 27 **Food Collection Weekend**. The October collection totaled \$90 for our
Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your support!

COOKIES FOR SHUT-INS NEEDED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 . . .



Your donation of Christmas cookies helps brighten the Christmas season for the home-bound members of our congregation who so enjoy being remembered in this way. We'll be packing Christmas cookies to deliver to our shut-in members on Saturday, December 12.

Please bring your favorite Christmas cookies (2 to 4 dozen or whatever amount you wish) to the undercroft kitchen by Friday, December 11. Clearly mark your package "Cookies for shut-ins." We ask that they be nut-free, as nuts can be problematic for some folks. The more cookies we have, the nicer the packages we can deliver.

- Karen Ellis, coordinator, 419-884-1882

2009 ADOPT-A-FAMILY TO BENEFIT MANSFIELD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER . . .

Christmas is not only a time of year to rejoice in our blessings, but to be angels to those with needs greater than our own. This year, FELC is collecting items to donate to the Mansfield Domestic Violence Shelter.



Please visit the "Angel Tree" in the Narthex and take one (or more) angel tags. Each angel contains a need for the women and children seeking refuge at The Shelter. Their needs are basic: undergarments, sweats, hooded sweatshirts, soap, and paper products.

Unwrapped items should be delivered to the church (bin in the Narthex) between December 13 and December 27. Donated items will be delivered to The Shelter after December 27 when all items have been collected. *Please do not gift wrap items.*

Thank you for helping to support our sisters and brothers in need. God bless!
- Becky Sarbach, Service Ministry Chair

How Then Shall We Live?

The Re-Configuration of the Lutheran Church

A Conference for ELCA Lutherans Living in a Post-Minneapolis World

Saturday, December 5, 2009

8:30am	Registration
9:15am	Welcome & Opening Prayer – Pastor Paul L. Larson
9:30am	Bishop Kenneth Sauer – “So Here We Are!”
10:00am	Rev. Mark Chavez – “Lutheran CORE’s Progress for Reconfiguring North American Lutheranism”
10:30am	Break
11:00am	Q&A with Speakers Panel
11:30am	LUNCH BREAK – <i>On Your Own (Maps Provided)</i>
1:00pm	Rev. William Sullivan - “Renewing a Passion for the Great Commission”
1:30pm	Rev. Paul Ullring – “What Next? – Taking it Home”
2:00pm	Break
2:30pm	Q&A with Speakers Panel
3:15pm	Closing Prayer – Pastor Andrew W. Jones

PRESENTERS:

Bishop Kenneth Sauer

Bishop Emeritus of the Southern Ohio Synod and
Former Chair of the ELCA Council of Bishops

Rev. Mark Chavez

Director – Lutheran CORE Steering Committee

Rev. William Sullivan

Service Coordinator - LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

Rev. Paul Ullring

Sr. Pastor, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church

Lutheran CORE Steering Committee

Hosted By:

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, OH 44902

Registration Deadline: Monday, November 30, 2009

COST - \$10 per Person

FELC MEMBERS - Only \$5 per Person

**The Congregation Council calls a
Special Congregational Meeting to be held on
Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary
for the purpose of considering the Resolution printed below:**

**Resolution in support of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Mansfield, Ohio (FEELC) terminating its relationship with the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

Whereas, this congregation believes that "the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life" (C2.03), and as such must be our final authority in matters of faith and life, and

Whereas, we believe our Lutheran Confessions provide us accurate interpretations of the Bible, and

Whereas, the ELCA adopted at the August 2009 Churchwide Assembly the "Social Statement of Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust", sections of which **we believe to be in direct contradiction to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and the Lutheran Confessions**, and

Whereas, the ELCA voted at the August 2009 Churchwide Assembly to "commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships", which **we believe to be in direct contradiction to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and the Lutheran Confessions**, and

Whereas, the ELCA voted at the August 2009 Churchwide Assembly to "commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders" of the ELCA, which **we believe to be in direct contradiction to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and the Lutheran Confessions**; therefore be it

(Resolution continues)

Resolved, that the congregation of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mansfield, OH, hereby withdraws from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northeastern Ohio Synod thereof, effective at the time of the second congregational vote to effect such withdrawal, and be it further

Resolved, that the congregation of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mansfield, OH, hereby requests to be received into membership in Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, and/or such other Lutheran church body as the congregation might specify in a resolution approved at the time of its second congregational vote on this matter.

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



News deadline for the
JANUARY VISITOR
is
Tuesday, December 15

Assembled & mailed:
Thursday, December 31



Please note the earlier deadline date due to the Christmas holiday week.



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, December 15

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

Thursday, December 17

9:30 A.M. Brookdale Sterling House

CDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**

Please come, all are welcome! Christian Day School Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

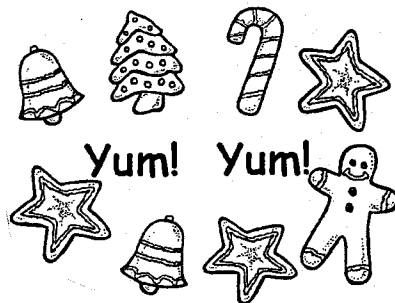
Music! A visit from St. Nicholas! Refreshments! Also, please bring dry goods or monetary gifts for a family in need the CDS is sponsoring.



YOUTH FUND RAISER BAKE SALE DECEMBER 19 & 20...

The youth will be baking and packaging plates of Christmas cookies which will be available at all services the weekend of **December 19 & 20** for a free-will donation.

This is a fund raiser for the youth to raise money for upcoming Youth Encounters, retreats and mission projects. We have many exciting faith-filled events planned for the youth, but they need to raise the money to help get them there. With the gracious support of our congregation, we will be able to send anyone wishing to go.



Come and pick up some holiday goodies for yourself or your loved ones and support our youth! Questions? Contact Teri Brenkus, Youth Committee Chair, at 419-989-6850.

Contact Teri Brenkus, Youth Committee Chair, at 419-989-6850.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 20...

Spread a little Christmas cheer! Come join in our annual Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 20. We'll have a light lunch at 12:30 and then go caroling at 1:15 to church members at their individual homes and to care centers.

Parents, children, and grandparents are all welcome! Song books and route maps are provided; bring warm outer clothing and your Christmas joy to share. **Sign-up using the pew pad question in the December 6 and 13 bulletins.**

If you have any questions or know of anyone who might enjoy a caroling visit, please contact Angie Kaschube at 419-571-1734.

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! 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

Sound Booth Operators

Beth Harruff, 419-589-2762

Communion Preparers

Communion Assistants

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

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

Dec 5	Elva Bonser	Dec 19	Joci Kirst
Dec 12	Joci Kirst	Dec 26	Elva Bonser

<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>
Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon	Narthex
Jan Swartz	East Entrance

<u>USHERS</u>	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>
Bill West	
Pearl West	
Rob Skropits	

<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Tom & Stacey Crall	Narthex
Jodi Mumaw	East Entrance

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

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

Dec 6	Lowell Weeks & Chris Cichanowicz	Dec 20	Mary Schwartz & Jim Scheiber
Dec 13	Rob Hogsette & Steve Ritz	Dec 27	Ken & Karen Frayer

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:05 am</u>
Dec 6	Stan Cichanowicz	Tom Hillman
Dec 13	Cindy Russell	Shelley Shupp
Dec 20	Wes Volz	Betty Guenther
Dec 27	Betty Guenther	Pat Reed

Please use the **Mulberry Street entrance for the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve** worship service on Thursday, December 24. The lift is available for handicap accessibility. The Luther Hall door will be open from 6:15-7:05 P.M. for the Christmas Eve Family service.

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Dec 6	Annette Doklovic	Dec 20	(Sunday School program)
Dec 13	Stan Cichanowicz	Dec 27	---

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

Dec 5 Jean Ridenour Dec 19 Jean Ridenour
Dec 12 Kay McNaul Dec 26 Kay McNaul & Pastor (Lessons & Carols)

8:30 A.M.

Dec 6 Chris Cichanowicz

Dec 13 Jerry Gallagher

Dec 20 Mary Hujus

Lessons and Carols Dec 27 1 Pat Reed

2 Chris Cichanowicz

3 Liz Prather

11:00 A.M.

Chris Kaschube

Carol Pierce

(SCS Christmas Program)

1 Shirley Lane

2 Chris Cichanowicz

3 Carol Pierce

Christmas Eve, Thurs, Dec 24, 7:00 pm: Pat Reed

Christmas Eve, Thurs, Dec 24, 11:00 pm: Stacey Crall

ACOLYTES, CRUCIFERS, TORCHBEARERS

8:30 A.M.

Dec 6 A Paul Hogsette

Dec 13 A Katie Ritz

Dec 20 *(SCS Program at 11:00)*

Dec 27 A Stephen Ward

11:00 A.M.

A Katilyn Stransky

A Alissa Ruth

A Emily Blankenship

A Katilyn Stransky

Christmas Eve, Thurs, December 24, 7:00 pm A Rachel Shupp

Christmas Eve, Thurs, December 24, 11:00 pm A Emily Blankenship

C Bryan Eyerly

T Erin Blankenship

T Alissa Ruth

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Dec 6 11:00 am Ken & Penny Ekegren
Dec 13 8:30 am Bill & Mary Hayes

Christmas Eve Dec 24 11:00 pm Bill & Mary Schwartz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>Dec 6 - 11:00 am</u>	<u>Dec 13 - 8:30 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West	Jodi Mumaw	Gene Luedy
Cups West	Diane Molyet	Marilyn Motson
Wine East	Gary Simmons	Steve Ritz
Cups East	Harold Simmons	Devera Ritz
Intinction	Jane Sprang	Jerry Gallagher

Christmas Eve

(continuous communion)

Thursday, December 24 - 11:00 pm

Bread Servers	Two Pastors
Wine West	Donna Rettig
Cups West	Lana Conry
Wine East	Greg Hughes
Cups East	Linda Hughes
Intinction	Marianne Sweat

(Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Communion Volunteers still to be scheduled)

PEW PAD GLEANERS

Dec 6	Gene Luedy	Dec 20	Gene Luedy
Dec 13	Viola Deems	Dec 27	Pat Smith

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Congregational Life Committee

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

December 6: Sandie Volz

DECEMBER ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Beth Harruff & Jan Shenberger

Chapel: Cheryl Lantz

Proclaim!: Jan Fisher

+ + + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

Dec 6	Cindy and Robyn Russell
Dec 13	Ronda and Ashley Rehm
Dec 20	<i>(combined 11:00 in the Nave for the SCS program)</i>
Dec 27	Ted and Karen Ellis

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

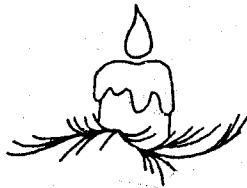
Please, no junk mail, cutesy stories, or chain letters. Reserve the use of church e-mail for important correspondence with the staff. Visit our web site at: www.felc-mansfield.org
Emergency cell phone numbers if the pastors cannot be contacted at church or home:
Pastor Paul Larson, 419-632-1875. Pastor Andy Jones, 419-989-3715.

CHRISTMAS EVE BROADCAST

BULLETINS AVAILABLE

The 11:00 P.M. Christmas Eve service will be broadcast on **WMAN-AM Radio 1400**. If you are unable to attend church that evening and would like a copy of the worship bulletin to follow along with the broadcast, please call the church office, 419-522-0662, by Tuesday, December 22, so we can get one mailed in time for you to receive it before Christmas Eve.

The bulletin for the service contains the complete texts of the liturgy and congregational carols to make it easy to follow along with the broadcast. Broadcast time is 10:30 P.M. to 12:15 A.M.

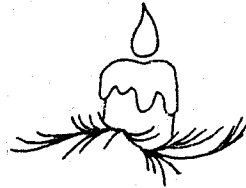


CHRISTMAS EVE Thursday, December 24

- 7:00 p.m. Family Service with
Holy Communion
- 10:30 p.m. Music for the Holy Night
- 11:00 p.m. Festival Carol Eucharist

Radio broadcast begins at 10:30 p.m.
on WMAN - 1400 AM

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Service of Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 26
5:00 pm Worship - Chapel

Sunday, December 27

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Proclaim! Contemporary

Please use the **Mulberry Street entrance for the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve** worship service on Thursday, December 24. The lift is available for handicap accessibility. The Luther Hall door will be open from 6:15-7:05 P.M. for the Christmas Eve Family service.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

The church office will close at Noon on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24. The church office will be closed on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25. The Christian Day School will be closed December 24 - January 3.

DECEMBER 2009 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
FIRST TUESDAY	1	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room Program: Vicki Kane, Harmony House
LYDIA	7	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Ruth Sweval's home
SARAH	7	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Christmas with CDS Hostess: All members
EVE	NO MEETING			
MARY	11	FRIDAY	11:30 A.M.	Applebee's Hostess: Wilda Soka
WORKDAY LADIES	2 & 16	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
PLANNING TEAM	14	MONDAY	6:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room. Covered Dish

Altar Group Workers: Nave – Beth Harruff & Jan Shenberger; Chapel – Cheryl Lantz; Proclaim! – Jan Fisher
Funeral Dinners: Squad D, Jackie Moxley & Shirley Shupp

COMING EVENTS: December 2 7 PM Advent Event, Undercroft
 December 12 Christmas Cookie packing, Undercroft

FAIR TRADE COFFEE UPDATE

WELCA would like to order a new shipment of coffee, but we need to know specifics about what items would actually sell. Please let me know your preferences if you are a regular Fair Trade coffee customer. If you have not tried Fair Trade coffee, it is a very HIGH QUALITY coffee worth trying. The pricing is similar to grocery store pricing, especially considering the gourmet blends available. Below are some suggestions:

- ❖ French Roast: rich dark coffee, wonderful flavor for those who like stronger coffee.
- ❖ Love Buzz: rich dark coffee, similar to French Roast
- ❖ Mind, Body, and Soul: medium roast coffee
- ❖ Breakfast Blend: medium roast coffee
- ❖ Toffee Caramel: flavored coffee, medium roast
- ❖ Colombian decaf: medium blend decaf
- ❖ Hazelnut decaf: flavored medium blend



It's a great idea to support these coffee sales, which in turn support the small coffee farmers overseas. Please call or email Jan Fisher with your preferences. We want to place this order in the next 30 days.

– Jan Fisher: 419-589-2820 or janfisher2002@yahoo.com



DECEMBER NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

Our Bible theme for December is, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

We will also be reading many Christmas stories this month. The children will be busy making decorations and gifts, practicing for the Christmas program, and visiting the mall to see Santa. Our Christmas program is Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to come and hear the children sing.

The Day School will be closed from December 24 through January 3. We at the Christian Day School wish everyone a blessed holiday season.

– Mrs. Terry Bianchi, Director



NOVEMBER COUNCIL NOTES . . .

Vice President Don Harruff called the Tuesday, November 10, 2009 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation to order at 7:10

p.m. Pastor Larson opened the meeting with prayer.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson encouraged Council members to attend Bishop Eaton's special informational meeting on the August 2009 Churchwide Assembly at St. Paul's, Bellville, on Sunday, November 15. He also encouraged Council members to sign up to attend the December 5, 2009 Lutheran CORE conference hosted by our church and to encourage others to attend.

Members of the congregation will be asked for their input on continuing the one weekend worship service on the 5th Sunday of the month whenever that occurs.

Pastor Larson and Pastor Kress have been meeting with the communion deacons to arrange to adequately serve homebound church members.

Grants in the amount of \$3,100.00 were received from Med Central Civic Fund and \$1,000 from Sam's Club Community Grant program to benefit the Wednesday Noon Lunch.

The Benevolence Task Force for assigning ELCA and Non-ELCA 2010 benevolences including Chris Cichanowicz, Jan Fisher, Jeanne Hillman, Mary Schwartz and Pastor Larson, convener, were approved by Council. Council approved the following ELCA-related benevolences with percentages as follows: 40% - Northeastern Ohio Synod - ELCA; 15% - ELCA Hunger Appeal; 15% - Lutheran World Relief; 10% - ELCA Missionary Paula Powell; 10% - Lutheran

Outdoor Ministries of Ohio; 5% - Good Shepherd Home, Lutheran Social Services; 5% - Oesterlen Home. Council approved Non-ELCA Benevolences for missionaries with percentages as follows: 40% - Kraft Family, World Mission Prayer League (WMPL); 30% - Christophersons, WMPL; 30% - Sorge, WMPL. Special offering envelopes will no longer be in the packets for the above benevolences.

The 2010 Lenten offering will benefit Lithuanian Missions (Lithuanian Christian College and Rytas Orphanage in Klaipeda). The 2010 Advent Offering will benefit Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries.

It was stated that if someone desires to contribute more to a specific benevolence, the individual could send their money directly to that organization. There will be a Seminary Scholarship Fund envelope in every month's envelope packet for the third Sunday during 2010.

WELCA: Council approved the Advent Event, Fair Trade sale and silent auction to be held on Wednesday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Undercroft.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Lu Diday mentioned the pot luck lunch following the Sunday, November 29, 10:00 a.m. worship service.

(continued)

EVANGELISM: Steve Ritz stated the Evangelism Committee will help with the December 5, 2009 CORE Conference at our church.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits presented a recommendation, which Council approved, from the Finance Committee to pay the bill for the new water heater from the annual draw from the Major Capital Improvements Endowment Fund in the amount of \$5,087.00. If there is any outstanding amount that can not be covered by the draw, the rest of the bill will be paid using funds from the Maintenance Fund. There was discussion about the 2010 proposed budget.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz stated a quotation for repair work on the front lawn wall will be received soon.

It was mentioned that the new copy machine will be installed in the church office and the old copy machine will be placed in the Christian Day School area for their use.

The Narthex elevator is broken and the company that installed it will be contacted for repair.

Appreciation was expressed to volunteer church members who mowed the retreat center lawn and field. The Richland County Steam Threshers Club purchased gravel for the main driveway at the retreat center, put 85 ton in the driveway to the field, and will purchase another 100 ton at a later date, possibly in the Spring. This is approximately \$2,000 worth of stone, with appreciation expressed for their donation.

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman stated that Henrik and Patty Christopherson visited on Sunday, November 1, and offered

to come back another time to visit our congregation and provide global mission education opportunities to our members.

WORSHIP: Roscoe Thompson stated Angie Kaschube is planning our Christmas Caroling on December 20 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Family Worship service will include Holy Communion. Christmas decorating of the sanctuary will be done by the Ritz/Hogsette small group on Friday, November 27, 6:00 p.m. with the request of additional help. Sandie Volz will decorate the Emmaus Room.

STEWARDSHIP: Jan Fisher reported that during the month of October, Stewardship temple talks were given by Lynda Ringold, Lois Brown, Ken and Penny Ekegren, and Gary Lane gave a sermon message prior to Consecration weekend on October 31 and November 1. It is anticipated that the pledge process will be completed by November 30, 2009.

SERVICE: Becky Sarbach for the Service Committee recommended, Council approved, that the Thanksgiving offering benefit The Salvation Army. The Domestic Violence Shelter will be the focus of the Christmas "Adopt a Family" program.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz expressed appreciation to Jim Scheiber for painting walls in the Sunday School area. FELC came in third place in the CROP Walk with 22 walkers and a donation of \$1,492. Nineteen churches participated in the Walk with a total of \$14,000 in donations.

(continued)

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: The CDS Christmas program will be held Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 p.m. Current enrollment is 88 students.

YOUTH: Teri Brenkus stated the Youth Group sold food at a concession stand during a rainy weekend for the Steam Threshers Show. Teri reported that 15 youth went to the Haunted Maze. The Youth will be baking cookies December 18 to sell for donations. Teri Brenkus' Sunday School class was approved by Council to raise \$500 to purchase a cow for a Third World family.

NEW BUSINESS: Council approved holding a special Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 9:45 a.m. in the under-

croft for the purpose of approving a resolution of borrowing up to an additional \$26,000 from the General Endowment Fund to meet 2009 General Fund expenses.

Council approved holding a Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for the purpose of considering a resolution in support of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio, to terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Jones.

– Mary M. Schwartz, Secretary
First English Lutheran Church
Congregation Council

✦ RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE ✦

Future Blood Drives on Hold

The Red Cross has informed us that, while they very much appreciate our efforts in holding the blood drives at First English, they will have to temporarily suspend future blood drives at our church. We have seen a drop off in donors over time, and we have unfortunately been unable to meet their minimum goals. This is purely a cost driven decision for them, and they thank all who have donated at our church since 2002.

Eight pints of blood were donated at the FELC blood drive on November 10, 2009. The blood supply in this area has been critically low, and we are so thankful to all those who took time out of their busy schedules to give this gift of life. (Three lives are saved with each pint of blood donated!)

I would also like to thank all of the faithful volunteers who helped make these blood drives run so smoothly, and thanks to all of those that gave their blood for the cause. Anyone wishing to donate blood in the future can do so at the Red Cross Blood Services in downtown Mansfield located at 39 Park Street. Blessings to each of you!

–Kay Leedy, Blood Drive Coordinator

MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

Last month, you read about how the board of the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries would like to become self sustaining. They trust that God will provide for their needs and help them to help the people of Kanyenyeva. God is using you and your donations to make that possible. Once again, you have helped the orphan project to take another step toward become self sustaining and also provided for their needs until they can provide for themselves. Through your donations, which were sent to Malawi in October, repairs have begun on the minibus. The income from the minibus is one way that they plan to work toward becoming self sustaining.

The orphan project was able to replace the engine and pay fees in order to get the bus certified to be on the road again. After paying for school fees and food for the children, they did not have enough money to purchase new tires and brake pads. They plan to complete the repairs when they have more money. They wish to thank you very much for your continued support of this ministry. As Shadreck writes, "We thank God for you and for all you are doing (for) us."

The next time you get water from a nearby faucet or get food from your refrigerator, think about the following information about life in Malawi.

These statistics are from the National Statistical Office of Malawi regarding the people of Malawi:

Have electrical service:

- 30% of those living in urban areas
- 2% of those living in rural areas

Own a refrigerator:

- 14.7% of those living in urban areas
- .7% of those living in rural areas

Own a table with chairs:

- 53.8% of those living in urban areas
- 24.5% of those living in rural areas

- median time to walk to a water source is 19.4 minutes;
- 97% of rural cooking fuel is wood;
- 54% of the population live below the poverty line;
- 17% of the population live below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

Please continue to pray for the board of Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries, the people of Kanyenyeva and the work of God which is being done there.

- Joy Jones



STEWARDSHIP CORNER . . .

Excerpts from A Stewardship Study: The Apostles' Creed Unit 3 by Dr. Mary Jane Haemig, associate professor of church history, Luther Seminary. Haemig begins the study by drawing attention to three major confessions:



- 1 ***God is generous to you.*** "We are overwhelmed with God's generosity. But the generosity is not yet finished. God is so generous that he does not leave his relationship with us to chance or to us. Instead, God the Holy Spirit, has created and completed the relationship with me. Even the faith I have is a gift from God!"
- 2 ***God's generosity toward you is intimately related to his generosity toward others.*** "God not only makes you holy by drawing you to himself, he sets you in relationship with him and with others."
- 3 ***God's generosity is persistent.*** "Not only does the Holy Spirit seek us and put us into relationship with God [and with others], the Holy Spirit acts daily to counter the effects of our sin, our acts against the way God intended relationships to be ... His persistent generosity grants new life even in the midst of sin, evil and failure."

Our Response (To God's Generosity)

We can never repay God for his generosity. We can only respond to that generosity with thanks to God and service and generosity to God and our neighbor.

- ***Thanksgiving.*** Consider what Luther wrote in his commentary on Genesis: "The Holy Spirit does not bestow his gifts for money; nor does God accept gold and silver for the forgiveness of sins, for life, eyes, senses and all blessings ... The only thing [the Holy Spirit] demands is thanksgiving, so that ... we acknowledge [the Holy Spirit] as God," (Luther's Works volume 4, page 397).
- ***Service.*** Luther writes that God's generosity frees us from worrying about our salvation so that we can instead serve our neighbors. "Man ... needs none of these things for his righteousness and salvation. Therefore he should be guided in all his works by this thought ... that he may serve and benefit others in all that he does, considering nothing except the need and the advantage of his neighbor," ("The Freedom of a Christian" in Luther's Works, volume 31, page 365).

Consider your own generosity. Do your gifts of financial and other resources match your thanks to God for his gifts? Do they match your God-given capacity for service to others?

(Taken from Stewardship for the 21st Century, website of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN.)

– Jan Fisher, Stewardship Chair



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

Bibles for Malawi! It's time to take your recyclables to Milliron Industries, 2384 St. Rt. 39. Request the proceeds to be paid to Account #480 (First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield). The funds in the FELC missionary account will be used to buy Bibles for Malawi (printed in their own language).

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2010

Altar flower sponsors are not yet assigned for the following dates in 2010. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call the church office, 419-522-0662, to reserve date. Cost per week is \$35.

January

3, 10, 17, 24, 31

June

6, 13, 20

October

3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April

4 (Easter), 11, 18

July

4, 11, 18, 25

November

7, 28

May

2, 23, 30

August

1, 22, 29

December

5, 12, 19, 26

September

5, 12, 19, 26

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.



FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...

Bethlehem, the City of David, is a gem among gems. Perched high on the hill, a natural amphitheater at its feet, the city looks down upon the Dead Sea. Nestled under a rocky overhang sit an aged shepherd and a young boy. A chilling wind blows. The two huddle closer, pulling the sheepskins tighter around them. They speak:

"Do you know that this is the night of the year on which the Lord Jesus Christ was born?" "Oh yes," replied the boy. "You were with the sheep that night?" "Yes." "Where did it happen?" the lad inquired. "Here, on this very spot just fifty years ago. I was fourteen and a stout boy for my age. I had been in the fields for two years with my father, and I had tasted the hardships and dangers of the shepherd's life.

On that night, my father and his brother, James, and Hosea, the son of John, a neighbor and kinsman, were tending the flock. About an hour after it had grown dark, I saw my father rise to his feet. Then we all sprang up with astonishment and wonder. It had grown light all at once, lighter than the brightest moon. Looking, I saw a majestic figure whose beauty was beyond words. He spoke and his voice was clearer than any trumpet and sweeter than any lute. 'Be not afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For there is born to you this day, in the City of David, a Saviour, which is the Messiah King. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find a

Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' Before we could make reply, he turned aside and looked upward and said 'Glory to God in the highest!' And a great chorus took up the song filling the air! Then the tones came softer, 'Peace on earth, good will toward men.' As quickly as it had begun, the chorus ceased and the echoes, one after another, died away, and the glory faded out and the stars came back again.

The first to break the silence was my father. 'Come, let us to Bethlehem and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us.' The sheep were quickly gathered into the fold and we hastened to Bethlehem. We arrived at the city but did not know where to go. 'Let us go to the inn,' said my father. We found the courtyard filled to overflowing. We asked two aged women if an infant has been born among the guests. They said, 'There has been a Man Child. He is lying in a manger there in the cave which serves as the stable.' We hastened to the mouth of the cave. A strong man was leaning on his staff above the manger, and a beautiful young woman lay close beside it. In the rock-hewn crib, on a bed of straw, lay the infant. My father spoke to the woman, 'Hail, thou blessed among women! This child is a Prince and a Saviour!'

In the early morning, we came back again to our pastures and our flocks, rejoicing to stand in the place where the glory of God had shown and the music of heaven had filled the air."

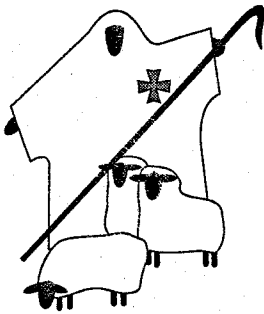
(continued)

"It must have been wonderful, grandfather. But we know now the Messiah was not to be an earthly king. For his earthly throne was a cross where he gave his life as a ransom for sin. Yet, father tells me the tomb did not hold Jesus. For God raised him from death and he lives with God in the highest heaven."

*Adapted from Christ and the Fine Arts,
Maus, page 79ff*

As we participate in this story through our imaginations, may I urge you to make the decision to receive the Lord Jesus Christ into your life. Christmas is not only a beautiful story of a child born in a stable, it is also the history of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have Eternal Life."

Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Karyne Carey: "God is good! He has successfully carried me through the first two phases of my treatment, chemotherapy and surgery. I am so thankful! I am also thankful for all of the loving acts of support from First English - the cards, the phone calls, the e-mails, the visits, the signed poster of encouragement, the prayer shawl, the courage angel and flowers from Lydia Circle, the wonderful soups, the

hospital visits by the pastors, and most of all the many, many prayers offered on my behalf. Through all of these I have felt God's loving care. My surgeon said that it is a miracle I'm still here. I believe it!"

From Harold Simmons, Bill Simmons, Patty Smith, and Gary Simmons: "I wish to thank all the people who sent cards, made phone calls, or personally expressed their sympathy at the loss of our wife and mother, Pat Simmons. We know that she is in a better place and not suffering. We would also like to thank the ladies for the lunch after the funeral."

From Mildred Them: "To members of First Lutheran Church and Children of the Day School, Thank you for the beautiful cards and all the names on the sheet for my birthday. Thank you all for the time it took to send me all the beautiful cards. I had a lovely birthday with 31 cards. Thanks to all of you. I'm so blessed."



DECEMBER 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Warm greetings to our members who will be 80+ years old this month! We extend our best wishes to each of them, and honor them for their faithfulness through the years. God grant His blessing on each of them and fill their hearts with joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

DECEMBER

3	Mrs. Mabel Wolf	682 Katherine Ave., Unit A Ashland, OH	44805
3	Mrs. Ruth Schmunk	1355 Beechdale Dr.	44907-2801
4	Mr. Robert Bottomley	1211 W. Cook Rd.	44906-3570
4	Mr. Nick Angle	1066 Lexwood Rd.	44907-2920
7	Dr. Betty Reed	PO Box 367, Butler, OH	44822-0367
10	Mr. Edward Holder	1159 Wyandotte Ave., #206	44906-1940
19	Mr. William Zacharias	107 Redwood Rd.	44907-2453
24	Mrs. Virginia Horvath	455 Logan Rd., Apt. 25	44907-2874
25	Mrs. Marjorie Huffman	5 Aspen Drive, #205 South Burlington, VT	05403-6267

*Editor's note: if you **DO NOT WANT** your 80+ birthday published in The Visitor, please let the church office know, 419-522-0662.*

MEMORIALS

ENDOWMENT FUND

Pat Simmons:

Eleanor Schmucker
William Simmons
Tressa Scheiber Reith
Joyce Wagner
Florence Reinhard
Joann Palm
Dorothy Brenner
Eugene and Edna Marshall
Jan Beddard
Allan and Mary Manteuffel
Clancy and Carol Lauthers
Bill and Mary Ellen Schulz
Leonard and Betty Claypool
Tom and Dot Blaney

Marie Young:

Clancy and Carol Lauthers

Robert Enskat:

Tom and Dot Blaney

MEMORIAL FUND

Pat Simmons:

Jack and Pat Leonard

YOUTH MINISTRY

Pat Simmons:

David Prather

Robert Enskat:

David Prather

MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

Pat Simmons:

Eugene Harsch
Wes and Sandie Volz
Ken and Deb Brenner
William Simmons
Tom and Jeanne Hillman
Lana Conry
Charlotte Bottomley
Helen Anderson
Dr. Tarun and Kuldeep Patel

Robert Enskat:

Gene Harsch
Bill and Mary Ellen Schulz
John and Katherine Fernyak
Lydia Reid

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Pat Simmons:

Bill and Mary Schwartz
Miriam Dye
Marilyn Dinges
Jim Hannewald
Brian and Kay Jewett
Glen and Jane Eggeman
Ted and Karen Ellis

Robert Enskat:

Joe and Karyne Carey
Ted and Karen Ellis
Wes and Sandie Volz

Norma Price:

Ted and Karen Ellis

Minnie Fraifogl:

Katherine Coon

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	

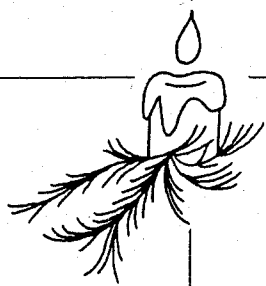
First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

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	Don Harruff	Property	Shawn Volz
Secretary	Mary Schwartz	Service Ministry	Becky Sarbach
Christian Day School	Linda Elgin	Stewardship	Jan Fisher
Christian Education	Chris Cichanowicz	Worship	Roscoe Thompson, III
Congregational Life	Luella Diday	Youth Ministry	Teri Brenkus
Evangelism	Steve Ritz	SCS Superintendent	Chris Cichanowicz
Finance	Rob Skropits	Women of the ELCA	Cheryl Lantz
Global Mission	Jeanne Hillman		

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm First Tuesday (ER) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	2 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 2:00pm Communion Deacon Training (ER) 7:00pm Advent Event (UC)	3 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	4 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	5 9:00am All Ohio ELCA Conference (Nave) 5:00pm Holy Comm (Chapel)
6 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Matins Choir Reh 9:30am 10:45 Blood Pressure 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Special Congo (UC) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Holy Comm (Nave) 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 1:00pm Special Council (UC) 5:30pm Confirm Class (ER)	7 9:30am Men's Group @ Denny's 1:00pm Finance Committee (FR) 1:00pm Sarah Circle (ER) 7:00pm Property Committee (UC) 7:30pm Lydia Circle @ Ruth Swevals'	8 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL) 7:00pm Council (UC)	9 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	10 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	11 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 11:30am Mary Circle @ Applebee's	12 9:00am Cookie Packing (UC) 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
13 8:30am Holy Comm (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Worship (Nave) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 2:00pm Special Congregational Meeting (Nave)	14 6:00pm WELCA Planning Meeting (ER) 6:30pm Small Group (3rd fl) 7:00pm CDS Committee Mtg. (FR)	15 *Visitor deadline* 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 @ Mifflin Care	16 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:30pm CDS Christmas Program (Nave)	17 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 9:30am Holy Comm @ Sterling 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	18 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30am - 2 PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER) 6:00pm Youth Christmas Cookie Baking (UC)	19 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
20 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:00am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Combined Worship w/Proclaim (Nave) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 1:15pm Caroling 5:30pm Confirm Class (ER)	21 9:30am Organ Tuning (Nave)	22 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL)	23 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	24 **CDS Closed** *Office closed* 7:00am Holy Comm Family Svc (Nave) 10:30am Music for a Holy Night (Nave) 11:00am Festival Carol Eucharist (Nave)	25 **CDS Closed** *Office closed*	26 *Food Collection* 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
27 *Food Collection* 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee	28 **CDS Closed** 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	29 **CDS Closed** 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL)	30 **CDS Closed** 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	31 **CDS Closed** 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 12:30pm Visitor Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh		

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