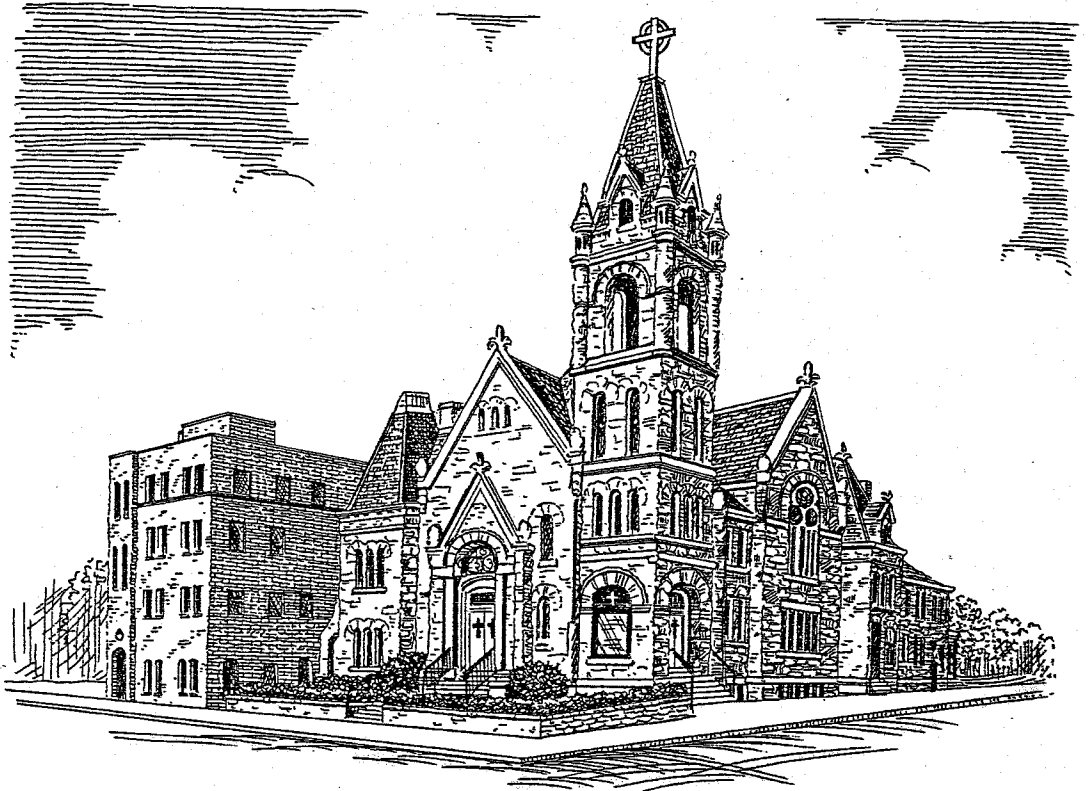


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

Volume 51

JANUARY 2009

Number 1

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Greetings Friends!

Happy New Year! I pray that this year will be one in which the words to the song “*Day By Day*,” become realized in each of our lives. In other words, I pray that you may “see God more clearly, follow God more nearly, and love God more dearly.”

A good friend recently shared with me this beautiful image from his favorite devotional:

“God is like a prism. What you see depends on how you turn the glass. Turn it in faith and see the greatness of God. Turn it in love and see the warmth of God. Turn it in hope and see the promises of God. Turn it in anticipation and see the guidance of God. Turn it in assurance and see the eternity of God.” Quiet Moments in the Presence of God, p. 214, (Bethany House, Minneapolis, 2005).

I like this picture, and it is exciting to wake up in the morning and realize that I might see and experience God in a different way that day, knowing that God is ready to meet all my needs in Him. Certainly, the days of 2009 hold many grace-filled possibilities!

As you know, 2008 has been a challenging year for most everyone in our community and nation. The year ahead holds many challenges as well. This is all the more reason that we begin each new day by firmly placing our feet on the rock solid Promises of God. In the midst of life’s uncertainties and storms, we remain anchored to Jesus our Rock, and the sure Promises of His Word. Our LORD is the Same, Yesterday, Today, and Forever! He is the Good Shepherd, Who has promised to never leave us or forsake us. He is the one who calls us to turn to Him to receive the blessing of daily bread. He is the One, Who will lead us, and if need be, carry us through all of life’s trials. He is our loving Savior, Who has already proven His love for us through Manger-Cradle, Cross, and Resurrection.

May the Presence of our Living Lord Jesus → Fill All Your Waking and Sleeping Moments in this New Year!

Christ’s Joy and Peace to You!

Pastor Paul

OFFICES CLOSED

The church offices will be closed on New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1. The Christian Day School is closed December 24 through January 4.

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2009

Altar flower sponsors are not yet assigned for the following dates in 2009. 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
11, 18, 25

June
7, 14

October
4, 25

February
1

July
5, 12, 19, 26

November
15

April
12 (Easter), 19

August
2, 30

December
6, 13, 27

May
24, 31

September
20, 27

JANUARY 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 JANUARY:

Jan 25 ➔ Congregational Meeting, 9:45 A.M. in the Nave

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
Jan 4 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator: Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,
Jan 4 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 A.M. Holy Communion service on January 11.
- Every
Sunday **Fireflies and Spirit!** children's and youth choirs rehearse during the 9:45 A.M. Sunday school hour. Director: Becky Pittman.
- Monday,
Jan 5 **Men's Group** meets at 9:30 A.M. the first Monday of the month for breakfast at Denny's on West Fourth Street in Ontario. Contact: Hal Simmons, 419-529-6586.
- Tuesday
Jan 6 **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets at 7:00 P.M. in the Emmaus Room. Knitting instruction and patterns provided. Contact: Karen Ellis, 419-884-1882 or Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820.
- Wednesday,
Jan 7 & 21 **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, 419-522-7500. *If you can sew patches to make quilt tops at home, contact Pat Reed at 419-756-1372.*
- Every
Wednesday **Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch**, 12:10 P.M. worship in the Chapel; lunch following in the undercroft.
- Every
Thursday **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,
Jan 16 **Friendly Friday Group**, 10:30 A.M. program in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at 11:30; games until 2:00. Rides available. Coordinator: Margaret Battisti, 419-526-4381.
- Sat/Sun
Jan 24 & 25 **Food Collection Weekend.** The November collection totaled 4 bags of groceries for Catholic Charities and \$73 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued support!

NO FIRST TUESDAY IN JANUARY

The *First Tuesday* lunch group will not meet in January. The next *First Tuesday* lunch and speaker will be on February 3.

WHAT'S EPIPHANY?

What is Epiphany (e PIF ah nee)? Is it relevant today? *Epiphany*, a Greek word of *manifestation or appearance* means to *show forth*.

The celebration of Epiphany, one of the festivals of the church, originated in the Mediterranean area. Its purpose was to honor Jesus' baptism. After its introduction into the Western Church in the fourth century, the theme emphasized the visit of the Wise Men (Magi), as recorded in Matthew 2:1-12, who found Jesus on the twelfth day of their journey. Scripture records a dream, warning them not to return to Herod, which they obeyed. As they left Bethlehem, they told others about the Savior. They were proclaimers

or tellers of the story of Jesus.

Today, churches celebrate Epiphany worldwide on January 6 according to various customs and traditions. White altar cloths are used for the day of Epiphany, expressing the purity and joy in seeing Jesus. Green is used throughout the Epiphany season, symbolic of new life and growth.



EPIPHANY

The challenge of Epiphany remains. Tell the story of, or "show forth" the Lord Jesus in teaching, talking, living, thinking and attitudes. It begins with a star trek to Bethlehem to find Jesus personally. Then "showing forth" the love of Jesus through compassion, understanding, patience and long-suffering to humankind.

Northeastern Ohio Lutheran

2009 Epiphany Daily Bible Reading

During Epiphany we are asking you to join with your sisters and brothers throughout the synod to read the books of Mark and Acts of the Apostles; one chapter a day beginning on Sunday, January 11 and concluding on Monday, February 23.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ◇ Jan. 11 - Mark 1 | ◇ Feb. 1 - Acts 6 |
| ◇ Jan. 12 - Mark 2 | ◇ Feb. 2 - Acts 7 |
| ◇ Jan. 13 - Mark 3 | ◇ Feb. 3 - Acts 8 |
| ◇ Jan. 14 - Mark 4 | ◇ Feb. 4 - Acts 9 |
| ◇ Jan. 15 - Mark 5 | ◇ Feb. 5 - Acts 10 |
| ◇ Jan. 16 - Mark 6 | ◇ Feb. 6 - Acts 11 |
| ◇ Jan. 17 - Mark 7 | ◇ Feb. 7 - Acts 12 |
| ◇ Jan. 18 - Mark 8 | ◇ Feb. 8 - Acts 13 |
| ◇ Jan. 19 - Mark 9 | ◇ Feb. 9 - Acts 14 |
| ◇ Jan. 20 - Mark 10 | ◇ Feb. 10 - Acts 15 |
| ◇ Jan. 21 - Mark 11 | ◇ Feb. 11 - Acts 16 |
| ◇ Jan. 22 - Mark 12 | ◇ Feb. 12 - Acts 17 |
| ◇ Jan. 23 - Mark 13 | ◇ Feb. 13 - Acts 18 |
| ◇ Jan. 24 - Mark 14 | ◇ Feb. 14 - Acts 19 |
| ◇ Jan. 25 - Mark 15 | ◇ Feb. 15 - Acts 20 |
| ◇ Jan. 26 - Mark 16 | ◇ Feb. 16 - Acts 21 |
| ◇ Jan. 27 - Acts 1 | ◇ Feb. 17 - Acts 22 |
| ◇ Jan. 28 - Acts 2 | ◇ Feb. 18 - Acts 23 |
| ◇ Jan. 29 - Acts 3 | ◇ Feb. 19 - Acts 24 |
| ◇ Jan. 30 - Acts 4 | ◇ Feb. 20 - Acts 25 |
| ◇ Jan. 31 - Acts 5 | ◇ Feb. 21 - Acts 26 |
| | ◇ Feb. 22 - Acts 27 |
| | ◇ Feb. 23 - Acts 28 |

BOOK OF FAITH



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.

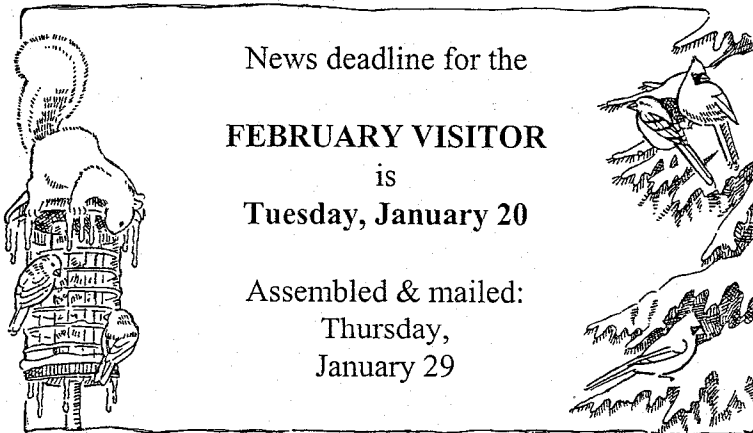
Tuesday, January 20

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

Thursday, January 22 *

9:30 A.M. Brookdale Sterling House

* 4th Thursday



News deadline for the
FEBRUARY VISITOR
is
Tuesday, January 20

Assembled & mailed:
Thursday,
January 29

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2009

9:45 A.M. — Nave

→ Presentation and Vote: 2009 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly Lay Voting Members.

→ Presentation and Vote: Proposed 2009 Budget.

Biographical information on our Synod Assembly candidates and the Proposed 2009 Budget are printed in this January 2009 issue of The Visitor.

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

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009
9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Blood
DRIVE

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

There is a critical shortage of blood and we need your help to make this blood drive a success ... please call Kay Leedy at 419-884-0405 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2009

9:45 A.M. — Nave

→ Presentation and Vote: 2009 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly
Lay Voting Members.

→ Presentation and Vote: Proposed 2009 Budget.

Biographical information on our Synod Assembly candidates is printed on pages
8 and 9 in this January Visitor.

The Proposed 2009 Budget is printed on this insert page.

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

**PLEASE BRING THIS
PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET INSERT PAGE
TO THE MEETING.**

2009 Proposed Budget

Ln No		2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	2009 Budget
INCOME					
1	Carryover (prior yr surplus)	35,521	89,584	61,038	7,197
2	Weekly Offerings	431,753	443,611	454,739	413,000
a	Weekly Envelope Offerings	417,155	430,820	440,189	401,000
b	Loose Offerings	4,140	3,774	5,000	3,700
c	Communion Offerings	8,974	8,083	8,800	7,500
d	Initial Envelope Offerings	690	629	750	800
e	Sunday School Offerings	794	305	AAR	AAR
3	Special Offerings	37,452	50,459	12,700	17,775
a	Lenten Folder Offering-Lithuania	3,006	3,552	AAR	AAR
b	Mid-Week Lenten Offering	57	42	100	150
c	Advent Folder Offering-Malawi	265	2,911	AAR	AAR
d	Christmas Offering	1,125	4,252	1,500	4,000
e	WNL Envelope Offering	2,305	2,428	2,500	2,500
f	WNL Receipts	1,127	1,202	1,200	1,200
g	WNL Grant Receipts	4,700	5,888	4,000	5,725
h	Seminary Scholarship Offering	2,395	1,333	1,000	3,000
i	WMPL - Kraft	2,599	1,754	2,400	1,200
j	Hymnals	4,090	4,069	0	
4	Special Accounts	4,358	2,921	2,000	1,300
a	Wedding & Reception Fees	265	430	500	500
b	Financial Peace University	1,560	0	1,500	800
5	Youth Ministry	5,110	9,705	10,500	8,120
6	Anderson Fund	2,040	1,793	AAR	AAR
7	Mem/Endow Gifts	18,957	81,602	AAR	AAR
8	New Millennium Appeal	0	0	0	0
9	Alpha - Small Group	2,514	1,843	2,940	900
a	Alpha		54	940	
b	Small Group Ministries		1,789	2,000	900
10	Prayer Seminar	0	9,145	AAR	AAR
11	Endowment Income		1,450	127,092	117,399
a	General Endowment	90,388	94,854	96,592	102,112
b	New Ministries & Mission	9,500	10,700	11,400	10,200
c	Major Capital Improvement			10,900	5,087
d	Payton Seminary Fund	4,302	7,700	8,200	
12	Miscellaneous	12,953	12,304	3,608	11,575
a	Blackfork Retreat Center		2,160	1,800	1,900
b	Christian Education Receipts		252	300	325
c	Parking Lot Receipts		3,628	5,000	5,700
d	Coffee Receipts		244	300	150
e	Tract Rack Receipts		134	150	150
f	Printing Receipts		248	300	300
g	Postage Receipts		96	120	150
h	Bus Operating Receipts		0	630	
i	Fellowship Receipts		100	170	100
j	Miscellaneous Income		1,834	1,650	2,000.00
k	Organ Repair				800.00

AAR - Actual Amount Received

Ln No		2006 Actual		2007 Actual		2008 Budget		2009 Budget
13	Christian Day School	360,470		346,497		362,459		349,949
14	Major Capital Fund Appeal	0		0		AAR		AAR
15	FAITH	8,620		30		0		22,955
16	TOTAL INCOME	1,023,937		1,164,198		1,043,888		950,170
EXPENSES								
17	Carryover (prior year)	0		0		0		
18	General Fund	93,551	1,742	82,109		91,834		85,502
a	Heating Expenses		34,262		34,149		45,550	40,780
b	Electric Expenses		23,482		14,982		18,900	19,550
c	Telephone/Fax/Internet		4,440		4,239		4,500	3,840
d	Water/Sewer Exp		2,475		1,428		1,430	1,440
e	Trash Removal Exp		1,640		776		864	912
f	Building, Boiler, Vehicle Ins		16,136		14,265		16,320	12,380
g	License and Permits		0		162		120	400
h	Checking Account Exp		572		485		600	1,000
i	Ohio Synod Assembly Exp		1,784		1,357		1,400	930
j	Flower Exp		2,548		2,451		AAR	AAR
k	Coffee Exp		909		813		800	1,000
l	Paper Supplies		130		215		150	250
m	Lutheran Magazine Subscriptions		519		294		AAR	AAR
n	Devotional Materials Exp		1,146		1,282		1,200	1,220
o	General Fund Miscellaneous Exp		1,766		5,211		0	1,800
19	Special Offerings/Benev	44,482	5,330	65,603	9,217	35,160		29,500
a	Northeast Ohio Synod		18,716		19,000		18,700	18,700
b	VBS Offering		400		239		AAR	AAR
c	Super Bowl of Caring		340		0		AAR	AAR
d	Adopt-A-Family		130		25		AAR	AAR
e	Lutheran World Relief		493		426		AAR	AAR
f	LWR - WELCA		69		25		AAR	AAR
g	WELCA - Thankoffering		720		824		AAR	AAR
h	ELCA - World Hunger Offering		639		634		AAR	AAR
i	Thanksgiving - Southeast Syn		0		0		AAR	AAR
j	The Store		0		0		AAR	AAR
k	Good Shepherd Home		192		186		AAR	AAR
l	Oesterlen Home		269		254		AAR	AAR
m	Seminary Scholarships		5,450		10,230		10,560	5,300
n	LOMO		171		114		AAR	AAR
o	Pastor's Discretionary Fund		200		0		AAR	AAR
p	WMPL Missionary - Kraft Family		3,000		3,889		3,000	3,000
q	WMPL Missionary - Gloria Sauce				85			
r	WMPL Missionary - Christopherson, Sorge				1,000		1,200	1,200
s	ELCA Missionary - Paul Powell		1,000		1,000		0	500
t	ELCA Missionary - Schmatzle, Companion Syn		0		0		1,700	
u	Tetelestai/Concert		988		66			
v	Financial Peace University							800
w	Miscellaneous		6,375		18,389		0	

AAR - Actual Amount Received

Ln No	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	2009 Budget	
20	Special Accts	2,758	1,980	0	50
21	Office	16,576	15,091	21,910	23,260
22	Professional Fees	9,911	10,869	10,463	4,000
23	Property	23,954	54,588	65,172	44,917
24	Personnel Committee	940	317	1,358	1,843
25	Blackfork Retreat Center	2,723	3,909	8,845	3,520
26	Christian Day School	291,840	345,143	362,274	318,812
27	Mem/Endow/Transfer funds	21,465	84,112	AAR	AAR
28	Staff				
29	Programmatic Salaries	182,555	194,930	210,600	211,501
a	Pastors' & Music Dirs' Salaries	167,220	175,620	182,345	182,345
b	FICA	11,577	12,366	13,330	13,429
c	BWC	823	959	2,058	471
d	Supply Pastor Exp	2,055	1,456	2,100	2,450
e	Supply Organist Exp	880	1,115	450	1,200
f	Coordinator Music & The Arts		3,414	10,317	11,606
30	Programmatic Benefits	82,018	83,983	89,468	93,132
a	Pension & Medical	69,282	70,818	74,968	77,332
b	Professional Expenses	9,506	9,284	10,500	10,500
c	Continuing Education	3,230	3,881	4,000	4,000
d	Cell Phone Stipends				1,300
31	Support Salaries	76,167	82,072	88,333	83,560
a	Support Staff Salaries	70,223	75,605	81,249	77,447
b	FICA	5,421	5,774	6,216	5,925
c	BWC	524	693	868	188
32	Support Benefits	212	496	900	900
33	Programs				
34	Youth Ministry	3,484	11,240	13,090	15,000
35	Anderson Fund	1,443	1,480	AAR	AAR
36	Alpha - Small Group	11,131	11,007	14,340	
37	Funded by New Ministries & Missions				10,200
a	Small Group Ministries				5,000
b	Youth & Adult Missions Teams				5,200
38	Christian Education	4,885	4,853	6,390	4,210
39	Congregational Life	849	781	3,710	1,000
40	Global Mission	1,361	2,050	2,100	1,550
41	Pastoral Care	314	227	400	875
42	Service Ministry	3,454	3,918	3,000	4,000
43	Stewardship	6,305	3,194	5,800	3,800
44	Witness	2,001	2,734	2,803	3,100
45	Worship and Music	4,180	3,865	5,938	5,938
46	Prayer Seminar	0	7,237	AAR	AAR
47	Special Task Force	46	0	0	
48	Gen Endow Repayment	47,263	8,973	0	
49	TOTAL EXPENSES	935,867	1,086,761	1,043,888	950,170
50	Budget Excess/(Deficit)	88,070	77,437	0	0

AAR - Actual Amount Received

Biographies of the 2009 Synod Assembly Candidates

Vote for 2 male and 2 female - at the January 25, 2009 Meeting

Geraldean Gallagher. Jerry is retired. She is a graduate of Central State Teachers College in Edmond, Oklahoma. Church activities include WELCA, Sarah Circle, lay reader, communion assistant, Global Mission Committee, and former church council member. Jerry volunteers at the Renaissance Theater and New Hope, and enjoys the Bellville Women's Club, reading, and time with grandchildren. She has three adult children, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Penny Ekegren. Penny is a Registered Nurse. She earned a BS in Nursing from The Ohio State University. Church activities include communion preparer, greeter, and blood pressure nurse. Penny enjoys camping, hiking, sewing, and knitting. She's been married to Ken for 35 years. They have three adult children and three adorable grandchildren.

Angie Kaschube. Angie is a wife and mother, and Assistant Marching Band Director. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Kent State University in 1999. Church activities include flute performances at worship, Sunday school teacher, 3rd floor mural painter, Christmas caroling coordinator, co-director of *40 Days of Purpose campaign*, drama skits, and past Senior Choir member. Angie is active in Mothers of PreSchoolers (MOPS), and enjoys quilting and family activities. She and Chris have been married 9 years and have two daughters, Faith, 6, and Callie, 3.

Pat Reed. Pat is a retired teacher having taught for 31 years in Madison local schools. She is a graduate of Madison High School, and earned a BS in Education from The Ohio State University. Church activities include Matins Choir, Workday Ladies, lay reader, and Library Committee. Pat enjoys crafts, sewing, and calligraphy.

Devera Ritz. (See Steve Ritz)

Alicia (Keultjes) Schulz. Alicia is Chief Magistrate, Richland County Juvenile Court. She earned a BA from the University of Iowa 1972 (French Major), and Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, IL 1983. Church activities include Matins Choir, Nominating Committee, Malawi Orphan Care Ministries, and Anderson Lecture Committee. Alicia enjoys reading, cooking, and gardening. She and husband, Henry, have 2 adult daughters, Claire (graduate school, University of Notre Dame), and Hannah (nursing student, Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY).

Ken Ekegren. Ken is a professor of Engineering Technology at North Central State College. He earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from The Ohio State University. Church activities include ALPHA, small groups, and Senior Choir. Ken enjoys camping, hiking, astronomy, foreign languages, travel, photography and videography. He and Penny have three adult children and three granddaughters.

Ken Frayer. Ken is retired from Nationwide Insurance and is currently an independent leadership coaching and mentoring consultant. He earned a BS in Manpower and Industrial Relations from The Ohio State University. Current church activities include church council president, co-chair of the Nominating Committee, small group leader, and pastors prayer partner. Past activities include chair of the Stewardship and Nominating Committees, and co-program leader for the Renewing God's House of Prayer capital campaign. Ken enjoys spending time with family, gardening and yard work, reading history novels and sports novels, Ohio State sports, and Cleveland sports. He and Karen have been married 40 years and have three adult children, three grandsons, and one great-grandson.

Greg Hughes. Greg is an engineer at IDEX AODD, Inc. (Warren Rupp). He earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Design from North Central State. Church activities include usher, greeter, assisting minister and past church council member and committee chairs. Greg enjoys art, music, sports (football, basketball, baseball) reading and travel. He and Linda have a son, Mike and daughter-in-law, Cory, and two grandchildren, Brennen (3) and Emelyn (4 months).

Christopher Kaschube. Chris is Director of Bands for Northmor Local Schools, He has a BS in Music from Kent State University (2000) and is currently a student at Capital University earning a Master of Music Education degree. Church activities include Sunday school teacher assistant, assisting minister, and drama skits. Past activities

include church council member, Synod Assembly delegate (2005, 2007), Senior Choir, and co-director of *40 Days of Purpose Campaign*. Chris enjoys family activities, the Cleveland Indians, and Cleveland Browns. He and Angie have been married 9 years and have two daughters, Faith, 6, and Callie, 3.

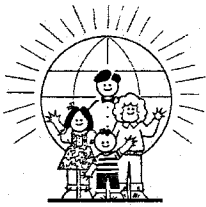
Steve Ritz. Steve is a dentist. He is a graduate of Seneca East High School, Attica, OH, and earned degrees from the University of Toledo and Case Western Reserve University. Church activities include pastors prayer partner, church council, chair of the Evangelism Committee, usher and small group leader. Steve is a soccer dad, and raises and shows horses and cattle. He is married to Devera who is a dental assistant and secretary. They have a daughter, Katie, age 10, who attends Mansfield Christian School.

Tom Sarbach. Tom is a pipefitter. He is a graduate of Loudonville High School, Dennison University, and Penn State University. Church activities include 8:30 worship power point operator and youth group leader. Tom enjoys hunting, golf, reading, and spending time with family. He is married to Becky, and children are Tommy (13), Zach (11), and Grace (4).

+ + +

Thank you to the 2008-2009 Nominating Committee for the dedicated work and prayers in compiling this slate of candidates:

Ken Frayer	Sherry Winbigler
Jane Anderson	Alicia Schulz
Mike Hill	Beth Harruff



JANUARY NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

Our Bible theme for this month is "...we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him." (Matthew 2:2) We would like to welcome everyone back from the Christmas break. The children will be ready to work on letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. They will also be learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. this month.

We would like to thank Mrs. Becky Pittman and everyone who attended the Christmas concert on December 8. The children did a great job, and we donated the canned goods collected to The Salvation Army.

The children were excited about the new toys in each classroom from the proceeds of the fund raisers. We would like to thank everyone who purchased Squirrel's Den gift certificates, and we wish everyone a Happy New Year. - Terry Bianchi, CDS Director

JANUARY 2009 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
SARAH MARY FIRST TUESDAY	NO MEETING			
LYDIA	5	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: TBA Hostess: Pat Wells
EVE	6	TUESDAY	7 P.M.	Emmaus Room Prayer Shawl Ministry Hostess: Ruth Sweval
WORKDAY LADIES	7 & 21	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor

Funeral Dinners: Squad A, Margaret Battisti

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

DAYSPRING BIRTHDAY PROJECT ENDS IN 2008 . . .

I want to thank *everyone* who has supported the monthly Dayspring birthday celebration for the last few years! I have *sincerely* enjoyed this project by our women at First English Lutheran Church and working with the Dayspring staff members, Mike McGregor and Tammy Butler who set up the birthday table with decorations, served the residents, helped present gifts, and led the singing of "Happy Birthday." I said farewell on Friday, December 5, 2008, and expressed appreciation to the staff.



If there is anyone interested in continuing this project, I would be willing to help. Thank you to those listed below for donating the birthday gifts for the Dayspring residents in the last half of 2008, and Happy New Year to you all. -Shalom, Margaret Battisti

July

Jackie Moxley
Carolyn Weeks
Suzanne LeMunyon
Ruth Sweval
Helen Anderson
Lolita Scheiber
Viola Deems
Jerry Gallagher
Margaret Battisti

August

Jan Beddard
Nancy Pasheilich
Eileen Miller

September

Jo Wirstrom
Norma Price
Marilyn Calver
Pat Wells
Jan Fisher
Kay Leedy
Mary Hayes
Linda Elgin
Evelyn Smith
Margaret Battisti

October

Ilene Miller
Marianne Sweat
Geraldine Freemon
Margaret Battisti

November

Pat Fraifogel
Pat Leonard
Lu Diday
Marianne Sweat
Margaret Battisti

December

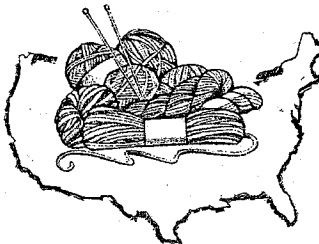
Helen Anderson
Jerry Gallagher
Carolyn Weeks
Viola Deems
Mary Schwartz
Suzanne LeMunyon
Margaret Battisti

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.

WARM UP AMERICA!

The need for warm blankets is great! During the past year, *Warm Up America!* afghans from First English Lutheran have been given to Harmony House, Lutheran Disaster Relief, the Domestic Violence Shelter, and area nursing homes. Thank you to all who have helped!

Patterns for the pieces can be found in the donation box, church office, or online at <http://www.warmupamerica.com/patterns.html>. **Check your gauge!** The cast on amount of stitches is approximate. Your finished piece should measure 7" across by 9" high.



More volunteers are needed for the *Warm Up America!* project to knit or crochet the 7 x 9" pieces, to crochet edges around the finished pieces, to sew pieces together into afghans, and to donate knitting worsted yarn!

Finished pieces and yarn donations can be placed in the *Warm Up America!* box in the Narthex. Please feel free to take any donated yarn to make pieces.

If you can help crochet edges or sew pieces together, please call Karyne Carey at 419-589-7253.

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.

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE AND HELP OUR MISSIONS! Take your recyclable materials to **Milliron Industries**, 2384 State Route 39, Mansfield, and tell them **ACCOUNT #480**. The receipts of the recyclable materials we donate in the church's name will be allocated for the missionaries and missions we support: the Kraft, Sorge, and Christopherson families; the Rytas Orphanage, Klaipeda, Lithuania; scholarships to Lithuania Christian College; and Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries, Malawi. A list of recyclables accepted is on the table in the Narthex. - Global Mission Committee

A NEW AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR DIGITAL SHUTTERBUGS!

Anyone who might be interested in taking action shot pictures of events and happenings around the activities of First English Lutheran Church is encouraged to contact Jan Fisher.



Digital Photos
opportunity

You will be expected to email your pictures to Kay Leedy and/or Matt Blankenship for posting on our website and on the power point screen. You will add a brief description of your particular pictures.

If enough people sign up, we may ask people to take a turn quarterly. That will yet be determined.

Please see Jan Fisher Sundays in the undercroft or call her at 419.589.2820.

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER, a weekend experience designed for married couples to look into themselves and their relationships with each other and with God. Dates: March 27-29, 2009 at SpringHill Suites, Solon, Ohio. Cost is \$45. For complete information about Lutheran Marriage Encounter and/or to register, contact John & Robin Legan, 2325 Meadowood Drive, Twinsburg, OH 44087; phone 330-425-2176 or email: RobinLegan@windstream.net.

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*. 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 number above.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

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

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary

419-522-0662

Acolytes

Assisting Ministers

Greeters

Lay Readers

Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

Chris Cichanowicz,

Sunday School Superintendent

419-529-6593

Nursery Helpers

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304

Pew Pad Gleaners

Roscoe Thompson, III, Worship Chair

419-522-7571

Communion Preparers

Communion Assistants

Sound Booth Operators

Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090

8:00 am Sunday Prayer Partners

Barb Hill, 419-756-4998

Blood Pressure Nurses

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247

Ushers

Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion Preparers

Proclaim! Communion Assistants

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

Children's Church Leaders

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

Jan 3	Elva Bonser	Jan 24	Joci Kirst
Jan 10	Elva Bonser	Jan 31	Elva Bonser
Jan 17	Joci Kirst		

GREETERS

8:30 A.M.

Steve Ritz Family	Narhex
Mary Hujus	East Entrance

USHERS

8:30 A.M.

Larry Faith
Rebecca Faith

GREETERS

11:00 A.M.

Glen & Jane Eggeman	Narhex
Shelley Shupp	East Entrance

USHERS

11:00 A.M.

Bill Schwartz
Mary Schwartz
Harold Simmons
Dick Layer

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

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

PEW PAD GLEANERS

Jan 4	Ronda Rehm	Jan 18	Viola Deems
Jan 11	Lana Conry	Jan 25	Sharon Bowden

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Jan 4	Greg Hughes	Jan 18	Terry Leedy
Jan 11	Bob McCready	Jan 25	Stan Cichanowicz

ACOLYTES

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Jan 4	A Kate Hogsette	A Erin Blankenship
Jan 11	A Trayce Prather	A Rachel Shupp
Jan 18	A Michael Ward	A Haley Pittman
Jan 25	A Paul Hogsette	A Elizabeth Volz

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

Jan 3	Kay McNaul	Jan 24	Jean Ridenour
Jan 10	Jean Ridenour	Jan 31	Kay McNaul
Jan 17	Kay McNaul		

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Jan 4	Liz Prather	Jo Wirstrom
Jan 11	Jerry Gallagher	Helen Anderson
Jan 18	Mary Hujus	Stacey Crall
Jan 25	Pat Reed	Annette Doklovic

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:00 am</u>
Jan 4	Henry Keultjes	Pat Reed
Jan 11	Stan Cichanowicz	Ron Rehm
Jan 18	Cindy Russell	Betty Guenther
Jan 25	Betty Guenther	Jodi Mumaw

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Jan 4 11:00 am Marilyn Dinges & Shelley Shupp
Jan 11 8:30 am Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>Jan 4 - 11:00 am</u>	<u>Jan 11 - 8:30 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West	Jack Leonard	John Fraifogl
Cups West	Pat Leonard	Pat Fraifogl
Wine East	Jane Sprang	Steve Ritz
Cups East	Jo Wirstrom	Devera Ritz
Intinction	Pat Wells	Jerry Gallagher

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Property Committee

8:30 POWER POINT OPERATORS

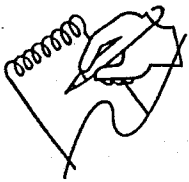
Jan 4	Tom Sarbach	Jan 18	Paul Ward
Jan 11	Gordon Moxley	Jan 25	Tom Sarbach

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

January 4: Jane Anderson

JANUARY ALTAR WORKERS

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



Council Notes

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, December 9, 2008 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 P.M. Mary Schwartz opened the

meeting with prayer.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Rob Skropits presented and reviewed the proposed 2009 budget of First English Lutheran Church. The Finance Committee recommended all staff salaries for 2009 be frozen, to remain the same as the 2008 salaries. It was pointed out that, as of December 8, 2008, pledges for 2009 present more than a \$93,000 shortfall. Council approved the 2009 budget to be presented to the congregation during the Annual Congregational budget meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009, 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. It was noted that there is a FAITH line of \$17,809 in the budget. Financial reports, accounts payable and receivable, will be done in house beginning January 2009. Appreciation was expressed to the Finance Committee for all their work in preparing the budget.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the worship services at St. Athanasius Orthodox Church in Nicholasville, KY the weekend of December 6 and 7. He will attend an ELCA Head of Staff meeting February 4 to 8, 2009. Council approved the following new members to be received into membership on Sunday, December 14: Lois Brown, Dawn Buttermann and son, Taylor Grossenbacher, Rev. Carl Cunfer, Sonya Keller and children, Charles and Lillian, Eleanor Schmucker and William Smith.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones stated he has been doing a lot of hospital visits with some of them in Columbus. He has been working on computers for CDS, Pastor Larson, and one for the sound booth. He has been meeting with small group leaders and had a meeting for all leaders recently. He will attend a Synod leadership retreat January 20-22, 2009.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Dr. Tim Guenther reported he is in the midst of Advent preparations and giving final exams at Ashland University.

PROPERTY: The Property Committee report stated: There is still a need to donate the church van to a group or organization. Four tons of salt for the parking lots was purchased for \$980.00. Wes Volz finished repairing a broken stained glass window from behind the sound booth. When money becomes available, the window will be re-installed. The roof project was finished Friday, December 5, 2008. On November 15, 2008, water came into the building from an unprotected area of the roof, damaging the light dimmer control in the sound booth, the sound board, and plaster and wood throughout the rear of the sanctuary.

(continued)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Lu Diday said Angie Kaschube is organizing the Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 21, with a light meal served following the 11:00 A.M. worship service before caroling to homebound church members.

EVANGELISM: Steve Ritz recommended and Council approved, that an invitation be extended to Upper Arlington Lutheran Church to present Tetelestai the weekend of March 27, 2009. There may be a need to provide overnight accommodations and a meal for the performers.

STEWARDSHIP: Renee Ward stated Advent letters and envelopes were mailed. Her committee will be discussing Time and Talents with the pastors.

SERVICE MINISTRY: Becky Sarbach reported \$354.00 and some food items were collected from the Thanksgiving offering to benefit the Salvation Army food pantry. Crates will be placed in the Narthex for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas drive to benefit Harmony House.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz reported an assistant is needed for Tricia Volz's Sunday School Class, and volunteers are needed for Children's Church. She mentioned the Newhope Music Therapy program held each Thursday.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: Linda Elgin said CDS has a new computer. There are 95 students enrolled as of November 30. The

CDS Christmas program was well attended and Becky Pittman did a wonderful job leading the program.

YOUTH: Annette Doklovic said the Youth Group will be baking cookies for sale by donation on December 20 and 21. Council approved 2009 fund raisers with some as follows: Christmas and Valentine cookies, Spud Fest, Steam Threshers Show concession stand, Rent a Kid, selling water at the Miss Ohio Parade plus other possible fund raisers.

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor Larson presented and reviewed the Continuing Resolution regarding Guidelines of: The James Dickson Endowment Fund with Council approving the document as presented. Pastor Larson expressed appreciation to Amy Skropits for her pro bono work on this document. The James Dickson Endowment Fund Committee is as follows: Council Executive Committee members-Pastor Larson, Pastor Jones, Ken Frayer, Gene Harsch and Mary Schwartz, Jan Beddard and Lowell Weeks.

The Staff/Council Christmas party will be held Friday, January 9, 2009, 6:00 P.M., at the home of Ken and Karen Frayer, with information distributed to each Council and staff member.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M. with prayer by Pastor Larson.

—Mary M. Schwartz,
Congregation Council Secretary



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

MALAWI

ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

Thank you to everyone who has prayerfully and financially supported the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries in 2008. Because of your donations, orphaned children in Malawi, Africa were able to receive food and Biblical teachings in this past year. Some orphans are able to attend high school this school year because of the money that you gave. Please continue to prayerfully and financially support this ministry.

We are waiting for a complete report on the bus business that was started in early 2008. Once we receive the bus report, we will share it in future articles.

Please continue to pray for:

--the children of Kanyenyeva to grow in Christ and stay healthy physically;
--Shadreck, Yami and Shamiso;
--for continued safety for Shadreck during his travels for the orphan project and his campaign;

--for the people of Malawi to work to end the HIV crisis and not ignore it;
--for good nutrition and health for the orphans and their caregivers;
--for adequate housing for the orphans and their caregivers;
--for a proper well to be dug at the orphan project;
--for the bus business to continue to succeed;
--for God to be glorified in the work of the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries;
--for the witness of Calvary Church and its pastor, Tom Mambo;
--for guidance in how FELC, Calvary Church and the Orphan project can work together to glorify God and help the people of Kanyenyeva.

- Joy Jones

ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE DECEMBER 2008

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

Luke 2:15

Let's go! Now! When angels came to some shepherds with a brilliant message one night long ago, the shepherds had a brilliant idea. Let's go! Let's see what God is doing! The unknown dangers of the night did not hold them back. Perhaps they knew that some of God's best work is done under the cover of darkness -- the creation of all things, wrestling with Jacob, Israel's escape from slavery.

Or maybe they didn't. Maybe all they needed was the announcement of what God was up to this time. This time God would be conducting a rescue like none

before -- saving the whole world, bringing peace and goodwill. Once again it's an undercover operation -- God hidden deep in the flesh and working "under the sign of opposites" (as Martin Luther called it). Arriving as a baby in diapers, God's Son recruited tax collectors and fishermen, social misfits and despised sinners in a rescue mission that culminated in the hidden power of the cross.

What if the shepherds had yawned, "That's interesting, some other time," and remained sitting in the night, in the dirt, in the comfort of predictable hardships and familiar enemies? Would promised joy have found them anyway? Let's not test that speculation with our lives. Let's go! Let's see what God is doing!

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



How much of Eternity Is in what I am Doing Today?

I know that most of you have already heard me talk about how much I enjoy my Daily Walk Bible, but it is Good News that I just can't keep from sharing. For the longest time, my experience of reading through the Bible was filled with way too much frustration. I lost track of the number of times that I had (with all good intentions) committed myself to "Daily Bible Reading – With the GOAL of Reading through my Bible in a Year." It is a great goal, but I failed at it TOO many times to count. Somewhere along the way, I would suddenly run into a whole string of crazy busy days. Suddenly, I would realize that I was hopelessly behind! Catching-up would look so overwhelming --- I must confess that I would just give up.

But now, I have found a devotional Bible that has really made a difference in my life. It is called The Daily Walk Bible by Tyndale Press. What makes this one different? It is arranged with "*365 Daily Devotional Helps to Guide You through the Bible in One Year.*"

Does this mean that now, for the first time, EVERY single day, I complete my Daily Bible Reading Goal? ... NO! But there are two important differences in the way THIS devotional Bible is set-up.

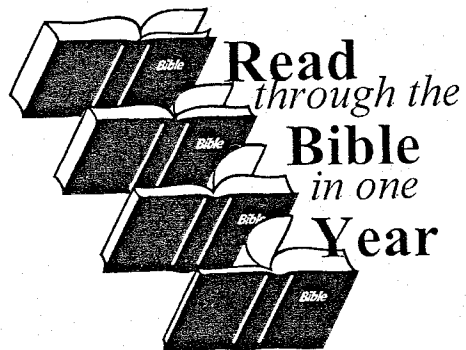
First of all, the readings are not numbered from 1 to 365. Instead, they are divided by the days of the year and marked accordingly, for example: "June 1st, June 2nd, etc." So if you get out of the daily rhythm for a few days, or a few weeks, ...or even a few months, you DON'T start where you left-off and try to catch-up. This is where most of us feel overwhelmed & give-up. Instead, you accept that what happened and jump back in. If you didn't get to your daily Bible reading ... GOD still Forgives! So... Receive His Forgiveness & Grace! And Embrace His Gift of a NEW Beginning and Start Again Today! **It is the difference between letting oppressive Guilt defeat you and embracing God's Grace to inspire you! I prefer GRACE!**

Secondly, and The VERY BEST thing about this great Bible, is the Daily Devotional Thoughts that preface each Daily Scripture Reading. This will now be my 6th year of doing this→ But I continue to find myself learning things I never knew! God's Word continues to come ALIVE in exciting new ways. I am experiencing the Blessing of growing closer to my LORD as I hear Him speak to the realities of my life as I read His Word. Pastor Nicky Gumbel in the ALPHA course states:

"God still speaks today through the Scriptures. He may speak to us as we read. The psalmist says, 'Your statutes ... are my counselors' (Psalm 119:24). That is not to say that we find God's will by opening the Bible anywhere at random and seeing what it says. Rather, as we develop the habit of regular, methodical Bible study we begin to find it quite extraordinary how appropriate each day's reading seems to be for the particular circumstances in which we find ourselves. Sometimes the verse seems to almost leap off the page at us, and we sense GOD speaking through it."

I began this note to you with a quote from the daily devotional for MAY 14th: "*We must ask ourselves: How much of Eternity Is in what we are Doing?*" So many people, events, obligations, and organizations will compete for your Time, your Talents, and your Commitments in 2009. There are equally as many causes, and organizations, and things that will compete for your money. I would invite you Today to ask yourself: "*How much of Eternity Is in what I am Doing?*" Maybe, daily spending time with your LORD in His Word is an important way to begin.

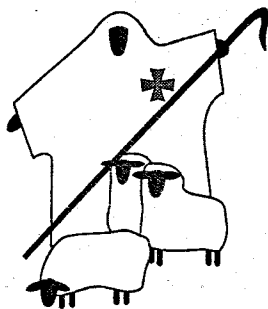
Together In His Service,
Pastor Paul L. Larson



Read Through the BIBLE In One Year

So Here's the INVITATION!

- **First**, This is not about being a Bible expert and having all the answers. *This is about having a hunger for God and His Word. This is about being eager to learn.* If you want a weekly place where you can ask questions about what you have read in your Bible during the last week, I will again be meeting with you in our new Narthex Lounge on Tuesdays over the Lunch Hour (12:00-1:00pm). Bring your Bible and a Sandwich if you like. Invite a friend or co-worker. If Tuesdays don't work for you, there's another opportunity on Sunday Mornings (9:45-10:45am in the Emmaus Room.) Pick the time that works best for you! If your schedule changes, don't worry, just come when you can. This is a great time to ask questions and grow together in our understanding of God's Word for our daily lives.
- **Secondly**, If you would like to join me in this wonderful "Walk Thru the Bible", we have made arrangements so that you can purchase a copy of The Daily Walk Bible at a special discount price of \$20 for softcover and \$25 for hardbound. Check with the church office.
- **Thirdly**, Don't worry about understanding everything that you read. None of us do! This is not about Bible quizzes. This is about spending time with your Lord Jesus in the Gift of His Word. This is about GRACE!
- **Fourthly**, Don't worry about getting behind. I think almost everybody does. If you do get behind, (and most of us do) just jump back in again! Remember → This is about GRACE!
- **Fifthly**, This is the BEST thing I have done for myself to intentionally grow in my relationship with my Lord Jesus. I have every confidence that it will continue to be the BEST thing I do in 2008! Even if you can't join us for our discussion times, I know that you too will still be wonderfully BLESSED to be more and more in God's Word.



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Karen Ellis, coordinator: "A most special thank you to everyone who baked cookies for our shut-ins, those who helped pack them, and those who delivered them. You know who you are, and I pray that God has blessed you for this generous giving of time to someone in need of your love."

We were blessed to receive new members during the worship services the weekend of December 14: **Lois Brown; Dawn Butterman and son, Taylor Grossenbacher; the Rev. Carl Cunfer; Sonya Keller and children, Charles and Lillian; Eleanor Schmucker; and William Smith.** Welcome to the family of our Lord at First English Lutheran Church!

From Edna Stevens: "Dear Friends at First English Lutheran Church, A great big thank you for the lovely gift of home made cookies and also for the wonderful pen. Friends are a little bit of heaven on earth. Love to all."

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

From Tom & Evelyn Woodard: "We want to thank everyone for the wonderful, yummy surprise-cookies. They were delicious. We dearly appreciate everything the First English Church does for us. May God bless the ones who made the cookies, the ones who put them in containers, and the ones who delivered them. Thanks, thanks, thanks, and God's blessings to all. Happy holidays."

From Stan Cichanowicz for the Ontario Lions Club: "I am happy to report that to date over 100 pairs of used eyeglasses have been donated by members of FELC to the Lions Club. As you may know, the glasses will now be processed for use in Third World countries. Needy persons in the world will now have their vision improved - something that wouldn't have happened without your help. Thank you and God bless you."

From Angie Kaschube, Caroling Coordinator: "Thank you to the 35 people who went caroling on December 21! And a big thank you to Lu Diday who prepared lunch for the carolers."

From Catholic Charities: "Thank you for your donation of food. It is greatly appreciated. Catholic Charities in Richland County provides rental, utility, food, medical bill and prescription assistance to eligible individuals. Funding is received via United Way, the Richland County Foundation, and the Ada Ford Foundation. Your donation compliments this funding and enables us to assist the growing needs in our community."
- Rebecca Owens, Site Manager

From Mike Hughes, seminarian: Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ at First English!

As I sit down to express my gratitude for your prayerful support and update you on my experience of seminary, I am a bit surprised to discover that I am already in my fifth month of a year-long internship. Since the beginning of August, I have been serving as “vicar” at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Virginia. These past months have been filled with many joys and challenges, altogether exceeding my expectations for a fruitful internship experience.

One tremendous joy was the birth of our daughter, Emelyn Elaine, on our eighth wedding anniversary—just days before I left for Virginia. As you can imagine, we’ve experienced a fair share of adventure in packing up and leaving all that was familiar to enter into the relative unknown of occupational vocation, geographical location, and parenthood of two children. Such adventure has certainly not been without its challenges, but I’m beginning to get the feel of being a vicar, we’re growing into the idea of being a family of four (even Brennen), and we’re quite enjoying the late-autumn weather (at the risk of making you jealous, I’ll share that today the temperature is a mild 70°).

My internship experience at St. Mark has been similar to that of any intern in that there are opportunities for preaching on a regular basis, for pastoral care to people of all ages, and for outreach to communities both local and global. Of course, there are aspects of ministry unique to this site as well, such as the congregation’s relative proximity to Washington D.C., which provided us with the opportunity to attend the Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in October; and “Café St. Mark,” a ministry which exemplifies hospitality and excellence in food service. I am relishing the return to the rhythms of work in a parish setting—a nice break from the much different rhythms of academic life.

With the passing of each week and month, I reflect upon my experience thus far, and I continually have reason to give thanks for my time with you. Thank you for your faithful witness and support. May God continue to richly bless you and your ministry.

In the joy of the One for whom we wait and in whose Name we serve: Jesus!

Mike Hughes (a.k.a. “the Vicar”)

Congratulations to Roscoe and Nancy Thompson on the birth of a son on December 18, 2008; 9 lbs, 6 oz. He joins siblings Roscoe, IV, Tiffany, Isaiah, Victoria, Charlton, and Trevor.

Cookie Sale Fund Raiser a Success! Grateful thanks to everyone who supported the youth Christmas cookie sale December 20 & 21 with your generous donations. The total of \$623 will be used for 2009 youth activities and events.

From Elaine & Weldon Lemon: “We want to thank everyone for the cards and signing the posters.”

From June Carpenter: “Thank you for the cookies. It is so heart warming to know that other folks are remembering you in thoughts and prayers. God bless us all.”

Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Kristi and I would like to express our grateful thanks to all of our First English Family for your many gifts of love and caring throughout this past year. You have been a sign of God's Love to us.

Your patience, love, and wisdom continue to be a great gift to us in the mutual ministry we share together. Your friendships filled with joy and encouragement are a continued source of inspiration. We remember you daily in our prayers, giving thanks to God for the great blessing you are in our lives.

Thank you for the many beautiful Christmas greetings we received this past Christmas and all your wonderful gifts. Each has been so greatly appreciated! You have truly shared with us the JOY and LOVE of our Savior's birth!

May Christ richly bless you and your families in this new Epiphany Season as we celebrate the revelation of the Child born in Bethlehem. May the light of Bethlehem's star call each one of us to kneel before our Savior, where wisemen still seek Him.

God's Joy and Peace to you and your families in the gift of this New Year!

Love,

Pastor Paul and Kristi



JANUARY 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

We honor our members who will be 80+ years of age this month! We congratulate each of them on their special day, and thank them for their faithfulness in our congregation through the years. May God grant them joy and peace as they face the new year.

JANUARY

2	Mrs. Patricia Hagerman	1665 Executive Ct., Apt 119	44907-2674
3	Mr. Thomas Woodard	3025 Possum Run Road	44903-7505
3	Mrs. Arlene Marlow	78 Massa Ave.	44907-1224
4	Mrs. Lois McCullough	70 Elmridge Road	44907-2442
6	Mrs. Betty Claypool	1510 Victory St.	44905-2251
7	Mrs. Evelyn Woodard	3025 Possum Run Rd.	44903-7505
9	Mr. Weldon Lemon	546 Connor Dr.	44905-2027
9	Mr. James Richey	Woodlawn Nursing Home 535 Lexington Ave.	44907-1502
12	Mr. Ervin Brune	2127 Crimson Rd.	44903-8859
17	Mrs. Betty Theaker	1671 Middle-Bellville Rd.	44904-1827
21	Mrs. Eileen Diffenbaugh	891 West 9 th Ave., Columbus, OH	43212
22	Mrs. Phyllis Cornell	556 Birchlawn Blvd.	44907-2714
24	Mrs. Louise Effler	620 Manchester Road	44903
31	Mrs. Adelia Hautzenroeder	95 Brinkerhoff Ave.	44906

*Editor's note: if you **DO NOT WANT** your 80+ birthday published in The Visitor in 2009, please let the church office know, 419-522-0662.*



We remember the families and friends of those who died November 22 - December 21, 2008:

Daale Maier	December 1
<i>(uncle of Ken Frayer)</i>	
Cynthia Mueller	December 3
<i>(daughter of Mary Wendland)</i>	
Helen Brillhart	December 14
<i>(sister of Jane Eggeman)</i>	
George Stafford	December 18
Bonnie Foland	December 21
<i>(mother of Connie Stewart)</i>	

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

PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral: December 22, 2008 George Stafford

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

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

David Wolf:

James Kitts
Susan Pierce
Cynthia Yost
Judith Kitchen
Maryellen Kahn

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND

Don Beddard:

Dean & Pat Wells

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Stephanie Barry:

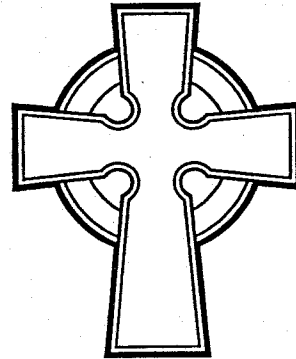
Bill & Mary Schwartz

HONORARIUM -

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

First English Lutheran Church Staff:

Rev. Cloyd & Alice Kress



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.

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
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 Voiz
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		