

THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

IN THIS ISSUE **PAGE**

Senior Pastor 1

Time & Talent Sunday May 31 2
 5th Sunday - One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

First Tuesday Lunch Group 3
 June Worship
 Anyone Moving (change of address)

Men's Group 4
 Workday Ladies
 Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch
 Matins Choir Rehearsal
 Music Therapy with Richland Newhope
 Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal
 Senior Choir Rehearsal
 Friendly Friday Group
 Food Collection

Worship Encounter with Andrew Ironside ... 5

"Pies for Paula" Fund Raiser 6
 Communion Services at Nursing Homes

July Visitor Deadline 7
 SonRock Kids Camp - VBS in July
 June News in the Christian Day School

June WELCA Calendar 8
 Kits for LWR: Sewing Kits in June

Goodies for Camp Mowana Counselors 9

May Church Council Notes 10

Requests to the Prayer Chain 12
 Volunteer Scheduling Contacts

June Volunteers 13-15

+++ **JUNE CALENDAR** +++

Election Results 16
 The Stewardship Corner

Malawi Orphan Care Ministries 17

Global Mission News 18

Recycle Used Ink Cartridges 19
 FELC Library Notes

NEO Synod Assembly Report 20

Within the Fold 21

June 80+ Birthdays 22

From Our Visitation Pastor 23

Deaths 24
 Pastoral Acts

Memorials 25
 Let Your Life Be a Legacy

FELC High School Graduates 26
 FELC Email Addresses and Web Site

Mission Statement 27
 Church Staff/Congregation Officers



For Such a Time as This!

And Mordecai said: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:13-14

Dear Friends in Christ:

Each year as I again read through my Bible, I am moved by how powerful and timeless is God's Word in its ability to speak to us today. In our "Daily Walk Bibles" we have just completed reading the story of Esther. (It's a short little book in your Old Testament and a great read!)

The Book of Esther is the story of a beautiful Jewish girl who rises from obscurity to royal prominence when she becomes the new queen of Persia. It is a story filled with evil palace intrigue which is overcome by courageous faith. Although God's name is not mentioned anywhere in the account, His Hand is visible everywhere. He is the One working through mere mortals to place Esther in the Persian palace as her people's advocate. He is the One who, at just the right time, acts to reveal to a sleepless King - the great integrity of his Jewish servant Mordecai. Just when it looks like all the Jews living in Persia about to be destroyed - when all hope seems to be lost - God is still at work!

It is truly amazing how quickly we credit our "setbacks" in life to our "bad luck," and our "successes" in life to our "hard work." As you read the Book of Esther, you will find a remarkable assortment of setbacks and successes. But one common thread runs through them all: GOD was at work behind the scenes. Esther's unexpected promotion, Mordecai's forgotten act of heroism --- neither was an accident. Rather, God was at work, weaving a beautiful lesson on His sovereignty from the seemingly wild threads in their lives --- revealing that both in that day and in our day, GOD is still in control. We so often cannot see it. We mere mortals are time bound. But God is Good ALL the time! It is the promise that we read in Romans 8:28. "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." It is the reality that where we may only see confusion and crisis, God is still present. God is still at work. What we might think are mere human coincidences, are in truth → GOD-Incidents.

May you always know the Security of His Love; The Strength of His Embrace; and the Peace of His Abiding Presence --- carrying you through all the changes of this life!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Paul

TIME & TALENTS SUNDAY

May 31, 2009

Fill in the Time & Talents sheet which was in the May Visitor or get one on Sunday at worship! Time & Talents sheets will be collected at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on May 31. *Remember! 5th Sunday - One Weekend Worship Service at 10:00 a.m..*



5TH SUNDAY – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

MAY 31, 2009

One Sunday worship service at

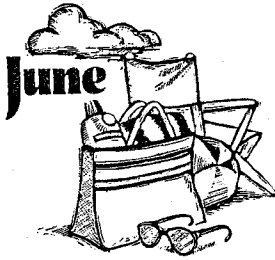
10:00 a.m.

on this weekend!

Congregational Pot Luck Lunch following worship!

Main dish provided; bring a side dish to share.





FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP **MEETS JUNE 2 . . .**

Join us for *First Tuesday* on June 2 in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at Noon. Cost is \$2.50. Della Kapple, the sister of member Juanita Baker, will speak on Ohio Covered Bridges. Everyone is welcome! Call Pat Wells with reservations by Monday, June 1, 419-756-6863.

JUNE 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).
	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 JUNE:

- June 7 ➡ Church Council Installation at Sunday services.
- June 14 ➡ "Pies for Paula" Fund Raiser after worship services.
 ➡ *Worship Encounter* with Andrew Ironside from Hillsong, Sydney, Australia
 7:00 p.m. in the Nave.
- June 28 ➡ Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Autumn Watts at the 11:00 Sunday
 Proclaim! contemporary worship service.
-

ANYONE MOVING? Let us know the date of 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.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Monday,
June 1 **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.
- Wednesday,
June 3 & 17 **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.
- Sunday,
June 7 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 A.M. Holy Communion service on June 14.
- 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). *(Last rehearsal is June 4; they will sing on Sundays June 7, 14, and 21).*
- Friday,
June 19 **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
June 27 & 28 **Food Collection Weekend**. The April collection totaled \$85 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued support!

Schedule Notes:

Prayer Shawl knitters will not meet in June, July or August.

Fireflies children's choir will not rehearse or sing again until September.

Blood pressure readings will resume in the Fall.

Worship Encounter

Andrew Ironside

from Hillsong - Sydney, Australia

and

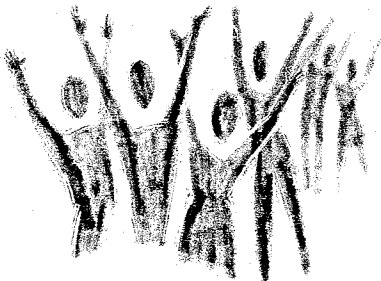
CATALYST, band from Cleveland, Ohio

Sunday, June 14, 2009

7:00 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church
53 Park Avenue West
Mansfield, Ohio 44902
419-522-0662

Respond to the Word of God!
Allow God to transform you as we
ENCOUNTER HIM together
in this *awesome* worship experience!



www.andrewironside.com

"PIES FOR PAULA" FUND RAISER SUNDAY, JUNE 14 . . .



Our first "Pies for Paula" fund raiser on May 17 was a success with \$335 raised to help support our newest missionary, Paula Powell in South Africa! **Another "Pies for Paula" will be held the weekend of June 14** after worship services with home-made pies (and pie slices) offered for a donation. Reservations for specific pies may be made (anyone making Green Tomato Pie?) Call Jeanne Hillman, 419-529-5197.

The Global Mission Committee invites women and men in the congregation to participate in the pie baking. FELC has *many* good pie bakers! Plan now to bake and donate for "Pies for Paula" on June 14!



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, June 16

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

Thursday, June 18

9:30 A.M. Brookdale Sterling House



News deadline for the

JULY VISITOR

is

Tuesday, June 16

Assembled & mailed:

Thursday, June 25

Coming Soon!

SONROCK KIDS CAMP

Vacation Bible School - July 17-19, 2009

at our Blackfork Retreat Center.

Watch for details!



**JUNE NEWS IN THE
CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .**

May the Lord bless you and keep you...Numbers 6:24 is our Bible theme for June!

With the start of summer, we welcome all our campers. They will be having fun at the retreat center as well as participating in the summer reading program at the Richland County Library. All the CDS children will be visiting the Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays to enjoy the shows. The children will also be outside at the playground most of the summer.

We at the Christian Day School have had another great school year, and we would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year. We wish everyone a fun and relaxing summer.

– Terry Bianchi, CDS Director

JUNE 2009 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
EVE	N O M E E T I N G			
PLANNING TEAM	N O M E E T I N G			
SARAH	1	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Lunch @ Der Dutchman
LYDIA	1	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Mary Schwartz'
FIRST TUESDAY	2	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room. Program: Della Kapple "Ohio Covered Bridges"
WORKDAY LADIES	3 & 17	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
MARY	12	FRIDAY	11:30 A.M.	Lunch @ Applebee's Hostess: Wilda Soka

Funeral Dinners: Squad F, Mary Schwartz and Eileen Miller.

Altar Group Worker: Beth Harruff & Jan Shenberger – Nave, Bev Graham – Chapel, Jan Fisher – Contemporary.

2009 SEWING KITS, HEALTH KITS, SCHOOL KITS, AND LAYETTES FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF . . .

Our Women of the ELCA support Lutheran World Relief by sending comforters (which our Workday Ladies are preparing), Sewing Kits, Health Kits, School Kits, and Layettes.

One kit and the items needed for it will be featured in the June, July, August, and September issues of The Visitor. Please consider completing one or more kits to add to First Lutheran's contribution.

SEWING KITS

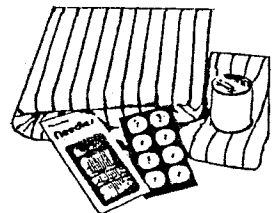
Three yards of 44" or 45" cotton or cotton blend fabric (four yards if 36")

One spool of matching thread

One package of needles for hand sewing

One card buttons

Wrap items inside fabric and tie with string or yarn.



All kits must be returned to the church as a complete kit ready for shipping. The deadline to turn in completed kits is October 4. They will be packed and then taken to Seville, Ohio, later in October for shipping.

Monetary donations for shipping costs may be placed in a pew envelope with your name, envelope number, and amount (checks payable to First English Lutheran Church. Memo line: LWR kits shipping).

— Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820

GOODIES FOR CAMP MOWANA COUNSELORS

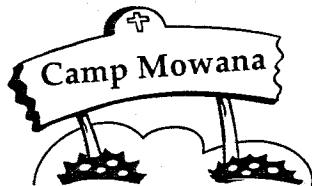
Once again WELCA is sponsoring a collection of snacks and goodies for the Camp Mowana counselors. If you are interested in helping with this project, please deposit your donations in the plastic tubs located in Luther Hall and in the Narthex.

The deadline for the collection will be June 28, and then the donations will be delivered to Camp Mowana.

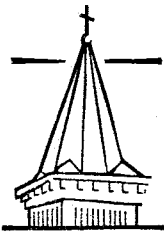
SUGGESTED ITEMS:

Packages of peanut butter and/or
cheese snack crackers
Prepackaged cookies of any variety
Candy bars or other types of candy or gum
Individual bags of chips or similar snack
Magic Markers and pads of paper
Washable marking pens in assorted colors
Nerf balls and other soft tossing items
Foam "noodles" from Dollar Store

Frisbees
Hackie sacks
Insect repellent
Games from the Dollar Store
Masking tape or duct tape
Sandwich baggies or Ziploc baggies
Anything else that you think a young
counselor would find useful!



Thank you for considering this worthwhile project for these fine young people who work with our children!



Congregation Council

MAY CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, May 12, 2009 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:05 p.m. This meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Larson.

S E N I O R

PASTOR:

Pastor Larson asked Council members to keep the Northeastern Ohio Synod and all delegates in their prayers as they gather for a one day Synod meeting on May 16. Delegates from First English Lutheran Church are Steve and Devera Ritz, Alicia Schulz, Chris Kaschube, Pastor Larson, Pastor Jones and Dr. Tim Guenther. Pastor Larson issued a reminder of the special one weekend worship service on Sunday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m. followed by a congregational potluck meal. Pentecost is celebrated that Sunday, and Time and Talent Sunday will be observed. Pastor Larson mentioned he will be on vacation June 15 to 26, 2009.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones expressed appreciation to all who participated in the CDS/Youth Sunday worship service, and in the April 26 Confirmation worship service. The Malawi Mission Team meets weekly, funding continues to come in, and airline tickets have been purchased. Due to airline schedules, the group will leave June 29, not June 30 as previously reported. Dan Shupp has secured the donation of 50 solar cookers from his

employer, Mr. Box, and Ken Ekegren has secured a donation of mirrored mylar material which will be applied to the cookers by his North Central State College students. Pastor Jones stated the cookers can be bundled and taken on the airline as luggage.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Dr. Tim Guenther reported he recently attended a good Institute of Liturgical Studies meeting at Valparaiso University.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Lu Diday stated her committee will provide the main dish for the May 31 congregational pot luck meal, asking others to bring side dishes or desserts.

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman reported 22 bakers signed up to bake 28 pies for the "Pies for Paula" fundraiser May 16 and 17. Two thousand, sixty dollars (\$2,060) was received in the Lenten offering, to be split evenly between the Lithuania Christian College and Rytas Orphanage.

SERVICE MINISTRY: Becky Sarbach mentioned The New Store needs youth

(continued)

and adult volunteers in August to help fit the students with clothes. Eleven pints of blood were collected during the May 7 blood drive.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz indicated the last day of Sunday School will be May 17 and expressed appreciation to all Sunday School teachers who gave their time, talents and dedication to teach our young people. Vacation Bible School will be held at the Blackfork Retreat Center July 17, 18 and 19.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Annette Doklovic reported 17 youth, and possibly 5 to 10 more, will participate in the summer mission trip working at Dayspring June 19, 20 and 22. Some highlights of the work will be to help with their Summer Fest, clear the hiking trail, prepare clothing for a rummage sale, build a gazebo, landscaping work and interacting with the residents. A Family Fun Day will be held at the Blackfork Retreat Center June 21, especially for fathers, and a Kid's Outing Day will be held June 23. Approximately \$481.00 was donated for

the Spud Fest in April. Appreciation was expressed to Kay Leedy for updating the Youth web site.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: Deanne Kuhn was hired to work in the infant care room. Council approved removal of a wall between two classrooms on the southwest corner of the third floor of Luther Hall. The enlarged room would enable one CDS teacher to have 10 students, instead of the 6 students currently being served.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz reported volunteers are tearing out the ceiling on the third floor of Luther hall in preparation for work on the roof project. They will look at the CDS third floor room divider work. Property Committee will be checking into parking lot sealing work this summer.

Appreciation was expressed to outgoing Council members Renee Ward, Annette Doklovic and Gene Harsch for their dedicated service.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with prayer led by Pastor Jones.

- Mary M. Schwartz
Congregation Council Secretary



REQUESTS TO THE PRAYER CHAIN

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

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

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

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary

419-522-0662

Acolytes

Assisting Ministers

Greeters

Lay Readers

Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

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

JUNE VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

June 6	Elva Bonser	June 20	Joci Kirst
June 13	Joci Kirst	June 27	Elva Bonser

GREETERS

8:30 A.M.

C. Fry & M. Runyon	Narthex
Mary Hujus	East Entrance

USHERS

8:30 A.M.

Bill West
Pearl West
Rob Skropits

GREETERS

11:00 A.M.

TBA	Narthex
Mary Shaffer	East Entrance

USHERS

11:00 A.M.

Gene Harsch
Jack Leonard

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

June 7	Jerry Gallagher, Jim Scheiber	June 21	Evelyn Smith, Rob Hogsette
June 14	Chris Cichanowicz, Lowell Weeks	June 28	Mary Schwartz, K & K Frayer

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

8-9:45 am

June 7	Stan Cichanowicz
June 14	Betty Guenther
June 21	Wes Volz
June 28	Cindy Russell

9:45-11:05 am

Shelley Shupp
Ron Rehm
Betty Guenther
Tom Hillman

8:30 POWER POINT OPERATORS

June 7	Gordon Moxley	June 21	Paul Ward
June 14	Tom Sarbach	June 28	Gordon Moxley

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

June 7	Greg Hughes	June 21	Stan Cichanowicz
June 14	Chris Kaschube	June 28	Bob McCready

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

June 6	Jean Ridenour	June 20	Jean Ridenour
June 13	Kay McNaul	June 27	Kay McNaul

8:30 A.M.

June 7	Mary Hujus
June 14	Bill Schulz
June 21	Pat Reed
June 28	Sherry Winbigler

11:00 A.M.

Jo Wirstrom
Helen Anderson
Stacey Crall
Annette Doklovič

ACOLYTES

8:30 A.M.

June 7	A	Kate Hogsette
June 14	A	Sarah Ward
June 21	A	Trayce Prather
June 28	A	Michael Ward

11:00 A.M.

A	Alissa Ruth
A	Katilyn Stransky
A	Rachel Shupp
A	Haley Pittman

COMMUNION PREPARERS

June 7	11:00 am	Bill & Mary Schwartz
June 14	8:30 am	Bill & Mary Hayes

COMMUNION SERVERS

(regular communion)

June 7 - 11:00 am

Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister
Wine West	Jim Sweat
Cups West	Marianne Sweat
Wine East	Terry Leedy
Cups East	Kay Leedy
Intinction	Beth Harruff

June 14 - 8:30 am

2 Pastors
Steve Ritz
Devera Ritz
Jerry Gallagher
Jane Anderson
Paul Theaker

PEW PAD GLEANERS

June 7 Marilyn Motson

June 21 Vi Deems

June 14 Gene Luedy

June 28 Mary Jackson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Worship Committee

JUNE ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Beth Harruff & Janet Shenberger

Chapel: Bev Graham

Proclaim!: Jan Fisher

+ + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

June 7 Ted & Karen Ellis

June 21 Elizabeth Volz

June 14 Ronda Rehm

June 28 Sarah Jones

June 21 Communion Preparer

Jan Fisher

June 21 Communion Servers

Tricia and Jessika Volz

Renee Blankenship and Lu Diday

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson

ELECTION RESULTS

Elected to the **Congregation Council** at the Annual Congregational Meeting, May 17, 2009:

Three-Year Term:

Norma Jeanne Hillman	Global Mission	Don Harruff	Vice President
Mary Schwartz	Secretary	Teri Brenkus	Youth Ministry
Jan Fisher	Stewardship		

Elected as the **2009-2010 Nominating Committee** at the Annual Congregational Meeting, May 17, 2009:

Stan Cichanowicz *	Devera Ritz
Susan Hogsette	Tom Sarbach

* The person receiving the most votes serves a two-year term. The committee will decide on a chairman at their first meeting.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER . . .

All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29:14



Dr. Mark Allan Powell in *Giving to God* writes: Many people seem to think that the reason we have an offering on Sunday morning is because the church needs to pay its bills and also wants to do good things with the money that is collected. Yes we *do* need to pay the bills of the church and we *do* need to do good things with our money . . . but that is *not* why we have an offering during the Sunday morning service.

The offering is an **act of worship**, an instance in which we are invited to give up something that we value –our money– as a sacrifice to God. In many ways it is the high point of the liturgy. We come to church to worship God and at no other point in the service are we provided with so pure an opportunity for worship as this.

– Jan Fisher, Stewardship Chair

MALAWI

ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

FELC Mission Team!

Shadreck Chikoti, the director of the orphan project, says the people of Kanyenyeva are looking forward to the arrival of our mission team later this month, **Pastor Andy and Joy Jones, Ken and Penny Ekegren, and Gary Simmons.** The mission team has spent months spiritually and logistically preparing for their trip. Please pray for the Kanyenyeva workers and the mission team as they prepare to minister to the people of Kanyenyeva together. There are many cultural differences between Malawi and the US. Please pray that the Malawians and Americans are able to work together through Christ to minister to the people in Kanyenyeva.

The mission team will fly out of Columbus, Ohio, on June 29 at 6:00 am, arriving in Lilongwe, Malawi, Africa on June 30 at 12:05 pm (Malawi time). They will then travel to the orphan project.

Throughout their time there, they will meet with the board of the orphan project and the local committee of the orphan project. They will meet with Pastor

Mambo and the people from Calvary Chapel who help at the orphan project. They will teach the local people about solar cooking and, if the funding is available, help build a permanent feeding hall. They have also been asked to assist in evangelism work in the nearby villages as well as work at the orphan project.

They will leave Lilongwe, Malawi, on July 12 at 1:00 pm (Malawi time) and arrive back in Columbus, Ohio on July 13 at 1:40 pm. Please pray for their safety in all that they will be doing. Please pray for the relationships that will be formed and deepened – that we will continue to bless one another for years to come.

Contributions towards funding this mission trip are gratefully accepted! **As of May 24, the amount raised is \$14,250.02. The total goal is \$27,000.**

Envelopes marked for the Malawi Mission Trip (found at the display in the Narthex) or a pew envelope may be used for your tax deductible donation. Checks payable to First English Lutheran Church. Memo line: Malawi Mission Trip.

– Joy Jones



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

News from the Mission Fields



Paula Powell in South Africa emails: "I was surprised and very humbled to receive the beautiful prayer shawl. Thank you so very much for your church's prayers and support. I have received much more here than I could ever give back. It's the prayers and knowing that people are interested and caring about the people here who are living in squatter camps, the homeless, orphaned and HIV infected."

Paula Powell is an ELCA missionary serving in South Africa. She began her service in July 2006. Her current service: HIV/AIDS Program Assistant to two Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) offices responsible for the implementation of the HIV/AIDS program. Her birthday is October 30th. She has a son, Justin Christopher. Hobbies include reading, art, hiking, gardening, remodeling and refinishing old furniture.

Thanks to the sisters and brothers in Christ who either baked delicious pies or donated to the "Pies for Paula" fundraiser. A sum of \$335 will aid in Paula's work. The pies went so quickly, and we are sorry if you did not find your favorite pie. The next "Pies for Paula" will be June 14. We will attempt to fill any requests!

Lithuanian Missions were the recipient of the FELC Lenten offerings. Lithuania Christian College and Rytas Orphanage in Klaipeda, Lithuania, each received \$1,030.

Remember our missionaries in your prayers:

Henrik & Patty Christopherson, and daughter, Rebecca (graduating from high school in June) on home leave and study from Peru.

Nick & Shannon Kraft and family, Madison, Moises, Tucker, & T.J., with "Go Mission" in Bolivia, South America.

Paula Powell, ELCA missionary in South Africa.

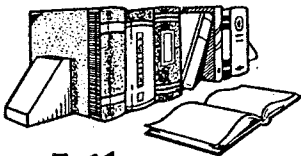
Brian & Barbara Sorge and sons, David and Joshua, in the Islands (India)

Our Malawi Mission Team is finalizing plans for their trip June 29 - July 13. Their schedule will include helping to build a permanent feeding hall for the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries and teaching how to do solar cooking. **God's blessings for a safe journey to Malawi for Pastor Andy, Joy, Ken, Penny, and Gary as they share God's work with Shadreck and our brothers and sisters of Malawi.**

RECYCLE USED INK CARTRIDGES . . .

First English Lutheran Church is receiving money for **recycling ink cartridges**. Staples has increased our rewards benefits by allowing us 20 ink cartridges per month. We could receive \$60 a month! Just bring ANY empty ink cartridges you have to the church office and we will take them to Staples. A special rewards card must accompany the cartridges when returning them, so please do not return them to Staples yourself. **As of April, we have earned \$69!**

Church



Library

We can move forward with confidence that the library ceiling won't leak anymore. Our faithful volunteers have installed wonderful lighting in the library. Your ideas about decorating or making the library more comfortable are most welcome. Help is always needed to circulate books between the main library on third floor, the Emmaus Room, the Narthex, and the Narthex lounge. Even if you don't know how to catalog or process books, can you dust? Can you enter information in the computer? Can you deliver books, records, or audio cassettes to shut-ins?

FELC LIBRARY NOTES . . .

Thank you for voting to have the Luther Hall roof repaired!

The Church and Synagogue Library Association will hold their 42nd Annual Conference in Canton, Ohio, on July 24 - 28, 2009. Registration begins Friday, July 24th, followed by a 7-9:30 p.m. service at Temple Israel Synagogue. Saturday, July 25th a pre-conference school will be held at Stark County District Library. A tour from 9 am - 2 pm includes the Pro Football Hall of Fame and McKinley Monument, with a tour of three congregational libraries planned for the afternoon. Exhibits, silent auctions, workshops, meet the authors, luncheons, dinners, good speakers, golf outings and entertainment fill the conference days. The room rate of \$79 per night at McKinley Grand Hotel is only guaranteed until July 17. **For further information, please phone Jeanne Hillman, 419-529-5197, Ashland/Richland Area Coordinator.**

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

from FELC Lay Voting Delegate Alicia Schulz

The 2009 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly took place on Saturday, May 16, in Akron. The lay delegates you elected last January, Chris Kaschube, Alicia Schulz, and Steve and Devera Ritz, along with Dr. Guenther and Pastors Larson and Jones were there - front and center (Pastor Jones runs the video camera from the table directly in front of the speakers platform so FELC delegates share that prime table space with him). There were a total of 494 voting members in attendance. Of the 318 lay delegates, 137 were male, 181 were female.

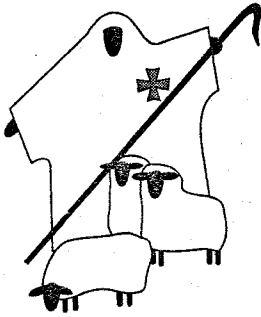
After an opening worship and communion service, much of the Assembly activity resembled other organizational business meetings: reports from officers - Vice President, Treasurer, Budget and Finance Committee chairs - reports regarding various initiatives and projects; a video message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Marc Hansen. The day was well run by Northeastern Ohio Bishop Eaton who is a very personable and entertaining speaker.

Two areas were of particular interest. (1) "Mission Minutes" was a series of perhaps a dozen speakers who were given 60 seconds each to describe some new outreach project in which the speaker is involved. Many of these were inspiring, exciting and encouraging. (2) Once again a resolution was presented for vote regarding the sexuality matter that has been at issue in the ELCA for many years. At the 2008 Assembly, a lengthy resolution on

this issue was slipped into the agenda at the last minute and brought to the vote. This year, however, the same resolution had been distributed to the delegates well in advance of the day. The NE Ohio Synod Council had considered the resolution that had been presented in 2008, had voted to recommend that a substantially different version of that resolution be adopted by the Assembly, but also determined that both versions should be presented to the Assembly. Debate was open and vigorous. The version of 2008 proposed, among other things, that federal and state legislatures include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories by which crime can be defined as a hate crime, that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity be prohibited categories of discrimination and it directed that the Synod actively advocate for such legislative measures. The much shorter resolution recommended by Synod Council and actually passed by the Assembly decried violence, discrimination and harassment because of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

We lay delegates thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in this facet of our church's work. Take the time to peruse the ELCA website to see some of the many things that are going on. www.elca.org.

Editor's note: the official Synod Assembly Report issued by the Synod office is posted on our bulletin boards.



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Dee Hautzenroeder: "Hope I can properly express the love and concern I felt from you wonderful people. Your prayers, cards, visits, flowers, poster, and the special prayer shawl all contributed to my getting well. I'm truly grateful and God willing, am trying to shape up real fast. Thanks again; love to all."

From Marjorie Kieffer: "To all who participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, I am now the recipient of one of your lovely creations. I shall value it always."

From Frank Sqrow: "To our church family, Thank you for the many good wishes for my 95th birthday. The signing of the congregation poster, Pastor Larson's and the children of the Day School's hand-made cards, and lovely card from the Cairns' all made my birthday very special. Many blessings to all."

From Maxine Zimmerman: "Thank you to all who sent cards and/or attended my birthday party, and for the special poster signed by so many friends. It is such a great feeling to have such a wonderful church family, and you are much appreciated! God bless you all."

From the family of Jean McFarland: "To the congregation of First English Lutheran, Thank you for all of your caring, support, thoughts and prayers during our mother's and grandmother's recent illness and passing. As we look back over the past weeks, it was a time filled with joy, laughter, sadness, and sorrow. Knowing that our First English Lutheran family was there through all of it was such a comfort. We cannot imagine this experience without the love and support of such a loving and caring group of people. Thank you to the pastors for the many visits and prayers, especially Pastor Larson for being there for Mom to share her thoughts and wishes with. Thank you all, and God bless each and everyone of you."

- Cindy and Robyn Russell and family

The Concert Task Force would like to thank all of you who helped to make the FELC Night of Jazz on May 17 a fun-filled success. Greeters, security, sound and clean up crews and all of the smiling faces and tapping feet, you helped to put our best foot forward. Youth group and leaders, we love you.



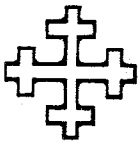
JUNE 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Birthday greetings to our members who will be 80+ years of age this month! Many of them have been long-time members of our congregation. We honor them for their faithfulness through the years. God grant His blessing to each on their special day, and fill their hearts with joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

JUNE

1	Mr. Richard Layer	865 Oakbrook Dr., Ashland	44805-3690
3	Mrs. Kathleen Holmes	Sanctuary at Tuttle Crossing 4880 Tuttle Road, Dublin, OH	43017
4	Mrs. Helen Anderson	1565 Cape Cod Dr.	44904-2142
4	Mrs. Patricia Leonard	616 Cline Ave, #114	44907-1047
11	Mr. Bennie Young	4540 Park Ave. W.	44903-8613
12	Mr. Tom Hillman	1665 Olive Dr.	44906-1755
12	Mrs. Marjorie Menefee	608 Cambridge Rd., Augusta, GA	30909
14	Mrs. June Carpenter	840 Whippoorwill Lane	44906-3487
17	Mrs. Zora Wiley	166 Marion Ave.	44903-2201
18	Mrs. Marilyn Dinges	176 S. Linden Rd., Apt 2	44906-3083
21	Mr. Gary Balliett	1194 Lucas Rd.	44905-3017
27	Mr. Harry Faust	360 James Ave., Apt A3	44907
27	Mr. Ernest Urban	444 Hedeem Dr.	44907-1034
27	Mr. Marshall Smith	1849 Cuning Dr.	44907-2221
28	Mr. Glen Eggeman	4669 Flowers Rd.	44903-8619
30	Mrs. Donna Urban	444 Hedeem Dr.	44907-1034

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



From the Pastor

FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...

Surrendering to the Father's plan was Jesus' purpose... *"I do not seek my own will but the will of Him who sent me."* (John 5:30) Jesus prayed in the Garden, *"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but Your will be done."* (Luke 22:42)

A missionary was seeking to find a word in the language of a native tribe to whom he ministered which would give them the concept of surrender and faith. As a native came into his home, he sat on a chair, for he was very tired. Suddenly, inspiration came. He translated Acts 26:31 which states: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" into these words: "Put your whole weight on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Put your burdens upon the Lord and you will not be disappointed. Surrender to God's timing in your life is important. "For His ways are not our ways nor are His thoughts our thoughts." If you have areas in your life where you feel led to surrender to God, I urge you to do so.

The betrayal, trial and death of Jesus seemed the end of the line for the disciples. When we are most broken and our hope is gone, God can step in and bring a miracle. Peter's life is an illustration of this truth. After his denial of Jesus, Peter went out and wept. His hope was gone and he had nowhere to turn but to God. And God did not disappoint him. The Holy Spirit nursed Peter back to spiritual health, making him bold in his faith. So much so that later, Peter was cautioned by the Jewish authorities to stop preaching Christ. When we are weak, God has His opportunity to use

us. When we are strong, we often seek to do things our own way and forget God.

The disciples that Jesus gathered around him were not a blue ribbon group, but just ordinary folks. God used these ordinary folks to turn the world upside down. We do not live this life alone. We have resources beyond our wildest dreams available for the asking. With God, all things are possible. If you face days that seem to be empty of hope, remember God is faithful. He is seeking us out. We need to hear His voice and follow Him.

Jesus' death and resurrection reminds us that God loves and cares for us no matter how hopeless our lives may have become. We are invited to surrender to God's plan and allow Him to work in our lives that we might have peace and joy. "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

Let us pray: Father, help me to surrender to your timing in my life. Help me to say, "My times are in your hands." I know you can work out my problems, doing it perfectly. I find it hard to give up control. Help me, Father, to break my own selfishness and turn my life over to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

– Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor



We remember the families and friends of those who died April 25 - May 22, 2009:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| Jean McFarland | May 3 |
| <i>(mother of Cindy Russell,
grandmother of Robyn Russell)</i> | |
| David Wells | May 3 |
| <i>(in Idaho, brother of Dean Wells)</i> | |
| James (Jim) Ringold | May 8 |
| <i>(husband of Lynda Ringold)</i> | |
| Virginia McBride | May 13 |
| <i>(mother of Dot Blaney)</i> | |
| June Trease | May 21 |
| <i>(sister-in-law of Ray Ellison)</i> | |

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

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals:	May 6, 2009	Jean McFarland
	May 12, 2009	James (Jim) Ringold

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

Jean McFarland:

Ray and Kathleen Baldner
Ted and Karen Ellis
Lana Conry
Lucille Baldner
Carol Way and family
John and Janice Heter
Fred and Wilma Watkins
Tom and Karen Dilgard

James Ringold:

Clancy and Carol Lauthers

Virginia McBride:

Clancy and Carol Lauthers

ENDOWMENT FUND

Virginia McBride:

Anh B. Do & Quang Truong

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF:

James Ringold:

Ruth Sweval
Juanita Baker

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Minnie Fraifogl:

Marilyn Dinges

Jean McFarland:

Wes and Sandie Volz
Susie LeMunyon

James Ringold:

Wes and Sandie Volz
Marilyn Dinges

YOUTH MINISTRY

Jean McFarland:

Tom and Jeanne Hillman

James Ringold:

David Prather
Tom and Jeanne Hillman

FELC SEMINARIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jean McFarland:

Margaret Battisti

LET YOUR LIFE BE A LEGACY

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

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

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION was Sunday, May 24, 2009. Godspeed and blessings as they head off in new directions and face new challenges:

Chelsea Heidlebaugh, Lexington High School
(daughter of Randy & Cindy Heidlebaugh)
Travis Fisher, Ontario High School
(son of Shelley and the late Mark Fisher)
Mikayla Marett, Lucas High School
(daughter of David & Kimberly Knapp)



Editor's note: listed are those known to be graduating or who notified the church office.

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	Nancy Thompson, 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	SCS Superintendent	Chris Cichanowicz
Congregational Life	Luella Diday	Worship	Roscoe Thompson, III
Evangelism	Steve Ritz	Youth Ministry	Teri Brenkus
Finance	Rob Skropits	Women of the ELCA	Cheryl Lantz
Global Mission	Jeanne Hillman		

June 2009

May

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31						

July

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30AM - Men's Group @ Denny's 7:00PM - Property Committee (UC) 7:30PM - Lydia Circle @ Schwartz'	2 9:30AM - CDS Chapel 12:00PM - First Tuesday (ER) 12:00PM - 1 PM Bible Study (NL) 6:00PM - 8 PM Malawi Mission Trip Meeting (FR)	3 8:30AM - Workday Ladies (3rd) 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:10PM - Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	4 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 2:00PM - Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC) 7:00PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00AM - Prayer Partners (NL)	6 11:00AM - 4:30 Private event (ER) 5:00PM - Holy Communion (Chapel)
7 8:30AM - Worship (Nave) 9:30AM - Matins Choir Rehearsal 9:30AM - Fellowship/Coffee 11:00AM - Holy Comm (Nave) 11:00AM - Proclaim! Contemp (UC) 12:00PM - Fellowship/Coffee	8 1:00PM - Sarah Circle lunch @ Der Dutchman 2:00PM - Finance Meeting (FR) 6:30PM - Small Group (ER)	9 9:30AM - CDS Chapel 12:00PM - 1 PM Bible Study (NL) 6:00PM - 8 PM Malawi Mission Trip Meeting (FR) 7:00PM - Council (UC)	10 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:10PM - Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	11 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 2:00PM - Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC)	12 7:00AM - Prayer Partners (NL) 11:30AM - Mary Circle-Lunch @ Applebee's	13 5:00PM - Worship (Chapel)
14 8:30AM - Holy Comm (Nave) 9:30AM - Fellowship/Coffee 11:00AM - Proclaim! Contemp (UC) 11:00AM - Worship (Nave) 12:00PM - Fellowship/Coffee 7:00PM - Andrew Ironside (Nave)	15	16 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 Center) 6:00PM - 8 PM Malawi Mission Trip Meeting (FR) *Visitor deadline*	17 8:30AM - Workday Ladies (3rd) 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:10PM - Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	18 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 9:30AM - Holy Communion (Sterling House) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 2:00PM - Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC)	19 7:00AM - Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30AM - 2:00PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER)	20 5:00PM - Worship (Chapel)
21 8:30AM - Worship (Nave) 9:30AM - Fellowship/Coffee 11:00AM - Worship (Nave) 11:00AM - Proclaim! Contemp (UC) 12:00PM - Fellowship/Coffee *Family Fun Day* (BRC)	22 7:00PM - James Dickson Fund Meeting (FR)	23 9:30AM - CDS Chapel 12:00PM - 1 PM Bible Study (NL) 6:00PM - 8 PM Malawi Mission Trip Meeting (FR) 7:00PM - Worship Committee (ER)	24 9:30AM - CDS Music (UC) 12:10PM - Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	25 9:15AM - 10:15 Music Therapy (ER) 12:00PM - Bulletin Assembly (3rd) 12:30PM - VISITOR Assembly (3rd) 2:00PM - Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30PM - Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal (UC)	26 7:00AM - Prayer Partners (NL)	27 5:00PM - Worship (Chapel) *Food Collection*
28 8:30AM - Worship (Nave) 9:30AM - Fellowship/Coffee 11:00AM - Worship (Nave) 11:00AM - Proclaim! Contemp (UC) 12:00PM - Fellowship/Coffee *Food Collection*	29 **MALAWI MISSION TRIP**	30 9:30AM - CDS Chapel 12:00PM - 1 PM Bible Study (NL) **MALAWI MISSION TRIP**				

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