

THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

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Because of the LORD'S great love
We are not consumed,
For His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Dear Friends in Christ:

During the month of August, in our *Daily Walk Bible* study program we have been reading the book of the Prophet Jeremiah and the other book of the Bible attributed to him, Lamentations. Sometimes through sermons, sometimes through silence, sometimes through dramatic symbolic object lessons, the prophet Jeremiah delivers the Word of the LORD --- confronting the people of Judah with the deadly consequences of their disobedience.

His sermons are ignored by some and burned by others. His character is attacked and smeared and his motives are questioned by the official Temple hierarchy. Finally, Jeremiah is thrown into a muddy cistern – left to die, where he sinks to an all-time low (literally and figuratively). But through it all, GOD is still at work through His chosen messenger.

When Jerusalem falls to the Babylonian onslaught, Jeremiah is freed and carried to Egypt. There he declares the future fortunes and misfortunes of Judah and her pagan neighbors. Though the present is grim, the future still brims with hope if you know where to look (Jeremiah 52:31-34).

The book of Lamentations is Jeremiah's "diary of disaster," penned as he watches calamity befall his beloved Jerusalem. You can almost imagine the pages of this book of your Bible soaked with Jeremiah's tears. But in the midst of Jeremiah's grief (Lamentations 3:22-23), he proclaims a truth so powerful, it has become the theme of one of the best-loved hymns of all time: "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness.*"

It is that great promise, that though governments rise and fall; and economies crumble; and even spiritual leaders disappoint us; still the LORD'S mercies never fail!

Certainly, Jeremiah knew personally what it meant to experience the very depths of deep darkness. No doubt, you too will also experience such times of total darkness in your own life. It is the absence of any glimmer of light.

Metaphorically, the people of God were experiencing total darkness in Jeremiah 52 as they faced the Babylonian onslaught. After all, consider this:

- There was not a crust of bread left in the city (v.6).
- The city's defenses were in shambles (v.7).
- The army had all gone AWOL (v.7).
- The king's family was slaughtered before his eyes. Then his eyes were gouged out, and he was deported in chains to a distant prison (vv.10-11).
- The temple, city walls, and chief buildings were burned down (vv.13-14).
- The king's entire "cabinet" was taken prisoner and executed (vv.24-27).
- Thousands of Jews were taken captive to a distant land (vv.27-30).

These were dark days for the people of God, to be sure. But don't miss the final four verses of the book of Jeremiah. Deliberately, the LORD, through his prophet, leaves them with a surprising sign of Hope. In Jeremiah 52: 31-34 you will discover God's light in the darkness – His sign of encouragement in the midst of horror. Though the king of Babylon (a man so evil his very name reflects it) King Evil-Merodach had absolutely NO earthly reason to do so, the king of Babylon shows kindness and courtesy to the exiled king of Judah. Why? Because God was not finished with his people. The LORD knew that His people needed a sign of Hope and a Promise of a Future.

When your health is frail, when your financial prospects are bleak, when your family and friends are far away, when your job is uncertain, when tomorrow looks no brighter than today, when governments and other human institutions fail us, it is easy to be overwhelmed by the darkness.

But the Light of Christ still shines in the darkness. God will not abandon His people. He is faithful to His Holy Word and all who will but turn to Him.

Take a moment to bask in the light of Psalm 27:1. There you will discover that darkness is no match for Christ – The Light of your life, the One in whom there is no darkness at all (I John 1:5).

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid?

May the Light and Peace of Christ Dwell in You Richly!

**In Christ's Love,
Pastor Paul**

International Church Leaders Urge ELCA to Uphold Biblical Teaching on Sexuality

Leaders of Lutheran Churches around the world are asking the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to uphold biblical teaching on marriage and on homosexual behavior.

Church leaders from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe have written letters to ELCA leaders asking the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 17-23 in Minneapolis, to reject proposed changes in church teaching on sexuality and policy changes that would allow ELCA pastors to be in same-sex relationships.

The international church leaders have explained that a decision to reject the clear teaching of Scripture would hurt the relationship between their churches and the ELCA. The ELCA is a member of the 68.5-million member Lutheran World Federation. In addition to shared LWF membership, the churches are in Companion Synod relationships with ELCA synods.

“This matter is also of great importance for us in Asia. Of special concern is the question of homosexual union blessings and the acceptance of ordained clergy in homosexual relationships. A decision to accept these two practices would be a source of profound embarrassment for the Lutheran Church in Asia,” the Rev. Nicholas Tai, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong, wrote in an open letter to ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson.

“Such a decision on the part of the ELCA would affect our companion relationships, as homosexual practice is regarded as sin in the vast ecumenical community in Asia.”

“We live in a morally and ethically shaped society. Non-Christians as well as Christians regard homosexual behavior as immoral. If the Church accepts and practices homosexual behavior, it will be a big stumbling block for the vast majority of 1.3 billion Chinese, who need the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong regards homosexual practice as a sin and expressly states this in our discipline handbook. If the ELCA accepts such practices, it will be quite an embarrassment to explain to our members why our companion Church allows something which goes against the clear biblical norms of our own Church. We, as part of the Lutheran Communion, could not escape the accusation that the Church is listening to the modern culture rather than to the clear teaching of the Word of God,” Bishop Tai said.

A similar warning came from the Rev. Bishop Stanislav Pietak, bishop of the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, the Lutheran Church in the Czech Republic: “We closely observe the discussion which is going on in your church body. We pray that your synod would take a clear Biblical stand this summer and vote against accepting the proposed social statement on human sexuality. Any other stand would be very disappointing for us and would threaten our partnership. According to our constitution, our ministry is incompatible with anyone or any organization which is in any way defending the homosexual lifestyle,” wrote Bishop Pietak.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania has repeatedly urged the ELCA to uphold biblical teaching on sexuality. The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania issued the Bukoba Statement in 2004 which addresses homosexual behavior.

“Legalizing, authorizing or accepting same-sex relationships is to undermine the institution of marriage and its sanctity. This institution is the foundation of community welfare. To sabotage it is to sabotage God’s command that establishes this important institution,” the Bukoba Statement says.

In a 2009 letter, the Rev. Elisha Buberwa, bishop of the North-Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, noted the significance of the 2004 statement for Lutherans in Tanzania and said, “I, and many other Christian leaders like me, would strongly advise the ELCA leadership to do everything within their ability to delay voting on this matter which is said to be on the agenda of the Churchwide Assembly.”

“If the Churchwide Assembly votes in favor of, say, permitting pastors to bless same-sex unions and permitting bishops to ordain theologians who are actively homosexual in the practice; you can be sure, this is going to impact negatively on our (ELCA and ELCT) relationship,” Buberwa wrote.

The Lutheran World Federation reports 68.5 million Lutherans in its 140 member churches. There are more than 17 million Lutherans in Africa and 8.5 million Lutherans in Asia. The ELCA has 4.7 million members. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania is roughly the same size as the ELCA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 13, 2009

Contact: Rev. Mark Chavez info@lutherancore.org 717-898-0801
Rev. David Baer editor@lutherancore.org 605-641-2399

Lutheran CORE leaders respond to ELCA action adopting social statement

Overturing Biblical Teaching on Marriage and Sexuality By One-Vote Margin

MINNEAPOLIS —Leaders of Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Reform) expressed profound sorrow over the decision Wednesday, Aug. 19, by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to adopt a social statement on sexuality which overturns biblical teaching on marriage and homosexual behavior. The social statement was approved by a one-vote margin.

“We mourn the decision by the Churchwide Assembly to reject the clear teaching of the Bible that God’s intention for marriage is the relationship of one man and one woman,” said the Rev. Paull Spring of State College, Pa., chair of Lutheran CORE. “It is tragic that such a large number of ELCA members were willing to overturn the clear teaching of the Bible as it has been believed and confessed by Christians for nearly 2,000 years.”

“We are disappointed that this social statement has caused such a deep division in the church,” added Spring, the retired bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod. “For this social statement to pass by only one vote shows how deeply divided the ELCA is and will continue to be.”

“It is appropriate that we call this a ‘social’ statement for we have just swapped society’s statements and trends for God’s Word and teaching,” said Jaynan Clark of Spokane, Wash., president of the WordAlone Network, a member reform movement of Lutheran CORE.

“Even more distressing than the passage of the social statement is the fact that the assembly majority would not even listen to debate on many of the proposed amendments to the social statement that would have affirmed biblical teaching and the historic teaching of the Christian Church,” said Ryan Schwarz of Washington, D.C., a member of the Lutheran CORE Steering Committee.

“This is a sad day for Lutherans in the United States. I am disappointed that so many voting members were willing to overturn the Bible’s teaching,” said the

Rev. Erma Wolf of Brandon, S.D., vice chair of the Lutheran CORE Steering Committee. “The ELCA is a very divided church. This decision divides us even more. It is going to be very hard for faithful Lutherans to support the ELCA when the ELCA is willing to reject the clear teaching of Scripture.”

Lutheran CORE leaders will be working to defeat further proposals which would allow ELCA pastors to be in committed same-sex relationships and would permit the blessing of same-sex unions by the church. The Churchwide Assembly will begin consideration of these proposals on Thursday (August 20). A vote is scheduled for Friday (August 21).

“We are grateful for the many faithful Lutherans who have stood with us in confessing the teaching of Scripture on marriage and on homosexual behavior. We call on all those in the ELCA who want to continue to uphold the authority of Scripture in the church to work together even more closely in the days and years ahead,” said Spring. “It is tragic that ELCA leaders thought it possible to bring this proposal to a vote. The church should not be voting on whether or not to follow the teaching of the Bible.”

Lutheran CORE is hosting a convocation Sept. 25-26 in suburban Indianapolis for ELCA Lutherans who continue to affirm the authority of Scripture to gather together to discuss the implications of the decisions of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and what the future might hold for them and their congregations.

Lutheran CORE is a coalition of pastors, lay people, congregations and reforming groups that seeks to preserve the authority of the Bible in the ELCA. Lutheran CORE seeks to be a voice for the solid, faithful core that is the majority of ELCA members, pastors, and congregations. More information is available at www.lutherancore.org.



FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP MEETS SEPTEMBER 1...

Join us for *First Tuesday* on September 1 for lunch at Noon in the Emmaus Room. Cost is \$2.50. Penny Ekegren will relate personal experiences of her trip to Malawi. This presentation will cover different aspects of the trip than was presented at the worship services on August 16. Invite your friends to join us!

Call Pat Wells with reservations by Monday, August 31, 419-756-6863.

SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3...

The Senior Choir begins a new season of Thursday rehearsals on **SEPTEMBER 3 AT 7:00 P.M.** in the choir room in the rear balcony. Please use the Luther Hall entrance by the Chapel and take the elevator to the third floor to reach the choir room.



We work hard but have a great time and sense of ministry as we sing praises to the Lord – please come and join us! If you have questions, please see Dr. Tim Guenther, our Director of Music, on Sunday morning or contact him at home at 419-756-5304.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

The church offices and Christian Day School will be closed Monday, September 7, for the Labor Day holiday.

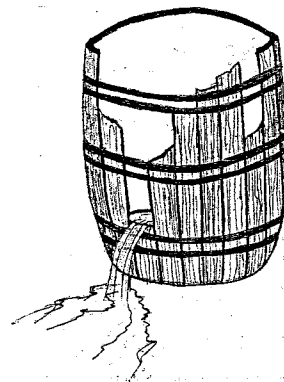
HEALTHY CONGREGATION FOCUS MEETINGS . . .

In the May issue of The Visitor, your “Health Assessment Team” introduced you to a concept that the barrel below illustrates. If you will recall, in a unique, long-term, world-wide research project, Natural Church Development (NCD) identified eight essential qualities that are found in healthy growing churches:

empowering leadership
gift-based ministry
passionate spirituality
loving relationships

effective structures
inspiring worship services
holistic small groups
need-oriented evangelism

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET
???



These qualities are represented by the staves - of unequal length - in the barrel illustrated here. The barrel represents a healthy, spirit-filled church that is growing – at least in quality if not also in quantity. The barrel can be filled only to the level of the shortest staff.

In May, utilizing the process developed by NCD to identify the “shortest staff” here at First English, we conducted a survey. The results of that survey identified “**Loving Relationships**” as our shortest staff – the quality characteristic that we must diagnose and fix in order to move toward better health. [See page 1 in the August Visitor.]

Now this is the next step in the NCD process. Beginning in mid-August we began holding focus group meetings to explore what this means - that our minimum factor is “loving relationships.” We ask that you chew on this concept of “loving relationships” for a while, as our team has been doing. Then bring your thoughts, feelings, insights and questions to one of these focus group meetings.

We need every voice – your voice – to be heard as we work together to explore the concept of Loving Relationships and develop plans that will help us improve this area which is “the heart of a healthy growing church.”

Please sign up for a meeting at a time and place that suits you – or offer to host one. You will find the sign up sheets and schedule of meetings (August – October) at church. Or call the church office (419-522-0662). All you really need to do is show up. You will not have to say anything, just listening to others will be valuable, but we hope you will also have things to share.

Your Health Assessment Team,

Mike Anderson
Ken Frayer
Beth Harruff

Susan Hogsette
Nancy Pasheilich
Steve Ritz

Alicia Schulz
Amy Skropits
Pastor Larson

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Wednesday,
Sept 2 & 16 **Workday Ladies Sew** patchwork quilts 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on the third floor of Luther Hall. Tracing and cutting, ironing, machine sewing, and tying. WELCA contact: Cheryl Lantz, 419-756-5506. *If you can sew patches to make quilt tops at home, contact Pat Reed at 419-756-1372.*
- Sunday,
Sept 6 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 A.M. Holy Communion service on September 13.
- Monday,
Sept 14 **Men's Group** meets at 9:30 A.M. on this *second* Monday of the month for breakfast at Denny's, West Fourth Street in Ontario. Contact: Hal Simmons, 419-529-6586. [The first Monday is Labor Day]
- 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,
Sept 18 **Friendly Friday Group**, 10:30 A.M. program in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at 11:30; games until 2:00. Rides available. Coordinator: Margaret Battisti, 419-526-4381.
- Sat/Sun
Sept 26 & 27 **Food Collection Weekend.** The July collection totaled \$95 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program and 4 bags of groceries for Catholic Charities. Thank you for your continued support!

SEPTEMBER 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. Rally Day September 13!
	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 SEPTEMBER:

- Sept 13 ➔ Rally Day - Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.
 ➔ Congregational Pot Luck Picnic at the Blackfork Retreat Center, 5:00 P.M.
- Sept 20 ➔ WELCA Thankoffering Sunday. Pastor Dawn Donato, guest preacher.
- Sept 27 ➔ Seminarian, Mike Hughes, guest preacher at all weekend worship services.
 ➔ Concert Series event 4:00 p.m. in the Nave: Carol Bernhardt Woodwind Trio
 and Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, organ
-

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE!

Children

3 & 4 Year Olds
Kindergarten
Grades 1 & 2
Grades 3, 4, 5
Grades 6, 7, 8
Grades 9 - 12

Location

3rd Floor, Luther Hall
3rd Floor, Luther Hall
3rd Floor, Luther Hall
3rd Floor, Luther Hall
Jr. High School Room, west balcony
High School Room, east balcony

Adults:

Juftak Class
Pastor's Class
The Believers

2nd floor Fireside Room
Emmaus Room
Narthex Lounge





RALLY DAY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:45 - 10:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES!
GAMES, CRAFTS, MOVIES, STORIES, SONGS!
LEARN ABOUT THE BEST FRIEND YOU WILL EVERY HAVE - JESUS!

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

at The Blackfork Retreat Center



© Come One, Come all!

Everyone is invited!

☞ Eat at 5:00 P.M.

☞ Bring a covered dish to share

☞ Bring your own table service

☞ Beverages will be provided

♥ Enjoy the fellowship as we wrap up Rally Day.

Directions to the Retreat Center: Take US Route 30 east to SR 603. Turn left on SR 603 (north). The Retreat Center is on right about a mile after Molly's Cheese House. (Rain location is the undercroft).

SENIOR HIGH GROUP SUNDAY SUPPER DONATIONS NEEDED BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER . . .

Our Senior High group meets every Sunday evening during the academic year for fellowship, study, service projects, and *supper*. If you can donate a simple meal for the group (once, twice, or regularly!), or would like more details, please contact *Becky Sarbach*, Service Ministry chair, at 419-589-7945. Thanks for your support!

– Teri Brenkus, Youth Committee Chair

New Adult Sunday School Class Series

Beginning in September will be a new Adult Sunday School Class Series that will focus on a wide variety of topics – inviting discussion and reflection on our life together in Christ.

We will be using a series of short video clips from “NOOMA”. The stated purpose of these video vignettes is to “*compellingly tell the way of Jesus to the world in new and relevant ways.*” You can check-out this new series at www.nooma.com. Come and join us in the Emmaus Room on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. Each week’s topic is new and different from the one before, so feel free jump-in at anytime!

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 13 | Rain: God’s comfort during the storms of life. |
| Sept. 20 | Trees: Meaning for our lives, today and forever. |
| Sept. 27 | Sunday: Why do we attend church, tithe, or give our time? |
| Oct. 4 | Flame: Love as God intended it to be. |
| Oct. 11 | Anderson Lecture Series Forum – Dr. Ralph Quere |
| Oct. 18 | Kickball: Why doesn’t God always give us what we want? |
| Oct. 25 | Rich: Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have
so we can bless and give to others. |
| Nov. 1 | Dust: We believe in God, but does God believe in us? |
| Nov. 8 | Noise: How can we hear? |
| Nov. 15 | Bullhorn: Loving God means loving everyone around us. |
| Nov. 22 | Lump: No matter what we have done, God always loves us. |
| Nov. 29 | One Combined Worship Weekend Celebration-10:00 am |
| Dec. 6 | Rhythm: What does it mean to have a relationship with God? |
| Dec. 13 | Matthew: Losing someone we love can be the most
difficult thing to go through in life. |
| Dec. 20 | Luggage: Forgiveness isn’t just about people who hurt us. |



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, September 15

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

Thursday, September 17

9:30 A.M. Brookdale Sterling House



News deadline for the
OCTOBER VISITOR
is
Tuesday, September 15

Assembled & mailed: Thursday, September 24

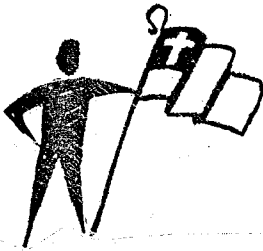


WELCA Thankoffering Sunday September 20 . . .

Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Weekend will be September 19 and 20. The Rev. Dawn Donato, pastor at St. Luke Lutheran Church, will be the guest preacher at the 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday services. A reception will be held in the Narthex between services for us to greet Pastor Donato. A special **WELCA offering envelope** is in our September packets. Please give generously to the ministries WELCA supports!



Thankoffering



CONFIRMATION PROGRAM STARTS AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER . . .

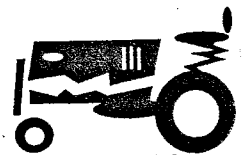
The exciting *Faith Inkubators* Confirmation Program is set to begin once again at First English Lutheran Church. *Faith Inkubators* is a multi-input learning experience where the goal is “to open the student before you open the book.” *Faith Inkubators* strives to move the young person’s faith “from the Head to the Heart.” Learning Workshops, Servant and Fellowship Events all work together to shape the young Christian into mature faith.

All 7th and 8th grade students and their parents should mark their calendars for the following important dates:

September 20	Sunday - 5:30 p.m.	PARENT and STUDENT ORIENTATION (Pizza!)
September 26/27	Saturday/Sunday	Steam Threshers Show youth fundraiser at the Blackfork Retreat Center
October 4	Sunday - 2:00	CROP Walk
October 11	11:00 Worship	FAMILY COVENANT SERVICE (A special liturgy for all confirmands and their family members)
October 11	Sunday - 5:30-7:30 P.M.	Learning workshops begin.

If you have questions about our confirmation ministry, please speak with Pastor Andy.

RICHLAND COUNTY STEAM THRESHERS SHOW SEPTEMBER 26 & 27 AT THE BRC . . .



Richland County Steam Threshers Association members will be at our Blackfork Retreat Center the weekend of September 26 and 27 demonstrating a variety of steam powered equipment.

Our youth group will be there with a concession stand to raise funds for upcoming retreats and projects. Stop out that weekend and support our youth, have a bite to eat, and marvel at the steam powered demonstrations!

Sunday afternoon, September 27, 2009 at 4 o'clock
First English Lutheran Church
53 Park Avenue West (at Mulberry Street), Mansfield, Ohio
PH: 419-522-0662 WEB: <http://www.felc-mansfield.org>

THE FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

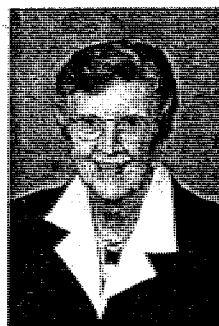
THE CAROL BERNHARDT WOODWIND TRIO
TRIO ALLA BREVE



Carol Bernhardt, oboe; Jane Price, bassoon; Pam Ellis, clarinet

and

DR. TIMOTHY E. GUENTHER, organ



assisted by HELEN ANDERSON, piano

Please join us in the Nave of First English Lutheran Church for this varied concert of music for woodwind trio and solo organ, featuring music by Auric, Bach, Franck, Mendelssohn, Rick Sowash, and Hotteterre le Romain. Reception immediately following in the Narthex. Free will offering to benefit the concert series.

Note: The church entrance is on Mulberry Street, at the rear of the building. Parking is available directly across Mulberry Street in any of the lots on the West side of the church building.

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE . . .



It's time to renew or subscribe to *The Lutheran* magazine! **Cost to our members is \$11.75 for a one year subscription.** Make checks payable to First English Lutheran Church. Note on the memo line "The Lutheran magazine." (Yes, this is an increase, but still a bargain; a one-year subscription rate through Augsburg Fortress is \$17.95).

Envelopes imprinted with "THE LUTHERAN" are available in the tract racks for your payment. You can also mail your payment to the church office or stop by during the week. **Deadline is Sunday, September 27, 2009.**

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

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

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary
419-522-0662

Acolytes
Assisting Ministers
Greeters
Lay Readers
Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

Roscoe Thompson, III, Worship Chair
419-522-7571
Sound Booth Operators

Beth Harruff, 419-589-2762
Communion Preparers
Communion Assistants

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247
Ushers

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876
Children's Church Leaders

Chris Cichanowicz,
Sunday School Superintendent
419-529-6593
Nursery Helpers

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304
Pew Pad Gleaners

Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090
8:00 am Sunday Prayer Partners

Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162
Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters
Proclaim! Communion Preparers
Proclaim! Communion Assistants

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

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

GREETERS 8:30 A.M.
Roger & Eileen Miller Narthex
Bill & Mary Hayes East Entrance

USHERS 8:30 A.M.
Bill West
Pearl West
Rob Skropits

GREETERS 11:00 A.M.
Shelley Shupp Narthex
Lolita Scheiber East Entrance

USHERS 11:00 A.M.
Bill Schwartz
Mary Schwartz
Harold Simmons
Richard Layer

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

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

8:30 POWER POINT OPERATORS

Sept 6	Gordon Moxley	Sept 20	Paul Ward
Sept 13	Tom Sarbach	Sept 27	Gordon Moxley

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:05 am</u>
Sept 6	Cindy Russell	Pat Reed
Sept 13	Henry Keultjes	Jodi Mumaw
Sept 20	Wes Volz	Tom Hillman
Sept 27	Betty Guenther	Ron Rehm

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Sept 6	Chris Kaschube	Sept 20	Bob McCready
Sept 13	Annette Doklovic	Sept 27	Stan Cichanowicz

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

Sept 5	Jean Ridenour	Sept 19	Jean Ridenour
Sept 12	Kay McNaul	Sept 26	Kay McNaul

8:30 A.M.

Sept 6	Liz Prather
Sept 13	Sherry Winbigler
Sept 20	Pat Reed
Sept 27	Jerry Gallagher

11:00 A.M.

Diane Molyet
Dan Shupp
Sandie Volz
Helen Anderson

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFER

8:30 A.M.

Sept 6	A Stephen Ward
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Sept 13	A Kate Hogsette
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Sept 20	A Sarah Ward
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Sept 27	A Trayce Prather
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11:00 A.M.

A Emily Blankenship

A Rachel Shupp
C Bryan Eyerly

A Katilyn Stransky

A Erin Blankenship

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Sept 6	11:00 a.m.
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Sept 13	8:30 a.m.
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COMMUNION SERVERS

(regular communion)

Sept 6 - 11:00 am

Pastor & Assisting Minister

Sept 13 - 8:30 am

Pastors

Bread Servers
Wine West
Cups West
Wine East
Cups East
Intinction

PEW PAD GLEANERS

Sept 6	Marilyn Motson	Sept 20	Pat Smith
Sept 13	Ronda Rehm	Sept 27	Marilyn Motson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Evangelism Committee

SEPTEMBER ALTAR WORKERS

Nave:	Beth Harruff and Jan Shenberger
Chapel:	Cheryl Lantz
Proclaim!:	Jan Fisher

+ + + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

Sept 6	Cindy & Robyn Russell	Sept 20	Haley Pittman
Sept 13	Sarah Jones & Elizabeth Volz	Sept 27	Ronda & Ashley Rehm

Sept 20 Communion Preparer

Karen Ellis

Sept 20 Communion Servers

Tricia & Jessika Volz
Ted & Karen Ellis

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson

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)*.



Church Women United RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday, September 10, 9 am - 4 pm

Friday, September 11, 9 am - 1 pm

First United Methodist Church

(corner of Park Avenue East and North Diamond Street)

Items may be brought to First United Methodist Church on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 8 and 9 during the hours of 8 am - 4 pm. Please use the Park Avenue East entrance. Questions? Contact Helen Anderson, CWU representative, at 419-756-0381.

SEPTEMBER 2009 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
FIRST TUESDAY	1	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room Program: Penny Ekegren "Malawi"
EVE & LYDIA	8	TUESDAY	6:00 P.M.	Picnic at the home of Carolyn Weeks Program: Penny Ekegren "Malawi" Hostess: Carolyn Weeks
MARY	11	FRIDAY	10:00 A.M.	At the home of Virginia Blizzard Program: Focus Group
SARAH	14	MONDAY	1:00 A.M.	Emmaus Room. Program: Focus Group Hostess: Margaret Battisti
WORKDAY LADIES	2 & 16	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
PLANNING TEAM	21	MONDAY	6:00 P.M.	Picnic at the home of Cheryl Lantz

Altar Group Workers: Nave—Beth Harruff & Jan Shenberger; Proclaim!—Jan Fisher; Chapel – Cheryl Lantz

Funeral Dinners: Squad C, Sandy Volz & Pearl West

COMING EVENTS: September 10 & 11 CWU Rummage Sale at First United Methodist

September 20 Thankoffering Service Pastor Dawn Donato preaching
Reception between services

September 29 6:00 PM Richland/Ashland Cluster at Holy Trinity
Salad buffet Theme: Cry of the Poor, speaker Samantha Ray

October 1 Deadline for LWR kits

October 9 Convention Registration deadline

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 has been 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:

LAYETTES in September

Two shirts

Two gowns, sleepers, or onesies

Two receiving blankets

Four cloth diapers

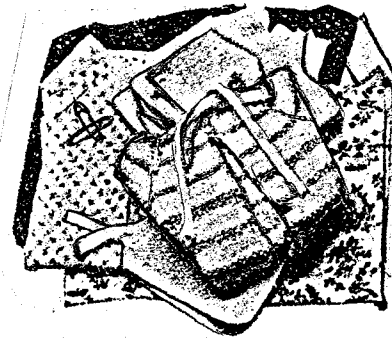
One sweater

Two wash cloths

One bath-size bar of soap

Two diaper pins

Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.



NOTE: items do not need to be new. Gently used items can be substituted for new ones. Sizes up to 24 months may be used. Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front. Infant sweatshirts may be substituted for the sweater. A length of 36" or 45" flannel may be used to make gowns, blankets (36" x 36" or 45" x 45"), and diapers (22 1/2" wide x 36" long - cut with pinking shears).

Containers for completed kits are in the Narthex and lobby of Luther Hall. **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

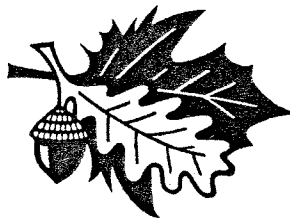
WELCA ASHLAND/RICHLAND FALL GATHERING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009
6:00 P.M.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, MANSFIELD

Registration begins at 6:00 p.m.; cost is \$2.00. This is a salad buffet supper. Please bring a salad or dessert to share and your own table service.

The theme for the evening is *Cry of the Poor*. Scripture focus is Proverbs 21:13. Samantha Roy will present the program. One half of the **love offering** will go the Lutheran Social Services of Northern Ohio. **In-kind gifts** of 39 gallon-size trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, all-purpose cleaner, etc. will be donated to Harmony House homeless shelter in Mansfield.

– Jan Fisher for WELCA



Women's Fall Retreat
Friday, October 9 & 10, 2009 . . .

This year the Women's Fall Retreat will be held on Friday, October 9 (optional), and Saturday, October 10, at the Blackfork Retreat Center on Route 603. Friday evening's fun time will begin at 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share. You have the option to sleep over at the Retreat Center. Saturday we will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a Continental Breakfast followed by a mixer for fellowship, and then **Bible Study and discussion led by Pastor Amy Little of Norwalk, OH, a Daughter of our congregation**. After a provided lunch, we will continue with Bible Study and a prayer walk, closing at 3:00 p.m. All women are invited to attend; bring a friend, daughter, mom or mother-in-law. (You don't have to be a member of FELC!)

This is a wonderful way to expand your spiritual life and deepen your understanding of God's Word. **Do this for yourself!** We are all on a spiritual journey, and this can be part of it!

The cost for the Women's Retreat will be \$15.00. Registration will be taken the weekends of September 19-20, 26-27, and October 3-4. We hope to see you at the retreat!

Questions? Call Cheryl Lantz at 419-756-5506, or Jan Fisher at 419-589-2820.



CROP WALK INFORMATION

When: Sunday, October 4, 2009
Registration: 1:30 pm
Program: 1:45 pm
Walk begins: 2:00 pm

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

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

Attention, All Lutherans! It's time to reclaim the "Golden Tenney" trophy! With your help, we can once again show the Lord that we are the most generous congregation when it comes to feeding the hungry!

Special CROP Walk envelopes will be available on the table in the Narthex every Sunday in September for your donations. THANKS for CARING!! Questions? See Chris Cichanowicz.



SEPTEMBER NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

A friend loves at all times (Proverbs 17:17) is our Bible verse for September. We will be meeting new friends and welcoming back old friends with the start of the new school year. Our Bible story will be about the Good Samaritan.

We said goodbye to our campers who had a fun-filled summer, and we welcomed back our pre-school class. This is the time of year when the children move to their new classrooms. Everyone will be busy learning colors, shapes, letters and numbers. They will be painting, cutting, coloring and gluing as well as reading lots of stories.

We are looking forward to another great year at First English Lutheran Church - Christian Day School!
— Terry Bianchi, CDS Director



AUGUST COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, August 11, 2009 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

ASSOCIATE

PASTOR: Pastor Jones mentioned there will be more than one opportunity to hear a report from the Malawi mission team in the coming weeks. He reported that the budget amount for the trip was \$25,500, which included \$6,000 for constructing a building and \$3,000 for the solar cookers. To date, expenses have been \$19,839.75, with a few expenses yet to be submitted. He mentioned upcoming dates:

August 30, 2009 Combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Congregation potluck meal.

September 27, 2009 Concert series with Dr. Tim Guenther at the organ and The Carol Bernhardt Woodwind Trio.

October 11-12, 2009 Anderson Lecture Series with Dr. Ralph Quere.

October 25, 2009 Richland-Ashland Reformation Service at 5:00 p.m.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Dr. Tim Guenther shared that during his two weeks in the Cleveland area he attended three conferences and heard forty-four different organs.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits stated budget packets for Council members will be ready soon and are due to be returned by the end of October for preparation of the 2010 budget.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz reported three Christian Day School rooms have new ceilings and lights and have been painted. He expressed appreciation to volunteers Gary Lane, Jim Scheiber, Larry Lantz, Chris and Stan Cichanowicz and Jan Fisher for their many hours of help, as well as Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for donating money to purchase the paint. The stones in the front wall along Park Avenue West are loose and falling onto the sidewalk. Jim Scheiber will get prices to repair the wall. Shawn expressed appreciation to Tom Pasheilich, Jim Scheiber, Bill Schwartz and others for their work on rooms and hallways on the third floor. Pricing will be secured to repair the chimney on the retreat center building.

EVANGELISM: Pastor Jones, in Steve Ritz's absence, reported that when the new phone book comes out, the church ad will be in multiple colors which was the best and only price package option available.

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman stated the Nick and Shannon Kraft family are in Bolivia with the "Go Missions" team, reaching out to indigenous communities.

WORSHIP: Roscoe Thompson mentioned the upcoming combined service on August 30 and the Concert series on September 27.

(continued)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz expressed her thanks to Tom Pasheilich, Bill Schwartz and Jim Scheiber for the new lighting and the larger rooms for Sunday Church School on the third floor. She expressed a special thank you to all who participated in Vacation Bible School, especially Tricia Volz, the coordinator and main cook; Becky Sarbach who taught the Bible story; Becky Pittman, the music leader; Nancy Thompson, the game leader; and Tom Sarbach who cut wood for the campfire. Thanks also to the youth who weeded and cleaned the entire retreat area.

YOUTH: Teri Brenkus stated that a Kick-Off Youth Cookout will be hosted by Shawn and Tricia Volz on August 30 at 1:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: There are 105 children enrolled.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with prayer by Jan Fisher.

– Beth Harruff

Acting Congregation Council Secretary



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

Thank you for your prayers for our sisters and brothers in the mission fields all over the world. Now, expand your prayers to include prayers for the freedom to extend the preaching of the Gospel throughout the whole country where our missionaries are serving. And pray that the responsiveness to the Gospel will bring countless men, women, and children to faith in Christ.

Something else that we can all do -- Let First English Lutheran Church be a model of support for military personnel from our area. Our congregation can **lift up** the men and women who serve in the military, as well as their families. Twenty-seven military personnel are listed on our Sunday *Prayer Concerns* pages. Do you take time to pray for them?

What about the families and friends who wait at home? Anxiety can be high -- waiting and worrying. To top the anxiety may be problems of child rearing, financial problems, loneliness, etc. Let your love reach out - invite them into the fellowship of our church, offer to babysit, provide phone cards that they may call their loved ones, write letters, and you can probably think of many more ways to comfort these children of God.

Watch for a schedule of the Global Mission meetings coming soon. We'd love to have you join us. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry!

– Jeanne Hillman, Global Mission Chair

STEWARDSHIP CORNER . . .



A father and daughter prepared to part at the airport. After a hug the father said, "I love you. I wish you enough." A few moments later, a woman who overheard their conversation asked the father what it meant to wish someone "enough." He said that wishing someone "enough" was a tradition in their family. There was even a short poem attached to it:

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.
I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish you enough 'hellos' to get you through the final 'goodbye.'

Jonathan R. Reitz, author

The above article addresses people who think they are inadequate by emphasizing two points. First, every congregation and every person is called by God to enter into mission locally and globally. If you don't know what that means for your congregation, it may be helpful to prayerfully identify that, write down possibilities for mission and then pray, talk and intentionally commit yourselves to answering the call to local and global mission.

Second, God provides all you need to do what God calls you to do. You have more than enough talent, leadership, imagination and money available. Make an effort to encourage, discover and identify the assets God has entrusted to your care. God is extravagant with you. You can do far more than you ask or imagine.

Jerry Hoffman, author

Taken from Stewardship for the 21st Century presented by Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

– submitted by Jan Fisher, Stewardship Chair

MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

Thank you to all who have continued to donate to the Malawi Orphan Care Ministries fund. All the money that is donated to the fund goes to the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries. The funds are wire transferred to Malawi from Richland Bank.

The cost of each wire transfer is \$50. We try to keep the number of transfers each year to a minimum. January of 2009 was the last wire transfer that occurred when FELC sent just over \$3,000, raised through the Advent offering, to the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries. The orphan project used this money to buy food and pay the school fees of several orphans. The Malawi Mission Team was able to take \$250 with them to Malawi in July, so we did not have the cost of that wire transfer.

As was reported by the Malawi Mission Team, it costs \$80 to feed about 150 children for one meal which comes to

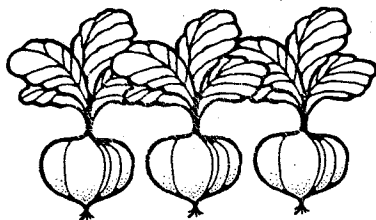
approximately 54 cents per child for one meal. The orphan project feeds the children two times a week which means it costs \$160 to feed about 150 children each week. This comes to \$8,320 to feed the orphans all year.

We also learned that FELC is currently the only source of income for the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries. This means that your donations, no matter how small, are a vital support for the children of Kanyenyeva. Please continue to help provide meals for the orphans of Malawi.

Please pray for:

- God to be glorified in the work of the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries;
- the children of Kanyenyeva to grow in Christ and stay healthy physically;
- the witness of Calvary Church and its pastor, Tom Mambo;
- wisdom for the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministry board and the committee.

- Joy Jones



GOT PRODUCE?

Your surplus fresh garden produce is welcome for our Wednesday Noon Lunch program! Call Mary Schwartz at 419-747-2600 if you have extra to share from your garden.

16th Annual Bertil E. Anderson Lecture Series
October 10 & 11, 2009

First English Lutheran is pleased this year to be able to bring Dr. Ralph W. Quere to Mansfield as the feature speaker for the 2009 Anderson Lecture Series program which is titled:

***No Greater News for Today's Post-Modern Youth -
How DO We Pass On The Faith To The Next Generation?***

Dr. Quere's lecture topic is relevant to parents, grandparents, prospective parents and those concerned about the difficulty in breaking through the cultural "noise" with the message of Jesus Christ and His saving grace. Dr. Quere believes having a cross-generational dialogue on this critical question is an absolute necessity, and he provides suggestions for reaching today's youth in a culture that he refers to as the "Global Cybermall". Dr. Quere discusses the absence of connection that many youth feel in today's world, combined with the powerful attraction of the various cultural addictions that challenge our youth, and the process of being "encultured" by the wrong types of heroes and icons. Communicating the Good News of Jesus to the Gen X and Millennial youth requires us to speak biblical truth in terms they can both understand, and relate to their own world.

Ralph W. Quere is professor emeritus of history and theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary in



Dubuque, Iowa. Called to the seminary in 1969, Dr. Quere also served for three years in the rural parish at St. Donatus and LaMotte. Quere's special focus on the reformers was expanded to include courses from early to modern church history, history of doctrine and the Lutheran Confessions. In 1973 Quere began teaching evangelism courses, publishing *Evangelical Witness* and *An Evangel for Everyone* with Elten Zerby. His doctoral thesis on reformation understandings of Christ's Eucharistic presence was published under the title *Melanchthon's Christum Cognoscere*.

In recent years, Quere has focused on youth evangelism, working on a theology for youth outreach and "producing" musicals based on Luke's and John's gospels, with alumnus Rev. Jon Anderson composing most of the music. He is also working on a book on theology for youth evangelism. In 2007, he spent six weeks at the Melanchthon Institute located at Christ the King Church in Houston, Texas, where he taught a youth evangelism course to members and to youth workers from Houston churches. In August, 2009, he spent ten days in Guyana with colleague Prof. Winston Persaud, preaching and lecturing to youth about evangelism. He will teach Lutheran Confessions on campus at Wartburg Theological Seminary the Fall term, 2009.

Dr. Quere will present the program lecture at our annual dinner gathering on Saturday, October 10, which will again be held in our undercroft gathering area. Dr. Quere will also give the sermon at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services on Sunday, October 11 as well as lead an Adult Forum between services (9:45 - 10:45).

Please be sure to mark your calendars, invite your friends and relatives, and plan on providing a warm welcome to Dr. Ralph W. Quere on October 10 & 11.

We look forward to seeing you there!

16TH ANNUAL BERTIL E. ANDERSON LECTURE SERIES

Gathering and appetizers 6:00 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Lecture 7:30 PM
Saturday, October 10, 2009
Guest Speaker – Dr. Ralph W. Quere

DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Dinner includes your choice of one of four types of delicious, homemade lasagna, salad, rolls, dessert and beverage.

Cost is \$12.50 per person for the dinner and lecture

*Note – This reduced price is intended to make this special event more affordable for all.
(If you would like to make an additional donation to the
Anderson Lecture Series please add that amount and note it on your check.)

Please provide your lasagna choice for each reservation made on this form!

Lasagna Choices:

1. Beef 2. Chicken 3. Seafood 4. Vegetarian

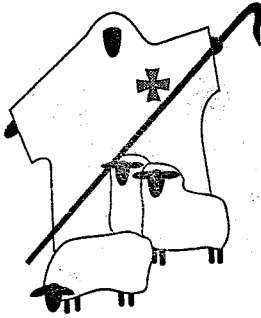
Name:	Lasagna #:	Address:	Phone:
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

Reservations should be returned by Tuesday, October 6th !
Please return this form with payment to the church office or mail to:

First English Lutheran Church
53 Park Avenue West
Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Make checks payable to “First English Lutheran Church” and note
in memo field “2009 Anderson Lecture Dinner”

**Location for this year’s catered dinner and lecture will again be the First English Lutheran church undercroft (Gathering & appetizers in the Emmaus Room)
Entry can be through the Mulberry Street church entrance.*



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

Many thanks to all who participated in Vacation Bible School. What fun it was! Special thanks goes to **Tricia Volz** for her excellent leadership and for organizing and preparing most of the meals; to **Becky Sarbach** for so creatively teaching God's Word to our children; to **Nancy Thompson** for leading the best outdoor games ever; to **Becky Pittman** for all of the great up-beat music; and to **Tom Sarbach** for keeping the campfire supplied with wood. And extra thanks to all the youth for all their hard work weeding and

cleaning the Retreat Center. Above all, the praise goes to our Lord who provided for all of our needs.

From Greg and Linda Hughes: "Linda and I want to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts, offers of help, cards, and prayer shawl during my recent stroke and recovery. We felt truly blest to have friends like you all.

I recently returned to work, attended church last week [Aug 9], and can do all of my household chores. Although I have some vision, speech, and hearing problems, the doctors and therapists think I can make a full recovery with time. It will not affect my ability to drive, but I won't drive until I pass a test August 22 at MedCentral.

I believe God has given me a strong warning to change my life-style, and I am adhering to a strict low sodium and low cholesterol diet. I will be on Warfarin for three to six months, and then switch to aspirin therapy. I am also exercising daily. Again, I want to express my grateful thanks and appreciation to everyone."

From Elaine and Weldon Lemon: "I want to thank everybody for the birthday cards. We also want to thank everybody for signing the card for our anniversary."

From Jack Leonard: "My family joins me in extending a most sincere thank you to each of our three pastors for being with us during and after my two recent surgeries. Your prayers and presence helped more than you can ever know. And to all the members who remembered me with cards and calls, thank you! And special thanks to Carol Lauthers for her visit as a Hospital Caller, and to Karen Ellis who brought a prayer shawl. What a blessing our church family is to all of our family, and we appreciate each of you. God bless!"

From Tom Hillman: "I wish to thank all of you who signed the poster and mailed cards. Thanks be to God, I have regained my speech, use of arms and legs. Truly a miracle! I believe in the power of prayer!"

(continued)

From Tom & Evelyn Woodard: “We wish to thank everyone who signed the poster for our 71st wedding anniversary. It helped make our day special. We felt truly blessed. We want to thank everyone who keeps us in their prayers. Also, we thank the First English Lutheran Church for all they do for us. May God bless each and everyone.”

From Lois Brown: “Thank you one and all for the cards, visits, and prayers. I was visited by *all* three pastors (one twice), and so many dear friends. I could use all the space in this issue of The Visitor if I named them all. I am a *very* blessed person, but my greatest blessing is knowing the Lord personally, and the love from this church family.”

From Catholic Charities: “Thank you for your donation of food. Catholic Charities in Richland County provides rent, 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

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES. Please call or email the church office (419-522-0662 or cstewart@felc-mansfield.org) with your college student’s mailing address for the coming academic year.

COLLEGE EMAIL ADDRESSES. We are looking for E-Mail Addresses for our college students and young adults so that we can stay in touch while they’re away at school. If you know email addresses of our college age members who are working, at school or in the service, please pass the addresses along to me at ajones@felc-mansfield.org.
– Thanks so much! Pastor Andy

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AS “PERSONAL SHOPPERS” AT *THE NEW STORE* . . .

Is your group looking for a community service opportunity? Can you spare 3 hours of one day to help? Then consider volunteering at The New Store which supplies new school clothes for needy children. “Dressing days” in September are Tuesdays, 9/1 & 8 from 3:45 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 9/19 & 26 from 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon. Sixty kids are outfitted each dressing day, and 25-30 volunteers are needed each time! **For more information or to schedule a time to volunteer for a dressing day, contact Becky Sarbach at 419-589-7945 or BSarbach@embarqmail.com.**



SEPTEMBER 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Our best wishes to our members who are 80+ years of age this month! We honor them on their special day, and thank God who has given them a long and full life. We pray for God's rich blessing on them now and in the years to come. May their hearts be filled with joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

SEPTEMBER

1	Mr. Robert Enskat	600 S. Trimble Road, #206	44906-3420
2	Mrs. Edna Marshall	616 Cline Ave., Apt. 124	44907
7	Mrs. Geraldine Freemon	Primrose Retirement, Apt 134 1301 Millsboro Rd.	44906
8	Mrs. Lucille Hunter	706 Scott Dr.	44906-4003
10	Mr. William McBride	PO Box 2650, Orange Beach, AL	36561-2650
14	Mrs. Martha Dye	793 Sunset Blvd, Apt. 3	44907-2663
20	Mr. Eugene Luedy	925 Dickson Pkwy.	44907
21	Mrs. Marjorie Saltzgaber	949 Red Oak Dr., Ashland, OH	44805-9101
22	Mrs. Wilda Soka	175 Maple Lane	44906-2346
23	Mr. James Shaum	2160 Ferguson Rd.	44906-1103
24	Mrs. Marjorie Wappner	The Waterford, Apt. 258 1296 S. Trimble Road	44906
30	Mrs. Virginia Blizzard	175 Lynn Drive	44906-2342

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

MEMORIALS

ENDOWMENT FUND

Virginia McBride:

Tom and Dot Blaney

Eugene and Edna Marshall

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Norma Price:

Barbara Welsh

Harry and Joan Wirstrom

Agnes Hazen

Robert and Deborah Hall

Bob and Nip McCready

Jack and Pat Leonard

Mary Jackson

Ronald and Alexis Olwert

“Ashes to Ashes - Dust to Dust” So That's It?

Will your life make an eternal difference? That's a big question. This is certainly God's plan for you. You can commit your life and your financial resources towards accomplishing all sorts of good causes. Certainly, they are out there, constantly seeking your support. But a far more important question to ask yourself is this: **“Are my choices accomplishing the Eternal Purposes of Jesus?”** In the end, will your life amount to just another pile of dust? Or, will your life become a beautiful and lasting witness to the Saving Love of Jesus?

In making your “Last Will and Testament,” you have the opportunity to give a witness to your great Love for Jesus - the only ONE who has the power to make your life ... **more than dust.** Remember your church in your estate planning. Consider the Biblical Model of Tithing (10%) of your estate to Christ's Kingdom Work. We need to grow our endowment fund resources here at FELC if we are to accomplish all the great things that Christ has for us to do! The local church really is the hope of the world. It is here, through the local church, where Jesus calls us to daily live out His Love for our community, nation, and world. Yes, we are the Body of Christ. Support your local congregation so that we can continue to be a Light to the world. Give a gift that will keep-on doing the work of Christ's Kingdom until Jesus comes!



We remember the families and friends of those who died July 24 - August 21, 2009:

Robert Poling **August 6**
(uncle of Matt & Dawn Butterman)

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

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals:	August 10, 2009	Thelma Scherer	(by Pastor Jones)
	August 21, 2009	David Grassick	(by Pastor 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	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	Worship	Roscoe Thompson, III
Congregational Life	Luella Diday	Youth Ministry	Teri Brenkus
Evangelism	Steve Ritz	SCS Superintendent	Chris Cichanowicz
Finance	Rob Skropits	Women of the ELCA	Cheryl Lantz
Global Mission	Jeanne Hillman		

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (ER) 12:00pm First Tuesday (ER)	2 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	3 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	4 ***CDS Closed*** 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	5 5:00pm Holy Comm (Chapel)
6 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Matins Choir Reh 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 11:00am Holy Comm (Nave) 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee	7 **CDS Closed** *OFFICE CLOSED*	8 9:00am Ohio Music Teacher Assoc (ER) 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (ER) 6:00pm Eve & Lydia Circle @ Weeks' home 7:00pm Council (UC)	9 8:30am Interchurch Council (ER) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	10 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	11 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:00am Mary Circle @ Blizzards' home	12 8:00am -12 PM Council Retreat (ER) 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
13 8:30am Holy Comm (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Worship (Nave) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 5:00pm Rally Day Picnic (BRC)	14 9:30am Men's Group @ Denny's 1:00pm Sarah Circle Focus Group (ER) 6:30pm Small Group/Focus Group (ER) 7:00pm Property Committee (UC) 7:00pm CDS Committee (FR)	15 *Visitor deadline* 9:00am Holy Comm @ Elmcroft 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 10:15am Holy Comm @ Waterford 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (ER)	16 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	17 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 9:30am Holy Comm @ Sterling 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	18 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30am Friendly Friday Srs (ER)	19 **Welca Thankoffering** 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
20 **Welca Thankoffering** 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 5:30pm Parent Student Confirm Orientation (ER)	21 6:30pm WELCA Planning @ Lantz's home	22 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (ER) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	23 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	24 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 12:30pm Visitor Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	25 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	26 *FOOD COLLECTION* 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
27 *FOOD COLLECTION* 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 4:00pm Woodwind & Organ Concert (Nave)	28 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	29 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (ER) 6:00pm WELCA Richland/Ashland @ Holy Trinity	30 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)			

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