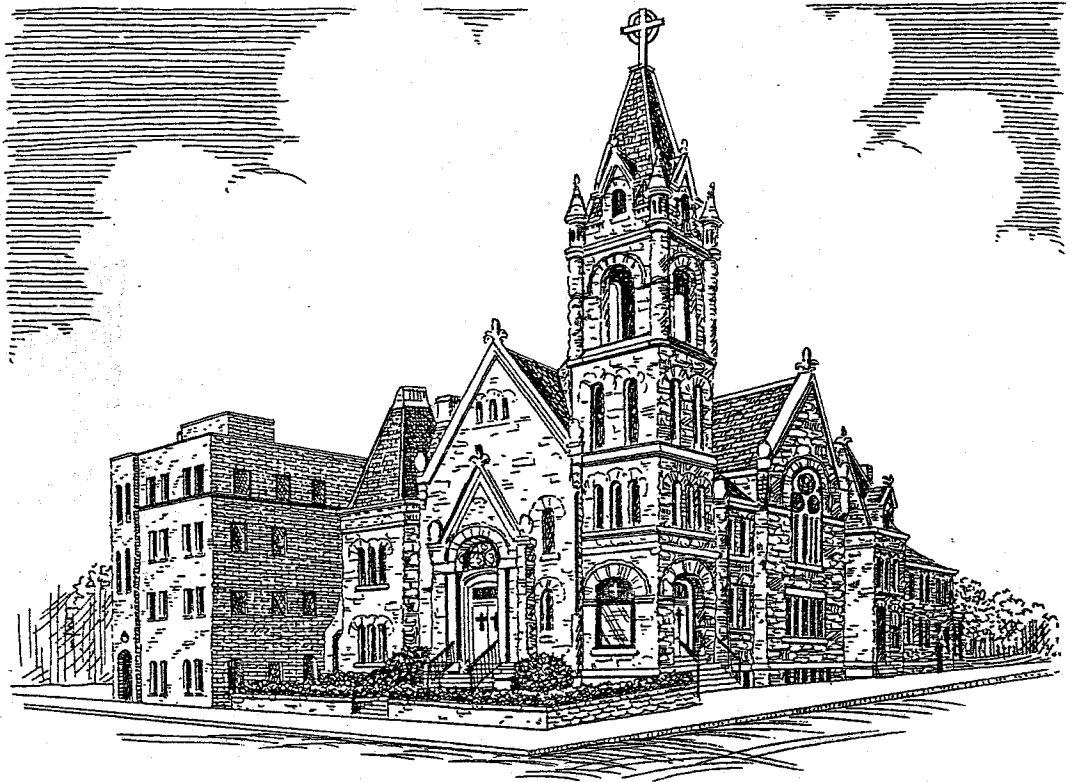


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

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“A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”

*“Under His wings you will find refuge;
His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.”*

– Psalm 91:4

Dear Friends in Christ:

When the great 16th century German reformer, Martin Luther, took his famous stand on the truth and authority of Holy Scripture, he quickly met with opposition from every corner of the continent. At one meeting, the Cardinal Legate, in great anger, thundered at Luther, “The Pope’s little finger is stronger than all Germany. Do you expect your (German) princes to take up arms to defend you, a wretched worm like you? I ask you now. And where then will you be?” With calm and confidence, Luther responded, “Then, as now, in the hands of Almighty God!”

Quoting from the Psalms, he continued, “He who dwells in the shelter of the most high, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.’ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler.”

God’s faithful children have the sure confidence that underneath are His everlasting arms. They who put their faith and trust in the Heavenly Father will never find themselves shut out from the gracious mercies of the Almighty. Life can be so often filled with storms and adversity. We all experience the brokenness of creation; its sickness and disease; its human conflicts and torn relationships. But in the face of such powerful forces for evil we do not stand helpless and alone. We have the promise of our God in the Victory of the Resurrection that He is still more powerful.

Therefore, no matter how terrible life’s battles may become, He has promised to never leave us or forsake us. He is our God, ever-present with us, and for us; giving us that Hope in the Resurrection which shall not be disappointed, and a faith and trust in Him which shall endure.

In Jesus Christ, the Son, God Himself has come to defeat the powers of Sin, Death, and the Devil. In our strife-torn world, we experience the forces of evil waging warfare against us. But in Jesus we have the promise of the great and final Victory. Underneath are the everlasting arms to hold us safe and secure in the promise of His never-failing Love, “For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Paul L. Larson

Alternative Church Fellowship for Lutherans to Be Formed

1,200 to gather in Indianapolis for Lutheran CORE convocation

Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Reform) will be gathering Lutherans from throughout the United States and Canada Sept. 25-26 in Indianapolis to begin the process of creating an alternative church fellowship for Lutherans who continue to uphold traditional marriage and who are unwilling to support the changes in church teaching and policy on marriage and homosexual behavior approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in August.

So many Lutherans are planning to come to Indianapolis that organizers have had to move the event to Holy Spirit Parish at Geist. The Roman Catholic church building seats twice as many people as the previous site, Christ the Savior Lutheran Church. Both churches are in the Indianapolis suburb of Fishers, Ind. Lutheran CORE leaders were forced to close registration Sept. 14 when registration reached 1,200 people because of space limitations.

“It is wonderfully ironic that Lutherans who started 500 years ago as a movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church would now return to a Catholic Church to re-form themselves,” said the Rev. Mark Chavez of Landisville, Pa., director of Lutheran CORE.

“This is an exciting and hopeful time for confessional Lutherans in North America,” said the Rev. Paull Spring of State College, Pa., chair of the Lutheran CORE Steering Committee. “In the past couple weeks we have received an incredible outpouring of support for Lutheran CORE’s ministries and plans for the future. People and churches are joining at a rate with which we can barely keep pace.”

A proposed constitution will be considered that will transform Lutheran CORE from a “coalition for reform” to a “coalition for renewal.” This action is more than a name change. It is a change in focus from efforts to reform the ELCA to an effort to enable traditional Lutherans to work together whether within or outside of the ELCA.

(continued on next page)

Lutheran CORE working toward reconfiguration of Lutherans

“We intend to initiate a process that we hope will lead to a reconfiguration of North American Lutheranism,” said Spring, the retired bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod. “The convocation is for all who care for the future shape of orthodox Lutheranism.”

“We are not leaving the ELCA. The ELCA has left us,” said Chavez. “Lutheran CORE is continuing in the Christian faith as it has been passed down to us by generations of Christians. The ELCA is the one that has departed from the teaching of the Bible as understood by Christians for 2,000 years.”

“This disagreement is not about sex. It is about the source of authority in the ELCA. The assembly’s sexuality decisions have opened the eyes of people to the biblical and theological crisis in the ELCA,” said Chavez. “We have no objection to the Confession of Faith in the ELCA constitution. The ELCA says that the Bible is the source and norm of its faith and life, but the actions of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly have shown that the ELCA does not practice what it says it believes.”

The Indianapolis event will focus on conversation around the theme “What after Minneapolis?” a reference to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Aug. 17-23 in Minneapolis which voted to change ELCA teaching and policy to affirm same-sex relationships and to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in those relationships in spite of the Bible’s teaching on marriage and on homosexual behavior.

The convocation will open with reflections on the “What After Minneapolis” theme by the Rev. Kenneth Sauer of Columbus, Ohio, and Ryan Schwarz of Washington, D.C. Sauer is the retired bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod and former chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops. He serves on the Lutheran CORE Advisory Council. Schwarz is a member of the Lutheran CORE Steering Committee and was runnerup for ELCA Vice President at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Bishop Spring will present a vision for the future of Lutheran CORE to the convocation. In a Sept. 4 letter to supporters, he said, “Our goal and vision for Lutheran CORE is a reforming and a renewal of our coalition. With God’s help, we intend to be:

(continued on next page)

- ❖ A confessional and confessing movement, rooted in Scripture, creeds, and confessions, open to all Lutherans in North America.
- ❖ A churchly community, grounded in Word and sacrament and congregational mission.
- ❖ A free-standing synod, carrying out synodical ministries, apart from the ELCA.
- ❖ An umbrella group for other Lutheran reform movements.
- ❖ A coalition of synods, congregations, individuals, and reform movements both within and outside the ELCA.”

The convocation will consider a resolution that would “initiate conversations among the congregations and reform movements in Lutheran CORE and with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ and other compatible churchly organizations, leading toward a possible re-configuration of North American Lutheranism, whether through existing or newly created structures.”

Lutheran CORE is a coalition of pastors, lay people, congregations and reforming groups that seeks to preserve the authority of the Bible. 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.



Reformation Day

OCTOBER WORSHIP

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

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER:

- Oct 4 ➤Blessing of Quilts and Kits for Lutheran World Relief
 ➤CROP Walk, 2:00 p.m.
- Oct 11 Anderson Lectures Weekend:
 ➤Saturday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Lecture
 ➤Dr. Ralph W. Quere, guest speaker at Sunday worship services
- Oct 18 ➤Scott Berry, guest organist for 5:00 p.m. Saturday Chapel
 ➤Joanne Wrasse, guest organist for 8:30 & 11:00 Sunday worship
- Oct 25 ➤Reformation Sunday; Holy Communion at all worship services

 ➤Richland/Ashland Conference Reformation Service, 5:00 p.m. in the Nave:
 The Rev. Dr. Ken Sauer, guest preacher; Holy Communion; combined
 choir; Pot Luck supper following worship.
-

FELC LIBRARY . . .

If you have the DVD by Dr. Urdahl on sexuality, please return it to the church library. There is a request for the DVD and we are unable to locate it. Thank you!

- Jeanne Hillman, Librarian

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
Oct 4 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator:
Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,
Oct 4 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 A.M. Holy
Communion service on October 11.
- Monday,
Oct 5 **Men's Group** meets at 9:30 A.M. the first Monday of the month for breakfast
at Denny's, West Fourth Street in Ontario. Contact: Hal Simmons, 419-529-6586.
- Tuesday
Oct 6 **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets at 7:00 P.M. in the Emmaus Room. Knitting
instruction and patterns provided. Contact: Karen Ellis, 419-884-1882 or Jan
Fisher, 419-589-2820.
- Wednesday,
Oct 7 & 21 **Workday Ladies Sew** patchwork quilts 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on the third
floor of Luther Hall. Tracing and cutting, ironing, machine sewing, and tying.
WELCA contact: Cheryl Lantz, 419-756-5506. *If you can sew patches to make quilt
tops at home, contact Pat Reed at 419-756-1372.*
- Every
Wednesday **Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch**, 12:10 P.M. worship in the Chapel;
lunch following in the undercroft.
- Every
Thursday **Music Therapy with Richland Newhope individuals**, 9:15-10:15 A.M. in the
Emmaus Room with Becky Pittman, Board Certified Music Therapist. Join us!
Contact Becky Pittman at 419-529-3876 or bpittman@felc-mansfield.org.
- Every
Thursday **Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal**, 5:30 P.M. in the undercroft (please use the
East side Luther Hall entrance). Contacts: Kristi Larson, 419-756-3858, or Becky
Pittman, 419-529-3876.
- Every
Thursday **Senior Choir Rehearsal**, 7:00 P.M. in the choir room in the rear balcony.
Director: Dr. Timothy E. Guenther. (Please use the East side Luther Hall entrance).
- Friday,
Oct 16 **Friendly Friday Group**, 10:30 A.M. program in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is
served at 11:30; games until 2:00. Rides available. Coordinator: Margaret Battisti,
419-526-4381. *This is also a Focus Group meeting.*
- Sat/Sun
Oct 24 & 25 **Food Collection Weekend**. The August collection totaled \$600 for our Wednesday
Noon Worship and Lunch Program (includes Paul Conrad memorial), and one bag
of groceries for Catholic Charities. Thank you for your continued support!



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.

Are you walking for JESUS on October 4? Have you found it in your heart to make a donation to feed the hungry here in Richland County and around the world? Remember, 25% of the total money collected STAYS in Richland County. Let's give Jesus a banquet this year - not just our leftovers.

Many thanks to the Ashland-Richland Chapter #30786 for approving CROP Walk's request for matching funds at \$1.00 for every \$3.00 raised, up to \$150.

Sign up sheets for walkers, and special CROP Walk envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex your donations. THANKS for CARING!! Questions? See Chris Cichanowicz.

Camp Mowana FALL FESTIVAL AND BENEFIT AUCTION Sunday, October 4, 2009 12:30 - 5:30 P.M.

**Live Music! Great Food! Hayrides! Kid's Crafts!
Pony Rides! Petting Zoo! Face Painting! Pumpkin Carving!**

Benefit Auction beginning at 3:00 features handmade quilts, fine handcrafts, theme baskets, and lots of other unique items. All proceeds will benefit summer camperships. Camp Mowana is located on Fleming Falls Road just north of Mansfield off US 42. Call the Camp for more information at 419-589-7406.

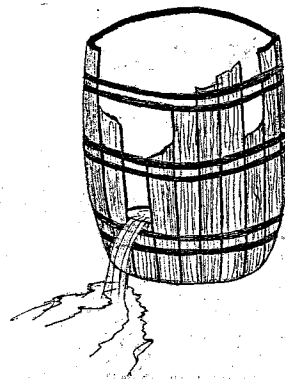
SIGN UP FOR A HEALTHY CONGREGATION FOCUS MEETING FOR OCTOBER 6 OR 16 ...

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.

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," then bring your thoughts, feelings, insights and questions to a focus group meeting. **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."

THERE ARE STILL TWO FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN OCTOBER. Please sign up for a meeting at a time and place that suits you. 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



October

FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP MEETS OCTOBER 6...

Join us for *First Tuesday* on October 6 for lunch at Noon in the Emmaus Room. Cost is \$2.50. Need Help? Don't know where to turn? Contact FIRST CALL of Richland County. Terry Carter, Information/Referral Librarian, will tell us what First Call is all about. Invite your friends to join us! Call Pat Wells with reservations by Monday, October 5, 419-756-6863.



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

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 is \$15.00. Registration will be taken the weekends of September 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.

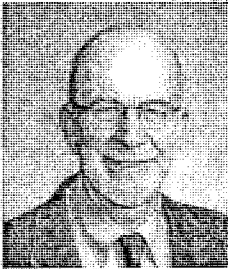
16th Annual Bertil E. Anderson Lecture Series October 10 & 11, 2009

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

Reservations

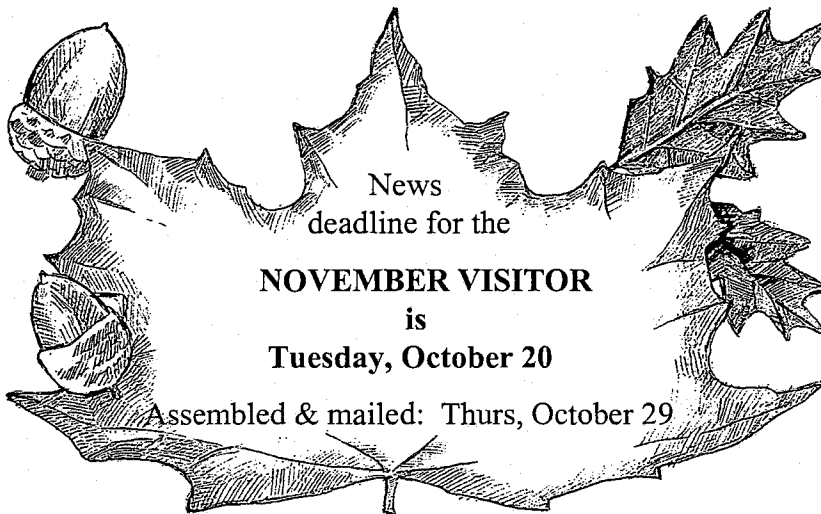
Name:	Lasagna #:	Address:	Phone:
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

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.***



News
deadline for the

NOVEMBER VISITOR

is

Tuesday, October 20

Assembled & mailed: Thurs, October 29



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, October 20

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

Thursday, October 22 *

9:30 A.M. Brookdale Sterling House

** this is the 4th Thursday*

Small Group Leaders and Members — CHECK THIS OUT!

**WILLOW CREEK ASSOCIATION'S SMALL GROUP LIFE CONFERENCE 2009
LIVE VIA SATELLITE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009
AT CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH . . .**

On Saturday, October 24, pastors and small group leaders throughout North America will learn from an outstanding faculty through a comprehensive one-day small group leadership training event presented by the Willow Creek Association—LIVE via satellite. Willow Creek Association has partnered with Church Communication Network to bring Group Life Conference 2009 to **Crossroads Community Church** to equip small group leaders across the country in taking the next step in fostering spiritual growth through small groups.

The conference theme, *This Changes Everything*, affirms the belief that small groups are one of the church's best resources for producing real change and growth in the lives of individuals.

This is training of the highest caliber, made **available** and **affordable** right here in our back yard.



The Seminar has 7 sessions throughout the day, from 9:30 until 4:30. Session leaders are national caliber leaders and speakers from throughout the church and small group world. You won't want to miss this! Mark your calendars for October 24!

Contact Pastor Andy to register or for more information.

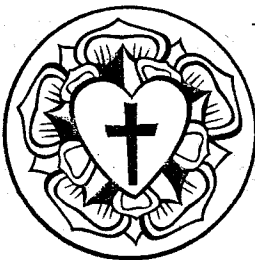
RICHLAND-ASHLAND CONFERENCE

REFORMATION FESTIVAL WORSHIP

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009

5:00 P.M.

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MANSFIELD, OHIO**



Join us for the Richland-Ashland Conference Reformation Festival Worship with Holy Communion, a combined conference choir directed by Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, and the Rev. Dr. Ken Sauer, guest preacher. **Potluck supper following the service.** Beverages provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; **bring your own table service and a dish to share.**



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 1 ...

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday, November 1.

Turn your clocks **BACK** one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, October 31!

CONSECRATION WEEKEND

AT FIRST ENGLISH!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

AND

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

You won't want to miss our Consecration Weekend, October 31 and November 1, 2009 when we will each be making our personal commitments to Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.

Regular 5:00 p.m. chapel service on Saturday, October 31, followed by a time of fellowship in the Emmaus Room enjoying coffee, tea, and delicious cookies!

Regular 8:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, November 1, followed by a time of fellowship in the Narthex. Cookies, coffee, tea, and lemonade will be served!

Combined 11:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, November 1, in the sanctuary. Following the combined service, **EVERYONE** is invited to **join together in the undercroft for one of those famous Lutheran pot luck meals!!** Please bring a dish to share. Table service and beverages will be provided.

The Stewardship Committee doesn't want to interrupt your regular worship times, but we **DO** want to **CELEBRATE THIS OCCASION!** We hope to see you all there to celebrate together! Questions can be directed to Jan Fisher, Stewardship Chair.



**BE A GOOD
STEWARD**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER . . .



What's a Steward? Excerpts from an article written by Patricia van Oostveen help us understand the term "steward" in a variety of contexts. After examining the Old English, modern English, and biblical contexts of the word "steward," van Oostveen debunks four modern myths about stewardship in the church and then highlights two truths about what it means to be a steward of God's resources. The following is an excerpt of an article by **Patricia van Oostveen**:

A "stigweard" is an Old English term for steward—"stig" meaning "house," and "weard" meaning "warden or keeper." Webster's dictionary defines a steward as "one employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns including supervision of servants, collection of rents and keeping of accounts."

The office of steward is not only one of great responsibility, but it is also an office that requires great accountability. Stewards have no inherent authority of their own. Their authority is entrusted to them by their master. When we acknowledge God as our master, we come to see ourselves as God sees us: stewards. Stewardship is how we serve God in our role as God's stewards. Stewardship is "everything" we do after we accept Christ.

There are four myths that surround the topic of stewardship:

- Myth #1** The congregation's stewardship is primarily a matter of paying the church bills.
- Myth #2** Faith and finances do not mix.
- Myth #3** Stewardship is best motivated by guilt.
- Myth #4** Encouraging congregational stewardship is the job of (a) the pastor, (b) the council, (c) the congregation (choose one).

In order to dispel the myths of stewardship, we have to embrace the *truths* of stewardship:

- Truth #1** Stewardship grows from grace.
- Truth #2** We are entrusted and charged with the responsibility of managing God's world.

Unless the church takes seriously its vocation as steward of God's grace, the broader stewardship of God's creation will not be restored. It is redeeming grace that empowers us to live as stewards over all that God entrusts to us. Christ's redemptive work extends beyond our personal salvation to embrace heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1). Our concerns should be just as broad.

So, are you a "stigweard?"

— Jan Fisher, Stewardship Committee Chair
Article contents from the book *Becoming a First Fruits Congregation*

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)*.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

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

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary
419-522-0662

Acolytes

Assisting Ministers

Greeters

Lay Readers

Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

Roscoe Thompson, III, Worship Chair
419-522-7571

Sound Booth Operators

Beth Harruff, 419-589-2762

Communion Preparers

Communion Assistants

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247

Ushers

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

Children's Church Leaders

Chris Cichanowicz,

Sunday School Superintendent

419-529-6593

Nursery Helpers

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304

Pew Pad Gleaners

Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090

8:00 am Sunday Prayer Partners

Barb Hill, 419-756-4998

Blood Pressure Nurses

Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion Preparers

Proclaim! Communion Assistants

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

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

GREETERS 8:30 A.M.

Steve & Devera Ritz	Narthex
Lois McCullough	East Entrance

USHERS 8:30 A.M.

Larry Faith
Rebecca Faith

GREETERS 11:00 A.M.

Bill & Mary Ellen Schulz	Narthex
Shirley Bender	East Entrance

USHERS 11:00 A.M.

Gene Harsch
Jack Leonard

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

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

8:30 POWER POINT OPERATORS

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

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:05 am</u>
Oct 4	Stan Cichanowicz	Shelley Shupp
Oct 11	Cindy Russell	Tom Hillman
Oct 18	Henry Keultjes	Jodi Mumaw
Oct 25	Wes Volz	Pat Reed

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

Oct 4	Chris Kaschube	Oct 18	Annette Doklovic
Oct 11	Bob McCready	Oct 25	Stan Cichanowicz

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

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

8:30 A.M.

	Oct 4	Mary Hujus
	Oct 11	Liz Prather
	Oct 18	Chris Cichanowicz
Reformation	Oct 25	Pat Reed

11:00 A.M.

Jo Wirstrom
Annette Doklovic
Bill Schulz
Stacey Crall

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFER

8:30 A.M.

	Oct 4	A Michael Ward
	Oct 11	A Paul Hogsette
	Oct 18	A Katie Ritz
Reformation	Oct 25	A Stephen Ward

11:00 A.M.

A Rachel Shupp
A TBA
A Emily Blankenship
A Katilyn Stransky
C Bryan Eyerly
T TBA
T Lindsey Brenkus

PEW PAD GLEANERS

Oct 4	Lana Conry	Oct 18	Sharon Bowden
Oct 11	Jane Sprang	Oct 25	Gene Luedy

COMMUNION PREPARERS

	Oct 4	11:00 a.m.	Wes & Sandie Volz
	Oct 11	8:30 a.m.	Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon
Reformation	Oct 25	8:30 a.m.	Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon
Reformation	Oct 25	11:00 a.m.	Jim & Lolita Scheiber
Reformation	Oct 25	5:00 p.m.	Wes & Sandie Volz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>Oct 4 - 11:00 am</u>	<u>October 11 - 8:30 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West	Gene Calver	Jane Anderson
Cups West	Lana Conry	Mike Anderson
Wine East	Chris Cichanowicz	Steve Ritz
Cups East	Marilyn Dinges	Devera Ritz
Intinction	Jane Sprang	Ken Frayer

REFORMATION SUNDAY MORNING

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(continuous communion)

	<u>Oct 25 - 8:30 am</u>	<u>October 25 - 11:00 am</u>
Bread Servers	2 Pastors	Pastor & Assisting Minister
Wine West	Dolores Esler	Annette Doklovic
Cups West	Jackie Moxley	Donna Rettig
Wine East	Gene Luedy	Terry Leedy
Cups East	Marilyn Motson	Kay Leedy
Intinction	Jerry Gallagher	Marianne Sweat

RICHLAND/ASHLAND CONFERENCE REFORMATION AFTERNOON SERVICE

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(continuous communion)

Oct 25 - 5:00 p.m.

Bread Servers	2 Pastors
Wine West	Renee Blankenship
Cups West	Matt Blankenship
Wine East	Shawn Volz
Cups East	Tricia Volz
Intinction	Beth Harruff

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Christian Day School Committee

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

Oct 4: Barb Hill

SEPTEMBER ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Pat Wells
Chapel: Cheryl Lantz
Proclaim!: Jan Fisher

+ + + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

Oct 4 Cindy and Robyn Russell Oct 18 Haley Pittman
Oct 11 Sarah Jones and Elizabeth Volz Oct 25 Ronda and Ashley Rehm

Communion Preparers

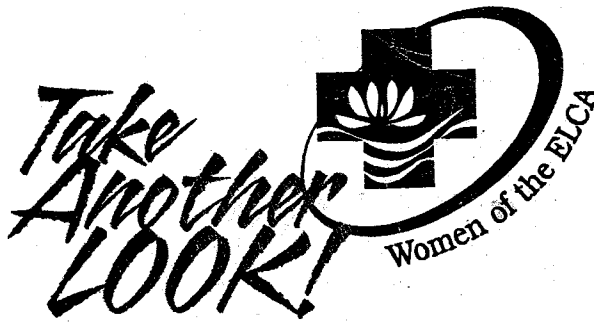
Oct 18 Renee and Emily Blankenship
Reformation Oct 25 Jan Fisher

Communion Assistants

Oct 18 Renee and Emily Blankenship
Tricia and Elizabeth Volz
Reformation Oct 25 Cheryl Lantz and TBA
Ted and Karen Ellis

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson



OCTOBER 2009 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
SARAH	5	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Margaret Battisti Hostess: Vi Deems
LYDIA	5	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Program: Juanita Baker, Daughters of the American Revolution Hostess: Betty Baehrens
FIRST TUESDAY	6	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room Program: Terry Carter, First Call "Information Referral"
EVE	6	TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Prayer Shawl Focus Group
MARY	9	FRIDAY	10:00 A.M.	At the home of Virginia Blizzard Hostess: Dee Hautzenroeder & Bev Bishop
WORKDAY LADIES	7 & 21	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
PLANNING TEAM	19	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room.

Altar Group Workers: Nave – Pat Wells; Chapel – Cheryl Lantz; Proclaim! – Jan Fisher

Funeral Dinners: Squad D, Jackie Moxley & Shirley Shupp

COMING EVENTS:

October 1 – LWR kits deadline

October 9 – Convention Registration deadline

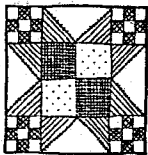
October 9 & 10 Women's Retreat Pastor Amy Little
Blackfork Retreat Center

October 23 & 24 Biennial Convention Divinity Lutheran, Parma Heights
Jerry Gallagher, delegate

2009 SCHOOL KITS, HEALTH KITS, SEWING 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), School kits, Health kits, Sewing kits, and Layettes. A list of items for each kit has been published in The Visitor for several months. All kits must be returned to the church as a complete kit ready for shipping. **Deadline to turn in completed kits is October 4**. They will be packed and then taken to Seville, Ohio, later in October for shipping.

The shipping costs are quite high to get these goods delivered overseas. **Monetary contributions towards the shipping costs** may be placed in a pew envelope and clearly marked LWR SHIPPING with the amount and your envelope number. Contributions will be accepted through Sunday, October 4. — Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820



Quilters

QUILTS and KITS WILL BE BLESSED during the worship services the weekend of October 3 & 4 before shipping them to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to the Workday Ladies for creating the quilts, and to those who helped by sewing blocks together at home to make quilt tops:

Workday Ladies:

Bev Bishop
Virginia Blizzard
Jan Fisher
Jerry Gallagher
Adelia Hautzenroeder
Diane Molyet
Nancy Pasheilich
Patricia Reed
Lynda Ringold

Quilt top sewers:

Lois Brown
Karyne Carey
Karen Ellis
Sandie Volz
Pearl West
Jana Tushingham (“Betty’s Mom”)



OCTOBER NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

Our Bible verse for October is "Press on toward the goal!" Philippians 3:14. The children will also be reading Bible stories about Moses this month.

October is fire safety month, so the children will be learning about fire safety and they will visit Fire Station No. 1. The pre-schoolers will be going to see a play called Rainbow Fish on Wednesday, October 28. On Friday, October 30, all classes will be having fall parties.

Our Book Fair is scheduled for the week of October 19-23. Scholastic always has many great books for the children to choose. Our Open House for parents will be on Wednesday, October 21, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. This will give the parents an opportunity to observe their children in their classrooms and to discuss the child's progress with their teachers.

The children and staff at the Day School would like to remind everyone to take the time to appreciate the beautiful scenery God has given us at this special time of year!

- Mrs. Terry Bianchi, Director

**Blood
DRIVE**

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Our next blood drive will be held Tuesday, November 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Emmaus Room and should only take a total of 45 - 60 minutes of your time. If you are in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds, you can donate a pint of blood as often as every 56 days and a single donation can save up to three lives! Please take time to mark your calendars. Those wishing to make an appointment may contact Kay Leedy at 419-884-0405. Thank you!



Congregation
Council

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL NOTES . . .

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, September 8, 2009 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:03 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Larson.

CHRISTIAN DAY

SCHOOL: Linda Elgin thanked everyone who helped paint the CDS rooms, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their assistance in purchasing paint, the men who installed new lighting, and Shawn Volz for taking the church bus to the Blackfork Retreat Center. Council approved establishing the FELC Christian Day School Endowment Fund with funds that were formerly given to the Christian Day School scholarship fund.

WELCA: Cheryl Lantz said the WELCA Women's retreat will be October 9 and 10 at the Blackfork Retreat Center with Pastor Amy Little as leader. Council approved the use of the undercroft for the Richland/Ashland WELCA Cluster meeting Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Paul Larson mentioned upcoming dates:

Anderson Lecture Series with Dr. Ralph Quere on October 10, with the meal served at FELC, and Dr. Quere preaching on October 11.

FELC is hosting the Richland/Ashland Conference Reformation service on October 25 at 5:00 p.m. with Dr. Ken Sauer preaching and followed by a potluck meal.

Consecration Weekend will be held October 31 and November 1.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Andy Jones stated he will preach at St. Luke's Lutheran Church on September 20, the day Pastor Dawn Donato of St. Luke's will be preaching for the WELCA Thankoffering service at FELC. Pastor Jones showed photographs of the construction of the meeting hall in Malawi, Africa.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee to put the money received from the Laura B. Brant Estate, in the amount of \$142,554.06, into the General Endowment Fund. Council approved this recommendation.

It was noted, that based on present projections of giving and expenses, the General Fund will end the 2009 year in the red with a \$19,985 deficit.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Lu Diday said the potluck meal following the August 30, 5th Sunday worship service went well, and the Malawi Mission trip presentation was awesome.

During the month of November, there will be a pew pad question asking the congregation if they desire to continue the pattern of one weekend combined service at 10:00 a.m. in those month with 5 Sundays.

SERVICE: Becky Sarbach said a blood drive will be held November 10, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(continued)

GLOBAL MISSION: Jeanne Hillman mentioned mission support in the amount of \$750.00 for the Kraft family and \$600.00 for the Sorge family will be sent to World Mission Prayer League.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz presented a report on the following items:

Prices are being obtained to repair the wall in the front of the church lawn and for repair of the Blackfork Retreat Center building chimney.

A tree service company was hired to remove a tree that fell against the electric service lines at the Blackfork Retreat Center.

New lighting and ceilings have been installed on the third floor and one room enlarged (as a result of a wall between 2 smaller rooms removed) in the Sunday School area.

The church chandeliers were lowered and cleaned.

Shawn issued a thank you to Gene Harsch for his dedicated work on the church lawn, flowers, trimming the bushes and weed removal from the parking lots.

Chris Cichanowicz issued a big thank you to Tom Pasheilich and Bill Schwartz and their team of volunteers for their work on the Sunday School rooms.

WORSHIP: Roscoe Thompson reported he has had good reports about the 5th Sunday combined worship service. Council approved a continuing resolution for the FELC Concert Series Task Force to permit fund raising prior to and a free will offering during upcoming concerts to cover concert expenses.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz stated Sunday School Rally Day was held Sunday, September 13. Teachers are enjoying the bright and freshly painted rooms. Walkers and sponsors are needed for the October 4 CROP Walk.

STEWARDSHIP: Jan Fisher presented information from the Stewardship Committee to hold the regular worship schedule for the Saturday, October 31, 5:00 p.m. chapel service and the Sunday, November 1, 8:30 a.m. worship service, and to hold a combined 11:00 a.m. worship service for Consecration weekend.

Stewardship temple talks will be presented October 3 and 4, 10 and 11, 24 and 25, with Lu and Jerry Diday presenting the sermon on October 17 and 18. Jan Fisher, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, asked for daily prayers for the success of this Stewardship Campaign and the opening of hearts to the biblical principle of tithing.

YOUTH: Teri Brenkus mentioned Shawn and Tricia Volz hosted an August 30 youth event at their home. The first Youth Group meeting will be held Sunday, September 20, 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m. with prayer by Becky Sarbach.

– Mary M. Schwartz
Congregational Council Secretary

MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

Respect is huge in Malawi. They show great respect for one another, regardless of position or station. Elders and leaders are highly regarded. Children are honored and valued. When they meet one another, they go to great lengths to honor the value of the person that they are meeting. One of the ways they communicate that value is through the custom of giving gifts.

I knew before we went to Malawi that as a Pastor of First English Lutheran Church, when I met the Pastor of Calvary Chapel in Lilongwe, Tom Mambo, I would need to give him some kind of gift. (Pastor Mambo is the Chair of the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries Board, and we are partnering with Calvary Chapel in our work in Kanyenyeva.) I knew that I would need to show my respect for him, and thank him for welcoming us into his home. I wondered for a while about what would be an appropriate gift; not too expensive, not too cheap, able to be packed in my luggage, something that would be helpful for him as a pastor. After a while, I decided to give him a copy of *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, along with a small group DVD and a couple of small group guide books. This book has been a great help for many people in our congregation, and I thought that he would find value in it as well. Also, our church's time in *The Purpose Driven Life* led directly to two members of our team making the journey.

As Pastor Mambo welcomed us into his living room, I noticed a copy of the book already

sitting on a book shelf! I figured that he'd already read the book, and was graciously receiving my gift so as to not embarrass me. I could not have been more wrong.

Since our visit to Malawi, Pastor Mambo has been reading *The Purpose Driven Life*, and has been caught up in the hope and encouragement that are found in those pages. He is so taken by the book, that he now has the vision of leading his entire congregation through the book. There are 350 adult members of the Calvary Chapel church. I'll let him share his vision in his own words: "My desire is to reach out all these people in groups of 10 at a session. My schedule will allow me to handle two groups per day for 40 days and later those trained may help to reach others in similar groups. I will be looking for a day when the whole community will be reached with the lessons from the *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE*. This will solve multitude of challenges people in my community are facing everyday."

To complete their study, **they have a great need for Bibles**. "These will be used when we are sharing and later in their homes when they are making reviews and also when they will be sharing with their family members. Bibles are a great need in Malawi. 75% of the Bibles have to be in Chichewa which is our local language, and **25 % should be in English**. The whole project which will run for about 120 days i.e. several groups each taking 40 days."

(continued)

The Malawi Orphan Care Ministries Committee here at FELC is brainstorming ways that we can creatively help the Calvary Chapel church meet their goal.

If you have any ideas, contact us through Jeannie Hillman, Joy Jones, or Pastor Andy.

Thanks for your support of this vibrant ministry.
– Pastor Andy



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

Give to charity just by searching the Internet! "How do I do that?" you may ask. It's easy...every time you search the Internet using www.GoodSearch.com, your charity earns money. The more you search, the more they make. Add up the money generated from all of your searches, combine those done by others, and we can make a difference to the people and causes that need funds most.

Search the Internet just as you normally would -- the site is powered by Yahoo!, so you'll get high-quality search results. I have chosen Lithuania Christian College - LCC International Fund. I know that we all use search engines often. Let's pull together and see what we can do to help LCC! Just follow the instructions on how to set up your charity to receive search funds.

From World Mission Prayer League (www.wmpl.org)

Nick and Shannon Kraft write: "We are praising God for the youth of this generation, who seem to be totally passionate about God and want to take the Bible at face value and the God of the Bible at his word. May 'greater things' be done in them through Him!"

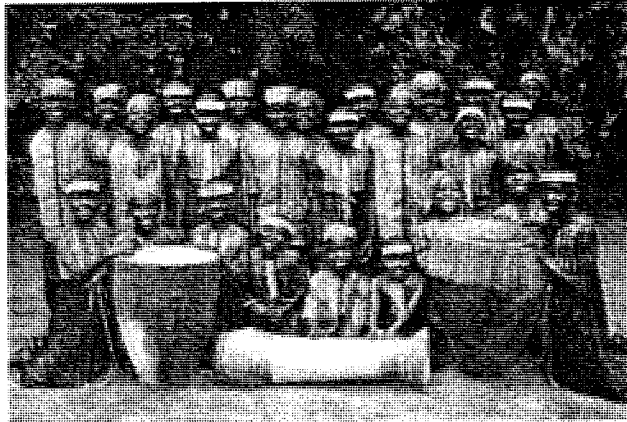
Lift up Henrik and Patty Christopherson in prayer as they reconnect with mission partners in the Pacific Northwest and they seek God's guidance for the future. E-mail: HenrikPatty@gmail.com.

– Jeanne Hillman, Global Mission Chair

In Concert



Music For Life



African Children's Choir

The AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR, selected Annually from thousands of orphans and disadvantaged children in Africa, delivers a powerful blend of singing, dancing, and storytelling to bridge cultural differences and spread hope and joy to audiences throughout the world. The internationally acclaimed Choir has performed before numerous dignitaries and has appeared at some of the worlds most prestigious halls including the London Palladium, The International Club of Berlin, and the Palais des Beuax-Arts in Brussels. Don't miss out on this unforgettable moving experience!

"A beautiful moving expression of God's love on display. The children have a joy that melts the heart."

Charles "Chuck" Swindoll Pastor Author

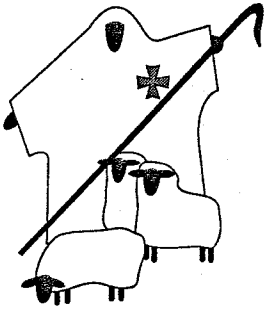
"I sat and wept (in the concert) . . . I really believe in your cause, I believe you!"

Dr. James Dobson Focus On The Family

Wednesday, October 7th, 2009

@ 7:00pm

First Church of God
3616 State Route 39, Shelby
419-342-4636



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Virginia Hanawalt: "Thank you to Pastor Larson, Pastor Jones, and Pastor Kress, and all the people who signed my birthday poster. And thank you to the CDS teachers and students for their birthday card. Blessings to all."

From Katherine Coon: "I want to thank Pastor Paul Larson and everyone that sent cards for my birthday, and to the children at First English Lutheran Christian Day School. All were very much appreciated."

From Luella Crall: "Your thoughtfulness was appreciated more than words can say on my 92nd birthday!"

From Shirley Lane: "This note is an open thank you to a very special couple in our congregation (who wish to remain anonymous), and to inform our church family of their thoughtful and generous gift. For several months, this couple have given me a bag full of gold tokens for rides on the Carrousel downtown. I am privileged to hand the tokens out to the children who are our guests at Wednesday's lunch. The couple's sweet generosity has made so many little kids smile, but to tell the truth, I have the biggest smile of all! Thank you so much for sharing. God bless you."

From Tricia Volz and the 3rd through 5th grade Sunday school class: "On behalf of the 3rd through 5th grade Sunday school class, we would like to thank everyone that worked hard to make our classroom twice the size and more inviting than before. On Sunday [Rally Day], we could actually walk around our table without climbing under the table to get in and out or over our fellow class mates. We could also do a project and have a lesson in the same room on the same day. The only downfall was that we had so many visitors checking us out that every time we got into doing something, someone was visiting. We figure the novelty will wear off after a couple of weeks and we can get down to business! Any ways, thank you for all your hard work and dedication!"

Congratulations to Dawn and Matt Butterman on the birth of their son, David Alexander, on September 15, 2009 at 12:03 p.m. 7 lbs. 15 oz. and 20 ½ inches long. Big brother is Taylor Grossenbacher, and grandparents are Karen and Ken Frayer.



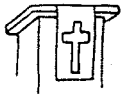
OCTOBER 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Best wishes to our members who will be 80+ years of age this month! Your friends in our congregation send warm greetings to you. We thank God who has blessed you through the years and who has given you a full and good life. May you remain strong in faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

OCTOBER

1	Mrs. Dorothy Giffin	10 Blymyer Ave., Apt 702	44903-2350
1	Mr. William Graham	540 Sunset Blvd.	44907-2706
1	Mrs. Geraldine Wycoff	116 Harvard Ave.	44906-2819
2	Mrs. Thelma Dise	c/o Richard Welsh, 126 Sherbrook Rd.	44907
4	Mr. Forest Marlow	78 Massa Ave.	44907-1224
5	Mrs. Helen Wappner	385 Abbeyfeale Rd.	44907-1014
6	Mrs. Jean Ridenour	478 E. Cook Road, #401	44903-6713
14	Mrs. Ruth Hughes	1091 Woodville Rd.	44907-2111
16	Mr. Leonard Claypool	1510 Victory St.	44905-2251
19	Mr. Daryl Heiser	8641 Bayview Rd, Onkama MI	49675
24	Mrs. Martha Brune	2127 Crimson Rd.	44903-8859
25	Mrs. Eleanor Lime	1296 S. Trimble Road, #204	44906-2973
28	Mr. Bob McCready	1853 Graham Rd.	44904-9774
31	Mrs. Mildred Them	1249 Walker Lake Rd.	44906-1817

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



The tenth and eleventh chapters of John clearly present the struggle Jesus faced in his earthly life. In the tenth chapter, Jesus states he was the Shepherd of the sheep. In verses 9 and 10, Jesus states, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (NIV).

In the play Hamlet, act 1, scene 5, we read these words, "The time is out of joint: O cursed spite, that ever I was born to see it right!" Hamlet was nearly correct. He sensed the crookedness, the brokenness of his time. In this he was right. But he was wrong to resent his role in putting things right. For in a sense, all times are wicked, only the symptoms vary.

That is exactly what troubled Jesus when he looked on the people of his day. They had to struggle for a living, and he knew how hard it was to earn enough for bread, shelter, clothing, taxes and all the demands of their lives. Their energy and strength was almost consumed in the daily struggle, and like so many in every generation, they were so busy making a living that they had lost the joy of living.

Many are convinced that nothing can be done to ease the problems of poverty, prejudice, war and lawlessness that plague our civilization. Because we cannot change

everything, we end up doing nothing. There is a way to crowd out apathy which paralyzes our lives. First, we need greater Faith. Faith anchors us to the power of God that displays itself in Jesus Christ who gave his life for us. You may ask how Faith is acquired? Begin viewing life with reverence or a constant sense of wonder and awe. Praise God for His grace and mercy. This sense of reverence is central to all of life. It keeps our minds attuned to God. It keeps the roots of Faith nourished. It keeps our attention focused on the right and best. It restores our spirits, it refreshes our souls, it reinforces our Faith.

Faith gives us an anchor to the power of God. *Hope* helps cure the apathy of pessimism. *Love* shakes us out of our carelessness and stirs us to share God's concern for people. "For only as we stop asking others to love us and begin to care for and love others, then others will begin to care for and love us." Jesus knew this was true. He stated this deep secret of life in these words, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you."

We conquer apathy when we really live the abundant life, remembering God in every situation, with reverence and wonder, trusting in the hope purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross; learning to give ourselves in love.

—Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor



We remember the families and friends of those who died August 21 - September 18, 2009:

JoAnne Zacharias <i>(wife of William Zacharias)</i>	August 21
Alverna Hentges <i>(sister of Alice Kress)</i>	August 23
Mary Pore	September 6
Marie Young	September 6
Marjorie Menefee	September 17

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:	September 9, 2009	Mary Pore
	September 11, 2009	Marie Young
	September 21, 2009	Marjorie Menefee (graveside)
Baptism:	September 20, 2009	Zane Alexander Pfeleiderer, son of Matt and Nicole Reid Pfeleiderer

A Living Legacy

Recently, we were blessed to receive a bequest from the estate of Laura Barr Brant for the General Endowment Fund of FELC in the amount of \$142,544. Her gift will now be a *Living Legacy* of her great love for Jesus and her church. Through her gift, she will continue to support God's Kingdom work.

Billy Graham was asked on the occasion of his 80th Birthday, "Dr. Graham in your 80 years of living, what have you learned about life?" Dr. Graham responded: "*Life is Short.*" For someone who could preach long and profound sermons, this sermon was short and profound. Truly, the older we become, the greater the truth we hear in Billy Grahams words. Yes, "Life is Short!" And what Legacy will you leave for Eternity?

Jesus said: "*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that fruit should abide;*" (John 15:16a)

What is the "*Fruit that Abides*"? It is the fruit that lasts for all Eternity. God has created you and me for one purpose: To Bring Glory to His Name. Miss this one and we have missed life! When we witness for Christ; when we do good deeds for Christ; when we give of our financial resources for Christ → we do the Work of His Kingdom. The proof is in our motives! This is the Fruit that Abides!

When you die, will you leave behind a *Legacy of Faith*? As Christians living in a land where we are blessed with *SO* much, we have a special opportunity → to Give a Gift that Keeps-On-Giving! This is called Legacy Giving!

As members of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, we invite you to participate in *Legacy Giving*. Consider tithing (10%) your estate or insurance policy to the ongoing Kingdom Work of our Lord Jesus through your own home congregation. Many different secular and civic organizations these days are eager to invite us to support their good causes. But why not put God's Kingdom work FIRST. Invest in the "*Fruit that Abides.*" Give a gift that keeps on working for God's Kingdom until Jesus Comes! Through giving to the Endowment Funds of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church you will leave a *Living Legacy* that will continue to give the Gift of Eternal Salvation through the Miracle of Jesus' Love. There is no better Gift!

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

Mary Pore:

Janet Glasener
Mr. & Mrs. Al Dikas
Alex Dikas
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cencek
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Dikas & Lucas
Frances Openchowski

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE APPEAL

Alverna Hentges:

Tom and Jeanne Hillman
Paul and Kristi Larson

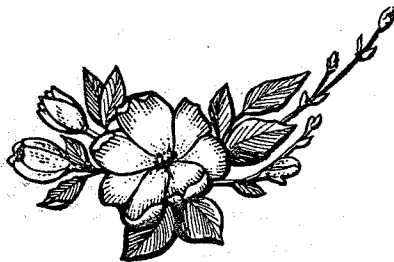
Norma Price:

Wes and Sandie Volz

GLOBAL MISSIONS FUND

Marie Young:

Tom and Jeanne Hillman



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Pastor Larson	plarson@felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Jones	ajones@felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Kress	ckress@felc-mansfield.org
Timothy Guenther	tguenther@felc-mansfield.org
Becky Pittman	bpittman@felc-mansfield.org
Karen Frayer	kfrayer@felc-mansfield.org
Betty Guenther	bguenther@felc-mansfield.org
Connie Stewart	cstewart@felc-mansfield.org
Church Office	office@felc-mansfield.org

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

MISSION STATEMENT

First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Andrew W. Jones, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor
Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, Director of Music
Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts
Mrs. Terry Bianchi, Christian Day School Director

Karen Frayer, Bookkeeper	John Meyer, Custodial/Maintenance
Connie Stewart, Parish Secretary/Printer	Jim Scheiber, Property Manager
Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary/Visitor Editor	Janet Kick, Nursery Care Worker
Michelle Myers, Christian Day School Secretary	


First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

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

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 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	2 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	3 5:00pm Holy Comm (Chapel)
4 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Matins Choir Reh 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:30am 10:45 Blood Pressure 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Blood Pressure 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Holy Comm (Nave) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 2:00pm CROP WALK	5 9:30am Men's Group @ Denny's 1:00pm Sarah Circle (ER) 7:00pm Property Committee (UC) 7:30pm Lydia Circle TBA	6 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 10:00am Pastoral Care (FR) 12:00pm First Tuesday (ER) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL) 7:00pm Eve Circle Focus Group Meeting (ER)	7 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	8 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 9:30am Columbus Church Women United 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (ER) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	9 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:00am Mary Circle (Blizzards' home) 7:00pm Welca Retreat ((BRC)	10 9:00am Welca Retreat ((BRC) 5:00pm Worship (Chapel) 6:30pm Anderson Lecture series
11 Anderson Lecture series 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 5:30pm Confirm class (ER)	12 1:00pm Finance Committee (FR) 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	13 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL) 7:00pm Council (UC)	14 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	15 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	16 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 9:30am Focus Group Meeting (ER) 10:30am - 2 PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER)	17 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
18 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Worship (Nave) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 5:30pm Confirm Class (ER)	19 7:00pm WELCA Planning (ER)	20 *Visitor deadline* 9:00am Holy Comm @ Elmcroft 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 10:15am Holy Comm @ Waterford 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL) 2:00pm Holy Comm @Mifflin Care	21 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	22 9:15am Music Therapy (ER) 9:30am Holy Comm @ Sterling 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 12:00pm Pastor's Brown Bag Lunch (ER) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	23 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	24 *Food Collection* 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
25 *Food Collection* 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Worship (Nave) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 5:00pm Richland/Ashland Reformation (N/UC)	26 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	27 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	28 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	29 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	30 WELCA NEO Synod Board Meeting (BRC) 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	31 *Consecration weekend* WELCA NEO Synod Board Meeting (BRC) 5:00pm Holy Comm (Chapel)

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