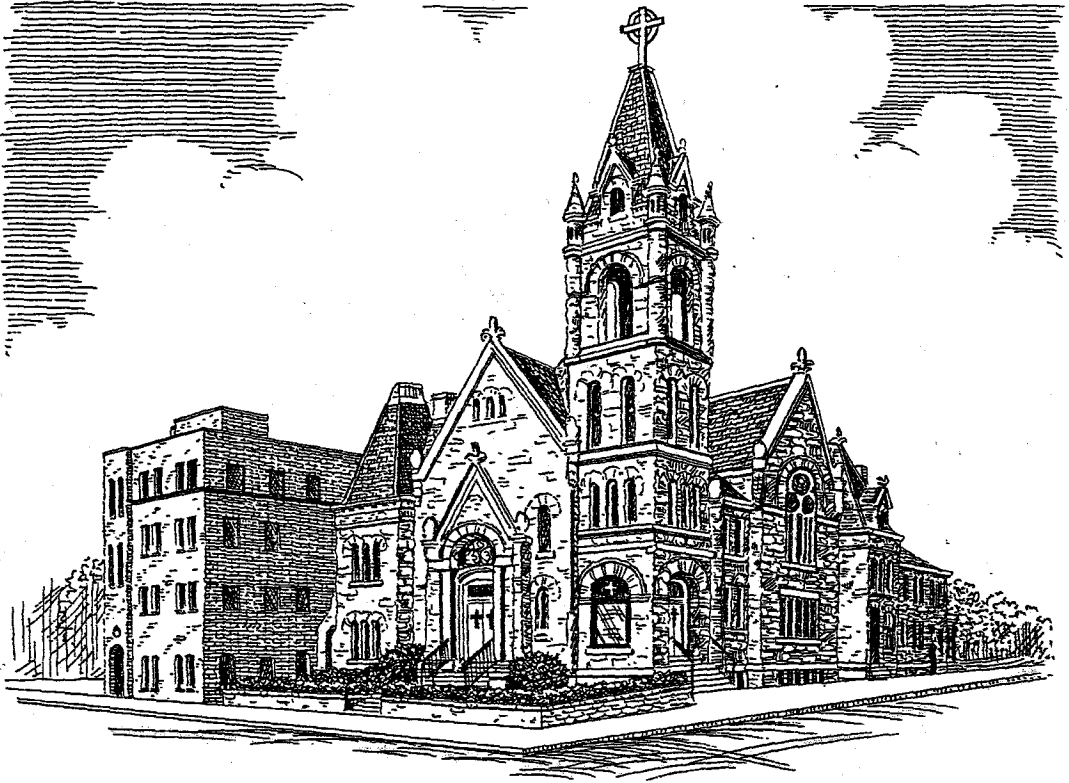


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

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“Behold! I Make All Things New!”

I am struck by how every time in my life I loose someone close to me, the new loss, the new sorrow, has a way of opening up the times of grief and loss from the past. There is a common well of sorrow that runs through all those times of death. Therefore, I am not surprised when, on Good Friday,... as I kneel before the cross of my Lord, the sorrow of His death takes hold of me.

In many ways, the Service of Good Friday is like every funeral. It is important to share grief in the midst of the people we love. God has not made us strong enough to bear such burdens alone. It is not so much the words that we speak to each other that bring comfort. Words grow thin. Sometimes the greatest strength is found in just being together. The presence of one another reminds us of the promise of Christ’s presence with us. In our sorrow, the worship embraces and carries us. And we, in Christ’s Love, carry one another.

In that Good Friday Service, I experience such a deep and powerful Promise of Love. It is the kind of healing love that is shared between friends and family at a funeral. I have come to share in your grief and you have come to share in mine. You too have come to stand with me in the darkness and witness The Cross upon which our Savior dies.

I try deliberately not to think of Easter too much on Good Friday. I try to let it sink in again that Jesus died a horrible death, that He died a horrible death for me! I try to focus on His suffering, His sorrow and His death, knowing that He didn’t have to go there, but also knowing that He went there totally for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus went before us. He endured living hell through a tortuous dying that not only included nails, thorns and spear, but also the weight of the SIN of the entire world. He endured in His own body on the Tree of the Cross the due punishment for every one of my sins,... and yes, every one of your sins as well. He went before us through

the most hideous horrors to face head-on the powers of Death ... so that He might emerge victorious for us on the other side. THIS is how great His Love is for you and me!

This is the Miracle of Good Friday & Easter: That through this brutal death for us, *JESUS Makes ALL Things NEW!* Through His Cross and Resurrection, He defeats the Powers of SIN, DEATH and the DEVIL. He sets us free from the clutches of SIN that would hold us in bondage and despair. He liberates us from our pasts, claiming us as His own so that we might Live for Him. He gives us the Gift of HIS New Beginning. In Christ, You Are a NEW Creation! And in Jesus we receive the Gift of a New Life with GOD, which not even Death will be able to destroy! In Jesus, we have received the Miracle of GOD's Love, powerful enough to Heal our pasts and Transform all of our todays and all of our tomorrows.

On Good Friday, it is possible to grieve, to weep, to be thankful, and to hope... all at the same time, because we already know 'the rest of the story.' On Good Friday, we walk through the graveyard to an empty tomb and the Resurrection.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Together In Christ's Love,

Pastor Paul L. Larson



Why There Must Be New Beginnings

By Dr. Robert Benne, Member Lutheran CORE Advisory Council
Director of the Center for Religion & Society at Roanoke College, Salem, VA

As Lutheran CORE organizes an association for renewal for dissenting congregations, . . . , and as it develops a new ecclesial body for those congregations departing the ELCA, it is important to give reasons why there must be new beginnings for Lutheranism in North America. Such an accounting not only gives a fuller understanding of the grievances of orthodox Lutheran congregations and individuals, but it sketches important lines of direction for the future. This accounting is particularly important in order to indicate that our movement is not obsessed about one or two issues, but rather is a holistic response to a systemic problem. There are simply too many bumbles and distortions to remain [in the ELCA] as if nothing serious has happened. We must make new beginnings.

Further, there is ample evidence from the trajectory of The Episcopal Church in America that the current course of the ELCA will not be reversed. As has been the case in that church, the revisionists will consolidate their power, the policies of the ELCA will become more coercive, and those pressing the tendencies listed below will become even bolder. . . . There are compelling reasons for new beginnings. Those reasons must be stated first of all in a negative fashion—the distortions that we must leave behind.

The following ten points describe what must be left behind as we make new beginnings. These ten criticisms also provide clues about the contours of those new ventures.

1. The first thing that must be left behind is the heterodox [unorthodox] arrogance by which the leadership of the ELCA has ignored the clear meaning of Scripture, the testimony of the whole Christian moral tradition, the wisdom of its predecessor bodies, and the voice of the ecumenical church in the world today with regard to the issue of homosexual conduct.

For better or worse, that issue is the one that has been pressed upon all mainstream Protestant churches. The acceptance of homosexual conduct has become the “line in the sand” separating revisionist from orthodox Christianity. The ELCA became the first American confessional church to cross that line by passing statements and policies that depart from Christian orthodox teaching and practice.

Not only does the church now accept homosexual conduct among its members and pastors, its statements on other issues of sexual morality are equally as disturbing. The ELCA could not bring itself to endorse: the God-given paradigm of the nuclear family; procreation as a central purpose of marriage; the wrongness of pre-marital sex and co-habitation; and the continuing Christian ideal of marriage itself. It endorsed marriage as a historical “construct” but stopped short of holding it up as a divinely-ordained institution for our time. [Our] new ventures must rejoin the consensus of the Great Tradition on these matters. ...

2. If sexuality issues provided the flashpoint, the flash illuminated many more grave problems. Perhaps the foremost among them is the distortion of the Gospel that has taken place in the working theology of the ELCA.

The ELCA has replaced the “Gospel of redemption” with the “Gospel of inclusion.” The former is Trinitarian in structure and holds to God’s Law as both the standard for moral guidance and repentance, to God’s forgiveness and affirmation of the repentant sinner through his grace in Christ, and to the work of the Holy Spirit in amendment of life according to God’s commandments.

The “gospel of inclusion,” which now is in ascendance [on the increase] in the ELCA, emphasizes a grace that accepts everyone just as they are and includes them *without* repentance and amendment of life into God’s kingdom. It’s dominance in the ELCA recalls H. Richard Niebuhr’s famous indictment of liberal Protestantism. **“A God without wrath brings men (sic) without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”**

Lutheran CORE’s efforts at renewal have to reclaim the authentic Gospel which is spelled out clearly in the constitution of the ELCA. They must honor what the ELCA has left in the lurch. ...

3. Closely related to these issues, Lutheran CORE’s future ecclesial body must leave behind a flawed polity (organizational structure) that has prevented this aforementioned biblical and theological guidance from being exercised in the ELCA. ... **The ELCA has employed a quota system to bend the church in a revisionist direction while diminishing the influence of the learned and experienced.** A new expression of the church must find a way for genuine authoritative biblical and confessional authority to be exercised in the church....

4. A fourth item to jettison is the ELCA's dishonoring of the word "evangelical" in its very name by its weakness in evangelism both at home and abroad. Like the rest of mainline Protestantism, it has replaced evangelism with social ministry (a worthy goal) and thereby diminished Gospel ministry. This reflects in part a universalism (everyone will be saved) among some clergy and theologians. It is no secret that the ELCA has begun a pitiful number of new congregations at home and has dramatically reduced its missionaries abroad.

Indeed, a particularly painful decision has been its refusal to do "pioneer" missionary work—proclaiming the Gospel to those who have never heard it. Lutheran CORE's new beginnings must put evangelism front and center; their budgets should reflect that it is the highest priority of both its association and new church.

5. We should leave behind a theological education system that is not only ponderous and expensive, but is more reflective of the liberal Protestantism of most of the non-denominational divinity schools that train our seminary faculties than of the orthodox Lutheran intellectual and practical tradition that we cherish. Lutheran CORE must find a way to educate and form pastors and lay leaders in a more reliable manner than has been case.

6. Lutheran CORE's efforts at renewal must leave behind the suffocating and insufferable political correctness that has plagued the ELCA from its very beginning. There have been many kinds of political correctness—feminist, multiculturalist, gay and lesbian liberationist, environmentalist—that have mostly been borrowed from secular elite culture.

A certain hypersensitive feminism has led to the relentless effort to purge masculine language and images from all printed materials of the ELCA, including its worship materials. Some of its revisions are merely irritating, but others have serious theological consequences, including efforts to change or avoid the proper name of God. Feminist resistance has also prevented the ELCA from supporting any pro-life causes and policies either within its own body or with regard to public policy.

Multiculturalism has cultivated a quota-driven spoils system for minority groups combined with a near-hysterical revulsion against our mostly white, middle-class, Euro-American composition. The gay and lesbian movement has exerted enough pressure in the ELCA to lead it out of the Christian consensus on sexual morality. Environmentalism has led to more dogmatic tenets on its behalf than are claimed for the ELCA's theology.

These “isms” taken together have been so absorbed by our Lutheran publishing house that it is scarcely recognizable as a Lutheran venture. These movements have borne some elements of truth and have occasioned important gains, but the more strident forms have led to a self-righteous and coercive atmosphere that has stifled free expression and debate. Lutheran CORE’s new ventures must continue to learn from these movements without being shackled by their legalism.

7. Let’s give a long-deserved rest to the words “diversity” and “inclusivity” while we aim for genuine “catholicity.” This will entail real evangelism among all sorts and conditions of people. When that is done leadership and representation from new members will flow naturally.

8. Let’s leave behind the ELCA’s flawed notion of “the public church” in which clergy—especially the presiding Bishop—and our advocacy centers presumptuously attempt to speak from and for the ELCA and its members on matters of public policy. In doing so they have spoken on so many issues with so little compelling rationale that they have dissipated whatever moral authority the ELCA possessed.

9. Given the coming realignment of Protestantism in America, a church of the future should diminish its ecumenical interest in declining, sectarian liberal Protestant bodies and increase it among orthodox bodies—Roman Catholic, Missouri Synod Lutheran, Reformed, evangelical denominations, as well as orthodox movements within Protestant bodies riven by conflicts similar to those we have experienced.

10. Let’s leave behind pretentious buildings such as the ELCA headquarters building in Chicago and the ELCA’s unnecessary programs, many spawned by the political correctness we mentioned above. Lutheran CORE’s new ventures should have modest habitats and lean staffs that should pursue only programs that must be done by a churchwide organization.

Can there be a more compelling embodiment of Lutheranism in North America than what has thus far been enacted? Lutheran CORE is wagering that there can, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

The Congregation Council calls a Special Congregational Meeting, to be held on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary for the purpose of considering the Resolution printed below.

Resolution in support of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church Mansfield, Ohio (FEELC) terminating its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and joining Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved, that the congregation of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mansfield, OH, hereby withdraws from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northeastern Ohio Synod thereof, and be it further

Resolved, that the congregation of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mansfield, OH, hereby requests to be received into membership in Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

ELCA LEADERSHIP ACTIVE IN ORDINATION CHANGES

Contrary to some claims that the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly were merely the result of a “grass roots effort”, ELCA bishops and leaders have been active for many years to see that our understanding of God’s Word and its application in ordination standards be changed to fit a revisionist agenda. This has been evident in the way that individuals and congregations have not been disciplined for violating ELCA ministry policies, and in how retired bishops have participated in “extraordinary ordinations.” The move to revise our understanding of sexual behavior has been achieved with the tacit approval of church hierarchy.

One of the results of the actions of the August 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly is that homosexually active pastors who have been serving ELCA congregations will be now officially ‘affirmed’ in their ministry and received onto the Roster of Ordained Ministers. Homosexually active pastors have been serving in the ELCA for many years, with neither the pastors nor the congregations facing discipline for their actions. While the 2007 Churchwide Assembly called for bishops to show ‘restraint’ in meting out discipline, the fact is that bishops have been looking the other way on this issue for many years, in direct opposition to their vows as bishops and the ministry standards of the church.

Only persons who are members of the Roster of Ordained Ministers, or others in clearly defined and regulated ‘special circumstances,’ may serve ELCA congregations as pastors.

But during the last several years, bishops have refrained from disciplining congregations who have called pastors to serve them who are not on the Roster of Ordained Ministers of the ELCA. According to the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations, “Only a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of (a) congregation.”

According to a news release article from the ELCA News Service dated March 12, 2010 entitled “ELM Pastors Pleased with ELCA Bishops’ Draft Reception Rite,” 17 pastors have received ordination through the “Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM)” process. (ELM is an independent, non-affiliated group which “credentials and rosters qualified candidates of all sexual orientations and gender identities for ministry.” Many of those 17 are serving and have been serving ELCA congregations, even though they are not on the clergy roster of the ELCA, in direct violation of the ELCA Constitution. This can only happen with the approval of ELCA church leadership.

Bishops have been ‘looking the other way’ on this issue for years. Several congregations in the ELCA have been served for extended periods of time by pastors ordained through the “Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM)” process. The ELCA News Service reports, “the Rev. Jen Nagel, Salem English Lutheran Church, Minneapolis... has served

at Salem more than six years, and hopes to be on the roster of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod perhaps this summer.” According to a news release from ELM, “Nagel’s ordination (was) the 13th ‘Extraordinary Ordination’ in the eighteen years since the first ordination of openly gay pastors Jeff Johnson, Ruth Frost and Phyllis Zillhart in San Francisco, CA.” Salem Lutheran has not been under discipline by their Synod or their Bishop for having called and installed a pastor who is not on the ELCA clergy roster. I can only conclude that Bishop Craig Johnson and his predecessors have chosen to not discipline Salem English because they support the purpose of their noncompliance. More specifically, they are

supportive of the changes in theology and ministry that occurred in August 2009, and have been working in support of them before and since their passage.

The standards for ministry in the ELCA are being applied unevenly, and unfaithfully. Bishops and leaders of the ELCA are being unfaithful and dishonest in their leadership. The revisions in the ELCA are not merely the result of a ‘grass roots effort,’ as some would lead us to believe. Instead, these changes have been an agenda of the church’s leadership since the inception of the ELCA.

– Pastor Andy



LENTEN OFFERING FOR LITHUANIAN MINISTRIES

Our Lenten offerings are designated to support Lithuanian Ministries.

A designated envelope was included in the Lenten Calendar of Events mailing in February.

Lenten offerings may be placed in the offering plate at any worship service, or brought to the church office any time before Good Friday, April 2.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Attention committee chairs and organization leaders! Your annual report for May 2009 through April 2010 is due in the church office on Friday, April 2. *Be sure to include a list of your committee members.* Reports submitted by e-mail or on diskette are greatly appreciated (bguenther@felc-mansfield.org). By action of the Church Council, the Annual Meeting date is Sunday, May 16, 2010, 9:45 a.m. in the Nave.

† Holy Week & Easter Worship †

2010

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

March 28

- 5:00 PM Saturday Festival Worship
- 8:30 AM Festival Worship
- 11:00 AM Festival Worship
- 11:00 AM Proclaim! Contemporary

Wednesday in Holy Week

March 31

- 12:05 PM Holy Communion (chapel)
- 12:40 PM Lunch (undercroft)

Maundy Thursday

April 1

- 12:05 PM Holy Communion (chapel)
- 7:00 PM Holy Communion (nave)

Good Friday

April 2

- 12:05 PM Inter-Church Council
Ecumenical Good Friday
Worship at First United
Methodist Church
- 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service (nave)

Holy Saturday

April 3

- 8:00 PM Easter Vigil and Eucharist
(No 5:00 PM worship)

Easter Day

Sunday, April 4

8:30 & 11:00 AM

Festival Eucharists

(Senior Choir at both services;
The Classic Brass Quintet at 11:00)

11:00 AM

Proclaim! contemporary worship
with Holy Communion
in the undercroft



EASTER BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 4

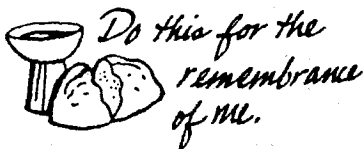
9:30-10:45 A.M. in the undercroft

Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

TRIDUUM

— The Three Holy Days —

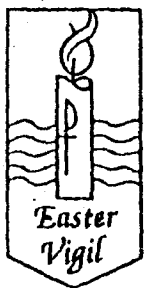
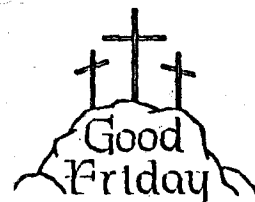
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil



Our celebration of the **Three Holy Days** begins with the **Maundy Thursday** evening communion service held at **7:00 on April 1** in the nave. The service begins with an expanded rite of confession and absolution, which is followed by the usual lessons and sermon. Scripture readings focus on the institution

of the sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper of Christ and his disciples. Confession and forgiveness are an especially important part of this service, as we finally receive the absolution which was intentionally left out of the Ash Wednesday services. The service concludes with the dramatic stripping of the Altar in preparation for the Good Friday observance. There is no benediction at the close of the service, since this is only the first part of the Triduum observance.

The second segment of the Three Holy Days continues with the **Good Friday Tenebrae** service at **7:00 P.M. on April 2**. The service is based on the biblical account of Christ's Passion According to St. John. The reading is interspersed with hymn singing and the extinguishing of seven candles. The Christ candle is extinguished and removed from the sanctuary. A rough wooden cross is carried in procession. There is a time of reflection and adoration of the crucified Christ when any may come forward to pray at the kneeling rail. Once again there is no benediction; the service continues on Saturday evening.



The **Great Vigil of Easter** on Saturday, **April 3 at 8:00 P.M.** is both the conclusion of our observance of the Three Holy Days, and the first service in celebration of the Resurrection. This service reverses the events of Good Friday, and moves us from darkness into light. We will begin the service by gathering in the middle of Mulberry Street to join with the congregation of St. Peter's Catholic Church as we kindle the fire, light our Paschal Candles, and process to our respective parishes. Hand candles are lit as we enter the church, and are held for the singing of the Easter Proclamation. They are extinguished, and we hear a series of readings tracing the biblical history of our salvation from Creation,

through the Exodus, promises of our salvation, and the three young men in the fiery furnace. We celebrate Holy Baptism and/or the renewal of our baptismal vows as a final cleansing in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The lights are raised, and the full Easter celebration begins with a service of Holy Communion, breaking the Lenten fast by receiving Christ's body and blood.

PARKING FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Luther Hall door will NOT be open for the 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday or the 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae services. Please park in the Mulberry Street lot and use the Narthex entrance; the lift is available for those who find stairs difficult.

Luther Hall door will NOT be open Saturday, April 3, since the 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil begins outside on Mulberry Street. Please park in the Mulberry Street lot.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY WORSHIP, APRIL 2

The Inter-Church Council Ecumenical Good Friday service will be held at First United Methodist Church on the Square at 12:05 p.m. Major Marcus Jugenheimer of The Salvation Army will be the homilist. Agencies that will equally share the Good Friday offering are The Salvation Army, Harmony House, and St. Luke's Saturday Evening Meal Program.

NO 5:00 P.M. WORSHIP Saturday, April 3

Our regularly scheduled 5:00 P.M. worship service in the chapel will NOT be held on Saturday, April 3. The Great Vigil of Easter will be celebrated that evening at 8:00 in the Nave.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION APRIL 4 . . .

With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate with our First English Lutheran young people as they receive their first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010.

Having faithfully completed instruction, they now come to share with us in the Holy Supper of our Lord:

First Communion

Jacob Gordon Caseman
Alaina Carol Doklovic
Samuel Edward Elgin
Tristan Clarence Kraft
Noah Michael Kraft
Mason Todd Lacey
Michael Todd Lacey
Casey Marie Miller
Egypt Brenee Griffith Murphy
Mitchell Clark Pittman
Renee Elizabeth Shupp
Hannah Nicole Skropits
Charlton Lonnie Thompson
Victoria Rose Thompson
Forest Wesley Volz

Parents

Marc & Rachel Caseman
Ed & Annette Doklovic
Andrew & Amy Elgin
Ken & Heather Kraft
Ken & Heather Kraft
Elva Bonser (grandmother)
Elva Bonser (grandmother)
Elva Bonser (grandmother)
James & Angie Murphy
Zac & Becky Pittman
Dan & Shelley Shupp
Rob & Amy Skropits
Roscoe & Nancy Thompson, III
Roscoe & Nancy Thompson, III
Shawn & Tricia Volz

WELCOME TO GOD'S TABLE OF GRACE!

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Sunday,
April 4 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator: Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,
April 4 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 A.M. Holy Communion service on April 11.
- Monday,
April 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
April 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,
April 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 **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,
April 16 **Friendly Friday Group**, 10:30 A.M. program in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at 11:30; games until 2:00. Rides available. Coordinator: Margaret Battisti, 419-526-4381.
- Sat/Sun
April 24 & 25 **Food Collection.** February donations totaled \$200.39 for our Wednesday Noon Lunch program (includes GFS rebate), and 7 bags of grocery items for Catholic Charities. Thank you for your continued support!

APRIL 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 APRIL

- April 3 ➔ Easter Vigil, Saturday, 8:00 p.m. (NO 5:00 p.m. chapel service).
- April 4 ➔ Easter Day; Holy Communion at all worship services.
 ➔ First Communion.
 ➔ Easter Breakfast 9:30-10:45 in the undercroft.
 ➔ No Sunday School Scheduled.
- April 11 ➔ New Members Received.
- April 18 ➔ Congregational Meeting 2:00 pm: Second Vote to leave the ELCA.
- April 25 ➔ Youth & Christian Day School Sunday; CDS children sing at 11:00 worship.
 ➔ 11:00 a.m. combined worship with Proclaim! contemporary in the Nave.
-



FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP **MEETS APRIL 6 . . .**

Join us for *First Tuesday* on April 6 for lunch at Noon in the Emmaus Room. Cost is \$2.50. Liz Prather, Richland Newhope Director, will be the speaker. Everyone is invited to come and learn about our "own" First Lutheran member's position at Newhope. Invite your friends! Call Pat Wells with reservations by Monday, April 5, 419-756-6863.

REQUESTS TO THE PRAYER CHAIN

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

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

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

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary
419-522-0662

Acolytes
Assisting Ministers
Greeters
Lay Readers
Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

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

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

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247
Ushers

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

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

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304
Pew Pad Gleaners

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

Barb Hill, 419-756-4998
Blood Pressure Nurses

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876
Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters
Proclaim! Communion Preparers
Proclaim! Communion Assistants

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

GREETER 5:00 P.M.

April 10 & 17 : Joci Kirst

GREETERS 8:30 A.M.
Bill & Mary Hayes Narthex
Jan Shenberger East Entrance

USHERS 8:30 A.M.
Larry Faith
Rebecca Faith

GREETERS 11:00 A.M.
Tom & Stacey Crall Narthex
Marilyn Dinges East Entrance

USHERS 11:00 A.M.
Eugene Calver
Greg Hughes
Pat Smith

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

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

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:05 am</u>
April 4	Wes Volz	Jodi Mumaw
April 11	Stan Cichanowicz	Tom Hillman
April 18	Betty Guenther	Ron Rehm
April 25	Cindy Russell	Shelley Shupp

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

April 4 ----- April 18 Stan Cichanowicz
April 11 Annette Doklovic April 25 Youth/CDS Sunday 11:00 combined service

PEW PAD GLEANERS

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

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Maundy Thursday	Apr 1	7:00 pm	Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon
Easter Vigil, Sat.	Apr 3	8:00 pm	Wes & Sandie Volz
Easter	Apr 4	8:30 am	Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon
Easter	Apr 4	11:00 am	Marilyn Dinges & Shirley Shupp

COMMUNION SERVERS

	Maundy Thursday (regular communion) <u>April 1 - 7:00 pm</u>	Easter Vigil (continuous communion) <u>Saturday, April 3 - 8:00 pm</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor and Greg Hughes	2 Pastors
Wine West	Lana Conry	Mary Schwartz
Cups West	Annette Doklovic	Bill Schwartz
Wine East	Donna Rettig	Jo Wirstrom
Cups East	Linda Hughes	Don Harruff
Intinction	Pat Wells	Beth Harruff

Easter Sunday

April 4

(continuous communion)

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>
Bread Servers	2 Pastors	Pastor and Mary Schwartz
Wine West	Nancy Pasheilich	Gene Harsch
Cups West	Tom Pasheilich	Bill Schwartz
Wine East	Mike Anderson	Marianne Sweat
Cups East	Jane Anderson	Jim Sweat
Intinction	Pearl West	Jane Sprang

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFER & TORCHBEARERS

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm: A Katie Ritz
C Bryan Eyerly

		<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Easter	April 4	A Stephen Ward C Bryan Eyerly	A Renee Shupp C Bryan Eyerly T Lindsey Brenkus T Alissa Ruth
	April 11	A Casey Kelley	A TBA
	April 18	A Kate Hogsette	A Rachel Shupp
Youth/CDS	April 25	A -----	A Erica Kick

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

April 3	8:00 pm <i>Easter Vigil</i>	April 17	Jean Ridenour
April 10	Kay McNaul	April 24	Kay McNaul

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm: Sandie Volz

Good Friday, April 2, 7:00 pm: Dan Shupp, Chris Cichanowicz, Shirley Lane

Easter Vigil, April 3, 8:00 pm: Jo Wirstrom and Shirley Lane

		<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Easter	April 4	Sherry Winbigler	Stacey Crall
	April 11	Chris Cichanowicz	Annette Doklovic
	April 18	Mary Hujus	Chris Kaschube
Youth/CDS	April 25	Pat Reed	<i>Combined 11:00 - no reader scheduled</i>

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Personnel Committee

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

April 4: Sandie Volz

MARCH ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Pat Wells

Proclaim!: Jan Fisher

+ + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

April 4 Brad and Trudy Watts
April 11 Sarah Jones and Elizabeth Volz
April 18 Jerry and Lu Diday
April 25 *Youth/CDS Sunday, 11:00 combined
in the Nave*

Communion Preparer

Easter April 4 Jerry and Lu Diday
April 18 Ron and Ronda Rehm

Communion Servers

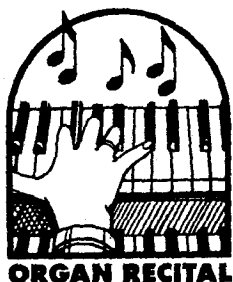
Easter April 4 Cindy and Robyn Russell; Ron and Ronda Rehm
April 18 Tricia and Elizabeth Volz; Donna Rettig and Trudy Watts

PowerPoint Assistant

Easter April 4 Ian Jones April 18 Robyn Russell
April 11 Jessika Volz April 25 *Combined 11:00 in the Nave*

Donut and Beverage Prep/Clean-up

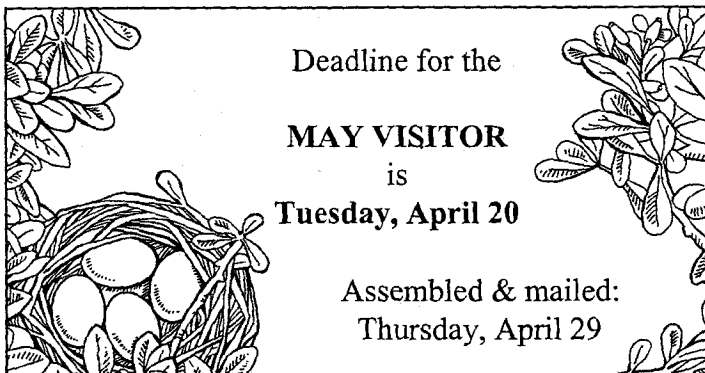
Easter April 4 Ted and Karen Ellis April 18 Jan Fisher
April 11 Ron and Ronda Rehm April 25 *Combined 11:00 in the Nave*



ORGAN RECITAL APRIL 11 . . .

Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, our Director of Music, will present an organ recital on **Sunday afternoon, April 11, 2010 at 4:00 P.M.** in the **Jack & Deb Miller Chapel on the Ashland University campus.** The chapel is located at the corner of College Avenue, King Road, and Claremont Avenue.

The eclectic concert will include music by Eberlin, Frescobaldi, Dandrieu, Bach, Cherubini, Susato, Meyerbeer, Mendelssohn, Persichetti, Alain, Manz, and Franck. There is no admission charge. The congregation is cordially invited to attend.



Deadline for the
MAY VISITOR
is
Tuesday, April 20

Assembled & mailed:
Thursday, April 29

ANDREW IRONSIDE

from Hillsong - Sydney, Australia

on tour in the U.S. at

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

7:00 p.m. Monday, April 19, 2010: Worship Leaders Workshop

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, 2010: Worship/Concert Event!

www.andrewironside.com

WATCH FOR DETAILS!



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, April 20

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

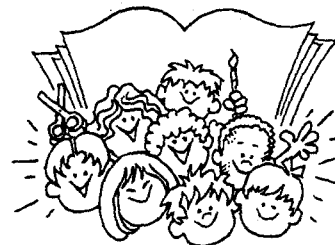
Thursday, April 22 *

9:30 A.M. Brookdale Sterling House

* 4th Thursday

YOUTH / CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL SUNDAY, COMBINED WORSHIP ON APRIL 25 . . .

The 11:00 service on Sunday, April 25, will be a combined service with Proclaim! contemporary in the Nave with our FELC youth leading worship and the children from the Christian Day School singing.



MEMORIALS

MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

Stan Jones:

Wes and Sandie Volz

GENERAL FUND

Lewis Winbigler:

Marvin and Martha Klupp
Kathryn Fike and Dana Gehri
Wes and Sandie Volz

**Women of First English Lutheran Church
APRIL 2010 CALENDAR**

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
SARAH	5	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Marilyn Klipple Hostess: Kay Jewett
LYDIA	5	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Stan & Chris Cichanowicz Trip to Mexico Hostess: Lois Brown
FIRST TUESDAY	6	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room Program: Liz Prather, New Hope Director
EVE	6	TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Prayer Shawl Hostess: Sandy Sturdevant
MARY	9	FRIDAY	10:00 A.M.	Emmaus Room Hostess: Virginia Blizzard
WORKDAY LADIES	7 & 21	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
PLANNING TEAM	19	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Narthex Lounge

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

Funeral Dinners: Squad E, Nancy Pashelich & Beth Harruff

COMING EVENTS: APRIL 27, 6:00 PM **Richland/Ashland Cluster Meeting** at First English Lutheran Church

COFFEE SALES The women of First English have decided to **disband the coffee sales**. We will be offering **all the coffee at half price beginning in April**. There are some very fine coffees available, but sales have dropped and we just can't continue to order new coffee in. There are many teas available also. If you haven't tried these products, now would be a great time! You can always give your money to a WFELC member, or just leave it in an envelope in the drawer. Any questions, contact Jan Fisher, Marianne Sweat, or Karen Ellis.

BETHEL STAMP PROJECT Did you know that for many years we have collected cancelled postage stamps? Yes, it's called the Bethel Stamp Project! You can simply cut the cancelled stamp off the envelope, trimming it down to a quarter inch border. Collect them at home for awhile, then turn them in to Margaret Battisti. She has a box on top of the mail slots in Luther Hall. The purpose of this project is to offer therapy to folks in rest homes over in Germany. It's a service project which is pretty easy to complete. Remember: save those cancelled postage stamps!



APRIL NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL . . .

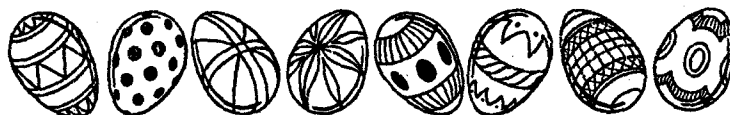
The tomb is empty. He is risen! (Luke 24:6) is our Bible theme for the month of April. The children will be reading the Easter story as well as dying eggs and having an Easter egg hunt. We will celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

The Day School will be closed on Good Friday, April 2. Youth/Christian Day School Sunday is April 25. The children will be singing at the 11:00 worship service in the Nave. We are excited, and we hope to see everyone there! -Terry Bianchi, CDS Director

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.





Congregation Council

MARCH COUNCIL NOTES ...

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, March 9, 2010 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Larson opened the meeting with prayer.

**GUESTS: Henrik
and Patty**

Christopherson, our missionaries to Peru, were warmly welcomed to this meeting. They thanked our congregation for our faithful witness here and for them while they are serving in Peru. They expressed appreciation for opening our hearts to them while they are living in our penthouse apartment and working in our congregation. They further explained the work of World Mission Prayer League and offered to be involved in any training of youth and adults for Global Missions, encouraging members of FELC to "think big" as partners in missions.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson expressed appreciation to Jeanne Hillman and Mary Schwartz for their work in outfitting the penthouse apartment prior to the arrival of the Christophersons, and to Lu and Jerry Diday for donation of bedroom furniture and a dining table. He also thanked Jim Scheiber and volunteers for their work in cleaning the church building during the illness of John Meyer. As a service project, Tricia Volz's Sunday School class did some cleaning of the church. Pastor Larson thanked Shawn Volz and Bill Schwartz for snow removal on our church properties.

Pastor Larson mentioned the Sunday, March 14, congregational forum with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the Sunday, March 21 congregational forum with Rev. Bill Sullivan,

Service Coordinator for Lutheran Congregations in Ministry for Christ.

Council members were asked to participate in the stripping of the altar following the Maundy Thursday, April 1, worship service.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones reminded the council that he will be on vacation Saturday, March 27 through Thursday, April 1.

He has been meeting with a group of artists, worship leaders, and pastors called "Around 12" whose purpose is to promote worship and the arts in Mansfield area churches.

Pastor Jones presented information on computer system needs as follows: five replacement batteries for un-interruptible power supplies at the cost of \$174.30, and a laptop computer for Pastor Jones from Dell at the cost of \$777.00. Council authorized the immediate purchase of the batteries and the purchase of the laptop computer, pending Finance Committee approval.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Dr. Tim Guenther shared with the council he will resign from his call at First English if the congregation leaves the ELCA and joins LCMC. He believes that it is important for his future career opportunities to remain on the roster of the ELCA. The ELCA will not

(continued)

permit someone on their roster to serve a congregation of LCMC. This is a very difficult decision for Dr. Guenther. He will be on tour with the Ashland University choir May 10 through 16, including one Sunday.

WELCA: Jan Fisher mentioned the Lenten breakfast on Saturday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits presented information that the December 2009, \$20,000 loan from the General Endowment Fund will be paid back as part of the GED fund draw for 2010. There has been a draw of \$15,000 in January and \$40,000 in February in addition to the \$20,000 draw from the General Endowment Fund to pay off the 2009 loan.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz thanked all the volunteers who have been assisting with cleaning of church properties during the illness of custodian John Meyer. The Blackfork Retreat Center has been used by outside groups. The Luther Hall garage door opener has been repaired.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Lu Diday stated she put a lot of effort into an article to be published in the Visitor and church bulletins, asking for support of her committee and that she has had only 2 people offer assistance. She suggested council members names, phone numbers and email addresses be published in the Visitor so church members can contact them with questions and to offer assistance.

EVANGELISM: Steve Ritz said Lind Advertising Company will prepare a new billboard as part of our rental agreement with them.

WORSHIP: Roscoe Thompson recommended, and Council approved, hosting Andrew Ironside on April 19 and 20, for a teaching and worship/concert event.

Jan Fisher mentioned response has been great with the collection of non-food items to benefit the Salvation Army. As of this date, the 8:30 a.m. worshipers are in the lead and that per capita, the 5:00 p.m. worship service is ahead.

STEWARDSHIP: Jan Fisher spoke of the Time and Talent forms, asking Council members for their input of any changes.

SERVICE: Becky Sarbach said \$181 was collected from Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit the Domestic Violence Center.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz mentioned pre-K through grade 12 Sunday School teachers met with Patty Christopherson following the Sunday, March 14, 11:00 a.m. worship service. She shared ideas about mission Sunday School lessons and VBS mission themes.

There is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday to enable families to participate together in the Easter brunch between worship services.

YOUTH: Teri Brenkus outlined the July Vacation Bible School and Youth mission trip. Youth Committee recommends, and Council approved, the use of up to \$5,000 from the New Ministry and Missions Endowment Fund to fund FELC Puppet Ministry, Youth Band Ministry, hosting Captive Free, and expenses related to a local youth mission trip.

(continued)

Vacation Bible School will begin Sunday, July 18 and finish with a community family worship service on Friday, July 23.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Jones.

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

NEW BUSINESS: Executive Committee recommended campership assistance, approved by Council, in the amount of \$150.00 be sent to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries for Alaina Doklovic and Jacob Caseman.

REPORT ON RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS . . .

Our three-year Renewing God's House of Prayer capital campaign began June 1, 2008 and ends May 31, 2011. Below is a financial status report from the campaign BRIDGE Team submitted by Steve Ritz:

	<u>June 17, 2009</u>	<u>January 31, 2010</u>
Total Commitments	665,156.00	663,586.00
Total Received	258,086.08	332,455.08
Amount given by those who have completed their pledge:	40,013.00	52,692.00
Total amount behind in pledging:	13,944.00	104,420.32 *



*includes \$80,440.30 pledged by deceased prior to death

GORDON FOOD SERVICE (GFS) will credit your personal purchases to our First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, rebate account. Just tell the checkout person this is what you wish to do. (Be sure to say FELC *Mansfield* as there are other First English Lutheran churches in the area!) GFS rebate money goes towards our Wednesday Noon Lunch program.



GLOBAL MISSION NEWS . . .

"Reaching out beyond our church to help others."

What a wonderful opportunity to have Henrik and Patty Christopherson at First English Lutheran Church during the Lenten season. Hope that each one of you had a chance to meet personally with them. They have a lot to offer us, and we hope God will bring them back to us again soon.

Join My Village. Make a real and measurable impact in the lives of women and girls in some of the poorest communities in Africa. General Mills will donate up to \$150.00 @ \$5.00 a day for each person answering (right or wrong) five questions. From our association with Kenyenyeva Orphan Ministries, most members of FELC will know the answers. Read about the program on JoinMyVillage.com and return every day to answer the quiz (the five questions are often repeated). All funds raised will be invested in CARE's proven approaches to fighting poverty like basic education and business skills training, helping women and girls create lasting change in their communities. Cost? A few minutes of your time. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Bibles for Malawi! Thank you for being a good steward in caring for God's earth and placing God's Word in the hands of eager youngsters. Currently, the Global Mission recycling account is designated to purchase Bibles printed in the Malawi language. When you recycle at Milliron's, 2384 St. Rt. 39, Mansfield, please request proceeds for **Account #480** (First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield).

Prayer Request: Pray for the good rains to fall in Malawi for their crops.

- Jeanne Hillman Chair, Global Mission Committee



STEWARDSHIP CORNER . . .

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." The second stage of the examination of conscience is to name one's brokenness. The third is to call on the name of God to heal that brokenness. Names have power. The masters of African slaves took away the slaves' ancestral names and gave them Western names. Concentration camp inmates had their names replaced with numbers. How deflated and unimportant we feel when someone forgets our name! When Moses wanted to know God's name, God answered with the puzzling ehyeh-asher-ehyeh: "I-will-be-there-howsoever-I-will-be-there." Orthodox Jews call God simply Ha-Shem: the Name. We do not know God's name. We have no power over God; we do not magically conjure God's presence by saying God's name. And yet God's promise is clear: I-will-be-there. And that is the name on which we call.

O God of the desert, you have promised to be present to us in times of trouble. May we remember to call on your name also in times of joy. Amen.

- Susan Cherwien, Poet and Hymn Writer, Luther Seminary
 Taken from *God Pause*, online Stewardship site of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2010

As of March 16, altar flower sponsors are not yet assigned for the following dates in 2010. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call the church office, 419-522-0662, to reserve date. Cost per week is \$35.

April
11

June
20

August
8

November
28

May
23

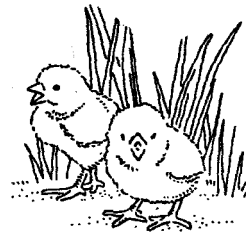
July
4, 11, 18

September
12

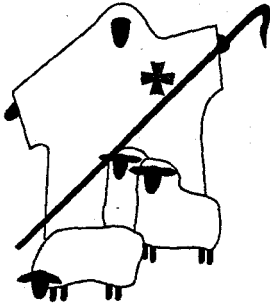
December
5

Buy a Chick - Send a Cow! \$500 is the Goal!

Our kindergarten through third grade Sunday school class is selling yellow paper chicks for \$1 in the Narthex. **Chicks will be sold until we raise \$500 to send a cow for the Global Barnyard.**



If you would like to help us send a cow, stop by the "farm" table in the Narthex, *pick a yellow chick and write your name on it and leave it in the "barn," then put your dollar in the can.* It's that simple! We will display your chick in our classroom barnyard. Watch the goal "thermometer" to track our progress! Questions? Contact Teri Brenkus at 419-989-6850. Thank you!



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

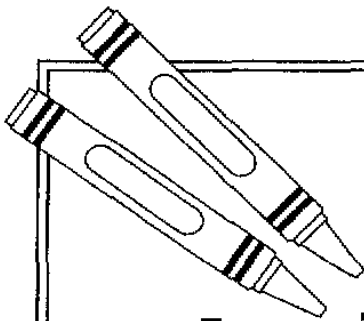
We will be blessed to receive new members during the Proclaim! worship service on April 11, 2010: **Bradley Watts and Courtney Farnier**. Welcome to the family of our Lord at First English Lutheran Church!

From Evelyn and Marshall Smith: "Thank you so much for the Anniversary Poster. We really enjoyed reading all the signatures, comments, and good wishes. Thank you, too, for the birthday cards.

It is so nice to be remembered, and we do appreciate it. It has been eight months since we moved, and we are very happy here, but we do miss First Lutheran and seeing all of you on Sundays. God bless you."

From Tom and Evelyn Woodard: "We want to thank all of our brothers and sisters, Pastor Larson, Pastor Kress, and Gary for our signed poster and cards for our 93rd birthdays and the visits. Thanks for the yummy cookies and the people who made them, the carolers made our day. We so enjoyed them. We feel truly blessed, and May God bless each and every one. We hope we can keep the 'steam' up, Renee and Paul!"

From The Domestic Violence Shelter: "Dear friends, the mission of The Domestic Violence Shelter is to provide an alternative to living in a violent situation and to offer education/resources by providing services and programs to protect and empower. Your donation of \$186.10 is deeply appreciated. The Domestic Violence Shelter has served victims of domestic violence in Ashland, Huron, and Richland Counties for over twenty-five years. We could not do it without the support of our friends and neighbors in the community. – Katherine Ezawa, Executive Director



Just for **KIDS**

Thank God for Rain

Each spring the Lord sends April showers to water the earth. Without rain to nourish our trees, plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, there would be a poor growing season and very little to harvest. Thank God for rainy weather!

Write the words from the raindrops on the numbered lines below. Read the Bible verse.

1 gives, 2 storm, 3 the, 4 in, 5 Lord, 6 field, 7 men, 8 clouds, 9 He, 10 Ask, 11 is, 12 to, 13 everyone, 14 who, 15 makes, 16 the, 17 plants, 18 rain, 19 Lord, 20 showers, 21 and, 22 the, 23 rain, 24 to, 25 of, 26 springtime, 27 the, 28 for, 29 it, 30 the.

10 16 5 28 18

_____ ;

4 22 26

29 11 3 19 14 15

_____ ,

27 2 8

9 1 20 31 23

_____ ,

12 7 21 17 25

_____ .

30 6 24 13

Zechariah 10:1 (NIV)



APRIL 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Greetings to our members who are 80+ years of age this month! We honor them on their very special day. May God grant to each of them His rich blessings and fill their hearts with His joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

APRIL

6	Miss Edna Berry	Liberty Nursing Center 535 Lexington Ave.	44907
9	Mrs. Eleanor Laser	1260 Springbrook Dr.	44906-3543
10	Mrs. Evadine Smeltzer	800 Logan Rd., Apt. 214	44907-2758
10	Mrs. Lois Cairns	1458 N. Stewart Rd.	44903-7761
16	Mrs. Louise Dickson	139 Lind Ave.	44903-2103
17	Mr. Chris Reining	594 S. Trimble Rd., Apt. B	44906-4114
22	Mrs. Elinor Angle	1066 Lexwood Rd.	44907-2920
25	Mrs. Nip McCready	1853 Graham Rd.	44904-9774
25	Mr. Bill Fry	691 Manchester Rd.	44903-1832
28	Mr. Kenneth Deems	1046 Ramsey Dr.	44905-2352

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

MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

Thank you to all who have donated and prayed for the orphans and their caregivers in the Kanyenyeva area in Malawi. Thanks to your contributions and the Advent offering, **we were able to send \$3,480 to the orphan project in March.** (In September of 2009, I wrote in error that the cost of a wire transfer was \$50. The cost of the wire transfer is only \$20.)

The last time that we sent money to the orphan project was in October of 2009. The orphan project was able to fix the bus with some of the money that was sent at that time. They hope to use some of this latest donation to pay for the initial fee for a new route, a monthly route fee, and insurance for the bus.

The following information is from Shadreck Chikoti explaining how most of the money they receive is spent:

"It costs about \$50 for tuition per semester on the high school kids. (We have maintained the 13 number for we can not exceed that yet).

It cost \$730 to buy school materials (workbooks, erasers, school books, pens and transportation for buying).

One meal for all the children costs about \$80.

Servicing the minibus monthly costs \$100.

School uniform for an elementary student costs \$30 while that of a high school student costs \$40.

Thank you so much for all the work you are doing for the children of Kanyenyeva and Malawi as a whole. May God bless your efforts." --In Christ, Shadreck

Please continue to pray for:

- the people of Kanyenyeva as well as all of Malawi.
- the success of the bus business.
- the people of Kanyenyeva to know Christ and follow Him.

- Joy Jones

APRIL ORDER DEADLINE FOR PENTECOST GERANIUMS

The Festival of Pentecost is Sunday, May 23. The order deadline for Pentecost geranium plants will be the end of April! A geranium order form will be in the April bulletins.



We remember the families and friends of those who died February 18 - March 19, 2010:

Marian Bonte	February 18
<i>(mother of Penny Ekegren)</i>	
Gil Bianchi	February 20
<i>(father-in-law of Terry Bianchi)</i>	
Mildred Weekley	March 7

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:	March 13, 2010	Mildred Weekley
Wedding:	March 19, 2010	Brad Watts & Trudy Steer
Baptisms:	March 21, 2010 at Proclaim! Worship:	

Baptized

Tristan Clarence Kraft
Noah Michael Kraft
Mason Todd Lacey
Michael Todd Lacey
Casey Marie Miller
Egypth Brenee Griffith Murphy

Parents

Ken & Heather Kraft
Ken & Heather Kraft
Elva Bonser (grandmother)
Elva Bonser (grandmother)
Elva Bonser (grandmother)
James & Angie Murphy

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


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		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 FELC	Marianne Sweat
Global Mission	Jeanne Hillman		

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 12:00pm Maundy Thursday (Chapel) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Maundy Thursday (Nave)	2 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Nave)	3 8:00pm Easter Vigil (Nave)
4 8:30am Holy Comm (Nave) 9:30am Matins Choir Reh 9:30am Easter Breakfast (UC) 9:30am 10:45 Blood Pressure 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Holy Comm (Nave) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee	5 9:30am Men's Group @ Denny's 1:00pm Sarah Circle (ER) 7:00pm Property Committee (UC) 7:30pm Lydia Circle (ER)	6 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm First Tuesday (ER) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL) 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (ER)	7 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	8 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 6:30pm Financial Peace Reunion (tentative) (ER) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	9 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:00am Mary Circle (ER)	10 10:00am Main St Methodist Tour (Nave) 5:00pm Worship (Chapel)
11 8:30am Holy Comm (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 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 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) 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 Worship (Nave) 11:00am Proclaim! (UC) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee 2:00pm 2nd ELCA Congregation Vote (Nave) 5:30pm Confirm Class (ER)	19 4:00pm Women of FELC Planning (NL) 7:00pm Andrew Ironside (Nave)	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 7:00pm Andrew Ironside (Nave)	21 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	22 9:30am Holy Comm @ Sterling 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 12:00pm Pastors' Brown Bag (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*** *CDS & Youth Sunday* 8:30am Worship (Nave) 9:30am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Combined Worship & Proclaim (Nave) 12:00pm Fellowship/Coffee	26 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	27 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 PM Bible Study (NL) 6:00pm WELCA Richland/Ashland Cluster (UC) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	28 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	29 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 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	

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