



THE VISITOR

The First English Lutheran Church
53 Park Avenue West (at Mulberry Street)
Mansfield, Ohio

Volume 53

AUGUST 2011

Number 8

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 brother 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 Ave West, Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1698. Church office hours: 8:30-4:30 Tuesday-Friday; closed Monday. 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

Mr. Scott Berry, Organist and Senior Choir Director

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

Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance

Jan Fisher, The Visitor Editor

Jim Scheiber, Property Manager

Michelle Myers, Christian Day School Secretary

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

Go Missions International missionaries to Bolivia, South America:

Nick and Shannon Kraft, and children Madison, Tanyon, Moises and Tucker; World Mission Prayer League

Missionaries to India: Brian and Barbara Sorge and family;

World Mission Prayer League Missionaries to Peru: Henrik and Patty Christopherson

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President Ken Frayer

Personnel open position

Vice President Alicia Schultz Keultjes

Property Gary Lane

Secretary Mary Schwartz

Service Ministry Becky Sarbach

Christian Day School Cindy Russell

Stewardship Jan Fisher

Christian Education Devera Ritz

Worship Roscoe Thompson

Congregational Life Karen Ellis

Youth Ministry Teri Brenkus

Evangelism Susan Hogsette

SCS Superintendent Chris Cichanowicz

Finance Don Harruff

Women of FELC Carolyn Weeks

Global Mission Chris Cichanowicz

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Lord, You give the Great Commission: “Heal the sick and preach the Word.”
Lest the Church neglect its mission, and the Gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to Your purpose with renewed integrity:
With the Spirit’s Gifts empower us for the work of ministry.
ELW # 579 - Jeffery Rowthorn

Dear Friends in Christ:

One of the great Joys of our Christian Faith is when we personally realize: “***God has called ME! I have a Ministry!***” This is our new found identity in Jesus Christ our Savior. It has been great fun this summer to hear all of the exciting mission stories from our Malawi Mission Team and our Kazakhstan Mission Team. God has partnered us with Brothers and Sisters in Christ around the world to proclaim the Gospel and DO His Kingdom work.

It is energizing to see the enthusiasm of our High School youth coming back from their Mission Event in Chicago. They not only heard excellent speakers at the 2011 National Youth Event (July 7-11) but they also worked hard in a special feeding program for the poor. They worked with such commitment that their servant spirit was noticed and publicly praised by the organizer’s leadership of Youth Encounter.

And here at home we continue to hear the many words of appreciation and “THANK YOU!” expressed each week to our faithful volunteers in our Wednesday Noon Lunch Program. Regularly we are now serving 80 to 120 people each week with a warm welcome, the Good News of Jesus, and a great meal.

In so many ways our great volunteers continue to come forward – using their time and talent to serve Jesus our Savior: bulletin & newsletter assembly teams, ushers, sound operators, quilters, communion deacons, electricians, plumbers, mowers, grounds keepers, hospital & shut-in visitation teams, office volunteers, dishwashers, cooks, servers, committee members, and Council members ... just to name a few!

The hymn above by Jeffery Rowthorn has become one of my favorites. I especially appreciate the words with which the third verse begins: ***Lord, You make the common holy – this My Body, this My Blood*** Truly, God makes the common

→ holy not only in the sacrament of Holy Communion, but each time we mere common human beings live-out our Heavenly Calling as Members of the Body of Christ. On our own, we may feel so insignificant and unimportant. But our Lord Jesus –“Makes the common holy!” When we yield our lives – our time, and talent, and treasure, into His Almighty Hands → then truly Holy, Eternal, Heavenly things happen!

Hear Christ’s Call today upon your life! Let us work together for Jesus – to proclaim the Gospel and do the deeds of His Kingdom. Jesus says it can be something as simple as offering a cup of cold water in His Name.

“With the Spirit’s Gifts empower us for the work of ministry.”

Together In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Paul

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

MEMORIALS – YOUTH MINISTRY

Adelia Hautzenroeder

Stephen and Barbara Gelling

John and Linda Glenn

Ted and Karen Ellis

Mark and Cynthia Rodolakis

MEMORIALS – MALAWI MISSION TRIP

Adelia Hautzenroeder

Sherry Winbigler

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals/Memorial: July 18, 2011 Letta L Talaga

Our Deepest Sympathy



We remember the families and friends of those who died June 22 - July 19, 2011:

Patricia K. Hall <i>sister of Eugene Harsch</i>	June 25
Albert (Al) J. Rothe <i>father-in-law of Gail Elder</i>	June 29
Donald Myers <i>brother of Janet Shenberger</i>	July 6
Letta Talaga	July 14

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.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Blanket collection coming up in September!

Please check your linen closets and storage areas for any size blankets that you may be able to donate in September. Lutheran World Relief is spearheading a special collection of blankets as the need is great! If you happen to be shopping the August white sales you may find a bargain there. Often visiting an Estate Sale or a nice garage sale will also offer a GREAT FIND! Please make sure the blanket is clean (possibly store in a re-cycled dry cleaning bag). There will be collection boxes in the narthex and in Luther Hall. If we have a great response some of the blankets will be shared locally with those folks who have a great need. This project is sponsored by our FELC to you all for caring so

Women's Ministry. Blessings deeply for others!



Women's Ministry Team Meeting (officers and heads of circles) will be held on Monday August 15, 2011 at 1:00 PM in the Narthex Lounge.

There are *no circle meetings* scheduled in the month of August. Please concentrate on making and donating Lutheran World Relief health kits, school kits, sewing kits, and layettes. Deadline Oct. 2, 2011 and Ingathering is October 15-16, 2011 in Seville, OH.

Funeral Squad Leader for August: Mary Schwartz

JULY COUNCIL NOTES

President, Ken Frayer called the July 12, 2011 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: **Pastor Jones** reported on his recent trip to Malawi, bringing greetings from the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Board, Rev. Chikoti and Pastor Tom Mambo. Pastor Jones stated that they honor us as leaders of this congregation, the ministry shared by the Malawi Mission Team went well and the residents of Malawi want members of our congregation to come back, even for a longer period of time. The Malawi Mission Team will share more about their trip on a Sunday afternoon in late July or in August. The Malawi Mission Team expressed their thanks to Council for releasing funds from the New Missions and Ministry Endowment Fund to assist with expenses for their trip. Pastor Larson and Pastor Jones will attend the Lutheran Core meeting on August 8, a theological event August 9 and 10 and the North American Lutheran Church Convocation August 11 and 12, with all meetings held in Columbus, Ohio. Chris Kaschube will be the lay delegate to the NALC Convocation. Both Pastor Larson and Pastor Jones are in the process of becoming rostered with NALC. An Alpha course will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning September 7. Pastor Jones asked people to invite others, suggesting they actually bring others to Alpha.

FINANCE: **Don Harruff** stated the balance in the Renewing God's House fund is \$197,784.74, including \$34,295.00 kitchen renovation funds. Weekly offerings are holding up very well and are higher than a year ago.

PROPERTY: **Ken Frayer** reviewed the Property Committee report, stating Jim Scheiber will contact Midstate Roofing about missing sanctuary roof shingles. Shawn Volz will be contacted to see if he can check the heat trace problem in the roof area. Bill Schwartz is in contact with Larry Ritchie about the undercroft kitchen fire suppression hood with hopes some answers will be forthcoming. Quotations will be secured for plaster repair and painting of the sanctuary. There is some concern that the roofing company should be responsible for repair of damage from leaks after the roof was replaced. Stan and Chris Cichanowicz thanked Gene Harsch for mowing the church yard and planting flowers during their absence in June.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: **Karen Ellis** indicated the 5th Sunday potluck

meal on July 31 will have a Christmas theme with appropriate decorations. Worshipers are asked to bring 1 dozen cookies to share at the meal and another dozen to take to shut-ins during the Christian caroling that day.

GLOBAL MISSION: **Chris Cichanowicz** thanked the Malawi Mission Team for their presentation on July 3. The Kazakhstan Mission Team of Chris and Stan Cichanowicz and Joe Carey will present the message on Sunday, July 24. David Sorge has graduated from college and will be going to India. Patty and Henrik Christopherson are in Peru.

STEWARDSHIP: **Jan Fisher** reported the Time and Talent forms have been tabulated, noting that not everyone fills out a form.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: **Devera Ritz** mentioned Vacation Bible School, with a Mission Theme, will begin with a picnic lunch following worship on Sunday, July 24 and run from July 25 through 28, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

YOUTH: **Teri Brenkus** said 14 youth and 5 chaperones attended the Youth Encounter Impact Worship Event in Chicago which was a great experience. Paul and Renee Ward were thanked for stepping in as chaperones on short notice. Joy Jones is chairing the Lincoln Highway Buy Way Youth rummage sale, with many items being donated. Henry Keultjes was thanked for securing the use of a semi truck trailer for use in storing sale items during the evenings of the sale. Council approved moving the sale into the undercroft, in case of rain, provided security concerns are addressed.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: **Cindy Russell** reported there are 95 students enrolled, including 45 summer campers. There were no changes in staffing.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Jones.

Mary M. Schwartz, Secretary

First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council

We are currently seeking a Christian Day School Director at First Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, OH. 44902. Must have Child Day Care experience and meet state requirements. E-mail resume to office@felc-mansfield.org



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your prayers.

Things are advancing although they are advancing at the Pace of Latin America.. It's so hard for me who likes things to move along..

We are still praying about where to live but there is a possibility of renting a house here in the this neighborhood that is big enough to live in and begin the work. This might be an opportunity for the next month. For now we continue to live with our friends...

The kids have began going to a Bilingual School on Monday, that has been a huge blessing for them. The school is using the same material we use for homeschooling and so they are just continuing on as if they were at home, but it gives them an atmosphere to study in which is much less distracting than the home.

As far as the work, we ask you to **pray** for our **Monday night leadership class** at the Philadelphia Church. Right now we are in the midst of an interpersonal study and it's very revealing for so many. It's always so hard to work on ourselves but the group is doing well, being transparent, and being set free!

Thursdays we getting together for an informal time of **Worship**, seeking God's presence, and praying.

Sunday's we are meeting with five couples to do a **marriage ministry class**. We are using the material from Married for Life and are excited by this group. They are all eager to work on their marriages and to base their relationships on God's plan for them.

Thank you guys for praying, Prayer is the backbone of any ministry. We need you on our team.

Love Nick and Shannon Kraft

P.S. don't forget to look on the Web page for a monthly newsletter up-date and a weekly blog.

www.gomissionsinterntional.com

Go Missions International

Sobre Todo Amar y Servir ... Above all Love and Serve

Within The Fold

THE JUNE FOOD COLLECTION totaled \$129.00 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch program. One bag of grocery items and canned goods were collected Sunday, June 26, which were donated to Catholic Charities. Thank you for helping those less fortunate!

A note of Thanks!.... I'm Shirley's daughter-in-law. I was so impressed and thankful for the way your church has helped Shirley and Gary Lane SO much in their time of need. It was so special to have the food brought in and the meals were wonderful -we did not have to worry about cooking or going out to eat at all!! We could spend more time doing other much needed chores that Shirley needed to get done. I know that Shirley and Gary appreciate so much their church family and how much you all show that you care and love them. It meant a lot to me and her granddaughter, Jessica, who was also visiting, to be recipients of that love as well!! Please express that to your church for us. Thanks so much! *Linda Dexter*

A note from the Ritz family.....

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our church family at FELC. Your many prayers and calls of concern during our dad and papa's illness and death were what sustained us. A special thank you to Pastor Paul for his speaker phone prayers. Those prayers brought a sense of peace and calmness. Our dad was first and foremost a family man; and we realize, through his beliefs, how truly valuable our brothers and sisters in Christ are when we are at our weakest. Blessings to each of you for your dedication to your church family.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Much love-in Christ,

Steve, Devera and Katie

There are so many thank yous to be said from the Malawi Mission team to everyone that helped make the mission trip in June a possibility. Thank you to Dr. Steve Ritz for donating toothbrushes and toothpaste for the orphans of Kanyenyeva, to Wes and Sandy Volz for the beautiful stained glass window so the people of Kanyenyeva can always have a bit of FELC with them, to Carolyn Weeks and Renee Ward for making extra large books for us to use and leave there, to Carolyn Weeks for donating childrens books, to everyone who donated suitcases for our extra luggage, to Jan Fisher for organizing 'Little dresses for Africa', to everyone who donated supplies to make dresses and shorts for the children of Kanyenyeva, to everyone who sewed the dresses and shorts for the children, to everyone who purchased and donated shirts and shoes for the children, for your donations towards the cost of the trip, to anyone who helped out in any way, and for your prayers. The mission trip would not have been possible without all of us working together for the glory of God in all things. Thank you!!!!!!

Sarah and Renee Ward; Robyn Russell; Pastor Andy, Joy and Sarah Jones

Thank you to our church family for the anniversary card on our 72nd wedding anniversary. Every signature and all their good wishes made it a memorable occasion. Also thank you Mrs. Scheiber and Gail Elder for the lovely birthday cards. Many blessings and best wishes to all.

Sincerely, *Frank and Alfreda Sqrow*

Dear Friends at First English, Thank you so much for your partnership, prayers and support! We thank God for you and for the encouragement we feel from you, the body of Christ. Our time in the U.S. is coming to an end and we look forward to seeing what God will do as more of the Word is translated for the people of the Islands. That foundation is so precious and essential and powerful, too. Thank you for standing with us in this adventure. May God pour out his richest blessings on you. With gratefulness, *Brian and Barbara Sorge*

Dear Friends at First English Lutheran, Thanks so much for remembering my graduation. I pray God continue to bless you richly! Thanks again also for your kindness to my parents and brother. May the God of Hope continue to make Himself known here and everywhere the sun shines. In His fame, *David Sorge*

July 7, 2011

Dear First English Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of food given to Catholic Charities for our pantry. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and most of all our clients, we are very grateful for your generosity toward our agency. our friendship is greatly appreciated. The requests for services are ever increasing. Your gift will be used to help continue services and programs for those in need.

Sincerely, *Rebecca Owens* Site Mgr/CES Program Coordinator

Hello everyone, Thank you for the lovely anniversary cards and all the good wishes. Jim is the most surprised of all the family that he lived to celebrate the 70th (anniversary.) Most of his folks lived to be 60 to 75 plus. So he expected to live as long as his relatives. He will be 91 in September! I think our association with the First Lutherans is the cause. God's blessings on all of you.

Jim and Emma Shaum

To the members of First English Lutheran Church,
What a blessing these last seven years have been working with you in Christ's service. The love, care, and compassion that you have shown Ms. Dee and me is certainly to the Glory of God. I came to you as a complete stranger and you welcomed me with open arms. You fed me, clothed me, and offered your prayers for me as I struggled through one of my most sorrowful times. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers everyday. May God bless all of you.

Yours in Christ, *Beverly Bishop*



Global Mission News

REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL

RE: 2011 MISSION TRIP TO MALAWI

JULY 12, 2011

God continues to do great things among us through our relationships with others in the world. We are so blessed to have a continuing relationship with the people of Malawi. Who would have guessed that three teenage girls and three adults would be brought together to form a mission team?! Who would have guessed that we would have been able to shoe and clothe so many children?! Who would have guessed that we would lead a VBS in Malawi, and have speakers and a movie to boot?!

Thank you so much for your continued support of our mission relationships with the Kanyenyeva Orphan Project in Malawi. 5 villages are a part of the project, and their children are registered with the project. The children gather twice a week for a meal and teaching. About a dozen students are currently sponsored in their High School education through the project. If more funds were available, that number could be doubled. One idea about how to provide for that will be explained below. We were able to distribute dresses, skirts, shirts, shorts, shoes and toothbrushes to hundreds of children. They were all very grateful and excited to receive these gifts. Thank you so much for your contributions to this effort. The women who made the dresses and shorts are very much a part of the mission team. We also gave a beautiful stained glass hanging for the

meeting hall that echoes some of the design themes of our sanctuary windows. Thank you Wes and Sandie Volz for making that wonderful gift!

We were able to teach the children during a four day “Vacation Bible School” type of experience. We used crafts, story books, and puppets to teach 4 parables of Jesus. The children and their caregivers gathered excitedly each day for the lesson and activities. The group grew each day, with children from surrounding villages arriving after hearing about what was happening. We partnered with a team from Pastor Tom Mambo’s Calvary Chapel Church. They traveled to the project one afternoon in the open bed of a small dump truck, along with a generator, sound system and video projector. They gathered the people together with music, and shared the gospel with them. They showed “The Jesus Film,” and several people made commitments of faith. Discipleship of these new Christians, as well as older Christians, is vitally important in the months and years ahead. We are so thankful for our partnership with Calvary Chapel. They are able to maintain relationships in Kanyenyeva much more completely than we are.

A great success of our time in Malawi this year is the continuing development of ‘micro-business’ opportunities for the women of the village. Many of the mothers and grandmothers are widows, who struggle to provide for their households, which are often swollen with orphaned children. They are interested in ways to expand and augment their income. We took one business idea with us, and another developed while we were there. Before we traveled, we had explored the possibility of the women doing some simple needlework, which could be shipped to the US to be made into pillows, purses, and other things. The money from the sale of the embroidered items would then be returned to the women as

earnings. The women were very excited about this possibility, and started to stitch almost immediately.

A second idea for a micro-business developed while we were there. The three girls bought string bracelets from a craft stand next to our lodging. After a day's time, a business plan was developed, and the women of the village were very excited about it. They will be trained by one of the craftsmen to make four different kinds of bracelets in popular U.S. school colors. The bracelets will be sold in the U.S. with special tags telling the story of Kanyenyeva. The proceeds will be returned to the women, and additional profits will pay scholarships for orphaned students to attend High School.

We were able to visit the local school where the children of the project attend classes. It is perhaps 2 kilometers from the project itself. We sat in on a 1st and 2nd grade classroom. The only piece of furniture in the room was an open frame desk for the teacher. The children sat in rows on the floor for the lesson about reading in Chichewa. The only books were simple bindings of lined paper for them to write in. They shared what few pencils they had while writing on the concrete floor. The floor was failing, with large gaping holes in the concrete showing the earth beneath. There weren't enough indoor classrooms for all of the classes, so several of the older grades met outside under trees. The buildings to house those students were never finished because the funding was withdrawn by the government once the current administration was elected.

The women of our group were able to experience village life in Kanyenyeva. They gathered water, went shopping in a local market, and rode on the backs of bicycles. They prepared food over cooking fires, and washed the dishes. They learned how to spread mud on

the houses to protect the bricks from drying out. These kinds of shared-life experiences are vital for our relationships with the people of Kanyenyeva.

The women of the team were also present at the 'Induction' ceremony for Shadreck's father. Rev. Chikoti was installed as the pastor of the Kalambo congregation of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. The service was held outside of their church building, with many large tents and a central shaded platform. Many pastors and choirs were present, and the service lasted for several hours. Afterward they were treated to a wonderful meal. The following Sunday, we again worshiped at Kalambo CCAP for their normal schedule of Sunday worship. We arrived at the church at 6:30, and after 7 hours of church (one service in English, one in Chichewa, and a brief breakfast break in between) we were again treated to a wonderful meal. I had the honor of preaching at both services, which were filled with wonderful music and dancing.

Once again Shadreck and Yamikani Chikoti served as our guides, translators, protectors and driver for our days in Malawi. They were with us almost 24/7, and shepherded us through our days. They are also a vital part of the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministry Board. We met with members of the board our last evening in Malawi, and cast vision together for the coming years of our partnership. They continue to be so grateful for our friendship, and desire so much for it to continue. God has called us to this ministry for the long haul. Let us keep to our calling.

The 2011 Malawi Mission Team

Andy, Joy and Sarah Jones, Renee and Sarah Ward, Robyn Russell

MALAWI TEAM SHARING

The Malawi Mission Team will be sharing more details about their work during June in Malawi on Sunday afternoon, August 14. Gather in the Emmaus Room from 4 until 6. Bring your questions. Lots of pictures will be shared.

Chris, Stan and Joe go on a mission trip to Kazakhstan!

(A brief report of the adventures of Chris and Stan Cichanowicz and Joe Carey.)

“You want me to teach English where?” I asked.

“Kazakhstan,” he replied.

“Where in the world is Kazakhstan?”

“It’s located in Central Asia near Russia. It’s the ninth largest country in the world.”

That’s how our extraordinary adventure began. Joe Carey called me and convinced me that if he could teach English in Kazakhstan, so could I - and Stan could help both of us. This three week educational adventure, teaching English as a second language in Kazakhstan, was sponsored by the Lithuanian Christian College -LCC, now known as The Lithuanian International University. Slava, a Moldovan Baptist Missionary and the head of the Senior English Center, called the university to see if a team of English teachers would come to Shymkent to help. Five professors from the university, plus Joe, Stan and I, volunteered.

It took us 24 hours by plane and a 14 hour train ride to arrive at our destination.

What we had imagined beforehand and what we actually saw there were two different things. Shymkent, a city of 600,000 people, reminded us of downtown Cleveland - traffic bumper to bumper and a modern mall that would put most of ours to shame. The people were not what we expected

either. Kazakhstan has a 60% Muslim population. Where were the veiled Muslim women? Where were the mosques? Why didn't we hear the Muslim call to prayer five times a day? We saw and heard none of these. The reason is that the overwhelming majority of people in this city is "westernized". The only cultural difference Joe and Stan learned early on was that older men do not wear Bermuda shorts in public.

We soon found out that not everything in Shymkent was modern. Our two-bedroom apartment, located on the 4th floor, had no elevator. Climbing up 80 steps in the 95 degree heat at the end of every school day really tested our stamina! Learning how to successfully use a "squatty potty" at the school was another test of our agility. Luckily, our apartment had a modern convenience.

Making friends with our Lithuanian and Kazakhstan colleagues and teaching the students were the best parts of our trip. God's command to "love one another" was so easy! We met Christians, Muslims, Koreans, and Russians of all ages - teenagers, toddlers, grandmothers, grandfathers, dads and moms. All went out of their way to be loving, kind, and respectful. We experienced this Muslim respect every day on our bus ride to and from school. Because of our senior citizen status, a younger person always offered us his or her seat. We were also invited to dinner at the homes of several students.

In the classroom I couldn't tell by appearance whether a student was Muslim or Christian. They all dressed like our typical American teenagers, wearing jeans and t-shirts. Most had cell phones, too. Their ages varied from a 12 year old girl to a 25 year old air traffic controller. The majority were full of questions about America - where did we live, what did we eat, what movies did we watch, what kind of music did we listen to, and did we have children and grandchildren? They also wanted to know if we were on Facebook and if we would give them our e-mail address. Many had never met Americans before, much less Christian ones. I have to admit I inadvertently broke the rule to NOT bring up anything about Christianity unless asked to. At the end of one of the afternoon activity sessions, I was asked to say a few closing words. Much to my husband's disbelief, I began with "Let's pray". Halfway through my prayer I suddenly realized what I was doing, but it was too late. I had to finish. By the time I said amen, Stan had

heard several Allah responses from some of the students. Thankful that our GOD is good all the time, I received no repercussions.

The two Sundays we were in Shymkent we worshipped in Slava's Baptist church. I was privileged to give the devotions on the second Sunday. Slava served as my Russian interpreter. Aista, one of our Lithuanian teachers who is fluent in Russian and English, quietly translated each of Slava's sermons into English for us. Whether it was because of the smallness of the group (about 25 parishioners) or the closeness of the congregation, we could feel the Holy Spirit's presence. God is working in Kazakhstan through this congregation. Just as those who went to Malawi learned, we also discovered that building relationships with individuals must precede telling them about Jesus. Slava is making important strides for the Lord by first creating relationships with the students in his school.

When our time was completed and we said all of our goodbyes, we gathered at the train station at 4 A.M. to begin a 16 hour ride to Almaty, followed by a 25 hour exhausting journey back to the states.

What an adventure! Kazakhstan will forever bring back memories of fun, friends, and fellowship, but that old adage is true: "There is no place like home!"

CDS Newsletter August

Our Bible theme for August is Matthew 11:28: “Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

The summer is quickly coming to an end and thoughts are turning back to school. We hope to enjoy this last month of summer as much as we did the first two months. The campers have appreciated the good weather and have visited many parks in the area as well as the retreat center. The pre-school classes have been going on field trips and playing outside as well as visiting the library.

Terry Bianchi director



CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN SOON!

ITS TIME TO DUST OFF YOUR VOCAL CHORDS! The Choir will resume rehearsals at 7:00 PM on Thursday evenings, beginning on September 1st. Our first Sunday back to sing will be on Rally Day, September 11. We extend a strong welcome and encourage newcomers to join us! We would love for YOU to join us and sing praises to the Lord! We hope to see you on September 1st!

Scott Berry, DIRECTOR



A Message from our caring group of Communion Deacons and home visitors.....

If you know of anyone who wants a Communion Deacon to give Communion to them in their home, or if you just want a home visit, please contact the Church Office. We have a very caring group of folks who will enjoy visiting you.

Larry Lantz, Coordinator

Nursing Home and Assisted Living Communion Services

August 16, 9:00 AM Elmcroft of Ontario

August 16, 10:15 AM Waterford

August 16, 2:00 PM Mifflin Care

August 18, 9:30 AM Brookdale Sterling House



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.

Worship Committee

Acolytes, Devera Ritz
Assisting Ministers, Cindy Russell
Lay Readers, Cindy Russell

Beth Harruff, 419.589.2762

Communion Preparers
Communion Assistants

Gene Harsch, 419.774.0247

Ushers

Evangelism Committee

Susan Hogsette 419-884-1446

Greeters

Property Committee

Gary Lane 419-775-8822

Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

Gary Simmons, 419.529.3396, and

Dan Shupp, 419.589.7631

Sound Board/Audio

Paul Ward, 419.884.3324

Power Point, Nave

Becky Pittman, 419.529.3876

Children's Church Leaders

Chris Cichanowicz, 419.529.6593

Sunday School Superintendent

Gene Luedy, 419.526.4304

Pew Pad Gleaners



Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090

8:30 AM Sunday Prayer
Partners

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters
Proclaim! Communion
Preparers
Proclaim! Communion
Assistants

**10:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL
WORSHIP**

**CONTINUED-
AUGUST VOLUNTEERS**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

August 7 Kellie Ellington
August 14 Stacey Crall
August 21 Wendy Large
August 28 Trudy Watt

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY

DOOR MONITORS

8:40 to 10:05 am

August 7 Ron Rehm
August 14 Henry Keultjes
August 21 Cindy Russell
August 28 Tom Hillman

10:00 A.M. PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

GREETERS/USHERS

August 7 Haley Pittman &
Lindsey Brenkus
August 14 Cindy Russell & Ted Ellis
August 21 Sarah Jones & Elizabeth
Volz
August 28 Gregg & Kayla Thatcher

POWERPOINT ASSISTANTS

August 7 Jessika Volz
August 14 Lindsey Brenkus
August 21 Haley Pittman
August 28 Robyn Russell

COMMUNION PREPARER

August 7 Ronda Rehm

COMMUNION SERVERS

August 7 Cindy and Robyn Russell;
Donna Rettig and Trudy Watts

BEVERAGE PREP/CLEAN-UP

August 7 Ted and Karen Ellis
August 14 Gregg and Kayla Thatcher
August 21 Ronda Rehm
August 28 Lynda Ringold

Coupons for Military Families

It's a tie! Manufacturer's coupons have been collected for military families at various overseas bases. The last batch on July 14th was sent to the family support group for a U.S. Army base in Vicenzo, Italy. The food coupons totaled \$811.40 and the non-food coupons totaled \$2,184.40. As to who collected and cut the most coupons, we'll just call it a tie between **Donna Rettig** and **Gail Elder**. Gail sent her coupons all the way from Florida. Good work girls and thank you so very much!

Jeanne Hillman, coordinator

Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry for the needy

Please remember to pick up one or two jars of peanut butter and/or jelly when you do your grocery shopping. It can be deposited in the boxes in the narthex or in Luther Hall. This is a vital ministry of outreach whereby we provide nonperishable food to folks who very likely have hungry families. Sometimes they tell us this is the only food they have left in their homes! Once a month we distribute the peanut butter and jelly along with loaves of bread, doing this after the Wednesday Noon Lunch. Blessings to you all for caring!

WORKDAY LADIES NEED MACHINE SEWERS!

Patchwork comforter production has gotten behind, and **we could use some help sewing the patches together to make the colorful tops.** We have been able to complete a few lap robes, but full-size comforters for Lutheran World Relief, area agencies in need, and our high school graduates are in short supply.

If someone could help us by doing some machine sewing at home, it would be appreciated! We have plenty of patches ready! Call **Pat Reed at 419-756-1372** if you would like to help.

Thanks you to those who have already done some sewing and completed quilt tops for us!

2011 LAYETTES, HEALTH KITS, SCHOOL KITS, AND SEWING KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF . . .

We support Lutheran World Relief by donating comforters (which our Workday Ladies are preparing), Layettes, Health Kits, School Kits, and Sewing Kits.

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

SCHOOL KITS in August

Pads or notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8 ½ x 11" with 150-200 sheets of paper

One blunt-nose scissors

One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

One pencil sharpener

Six new pencils with erasers

One eraser approximately 2 ½" long

12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors

One box of 8, 16 or 24 crayons

One cloth bag (provided in the Narthex/Luther Hall lobby)

Pack items in bag, fold handles over and secure with two large rubber bands or tie with yarn.

We need some help in sewing cloth bags to be filled for School kits. They are quite basic and heavier fabric is available in the Work Day Ladies supply room or contact Jan Fisher @ 419.589.2820.

Containers for completed kits are in the Narthex and lobby of Luther Hall. **All kits must be returned to the church as a complete kit ready for shipping. The deadline to turn in completed kits is October 3.** They will be packed and then taken to Seville, Ohio, later in October for shipping.

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

— Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820



Hire-A-Youth!

Need any chores done around the house? Don't have the time (or desire)?

FELC youth may be your answer! For a free-will donation, supervised youth are able and willing to report to duty. All donations go to support youth activities.

Call Becky Sarbach 419-512-2928 or Tricia Volz 419-884-3273



August 4, 5, 6 2011

Now Collecting Donations

FELC youth are now collecting donations for the Lincoln Highway Buy-Way Yard Sale

This is a great opportunity to get rid of some clutter in your house or garage. There are **three ways to donate**: 1) deliver items to church garage 2) weekly drop-off for youth to unload your vehicle (Mondays June-July from 7-8pm) or 3) call Becky Sarbach 419-512-2928 to arrange a pick up.

Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors.

Youth Rummage Sale

The Youth Rummage Sale is coming up August 4, 5, 6th, so get your donations in FAST! We can store your donations in the first Sunday School room on the right (Trish Volz's room which is across from the resource room on the third floor). If you have already started your spring cleaning, we have some cardboard boxes in Trish's Sunday School room that you can use to store your items for now and transport them to church when we begin collecting them.

Continuing first few days of August, you can bring your donations to Trish's Sunday School room, the collection box in the narthex or for larger items, you can arrange to have them picked up. Also every Monday evening between 7:00 and 8:00 PM the youth are at the church to help unload your donations. Thank you in advance for your donations. If you have questions please call **Joy Jones at 419.884.1016.**

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2011

As of July 19, 2011 altar flower sponsors are not yet assigned for the following dates in 2011. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call the church office, 419-522-0662, to reserve a date. Cost per week is \$35.

November
6 & 27

December
4

GOT PRODUCE?

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



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

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.** Think peanut butter and jelly ministry purchases!

LET YOUR LIFE BE A LEGACY

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

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

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

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

Requests for Prayer Chain

Please call **Carol Lauthers** at **419.884.0243** (new home #) or **419.612.4088** (cell) with any requests for special prayers and support. Prayers can be for members or non-members. Also please consider joining this group of prayer warriors!

Property Committee Volunteers Needed

In light of the fact that Gary Lane has been quite ill, we need some folks to volunteer their time towards Property Committee responsibilities. Please contact Jim Scheiber, Property Manager if you can offer assistance. You have the option of naming the day and time for many of these tasks.

How about doing this as a service project in your small group?

Visitor Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, August 16, 2011
Assembled and mailed: Thursday August 25, 2011

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: newslettereditor53@yahoo.com
or leave in the mailslot at upper left of the slots (marked Visitor Editor
and/or Connie Stewart. Volunteer editor Jan Fisher can be reached at
419.589.2820.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Pastor Larson	plarson@felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Jones	ajones@felc-mansfield.org
Becky Pittman	bpittman@felc-mansfield.org
Karen Frayer	kfrayer@felc-mansfield.org
Connie Stewart	cstewart@felc-mansfield.org
Church Office	office@felc-mansfield.org
Jan Fisher, Editor	newslettereditor53@yahoo.com
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.

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 9:30am Men's Group @ Deany's 7:00pm Property Committee (UC)	2 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER)	3 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	4 Youth Lincoln Buyway Rummage Sale FELC parking lot 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC)	5 Youth Lincoln Buyway Rummage Sale FELC parking lot 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	6 Youth Lincoln Buyway Rummage Sale FELC parking lot
7 9:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Holy Communion (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:30am Personnel Mtg (FR)	8 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 1:00pm Finance Committee (FR) 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	9 ***Lutheran CORE Convocation Upper Arlington*** 1:30pm Lauther's small group (FR)	10 ***NALC Theological Conference Upper Arlington*** 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	11 ***NALC Convocation, Upper Arlington Ohio*** ***NALC Theological Conference Upper Arlington*** 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC)	12 ***NALC Convocation, Upper Arlington Ohio*** 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	13
14 9:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 10:00am Worship (Nave) 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 4:00pm Malawi Mission Team Sharing (ER)	15 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 1:00pm Women of FELC Planning Meeting (ER) 6:30pm 9:00 pm Crop Walk (ER)	16 **Visitor deadline** 9:00am Holy Comm@Elmeroft 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 10:15am Holy Comm@Waterford 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 2:00pm Holy Comm @ Mifflin Care 7:00pm Council (UC)	17 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	18 9:30am Holy Comm@Sterling 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC)	19 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30am - 2 PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER)	20
21 9:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 10:00am Worship (Nave) 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	22 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	23 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 1:30pm Lauther's small group (FR) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	24 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)	25 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 12:30pm Visitor Assy (3rd fl) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC)	26 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	27 ***Road Riders for Jesus (FELC parking lot)*** **Cruise In Downtown Mansfield**
28 9:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 10:00am Worship (Nave) 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	29 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED*	30 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER)	31 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC)			

Legend:
 BRC - Blackfork Retreat Center
 C - Chapel in Luther Hall
 CDS - Christian Day School
 Ch Rm - Choir Room
 ER - Emmaus Room
 First Floor, Luther Hall
 FR - Fireside Room
 Second Floor, Luther Hall
 Nave - Main Sanctuary
 UC - Undercroft
 (church basement)
 3rd - Third Floor, Luther Hall
 NL - Narthex Lounge