

# THE VISITOR



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

Volume 53

DECEMBER 2011

Number 12

**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](http://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. Angela Murphy, 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

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* John 3:16 (RSV)

*In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace, that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”* Ephesians 1:7-8 (NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ:

Repeatedly, as I read God’s Word, I am struck by ALL the *superlatives*. The English language struggles to describe how Overflowing, Overabundant, Over-the-Top → GOD is, when it comes to His Giving. *“For God so loved the world that He gave...!”* God does not merely toss us a few crumbs of Grace in our direction. He *LAVISHES* the *RICHES* of His Grace upon us! He is passionately Generous! Jesus said: *“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45 (NRSV). This is Jesus’ Mission.

To grow in Christian Maturity, Discipleship, is growing to become like Jesus. To be like Jesus is to Serve and to Give. Serving and Giving are at the Heart of the Christian Life. That is why we celebrate Christmas by Giving. Every gift we give is to be a celebration of God’s First Giving His only Son to us. Truly, Christmas is a Celebration of God’s Generosity!

But, generosity has to do with so much more than the giving of tangible gifts. Generosity is a quality of the Christ-centered heart.

As I write this article, there are only thirty-seven more shopping days until Christmas. Though Christmas is still more than a month away, I know that many of you have already begun your Christmas shopping. Who is on your Christmas list this year? Your immediate family members? Close relatives? Intimate friends? These are the obvious choices.

[You probably think that I am about to encourage you to give a special Christmas Gift to the orphans of AIDS in Malawi → a Birthday Gift for Jesus → by giving to the poorest of the world’s poor. These are those Jesus spoke of when He called us to give to *“the least of these.”* Yes, I am certainly encouraging you to put these first in your Jesus’ Birthday Giving. But, actually, I’d like to speak to you about another kind of Generosity. It is the kind of generosity that comes from a Christ-filled heart.]

Remember that shopping list we just spoke of? Who is not on your Christmas shopping list? What about the person at work who rubs you the wrong way? The neighbor next door who has a questionable lifestyle? The relative who still holds a grudge against you? The person who works so hard to constantly slander your name? Are these people high on your Christmas list? Probably not, for gift-giving is usually directed towards those you love.

But, God's gift to humanity -- Salvation -- was provided "*while we were still sinners*" (Romans 5:8) ... when there was NOTHING lovely about us at all! The Apostle Paul describes those for whom Christ died as *sinners, ungodly, and enemies of God*. (Romans 5: 6-10).

What about those people in your life who at times can be "ungodly" towards you? It is much easier to be generous in our tangible outward gift-giving, than to be ***Generous of Heart***. Jesus is calling you and me to become like Him. The kind of generosity that flows from a Christ-filled heart is generous with patience, love, and understanding. It is a Spirit of gentleness and forgiveness. Who in your life needs This Gift from you? Do we not ALL need this kind of Generosity? This is the Generosity that will "cut-you-some-slack;" interpret your actions in the kindest way; and speak to you that word of kindness, appreciation, and encouragement. We have a Generous GOD who has done all these things and More ... **ALL for us**. We have a Generous God who calls us to be His generous, Grace-Filled, people.

So who is on your Christmas list? With God's Love as the model, make out a new Christmas list of those in your life who need to receive from you → the Gifts of Forgiveness, and Patience, and Understanding ... Gifts of Kindness given unmerited ... unearned ... freely given ... no strings or expectations attached. This is how God GRACES you and me. Let us generously GRACE one another. Let us Give and Serve like Jesus.

**In Jesus' Love,**

Pastor Paul

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

### MEMORIALS – MEMORIAL FUND

#### **Wanda Hill**

Marv and Toni Beauford

#### **Leland McKean**

Bill and Mary Schwartz

### PASTORAL ACTS

**Funerals/Memorial:** November 8, 2011      Mildred Them



### OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY

We remember the families and friends of those who died October 18-November 15:

<b>Nancy Dwyer,</b> <i>friend of Toni Zehe</i>	<b>November 3</b>
<b>Mildred Them</b>	<b>November 4</b>
<b>Curtis Glenn</b> <i>first cousin of Mary Schwartz</i>	<b>November 10</b>
<b>Jane Wessling</b> <i>mother of Barbara Davis</i>	<b>November 12</b>

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

You are encouraged to consider supporting Lutheran World Relief during the Advent and Christmas season.

### WOMEN'S CALENDAR

Circle	Date	Time	Place	Hostess
Eve (Prayer Shawl)	Tues. Dec. 6	7:00 PM	Emmaus Room	TBA
Sarah	Mon. Dec. 5	1:00 PM	Emmaus Room	Margaret Battisti, hostess; Kay Jewitt, Proverbs Bible Study
Lydia	Mon. Dec. 12	12:00 noon	Home of Carolyn Weeks	Fellowship
Mary	No longer meeting			
Women's Ministry Team Meeting	No Women's Team meeting scheduled until January	1:00 PM	Emmaus Room	Officers and Circle Leaders attend
Workday Ladies	Dec. 7 and Dec. 21	1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Third Floor	No hostess

Funeral Squad Leader for December: Margaret Battisti

### Advent Offering Envelopes



Our Advent offerings are designated to support Malawi Orphan Care Ministries. A designated envelope was included in the Advent Calendar of Events mailing in November. Additional Advent envelopes are in the tract racks.

Advent offerings may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, or brought to the church office any time before Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **Apple Tree Returns in January**

In January you will find the "Apple Tree" to sponsor food for our youths' upcoming journey to Quake and Zone. Each apple is a \$15 sponsorship with the child's name on the front - you fill in the info on the back and turn it in to the office with your \$15 food sponsorship money. On the tree there will also be gas tags at \$25 for the chaperones who donate their time to drive & chaperone our excited youth to each event. Thank you for your *tremendous support* of our youth at FELC, we could never do it without you!

### **Christmas Cookie Bake Sale**

On December 18, 2011 our FELC youth will be holding a Christmas cookie bake sale. The kids will have baked the cookies a day or two prior to the sale. All items will be offered via a free will donation. This is another way that they will fund their trips to Quake and Zone in 2012.

**No Sunday School on December 25 and also January 1st.**

**Please be aware that on the above dates it has been decided NOT to hold Sunday School.**

**Nursery will be provided during the worship service -- 10:00 to 11:00**

### **Children's Christmas Program December 18, 2011 Combined Service in Sanctuary**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend the Children's Christmas program at 10:00 AM on Sunday December 18, 2011 in the sanctuary. There will NOT be any Children's Church offered on that Sunday.

## **NOVEMBER COUNCIL NOTES:**

President Ken Frayer called the November 8, 2011 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:05 p.m. Ken Frayer opened the meeting with prayer.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE:** Penny Ekegren was present to share information about the Stephen Ministry program which equips lay people within a congregation to be care givers for people during and following times of crisis or great loss. The plan would be to have three members of the congregation attend an in-depth week long training session to become trainers of care givers. Ken and Penny Ekegren, Alicia and Henry Keultjes, Pastor Paul and Kristi Larson and Chris Cichanowicz attended a recent Stephen Ministry workshop in Columbus. Information was distributed to Council members about Stephen Ministers. In the Stephen Ministry model for care giving, the pastor meets first with individuals who are going through a time of crisis or great loss. The pastor then asks if they would want a Stephen Minister to meet with them during the coming weeks or months. It is an on-going support ministry where the Stephen Minister continues to support the individual as long as is needed. Men always meet with men, and women with women. All information shared in a Stephen Ministry relationship is confidential. The Stephen Ministry group gathers about once a month for support of one another. Council will make a decision about the ministry at December's meeting.

**SENIOR PASTOR:** Pastor Larson stated the NALC Ohio Mission District assembly will be held May 4 and 5, 2012.

### **Council approved the following:**

Moving communion from January 1, 2012 to January 8, 2012.

New member classes will be held December 4 and 11, 11:30 a.m., in the Emmaus Room with the reception of new members during both worship services January 15, 2012.

The Congregational Budget meeting will be held following the January 29, 2012 combined worship service and before the congregational potluck lunch that day.

Two pastors and one lay delegate to attend the NALC assembly which will be held August 16 and 17 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

One pastor and one lay delegate to attend the LCMC Annual Gathering which will be held October 7-10, 2012 in Denver, Colorado.

Pastor Larson to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Owosso, Michigan on Sunday, October 14, 2012.

Our church will host a regional LCMC gathering on Saturday, March 17, 2012

from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pastor Mark Vander Tuig, LCMC Service Coordinator, will be the presenter. The recommendation is that expenses incurred would be part of our LCMC benevolence. The purpose of this gathering is to present changes in the LCMC constitution, giving local congregations opportunity to have input.

Pastor Larson presented information from the James Dickson Endowment Fund Committee that there will be a 2011 distribution of \$750.00 from this Endowment Fund to Harmony House Homeless Services, Inc. of Mansfield, OH.

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Pastor Jones presented an update on the progress of the non-profit Malawi Orphan Care Project Inc. (MOCP) The by-laws have been presented to the attorney who is working pro-bono with the project and will be filed in January, 2012. Plans are that funds from the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Project will be channeled through the MOCP then on to Malawi. He reported his recent visit to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Lucas was well received and that members of the congregation asked good questions.

**FINANCE:** Pastor Larson stated that Finance Committee worked on the 2012 budget which looks good. The 2012 budget will be presented to Council at the December, 2011 meeting and then to the congregation at the January 29, 2012 congregational budget meeting.

**PROPERTY:** Pastor Larson said he spoke to Gary Lane about having Tom Pasheilich serve as the Property Committee convener during Gary's recovery and he was agreeable to that. Tom has agreed to serve in this capacity until May, 2012. Either Tom Pasheilich or Dan Obrynba will serve as liaison from the Property Committee to Council. Dan Obrynba is working to get bids for plastering and painting the sanctuary. We are in a holding pattern on moving toward plastering and painting the sanctuary until we are assured that we have a water tight roof.

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:** Jan Fisher reported for Karen Ellis that she was grateful for help with the October 30 congregational pot luck lunch. Shirley Lane did an excellent job with decorations for that meal. Plans for the mystery dinner are going well.

**EVANGELISM:** Susan Hogsette said the Discipleship Community Retreat will be held sometime in 2012.

**GLOBAL MISSION:** Chris Cichanowicz praised God for response to the Crop Walk with total contributions of \$16,879.11. Our church's goal was \$2900 and

\$3,026.30 was contributed, earning our church the second place “Silver Tennie” award. Council approved 2012 Souper Bowl donations benefit The Salvation Army. The Council also approved the sale of craft items made by Peruvian women, in cooperation with our WMPL missionaries, the Christophersons. All proceeds from the Peruvian craft sales will go to the Peruvian women who have made them.

**WORSHIP:** Executive Committee recommended, Council approved, that when Roscoe Thompson is out of town, check requests will be signed by Beth Harruff. Plans are being made for the Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. “blended style” family worship service and the 11:00 p.m. festival worship service with communion at each service.

**STEWARDSHIP:** **Jan Fisher** said that during 2012, the Lenten offering will benefit Lithuanian Christian College and the Advent offering will benefit Malawi. She commented on the inspiring Stewardship temple talks given by Chris Cichanowicz, Lowell Weeks and Alicia Schulz.

**SERVICE:** **Becky Sarbach** of the Service Committee recommended, Council approved, that the Thanksgiving Eve offering benefit The Salvation Army and during that service a collection of toilet paper be given to the Domestic Violence Shelter. The Christmas Angel Tree collection will benefit the Domestic Violence Shelter.

**YOUTH:** **Teri Brenkus** said 27 youth attended the October 29 night hike at the Blackfork Retreat Center. Thanks to Paul and Renee Ward, Zac Pittman, Shawn and Tricia Volz, Rob and Amy Skropits, Tom and Becky Sarbach and Angie Murphy for help with this event. The youth will bake cookies Friday, December 16 and sell them, by donation, on December 18. Teri presented information about a Youth Group project at the Recreation Unlimited Camp which services youth and adults with mental and physical disabilities. The Youth Group plans to assist in getting the camp ready for the 2012 season

**CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL:** **Cindy Russell** stated there are 55 students enrolled, one employee left and no new employees were hired.

**ADJOURNMENT:** This meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Jones and all praying the Lord’s Prayer.

*Mary M. Schwartz, Secretary*

First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council

## **WEDNESDAY LUNCH and BRIEF UPDATE ON KITCHEN RENOVATION**

Each week, approximately 20 faithful First English Lutheran Church members gather to prepare, serve and cleanup a free meal for needy Mansfield area residents. Each Wednesday, we serve 90 to 160 well balanced meals to the guests who come to be fed spiritually at a chapel worship service that precedes the meal. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Med Central Hospital Civic Fund have assisted us for several years also. Members of our congregation generously donate money each month for Wednesday lunch. Recently, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church also gave us a monetary donation. As many of you know, the cost of groceries has increased and all of this assistance is greatly appreciated. Buckeye Bakery donates bread and pastries, Geyer's Market, Garden Gate and the Apostolic Christian Church have donated some food items.

You may wonder what meals we serve – some examples are: Spaghetti with meat sauce or meat balls, French bread pizza, hamburger gravy and mashed potatoes, hot dogs, sloppy joe sandwiches, shredded chicken sandwiches, macaroni and cheese with cut up hot dogs, ham and scalloped potatoes. These entrees are accompanied with salad, bread, fruit, vegetables, desserts and beverages. During the summer months, fresh produce is a welcome addition. For special meals like Thanksgiving and Christmas, we serve turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables and special desserts.

As an update on the progress of the kitchen renovation to which many of you donated money, a new dishwasher has been installed and is working very well. Some repairs will be made to the walls in the dishwasher room. Contacts have been made about securing a fire suppression hood for the stove with some progress made but no definite quotation nor date of installation at this time.

Submitted by *Mary Schwartz* WNL Co-ordinator

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

**Within The Fold**

**THE OCTOBER FOOD COLLECTION** totaled \$87.66 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch program. Four bags of grocery items and canned goods were collected Sunday, October 30, which were donated to Catholic Charities. Thank you for helping those less fortunate!

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Thank you all for the Get Well wishes, cards, prayers and poster. A big thank you to the Prayer Shawl ladies for the prayer shawl. A special thanks to Pastor Larson for coming to Shelby Hospital the day of my surgery and after. Love and Prayers, *Katherine Coon*

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you very much for all of your thoughts and prayers during my Uncle Scott's nine month battle with cancer. I can't put into words how much it meant to him when he received his "Praying for You" poster with all of the signatures of those whom he did not even know, but cared enough to think of him. My entire family and I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
*Rachelle Faulds-Zehe*

\*\*\*\*\*



All Saints Day, 2011  
Chiclayo, Peru

Dear Friends,

Today is a holiday in Peru! The sheer number of visitors to local cemeteries is amazing. It is part devotion to tradition, and part colorful carnival, with numerous booths selling flowers and snacks.

It is rightly said that faith is “caught” as well as “taught” in the home. These past few days I have been thinking about God as my shelter. Though we did not sing “A Mighty Fortress” on Sunday, but we did celebrate that “God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble” (Ps. 46:1 GNT).

A profound personal memory of God as our protector developed through my mom dying of cancer in 1969 (I was just 12). Both congregations served by my dad (Roseni and St. Peter) had been quite involved in caring for my mom Gladys during her three-year struggle. As she died, the families of both congregations became a shelter to us, in some very tangible ways. Families volunteered to bring meals to our large family. Otto and Elvera Stene were two among many that let their faith be “caught” in their continual and robust serving. Otto was affectionately known as the George Beverly Shea of Roseni. With his deep bass voice he sang, “I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold!” I can still hear it today! Elvera could always be counted on to help in behind-the-scenes humility, especially in the kitchen. She is fondly remembered by many for her delicious fried chicken! Just ask any growing twelve-year old boy!

By their faith in the Lord Jesus, on this All Saints Day, they are still speaking (Heb 11.4)! They passed on the faith in their home, and their robust devotion was caught. Now in a mission project through their memorials, a newly-forming congregation in Las Brisas (suburb of Chiclayo) can buy land to plant a new Lutheran church. The adjacent picture is from land dedication on Reformation Sunday 2011 as Pastor Pepe Cordova and others blessed the ample lot in an ideal location (after a prolonged search of over two years). We had the delightful visit of 16 Bible school students from Sweden at our joint Reformation United Worship. Though they had sung a praise song in English I put them on the spot, and had them sing the Swedish hymn by memory:

*“Children of the heav’nly Father, Safely in His bosom gather;*

*Nestling bird nor star in Heaven, Such a refuge e'er was given."*

Finding Shelter in Chiclayo.

Henrik and Patty Christopherson  
World Mission Prayer League

Prayer Points for November:

1. Please continue to pray for Robert Jara, brother of Wilson. He is still currently in prison waiting for his case to be heard.
2. Ask that God would work in the hearts and minds of people we visit. We serve the Peruvian church in outreach and evangelism here in Chiclayo. We have finished eight weeks of Bible study and practice, and will transition to more visiting especially in the communities of Luya and Ciudad de Dios.
3. Rejoice with the Las Brisas congregation as they continue with their long-range building needs. Each of our pastors are bi-vocational, so many demands are placed upon their spare time.
4. After many years, Isabel Uriarte in San Antonio continues to serve the church through their literacy programs. She tutors a group of eight adult women who are learning to read.
5. We are blessed to help about a dozen post-secondary students with scholarships! Thank you for your help in making this possible.

### **Malawi Orphan Care Ministries**

As we continue our mission support, please continue praying specifically for:

-The leaders of Malawi to do what is best for their country, not what is best for themselves

-The people of the Kanyenyeva area to have enough food and clean water to nourish themselves

-The children of Kanyenyeva to be able to get a good education

-Safety for Shadreck, Yamikani and their family as they travel to and from the orphan project

-For God to continue to lead our congregation and other people or congregations in a relationship with the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministry

Submitted by *Joy Jones* for the Malawi Mission Team

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR SPECIAL ADVENT OFFERING GOES TO SUPPORT MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES.**

## CDS December Newsletter

Our Bible theme for December is: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior which is Christ the Lord” Luke 2:11 We will also be reading many Christmas stories this month. The children will be busy making decorations and gifts, practicing for the Christmas program, and visiting the mall to see Santa. Our Program is Monday December 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. We are having a food drive for several of our families in need this year. If you would like to help please call the CDS office @ 419.522.7500. Everyone is invited to come and hear the children sing. The Day School will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> thru January 1st. We at the Christian Day School wish everyone a blessed holiday season.

*Angela Murphy*, Director



**CDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 6:30 PM  
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

# Alpha



**A practical introduction  
to The Christian Faith.**

Do you ever find yourself thinking about the big questions of life? Alpha is a safe place to ask them, and see if Christianity has the answers.

## **When is Alpha?**

The Alpha Course is offered this winter on Sunday afternoons from January 8 until March 25, meeting from 11:30 'till 2:00, including lunch and dessert!

## **What is Alpha?**

Alpha is a practical introduction to the Christian faith in a non-confrontational environment. Anyone interested in finding out more about Christianity is welcome. Alpha is a conversation where no question is too simple or too hostile.

## **Is Alpha only for seekers and new Christians?**

Older Christians and long-time believers find great value in Alpha – getting a regrounding in what it is we believe.

## **What Happens at Alpha?**

Alpha is a place to join others to talk about spiritual matters in a relaxed atmosphere. Each weekly session includes an engaging presentation, and follows with small-group conversations. Ask anything. Here's your chance to ask your questions and express your opinions.

## **How Much Does Alpha Cost? What about childcare?**

There is no charge to attend Alpha. Childcare is provided on a course-by-course basis. Just let us know your need when you register. Look for a brochure at church.

<b>Volunteer Scheduling Contacts</b>	<b>The monthly volunteers are published in Visitor and posted on bulletin boards.</b>
<b>Worship Committee</b> <b>Devera Ritz</b> <b>419.362.6526</b> Acolytes <b>Cindy Russell</b> <b>419.544.0878</b> Assisting Ministers and Lay Readers	<b>Gene Luedy,</b> <b>419.526.4304</b> Pew Pad Gleaners
<b>Beth Harruff,</b> <b>419.589.2762</b> Communion Preparers, Communion Assistants Nave	<b>Ruth Sweval,</b> <b>419.526.5090</b> 8:30 AM Sunday Prayer Partners
<b>Gene Harsch,</b> <b>419.774.0247</b> Ushers	<b>Becky Pittman,</b> <b>419.529.3876</b> Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters Proclaim! Communion Preparers Proclaim! Communion Assistants
<b>Evangelism Committee</b> <b>Susan Hogsette</b> <b>419.884.1446</b> Greeters	<b>Paul Ward, 419.884.3324</b> Power Point, Nave
<b>Property Committee</b> <b>Gary Lane 419.775.8822</b> Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty	<b>Becky Pittman,</b> <b>419.529.3876</b> Children's Church Leaders
<b>Gary Simmons,</b> <b>419.529.3396</b> and <b>Dan</b> <b>Shupp 419.589.7631</b> Sound Board/Audio	<b>Chris Cichanowicz,</b> <b>419.529.6593</b> Sunday School Superintendent

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

<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>	<b><u>NAVE</u></b>
Entire month of December: Tom & Stacey Crall	

<b><u>USHERS</u></b>	<b><u>NAVE</u></b>
Dr Eugene Calver Pat Smith	Greg Hughes Lana Conry

<b><u>8:30 AM SUNDAY PASTORS PRAYER PARTNERS TEAMS</u></b>
December 4 Ken & Karen Frayer
December 11 Lowell Weeks & Chris Cichanowicz
December 18 Rob Hogsette & Steve Ritz
December 25 Mary Schwartz & Jim Scheiber

<b><u>COMMUNION PREPARERS</u></b>
December 4 Ken & Penny Ekegren
December 24 at 7:00 P.M. Sandie & Wes Volz
December 24 at 11:00 P.M. Bill & Mary Schwartz

<b><u>COMMUNION SERVERS</u></b>
December 4
Bread Servers Pastor/Assisting Minister
Wine West Chris Cichanowicz
Cups West Pat Smith
Wine East Tom Pasheilich
Cups East Nancy Pasheilich
Intinction Beth Harruff

<b><u>COMMUNION SERVERS</u></b>
December 24 at 7:00 P.M.
Bread Servers Pastor/Assisting Minister
Wine West Tom Sarbach
Wine East Becky Sarbach

<b><u>COMMUNION SERVERS</u></b>
December 24 at 11:00 P.M.
Bread Servers Pastor/Assisting Minister
Wine West Donna Rettig
Cups West Gary Simmons
Wine East Paul Theaker
Cups East Pat Smith
Intinction Sherry Winbigler

<b><u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS</u></b>
Service Committee

<b><u>LAY READERS</u></b>	<b><u>NAVE</u></b>
December 4	Stacey Crall
December 11	Mary Hujus
December 18	Youth Program
December 24 & 25	TBA

<b><u>ALTAR WORKERS</u></b>	
Nave:	Janet Shenberger & Beth Harruff
Proclaim!:	Jan Fisher

<b><u>PEW PAD GLEANERS</u></b>	
December 4	Marilyn Motson
December 11	Vi Deems
December 18	Gene Luedy
December 25	Pat Smith

<b><u>ASSISTING MINISTERS</u></b>	
December 4	Stan Cichanowicz
December 11	Chris Kaschube
December 18	Youth Program
December 24 & 25	TBA

<b><u>ACOLYTES</u></b>	
December 4	Katie Ritz
December 11	Paul Hogsette
December 18	Hannah Skropits
December 24	Taylor Grossenbacher 7 PM
December 24	Egypt Murphy 11 PM

<b><u>POWERPOINT OPERATORS</u></b>	
December 4	Paul Ward
December 11	Jeff Kilgore
December 18	Jim Scheiber
December 25	

<b><u>NURSERY VOLUNTEERS</u></b>	
December 4	Annette Doklovic (9:00) Rachelle Zehe (10:00)
December 11	Angie Murphy (9:00) Courtney Farner (10:00)
December 18	Lu Diday (9:00) Toni Zehe (10:00)
December 25	Chris Cichanowicz (10:00 ONLY)

<b><u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS</u></b>	
December 4	Angie Murphy
December 11	Suzanne Rippel
December 18	Children's Christmas program
December 25	NO Children's Church

<b><u>LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR MONITORS</u></b>	
<b>8:40 to 10:05 am</b>	
December 4	Tom Hillman
December 11	Wes Volz
December 18	Jodi Mumaw
December 25	Shirley Shupp

**10:00 A.M. PROCLAIM!  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

<b><u>GREETERS/USHERS</u></b>	
December 4	Sarah Jones & Elizabeth Volz
December 11	Cindy Russell & Rachel Shupp
December 18	Children's Christmas program
December 25	combined service of lessons and carols in the Nave

<b><u>COMMUNION PREPARER</u></b>	
December 4	Jan Fisher

<b><u>COMMUNION SERVERS</u></b>	
December 4	Ronda Rehm & Rachel Shupp; Tricia and Elizabeth Volz

<b><u>POWERPOINT ASSISTANTS</u></b>	
December 4	Robyn Russell
December 11	Kayla Thatcher
December 18	Mike Brenkus
December 25	combined service of lessons/carols in the Nave



**Christmas Caroling December 11**

Spread a little Christmas cheer! Come join in our annual Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 11. We'll have a pizza lunch at 11:30 a.m. (following the 10:00 a.m. worship service) and then go caroling after lunch to our church members at their individual homes and to care centers.

Parents, children, and grandparents are all welcome! Song books and route maps are provided; bring warm outer clothing and your Christmas joy to share. Sign-up using the pew pad question in the November 27 and December 4 bulletins.

If you have any questions or know of anyone who might enjoy a caroling visit, please contact Angie Kaschube at 419-571-1734 or email [akaschube@neo.rr.com](mailto:akaschube@neo.rr.com).

## **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 or call Larry Lantz at 419.756.5506. *Larry Lantz, Coordinator*

### **Nursing Home and Assisted Living Communion Services**

December 20, 2011	Tues. 9:00 AM	Elmcroft
December 20, 2011	Tues. 10:15 AM	Waterford
December 20, 2011	Tues. 2:00 PM	Mifflin Care
December 22, 2011	Thurs 9:30 AM	Brookdale Sterling House



NOTIFICATION FROM KAREN FRAYER OUR CHURCH BOOKKEEPER:

**2011 FINAL CONTRIBUTIONS** must be received by Thursday, December 29 by 4:00 p.m. Contributions received on Thursday, December 29 will be posted to 2011. Monies received on Sunday, January 1 will be posted to 2012.



**THE CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED** on Friday, December 30. The Christian Day School will be closed December 26 through January 1 and will open again January 2.



### **FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD**

#### **♪ JOIN THE CHOIR ♪**

**#1.** They are moving **REHEARSAL TIME! STARTING SUNDAY 11/20/2011.**  
**#2.** You enjoy making a **joyful noise** unto the Lord! **#3.** You **enjoy** fellowshiping and having a good time with other members of FELC? **#4.** You don't have to worry about **what you wear to church.** **#5.** It's **just like American Idol**, but for God, and we let you stay! In an attempt to increase our choir, we will begin holding rehearsals after services on Sundays. Please join us!

## NALC Newsletters

Excerpts taken from the webpages of the North American Lutheran Church. Web address is: [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org)

When you get a chance please check out the exciting updates that are shown there. Presently there are 296 congregations that have joined the North American Lutheran Church in just the last year! Praise God!

*Nov, 2011*

- Regional Mission Districts are organizing
- Convocations to be in Minnesota
- St. Dysmas, a new NALC congregation, to do ministry inside California prisons
- The reading of the Holy Scriptures is central to Christian worship
- Update on New York congregation flooded by Hurricane Irene

### Newsletters

Keep up to date with happenings throughout NALC

The North American Lutheran Church publishes a monthly newsletter which includes useful updates on the projects, programs and developments that matter to Lutherans. Come back each month and download a copy.

## Church Relations

The NALC is welcomes articles related to the exciting happenings taking place across the wider church. If you have an article detailing church-life from your mission field feel free to submit it for consideration for an upcoming NALC Newsletter.

Rev. David J. Baer  
Editor, NALC Newsletter

[news@thenalc.org](mailto:news@thenalc.org)

## Stewardship Corner

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for your generous support and attention to Stewardship during 2011. Stewardship is an act of Worship which blesses each one of us as we give our First Fruits to the Lord.

2011 Stewardship Committee: Jan Fisher, chmn., Lowell Weeks, Lois Brown, Mary Hugus, and Lynda Ringold

## **2011 Adopt-A-Family to Benefit Mansfield Domestic Violence Shelter . . .**

Christmas is not only a time of year to rejoice in our blessings, but to be angels to those with needs greater than our own. This year, FELC is collecting items to donate to the Mansfield Domestic Violence Shelter.



**Please visit the “Angel Tree” in the Narthex and take one (or more) angel tags.** Each angel contains a need for the women and children seeking refuge at The Shelter. Their needs are basic: undergarments, sweats, hooded sweatshirts, soap, and paper products.

Unwrapped items should be delivered to the church (bin in the Narthex) between Sunday, December 11 and Tuesday, December 27. Donated items will be delivered to The Shelter after December 27 when all items have been collected. *Please do not gift wrap items.*

Thank you for helping to support our sisters and brothers in need. God bless!  
Becky Sarbach, Service Ministry

## **First Annual Mystery Dinner is a huge success!!**

On November 13, 2011 over fifty members and guests experienced our first mystery dinner which was presented in an Italian theme. The undercroft was decorated similar to an Italian restaurant, and the thirty plus youth who served us did an amazing job! The fun part was that folks didn't know what they were ordering (unless they read or spoke Italian), and they quite possibly were eating with toothpicks! There was so much laughter and fellowship -- it was quite a party! Following the meal we held a mystery auction which was quite successful and provided more laughter! All things being considered, people haven't stopped talking about it. And the best part is that we raised \$1104.00 to be shared by our youth programs and the Salvation Army!! Awesome job, everyone. (Chaired by Jan Fisher and Karen and Ted Ellis)



## ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS FOR 2012



January 1, 15, 22, 29	July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
February 5, 12, 19	August 5, 19, 26
March - no flowers during Lent	September 2, 9, 16, 30
April 8, 15, 22, 29	October 14, 21, 28
May 13, 20	November 4, 18
June 3, 10, 17, 24	December 2, 9, 16, 30

**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO RESERVE A DATE.**

### **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.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING TIME: FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM.**

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

### **WARM UP AMERICA PROJECT**

*We continue with the Warm Up America Project which consists of knitting or crocheting a specific size square. Eventually Jane Sprang will take the completed squares and crochet them together into a lovely warm afghan. If you can help produce the squares, see Jane Sprang on Sunday after the 10:00 service. A nice supply of yarn is available at no charge!*

## 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!

**Visitor Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL**

**Assembled and mailed: Thursday, December 29, 2011**

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: [newslettereditor53@yahoo.com](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:plarson@felc-mansfield.org">plarson@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Pastor Jones	<a href="mailto:ajones@felc-mansfield.org">ajones@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Becky Pittman	<a href="mailto:bpittman@felc-mansfield.org">bpittman@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Karen Frayer	<a href="mailto:kfrayer@felc-mansfield.org">kfrayer@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Connie Stewart	<a href="mailto:cstewart@felc-mansfield.org">cstewart@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Church Office	<a href="mailto:office@felc-mansfield.org">office@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Jan Fisher, Editor	<a href="mailto:newslettereditor53@yahoo.com">newslettereditor53@yahoo.com</a>

Visit our web site at: [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://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.

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**† The First English Lutheran Church †**

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1698  
419-522-0662

DECEMBER 2011


**THE SEVEN MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP**

To the *Glory* of *GOD*, I believe that I am called . . . "To the measure of the full stature of Christ." Ephesians 4: 12-13

**I WILL STRIVE TO:**

- \* PRAY Daily
- \* INVITE Others to Know JESUS
- \* STUDY God's Word Daily
- \* GIVE the Biblical Tithe of 10%
- \* WORSHIP Weekly
- \* ENCOURAGE Spiritual Growth in Others
- \* SERVE in Ministry at First Lutheran & Beyond Through Christian Fellowship

# December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<b>4</b> *2nd Sunday of Advent* 8:30am PastorsPrayerPartners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship (Nave) 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:30am New Members Class 11:30am Senior Choir Reh 5:30pm Confirm Class(UC)	<b>5</b> CHURCHOFFICECLOSED 9:30am Men's Group @ Denny's 1:00pm Sarah Circle (ER) 7:00pm Property Committee (UC)	<b>6</b> 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 Bible Study(ER) 7:00pm Prayer Shawl/Eve Circle (ER)	<b>7</b> 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship&Lunch (C/UC) 1:00pm Workday Ladies (3rd fl)	<b>8</b> 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Constitution Revision Committee(ER)	<b>9</b> 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	<b>10</b> **Cookie packing**
<b>11</b> *3rd Sunday of Advent* 8:30am PastorsPrayerPartners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship (Nave) 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:30am Senior Choir Reh 11:30am Christmas Caroling 11:30am New Members Class	<b>12</b> CHURCHOFFICECLOSED 12:00pm Lydia Circle @ Carolyn Weeks 1:00pm Finance Committee (FR) 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	<b>13</b> **Visitor deadline** 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 Bible Study(ER) 1:30pm Small group (FR) 7:00pm Council (UC)	<b>14</b> 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship&Lunch (C/UC)	<b>15</b> 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Constitution Revision Committee(ER)	<b>16</b> 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30am - 2 PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER) 6:00pm Youth Christmas Cookie Baking (UC)	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> *4th Sunday of Advent* *YOUTH COOKIE SALE* 8:30am PastorsPrayerPartners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Children's Christmas Program 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:30am Senior Choir Reh 5:30pm Confirm Class (UC)	<b>19</b> CHURCHOFFICECLOSED 6:30pm CDS Christmas Program (Nave)	<b>20</b> 9:00am Holy Comm@Elmcroft 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 10:15am Holy Comm@Waterford 12:00pm -1 Bible Study(ER) 2:00pm Holy Comm @ Mifflin Care	<b>21</b> 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship&Lunch (C/UC) 1:00pm Workday Ladies (3rd fl)	<b>22</b> 9:30am Holy Comm@Sterling 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC)	<b>23</b> 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service Holy Communion (Nave) 10:30pm Music for a Holy Night(Nave) 11:00pm Christmas Eve Festival Service Holy Communion (Nave)
<b>25</b> **Christmas Day** *Food Collection* 8:30am PastorsPrayerPartners 10:00am Combined Worship with Proclaim!(Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	<b>26</b> *CDS Closed Christmas Break* CHURCHOFFICECLOSED 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	<b>27</b> *CDS Closed Christmas Break* 12:00pm -1 Bible Study(ER) 1:30pm Small group (FR) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	<b>28</b> *CDS Closed Christmas Break* 12:10pm Worship&Lunch (C/UC)	<b>29</b> *CDS Closed Christmas Break* 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 12:30pm Visitor Assy (3rd fl) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC)	<b>30</b> **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** *CDS Closed Christmas Break* 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	<b>31</b>

**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)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> - Third Floor, Luther Hall  
 NL - Narthex Lounge