

THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

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

Volume 53

MARCH 2011

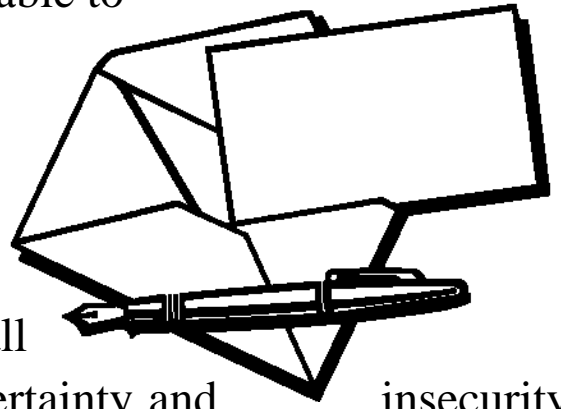
Number 3

Dear Friends in Christ,
Something beautiful is happening again this year with our special Lenten Offerings. In our 2011 Budget, we have again voted to designate this offering as a Benevolence Offering for our *Lithuanian Ministries*. It was through the wonderful witness and work of Joe and Karyne Carey that we were first introduced to this ministry to the people of Lithuania. This year's Lenten Offerings will go to continue this important ministry of Christ's Love.

Lent has always been a special time for us as Christians to grow in our relationship with Jesus by intentionally growing in our life of prayer, daily devotions, the reading of God's Word, and the giving of alms (special offerings) for the poor. Fasting is also part of this Lenten Spiritual Discipline. My daughter, Kari Anna, has shared with me how the members of her congregation deliberately fast during Lent, so that they will not only have more time for prayer & God's Word, but also so that they will have far more money to give to those who are in far greater need. We are called as Christ's Body to be a sign of His Love.

How are we showing Christ's love in Lithuania? We have provided much needed scholarships for young people to come and learn English at the *Lithuanian Christian College* in Klaipeda. The college provides a Christian setting in which young people are not only equipped with important life skills, but also come to learn and experience the love of Jesus. Young people from across the former eastern European communist countries come to *LCC* and receive a solid education in a Christ-Centered environment. It is an excellent opportunity to present the Good News of Jesus' Love to the future leaders of Eastern Europe.

Through your offerings, you have also been able to provide desperately needed food and basic living supplies (toilet paper, soap, toothbrushes, socks, clothing, shoes, etc.) to the children of the *Rytas Orphanage*.



Yes, we in our community and nation are all going through times of great economic uncertainty and insecurity. It is especially at times like these that we realize that our ULTIMATE Security is in Christ Jesus our Savior. It is the power of God's Love, proven to us through Jesus' Cross and Resurrection that will sustain us through all of life's storms.

It is also at times like these that we become aware of what a great blessing it is to live in this country. Obviously, we are far from perfect! Our governmental systems and our economic systems have failed us in many ways. We continue to see how the powers of sinful greed have corrupted, twisted and deformed us. And yet, we in this country are still in far better economic shape than so many others in our world. LENT ... It is a good time for all of us to confess how we have each fallen prey to the lure of trusting in money and things, instead of putting our faith and trust in Jesus. His Love and Promises are Everlasting!



Children of the Rytas Orphanage

This Lent, I pray that each one of us will give a special sacrifice of Jesus' Love so that our important ministry for *Lithuanian Missions* will continue and grow!

Christ has blessed us richly! Freely we have received! Freely let us give!
The LORD Loves a Cheerful Giver! When we realize all the good we are
able to do for others in the Name of our Lord Jesus, one cannot help but
give with great Joy and Generosity! Your Love Offering may be placed in
your special Lenten Lithuanian Missions Offering Envelope. Please make
Checks payable to First English Lutheran Church (Memo: Lithuanian
Missions). Serving Together in the Love of Jesus,

Pastor Paul L. Larson

VOTING RESULTS January 23, 2011 Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 11:15
a.m. in the Nave.

Acceptance of the Proposed 2011 Budget: 51 YES 6 NO

First English Lutheran Church is very grateful to **Thrivent Financial for**

Lutherans Care
Community

has generously
Prayer Shawl
purchasing yarn;
donated funds to our



Abounds in
program.

Thrivent
donated funds to
Ministry for
they have also
Peanut Butter and

Bread Ministry where we can purchase extra supplies to help the needy.
Third, they have been very generous in helping us support our Wednesday
Noon Lunch program, giving us Hands- on Activity money in the amount
of \$1200.00 this year as well as the past several years. THANK YOU,
THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS FOR SUPPORTING
OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS! YOU ARE A HUGE BLESSING TO
US!

DAVID: A Life Redeemed!

Come and join us for this year's 2011 Lenten Mid-Week Bible Studies Series on *The Story of DAVID – The Story of a Life Redeemed!* Come at 6:00pm (March 16 – April 13) for a great time of food & fellowship with our Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers in the undercroft. Then join us at 7:00pm for our Bible Study Series in the main sanctuary. Bring your Bible!



March 9 th	ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes
March 16	DAVID and SAUL
March 23	DAVID and JONATHON
March 30	DAVID and BATHSHEBA
April 6	DAVID and ABSALOM
April 13	DAVID and SOLOMON

ASH WEDNESDAY . . .

Why ashes? On Ash Wednesday, we enter into the Lenten Season through a special service of penitence and reflection upon the quality of our faith and life. The Ash Wednesday liturgy marks the beginning of a penitential discipline. This season of penitence climaxes in the absolution and the peace of the special Maundy Thursday Service of blessing, forgiveness, and Holy Communion.

Ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in the ancient customs and practices of our faith. Coming from our Old Testament traditions, ashes in a Jewish or Christian context suggest God's judgment and His condemnation of sin. They remind us of our human frailty and our total dependence upon God for life. In churches where the imposition of ashes is practiced, the pastor uses ashes made from the burned palms of Palm Sunday to make the sign of the cross on the believer's forehead. As he does so, the pastor says to each person, *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* Thus we are forcefully reminded of the words of the committal in the burial service, *"earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."* One day, these words will be said over all of us. Not only do the ashes become a visual reminder of our total dependence on God for our life and salvation, they also become a visual symbol of our repentance. They are our public humiliation in the spirit of the Old Testament tradition of repenting in sack cloth and ashes. In ashes we publicly admit to God and to our neighbors our failures to live in all righteousness toward them.

We openly confess our sins, seeking forgiveness from God and from one another.



**Remember
that you are dust and
unto dust you shall return.**

Moreover, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday, the ashes have sometimes been understood as a penitential substitute for water, thus symbolizing our baptism.

In Luther's *Small Catechism*, brother Martin writes: "What does Baptism mean for daily living?" "It means that our sinful self, with all evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever."

Baptism is a primary emphasis of Lent. Water both stifles and refreshes, drowns and makes alive. Likewise, the ashes also tell of both death and renewal. Another example of death and renewal found in the symbol of ashes comes from the ancient practice of burning the fields in the spring. The old is destroyed and from the ashes rises the new life of spring.



It is this death-to-life, repentance unto salvation motif which we find reflected in the very name of this season of Lent. "Lent" is from the old English word meaning "springtime," and so it is to be understood as the springtime of the soul, a time for repentance, a time for preparation, planting and growth. Yes, Lent is a time of death. It is a time of dying unto ourselves, being crucified with Christ. As surely as we have died with Him, so shall we be raised with Him to the glory of God our Father. Lent is a time for the cross and resurrection.

-- *Pastor Larson*



BRING BACK YOUR PALMS! Many of you have kept the palm crosses received last Palm Sunday as a visual reminder of Christ's death and resurrection. It's time again to bring them back to church. Palms brought to the Sunday services on **Transfiguration Sunday, March 6th** will be burned to make the ashes used for the Imposition of Ashes (sign of the cross on our foreheads) at Ash Wednesday services, on March 9.

THE JANUARY FOOD COLLECTION totaled \$114.50 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch program. Four bags of grocery items and canned goods were collected Sunday, January 30, which were donated to *The Salvation Army*. Thank you for your continued support.

What is the North American Lutheran Church?

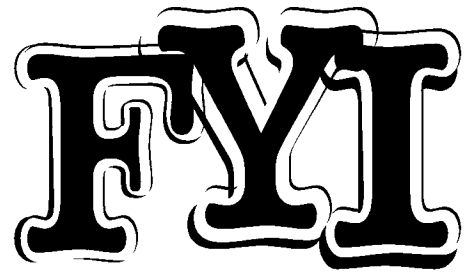
Background: When First English Evangelical Lutheran Church had its 2nd vote to leave the ELCA on April 18, 2010, our congregation voted to become part of Lutheran Congregations In Mission for Christ (LCMC). To smoothly leave the ELCA without any legitimate challenges to our church's ownership of our property, our constitution states that we needed to be joining another officially recognized Lutheran church body. At the time of our 2nd vote, LCMC was the best fit for our congregation. The new North American Lutheran Church (NALC) had not yet been formed. The NALC was officially formed in late August of 2010. Since then, in just 6 months, more than 110 Lutheran congregations have already joined the new NALC. In our immediate area, Holy Trinity Lutheran of Mansfield, and Oakland Lutheran of Mansfield have both joined the NALC. Trinity Lutheran in Ashland has already had their 2nd vote to leave the ELCA and is in the process of joining the new NALC. Locally, there are 3 churches that are part of LCMC. They are: our congregation - FELC of Mansfield, Oakland Lutheran of Mansfield, and Trinity Lutheran of Crestline.

The QUESTION: Would FELC be wise to also join the new North American Lutheran Church? This is the question that is before us. The Council has asked that there be a special Informational Forum on Sunday, May 1, 2011. This Informational Forum on the NALC will be offered at both 9:00am and at 11:15am. Everyone is invited to participate and choose the time that works best for them. It should be noted that congregations can easily be part of both LCMC and the NALC – thus

easily expanding their resource network. The Council plans to ask the Congregation to vote on whether FELC should join the NALC at our regular annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 11:15am.

The NALC – Vision & Purpose

We are living in an exciting time for confessing Lutherans in North America! Pastors and laypeople increasingly are engaged in the life of the Church beyond their congregations. Many are returning with new zeal to the true mission



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

of the Church, the sharing of the Good News of Christ Jesus. Many are eager for new fellowships, new structures, and new ways of doing common ministry. And all this is happening in a society that has become once more a mission field, a culture desperately in need of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

In September 2009, Lutheran CORE’s national convocation, meeting in Fishers, IN, committed to pursue the “reconfiguration of North American Lutheranism.” In response to the many requests coming from confessional Lutheran congregations to leave the ELCA, Lutheran CORE proposed the formation of a new denominational body for confessing Lutherans: the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

This new Lutheran denominational body was born on Friday, Aug. 27, 2010 as Lutherans from throughout North America voted overwhelmingly and enthusiastically to form the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The decision to form the new church body was made at the annual Convocation of Lutheran CORE which attracted more than 1,100 Lutherans Aug. 26-27, 2010 at Grove City Church of the Nazarene in the Columbus suburb of Grove City, Ohio. Thousands more watched the

Convocation online. The Convocation adopted a constitution and elected provisional leaders for the NALC. The Rev. Paull Spring of State College, Pa., was elected as provisional bishop of the NALC. Spring served as the bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for 14 years. Spring and other church leaders were elected for one-year terms.

Spring has said that he will not be available for reelection. “The North American Lutheran Church is now launched on its mission — to proclaim the good news of Christ to all people. We pray that God will be by our side and with our congregations as we move forward in His name,” said Bishop Spring.

The NALC is a faithful and innovative Lutheran church body that spans national borders. It holds at its heart the Great Commission of Jesus to “make disciples of all nations.” It will utilize networked ministries of local congregations and parachurch organizations [such as Lutheran Youth Encounter and World Mission Prayer League], rather than the large bureaucracy of a denominational body. It will be governed by a convocation of representative delegates from its congregations, and it will submit major decisions to congregational ratification. It will stand in continuity with the 2,000 year history of “the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church,” marrying the classical form of the church catholic with flexible structures appropriate for its ministry emphases. It will be ecumenically engaged and confessionally grounded.

The NALC is centered on four key attributes: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded and Congregationally-Focused:

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be

judged” (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission-Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servant-hood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

For more information checkout their website at: www.thenalc.org

Within The Fold

What an amazing congregational potluck lunch that was held on Sunday, January 30! Members of our church heard the message that during the previous two potluck meals, some folks, including our pastors, came to eat when there was no food left. There was food in great abundance; many people brought 2 or 3 dishes to share, all of it wonderful and extremely tasty. Help was needed to prepare for the meal and the senior high school youth came to the kitchen at the beginning of Sunday School - what amazing, cheerful and energetic help they offered. We as a congregation are extremely blessed with the youth members and their dedicated leaders

and teachers. This is a huge “thank you” from the bottom of my heart to our youth and adult members of First English Lutheran Church. I am very fortunate to call all of you my friends in Christ!

Mary Schwartz (served as chairperson for this event)

From the Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Toledo

Dear Members of First English Lutheran Church,

You help people in need! Thank you for the gift of food during the Christmas season for our pantry in Mansfield. Your generosity will help us better provide food for people in our community. Thank you for being the outstretched arms of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sister in the Diocese of Toledo. Sincerely, *Rodney O. Schuster*, Executive Director

A note from Jack and Pat Leonard

What a lovely surprise to have Becky Pittman, Jan Fisher, and the Chris Kaschube family visit and provide beautiful, belated “caroling.” We were so grateful for their thoughtfulness and effort on such a snowy day! And to Pastor Andy, who faithfully provides communion for us, thank you. You are very special people! We sincerely thank you! We are so blessed to be part of FELC, where the Love of God is always felt.

Jack and Pat Leonard

Annual Lenten Breakfast, Sponsored by Women’s Ministry of First English Lutheran Church

Our annual Lenten Breakfast will be held on Saturday March 12, 2011 at 9:00 AM beginning in the chapel with a service of worship and Holy

Communion. A lovely brunch will follow in the Emmaus Room at 10:00 AM. Our program for the morning will be given by Betty Diemer on the theme "Little Dresses for Africa." Reservations will be \$6.00 per person and will be taken in the narthex on Sundays Feb. 20, 27, and March 6. Everyone is welcome and please consider bringing guests. For questions please contact Jan Fisher at 419.589.2820

Church Women United

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is Friday, March 4, 2011 at 1:30 P.M. at First Church of the Brethren, 889 Grace Street, Mansfield. The theme is "How many loaves have you?" Sponsored by Church Women United. The women of Chile (each year a different country serves as the writer of WDP worship service) invite you to reflect on the meaning of the theme and to ponder questions: "What are your gifts?" "What can you share?" Come and enjoy the fellowship of women from differing churches and faiths. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Jackie Moxley, CWU representative



Please note that although we are no longer publishing the 80+ birthdays in the Visitor, there is a care group that is faithfully sending out Happy Birthday greetings to all those wonderful 80+ folks.

**Women of First
Church
March 2011**



**English Lutheran
CALENDAR**

Circle/Event	Date	Day of Week	Time	Meeting Place/Topic
Eve	March 1st	Tuesday	7pm	Emmaus Room/Prayer Shawl Ministry
Lydia	March 3rd	Thursday	11:30 am	The Grille in Lexington
Sarah	March 7th	Monday	1pm	Emmaus Room/Program by Kay Jewitt
Mary	March 11th	Friday	10am	Home of Virginia Blizzard 175 Lynn Drive, Mansfield
Workday Ladies	March 2nd and 16th	Wednesdays	8:30 am	3rd Floor Luther Hall
Planning Team	March 21st	Monday	1pm	Emmaus Room

Funeral Dinners: Sandi Volz and Pearl West.

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.

Fastnacht
At 6:00 p.m. ~
FUN! FUN!



Tuesday, March 8
undercroft
FUN!

PANCAKE SUPPER

We could use help in the following ways....

- Show up at 5:45 p.m. (griddle in hand) and flip pancakes (about 8 griddles and their owners)
- Show up at about 5:00 to decorate the tables and help with final preparations (4 to 6 people)
- Show up at 4:30 to cook sausage (2 people), set up serving table (2 people)
- Stay for about 30 minutes at the end to clean up the Undercroft (about 4 people)
- Stay for about 30 minutes at the end to clean up the Kitchen (about 4 people)

There will be detailed instructions for every job, so helping will be a "piece of cake" and loads of fun!

Sign up by e-mailing (ludiday@yahoo.com or calling Lu Diday (419-564-1469)

FEBRUARY COUNCIL NOTES:

President Ken Frayer called the Tuesday, February 8, 2011 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Mary Schwartz opened the meeting with prayer.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson expressed his appreciation to Shawn Volz for parking lot snow removal and to Bill Schwartz for sidewalk snow removal. He announced the mid week Lenten Bible study will focus on David, the Story of Redemption. Ash Wednesday worship service will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.

- A meeting of area LCMC and NALC Lutheran pastors will be held March 3, 9:00 a.m. at FELC.
- Informational meetings for our congregation about the North American Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. and again at 11:15 a.m. The same information will be offered at both sessions. Pick the time that works best for you.
- On Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22, we will be hosting a Global Mission Weekend with Brian and Barbara Sorge, missionaries in India and Henrik and Patty Christopherson, missionaries in Peru. Area Lutheran congregations and LCMC and NALC congregations in Ohio will be invited to this event. Brian and Barbara Sorge will give the message on Sunday, May 22.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones stated the Malawi Mission team will be hosting a meal and informational meeting on March 27 following the worship services. As of this date, Pastor Andy and Joy Jones, Sarah Jones, Renee and Sarah Ward and Amy Elgin are committed to go on the mission trip. Pastor Jones expressed appreciation to Nancy Pasheilich for organizing the Lenten soup suppers.

WOMEN OF FELC: Jan Fisher informed Council of plans for the

Saturday, March 12, 9:00 a.m. Lenten communion worship service and 10:00 a.m. brunch. Betty Deemer will present information about making little dresses for girls in Haiti.

FINANCE: Don Harruff stated the General Endowment Fund investment through Mellon Bank has increased in value \$12,151.89 from December, 2010 to January, 2011. The first payment to repay the 2010 loan from the General Endowment Fund has been made. A \$40,000 draw from the General Endowment fund was taken February 1, 2011. This first draw is part of the regular income from the General Endowment built into each years support of the General Fund budget

PROPERTY: Gary Lane has been talking with Midstate Roofing to repair sanctuary roof leaks as soon as weather permits. He has requested the roofing company to pay for repairs to the damaged plaster ceiling caused by the roof leaks. The updated wording for the sign in the church front yard will be installed when weather permits. Gary plans to get quotes for some of the kitchen renovation work.

EVANGELISM: Steve Ritz expressed concern that we keep the community aware of our new worship times.

WORSHIP: Roscoe Thompson has been traveling a lot for work and expressed his appreciation to the Worship Committee for meeting during his absence. Scott Berry is working to build the senior choir. The congregation seems to have accepted the new worship times very well; however, there have been 3 or 4 people who expressed concern about the pastor swap from one worship service to the other on Sunday mornings. There was wide congregational participation in the decision making process prior to the change and strong congregational support expressed by the congregational vote. Most seem to feel that the transition is moving smoothly.

STEWARDSHIP: Jan Fisher said she and Connie Stewart are working on the Lenten informational tri-fold that will be mailed to members during the first week of March.

SERVICE: Becky Sarbach read a letter of thanks from the Domestic Violence Shelter for clothing donations from the Angel tree collection during December. Becky shared that she had been informed that “Love, Inc.” had ceased to exist due to lack of funding. Love, Inc. works to help local churches work together to meet the needs of the poor in their community.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Cichanowicz said that the Make A Difference (M.A.D.) Sunday School class collection of items to send to our military troops will be held during February, 2011. Chris expressed her appreciation to Jeanne Hillman for the excellent work in the church library and to Jan Fisher for her excellent work publishing the Visitor. The Super Bowl of Caring collection was \$221.62 to benefit The Salvation Army food program.

YOUTH: Teri Brenkus said the congregation has responded generously to assist with food and transportation expenses for youth retreats during February. The youth will hold a spaghetti dinner and talent show on Saturday, March 19, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tickets, at the cost of \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children, will be sold Sunday, March 6 and 13. Fourteen youth and 3 adults plan to attend a Youth Encounter “Impact” National Youth Gathering in Chicago, July 7-10, 2011. The youth will hold a parking lot garage sale August 4, 5 and 6 “in conjunction with the Lincoln Highway Buyway Sale”, with Becky Sarbach and Joy Jones as chairpersons. On April 10, in the evening, there will be a youth/CDS Sunday event. Teri announced that Lu Diday will chair the March 8 Fastnacht meal and Suzanne Rippel will lead crafts activities that evening.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: Cindy Russell reported there were 64 students enrolled in January, 2011, with no employee changes.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Larson.

Mary M. Schwartz, Secretary

March Worship Schedule

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sunday March 6 | 10:00 AM Traditional Worship in Nave
10:00 AM Proclaim! Contemporary Worship – Undercroft
Communion celebrated at both services on Mar.6
11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship, weekly |
| Wed. March 9 | 7:00 PM Traditional Ash Wed. Service in Nave |
| Sunday March 13 | 10:00 AM Traditional Worship in Nave
10:00 AM Proclaim! Contemporary Worship - Undercroft |
| Sunday March 20 | 10:00 AM Traditional Worship in Nave
10:00 AM Proclaim! Contemporary Worship – Undercroft |
| Sunday March 27 | 10:00 AM Traditional Worship in Nave
10:00 AM Proclaim!Contemporary Worship – Undercroft
Food Collection |

Worship is held in the Chapel each Wednesday at 12:10 PM, lunch at 12:30 PM in the undercroft. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Sunday School is now held from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM. Classes for ALL ages. Come join us!

You are invited to join the Malawi Mission team for **lunch**
on **Sunday, March 27** in the **undercroft** immediately following the
morning services.

After the lunch, there
will be a brief
presentation about the
Malawi Mission trip in
June.



**Join the Malawi Mission
team as they provide lunch
and a time of information
about the upcoming mission
trip.**

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2011

As of February 15, 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.

May 1, 22 June 5, 19 July 10, 17, 31 August 7, 21, 28

September 4, 11, 18 October 16, 23, 30

November 6, 23 (Thanksgiving Eve), 27 December 4, 11, 18

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

Cindy Russell

Assisting Ministers and
Lay Readers

Ruth Sweval, 419-529-5090

8:30 AM Sunday Prayer Partners

Beth Harruff 419.589.2762

Communion Preparers
Communion Assistants

Becky Pittman 419-529-3876

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

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304

Pew Pad Gleaners

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247

Ushers

Evangelism Committee

Steve Ritz 419-362-6526

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 Superintendant
Nursery Helpers

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Greeters 10:00 AM

March 6, 13

Margaret Runyon, Carol Fry

March 20, 27

Viola & Ken Deems

Ushers 10:00 AM

Jeff Davis

Annette Doklovic

Gary Simmons

8:30 AM PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS TEAMS

March 6 Mary Schwartz, Jim Scheiber

March 13 Ken & Karen Frayer

March 20 Lowell Weeks, Chris Cichanowicz

March 27 Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz

COMMUNION PREPARERS

March 6 10:00 AM

Mary Hujus & Susan Hogsette

COMMUNION SERVERS

Wine West – Ken Frayer

Cups West – Karen Frayer

Wine East—Gene Harsch

Cups East – Don Harruff

Intinction – Steve Ritz

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR MONITORS 8:40 TO 10:05 AM

March 6 Henry Keultjes

March 13 Tom Hillman

March 20 Jodi Mumaw

March 27 Shirley Shupp

10:00 AM ASSISTING MINISTERS

March 6 C Cichanowicz

March 9 ---

March 13 Annette Doklovic

March 20 Stan Cichanowicz

March 27 Greg Hughes

ACOLYTES

Erica Kick

Katie Ritz, Bryan Eyerly

Casey Kelley

Michael Ward

Rachel Shupp

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

March 6 Annette Doklovic

March 13 Suzanne Rippel

March 20 Tricia Volz

March 27 Amy Elgin

POWER POINT (NAVE)

March 6 Gordon Moxley

March 13 Jim Scheiber

March 20 Jeff Kilgore

March 27 Paul Ward

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Finance Committee Members

LAY READERS

March 6 C. Cichanowicz

March 9 C. Cichanowicz (Ash Wed)

March 13 Stacy Crall

March 20 Annette Doklovic

March 27 Mary Hujus

PEW PAD GLEANERS

March 6 Marilyn Motson

March 13 Ronda Rehm

March 20 Pat Smith

March 27 Marilyn Motson

MARCH ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Janet Shenberger, Beth Harruff

Proclaim!: Jan Fisher

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

March 6 - Stacy Crall (Sunday School) and Suzanne Rippel (church)

March 13 - Heather Kraft (Sunday School) and Alicia Schulz (church)

March 20 - Amy Elgin (Sunday School) and Dawn Buttermann (church)

March 27 - Kellie Ellington (Sunday School) and Annette Doklovic (church)

**Proclaim! Volunteers
Greeters/Ushers:**

March 6th: Elizabeth Volz and Sarah Jones

March 13th: Ronda and Ashley Rehm

March 20th: Cindy Russell and Ted Ellis

March 27th: Haley Pittman and Kayla Thatcher

Communion Preparer:

March 6th: Ronda Rehm

Communion Servers:

March 6th: Cindy and Robyn Russell; Tricia Volz and Trudy Watts

PowerPoint Assistants:

March 6th: Lindsey Brenkus

March 13th: Mike Brenkus

March 20th: Kayla Thatcher

March 27th: Nolan Thatcher

Drink prep/clean-up:

March 6th: Jan Fisher

March 13th: Lynda Ringold

March 20th: Karen Ellis

March 27th: Ron and Ronda Rehm

YOUTH GROUP DINNER AND TALENT SHOW

Our FELC youth are sponsoring a spaghetti dinner and talent show. The date is Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Tickets for this fun evening will \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Tickets will be on sale March 6 and March 13, 2011 in the narthex. Please consider supporting this event to further fund our church's youth programs!



Spaghetti Dinner

YOUTH GROUP SAYS THANK YOU!

The youth group and chaperones would like to say "Thank You" for grabbing an apple or gas tag off the youth apple tree. You have sponsored each individual going to Quake and Zone along with all the gas needed -

WOW! Most of the food for the weekend and gas to get them to the events, along with all the fundraisers leading up to these youth adventures were made possible by our loving and supportive congregation.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Lincoln Highway “Buyway” Rummage Sale

Once again, the youth committee plans to have a huge rummage sale in August. As you do your spring cleaning this year, please remember to save your usable but unwanted items for the youth fund raiser. Last year, everything sold well: kitchen items, furniture, clothes for children and adults, electronics and games. We will start collecting your items in July. Once the collection starts, you can bring them by the church or we can pick them up from your house. The money that is raised from this sale will benefit the Junior and Senior High School youth programs.

The Senior Choir would like YOU to sing with us!

Hello everyone! The Senior Choir has had a great start to the year! We got things off the ground just in time to put together a wonderful Christmas Eve service. We have continued into the new year with a wonderful group, and wonderful music, but we would like for some more of **you** to join us! You don't have to be a music major or have a music degree to sing with us, just a love for singing God's praises! We welcome everyone of all ages and musical abilities. Our rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 P.M. in the choir room. Please come join us! If you have concerns, or have a conflict with the Thursday evening commitment, please still consider joining us. While our rehearsals are critical to learning the music, we will do anything we can to accommodate your given situation. If you have questions or concerns, you may contact Scott Berry directly at saberry31@yahoo.com, or by phone at (330) 201-1452.

PO Box 9236
Evansville, IN 47724
January 6, 2011

Dear Friends at First English,

Twenty years ago, we left a chilly Chicago for the adventure of a life among Muslim Islanders. The first day of the First Gulf War (January 17, 1991) probably wasn't the ideal start date! Even so, God brought us into the Islands, and He opened the hearts of Islanders to receive us. There were no Island believers then, and none of God's Word in Islander language. By God's grace and with your faithful partnership in prayer, finances, and so much more, God has allowed all of us to share in the amazing history of the coming of His Kingdom into this Island nation.

Over these twenty years, we've seen Islanders come to faith in Jesus. Some have left that faith, but others are growing and finding ways to share the Good News. Just this year, we've seen significant progress in the translation to the point that all but four of the New Testament books are drafted! After 200 years on the way (this translation was first attempted in the 1800s by William Carey) — we're pretty excited to know that God's Word is finally becoming available in the heart language of Islanders.

Day to day, the steps look small. At times, we've wondered if your and our united faithfulness was achieving anything in the Islands. Sometimes we feel excited, sometimes discouraged, sometimes totally unsure. But feelings aren't our measuring stick. God has called us all to be faithful — to run the race set before us keeping our eyes on Jesus, relying on His grace which is at work in us. We look forward, together with you, to the day when He tells each one of us, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Thank you so much for partnering with us in this adventure of obedience to God.

Without your faithfulness, we would not have been able to be here sharing with Islanders. We thank God for you, and we want to rejoice with you in what God is doing here and around the world.

Our prayer for you in the year ahead is Romans 13:15 — "May the God of hope fill you with all Joy and peace as you trust in Him that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit!"

With gratefulness,

Brian, Barbara, David, and Joshua Sorge

Lenten Challenge

(Second Annual Event)

Most of you will remember that in 2010 we had our first ever Lenten Challenge to bring in paper goods, toilet paper, cleaning products, bath soap, shampoo, etc. competing among worship services. Of course this year we have a different dynamic in the worship services, so we will pit the upstairs service against the downstairs service!! The collection boxes will be in the narthex and in the undercroft. Please deposit your donations weekly in the collection boxes. They will be delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution at the end of Lent. God has blessed us richly and we, in turn, need to bless the people who rely on the Salvation Army to supply these needs. And one service or the other is going to be the winner of the “Golden Toilet Brush” award!! Consider yourselves challenged!!

New Members Class beginning Sunday March 27, 2011 in the Emmaus Room at 12:30 PM.

Anyone interested in membership at First English Lutheran Church is invited to attend. Please speak to Pastor Paul or Pastor Andy concerning joining this class.

Daylight savings time: Change your clocks before March 13th so you won't be late for church!



Please use this form if you would like to give an **Easter lily or daffodil plant** in honor or in memory of a loved one.

DO NOT PUT YOUR ORDER IN THE OFFERING PLATE. Bring your order and payment in directly to the church office or drop it in the mail. This will help us prevent names from being inadvertently omitted from the listing.

The deadline for orders is **SUNDAY, MARCH 6.** The cost of lilies is \$10.00 per plant; the cost of daffodils is \$10.00 per pot.

The lilies and daffodils will decorate the church Easter morning, April 24; they may be taken after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

INSTEAD OF RECEIVING A PLANT, you may make a donation to one of the listed funds.

2011

Lily Order: Number of plants _____ \$_____ (\$10.00 per plant)

Daffodil Order: Number of pots _____ \$_____ (\$10.00 per pot)

Donation (no plants):

 \$_____ Renewing God’s House of Prayer Fund

 \$_____ General Fund

 \$_____ Building Maintenance Fund

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by _____

Person ordering _____

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.

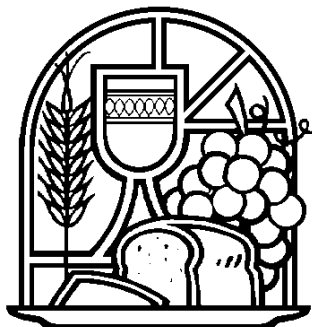
Tuesday, March 15

9:00 A.M. Elmcroft of Ontario

10:15 A.M. The Waterford

Thursday, March 17

9:30 A.M. Brookdale Sterling House



If you (or someone you know) are unable to attend worship services regularly to receive Holy Communion, and would like to receive communion in your home with a Communion Deacon or pastor, please call the church office, 419-522-0662.

THE NEWS AND INFORMATION DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL VISITOR IS TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011. Assembled and mailed: Thursday March 31, 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.

SNOW-BIRDS AND ANYONE MOVING: Please let the church office know of the dates that you are going/coming or making your move so that we can keep our mailing data base up to date. The church pays a minimum of 75 cents per piece of returned mail due to incorrect address.

PASTORAL ACTS

We remember the families and friends of those who died January 18-February 18, 2011:

Helen Schivinski January 23
(Aunt of Margaret Runyon)

Edward Albrecht February 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.

Thanks to the Youth!

I would like to pass onto you the gratitude I feel for the love that was shown to me on the Sunday of my birthday. The youth group were on their way to their Sunday school class, but, took the time to greet me with hugs and "Happy 94th Birthday!"

when I entered the church. Later, I saw the cake that they had baked for me. Then later, after the potluck dinner, I was presented with another surprise- an original poster with their names on it and THEN, they led the whole group in singing "Happy Birthday"!!



Thanks so much to all of you for your participation with poster signing, cards, hugs, cake baking, singing, and good wishes. It sure made for a great birthday. May God bless all of you.

Dee Hautzenroeder

GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

At no cost to you, search the web and support **Lithuania** Christian College! Each time that you search the internet or shop online at one of the participating stores, a donation will be made to Lithuania Christian College. Simply enter <http://www.goodsearch.com>. Choose the non-profit charity, LCC, as the place to receive donations when you research. **The sky is the limit!**

BIBLES FOR MALAWI Take your recyclables to Milliron Industries, 2384 State Route 39. Request the proceeds to be paid to Account #480 (First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield). **The funds are used to buy Bibles for Malawi printed in their own language.**

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

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, 419-989-3

Dear Friends at First English,

Warmest greeting this Epiphany! Pastor Paul mentioned on the phone descriptively that you folks have been “clobbered” by the weather so you may not appreciate this stationery. (Winter wonderland, let-it-snow, frosty air, etc. on the graphics) The blizzard of 2011 (with 20” of snow) literally blew our barn doors off. We were at home – snug and warm (thankfully with electricity). We have been in Eastern South Dakota to help two teams train for their summer mission trips to Peru. One is a group of students from USD; the other team is my home congregation. We hope to stop and see you on our comings and goings. You are very gracious hosts!

We want to add a personal note of thanks to friends at First English for your continued prayers, and the gifts of \$326.00 given via World Mission Prayer League for our support. It is appreciated.

Rebekah is immersed in her first Intro to New Testament class at Concordia Chicago. This academic challenge seems to be stretching her faith; giving her deeper roots. She calls routinely with three to four burning questions from her theology class!

Hope to see you soon! Enjoy your visit with the Krafts.

Henrik and Patty Christopherson

We also received a second note wishing us Happy Valentine’s Day and mentioning again how they appreciate our friendship with them. They indicated hopes of getting here for a visit soon.

Stewardship Corner

One Tomato Plant

This year I bought one tomato plant so that I could have a few small tomatoes for a salad each week. I expected to pick about a half a dozen a week at most. By the time I remembered to purchase a tomato rack for my plant it had grown rather large so I put the rack around it as best I could. Buds were forming into little tomatoes. The plant continued to grow. And I waited expectantly for the sweet red fruit to ripen.

The first time I went to pick the ripe tomatoes I brought a small bowl. It was filled to overflowing. I took a small zip lock bag of tomatoes to work to share. The second time I went out to pick, about a week later, I filled a mixing bowl. I took three bags to work to share.

Not even a week later, I picked two mixing bowls full. This time I brought an ice cream container of sweet, red fruit to share. My tomato plant continued to bear an abundance of tomatoes right up until a hard frost came in October. As I thought about my expectations and the reality of the harvest I realized that this was a wonderful example of God's abundant blessings. God gave far beyond my hopes. The more I shared with others, the more that this plant seemed to produce.

How like God's love was this abundance. The more we share of God's love and blessings the more God gives us to share. Whether that be through words of witness to God's love for us or gifts of material wealth, God blesses all we share and never forgets to rain down upon us continued love and gifts to sustains us in our existence on this earth.

Written by Pastor Louise Stromberg, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Houston, MN

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
Connie Stewart, Parish Secretary/Printer
Jan Fisher, The Visitor Editor
Michelle Myers, Christian Day School Secretary
John Meyer, Custodial/Maintenance
Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance
Jim Scheiber, Property Manager

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

Bolivia, South America: Rev. 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 Sherry Winbigler
Vice President	Property Gary Lane
Secretary Mary Schwartz	Service Ministry Becky Sarbach
Christian Day School Cindy Russell	Stewardship Jan Fisher
Christian Education Chris Cichanowicz	Worship Roscoe Thompson
Congregational Life	Youth Ministry Teri Brenkus
Evangelism Steve Ritz	SCS Superintendent Chris Cichanowicz
Finance Don Harruff	Women of FELC Carolyn Weeks
Global Mission Jeanne Hillman	

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 7:00pm Prayer Shawl -Eve Circle (ER)	2 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 4:30pm Malawi Orphan Care Ministries Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Bell Choir Reh (Nave)	3 9:00am LCMC & NALC area Pastors Meeting (ER) 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 11:30am Lydia Circle @ The Grill in Lexington 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	4 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	5
6 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Holy Communion (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:30am ALPHA	7 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 9:30am Men's Group @ Denny's 1:00pm Sarah Circle (ER) 7:00pm Property Committee (UC)	8 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 6:00pm FASTNACHT (UC)	9 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:05pm Imposition of Ashes & Lunch (C/UC) 7:00pm Imposition of Ashes (Nave)	10 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	11 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:00am Mary Circle @ V. Blizzards' home	12 9:00am Women of FELC Lenten Breakfast (C/ER)
13 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship (Nave) 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:30am ALPHA 5:30pm Confirm Class (ER)	14 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 1:00pm Finance Committee (FR) 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	15 **Visitor deadline** 9:00am Holy Comm@Elmcroft 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 10:15am Holy Comm@Waterford 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 7:00pm Council (UC)	16 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:00pm Lenten Soup Suppers (ER) 7:00pm Lenten Study (Nave)	17 9:30am Holy Comm@Sterling 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	18 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30am - 2 PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER)	19 5:00pm 7 pm Youth Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show(UC)
20 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	21 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 1:00pm Women of FELC Planning (ER)	22 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	23 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:00pm Lenten Soup Suppers (ER) 7:00pm Lenten Study (Nave)	24 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	25 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	26
27 **Food Collection** 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:15am Malawi Mission Trip Informational Luncheon (UC) 12:30pm New Members Class 1 (ER) 5:30pm Confirm Class (ER)	28 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	29 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER)	30 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:00pm Lenten Soup Suppers (ER) 7:00pm Lenten Study (Nave)	31 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		

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