

THE VISITOR



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

Volume 53

MAY 2011

Number 5

MISSION STATEMENT: First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Andrew W. Jones, Associate Pastor

Mr. Scott Berry, Organist and Senior Choir Director

Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts

Mrs. Terry Bianchi, Christian Day School Director

Karen Frayer, Bookkeeper

John Meyer, Custodial Maintenance

Connie Stewart, Parish Secretary/Printer

Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance

Jan Fisher, The Visitor Editor

Jim Scheiber, Property Manager

Michelle Myers, Christian Day School Secretary

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

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

Live The Miracle!

²⁶ Eight days later, Jesus' disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace be with you.**" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. **Do not disbelieve, but believe.**" ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.** John 20:26-31 (ESV)

Dear Friends in Christ:

No one disputes that Jesus Christ lived an extraordinary life and died on a cross. Even secular historians acknowledge this. But the fact that He rose bodily from the grave, and in doing so validated his claims as God, the one and only Savior of the world, is hard for some to accept. Christians have a solid conviction that the Bible is the Word of God and that it reliably reported the events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

The centerpiece of the Christian message is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without it there is no Christian faith. Christ's death without the resurrection would reduce Christianity to just another religion. Many founders of religions have died and they are still dead. Only ONE rose from the dead and HE is alive today—Jesus Christ, God the Son, the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Savior of all who believe and trust in Him.

Among the world's religions, Christianity is absolutely unique in so many ways. One area in which it is unique concerns the issue of proof and evidences. Of all the world's religions, only Christianity stakes its claim to truthfulness on historical events that are subject to investigation. Other religions are believed without any claim to have historical and objective evidence that can be investigated for their truthfulness. Neither Buddhism nor Hinduism claim that they are based on historical objective truths that you can discover by investigating history. The same can be said of Islam. Only Christianity (and Judaism - from which it sprang), claims that it is testable and verifiable through historical investigation. And it is this

capacity to be tested and verified that has led many skeptics over the centuries to faith in Jesus Christ.

C.S. Lewis, Sir William Ramsey, Frank Morrison, Lee Strobel, Nicky Gumbel (from *ALPHA*) among so many others, were all intellectual agnostics who set out to prove the claims of Christ false only to be encountered by the living Lord who transformed their lives into men of faith and Christian apologists. There are thousands of examples of people who were once skeptics, but after a personal encounter with the living Lord, became followers of Christ.

Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, was a hard-headed skeptic. After Jesus rose and had appeared to the other disciples, Thomas said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later Jesus came and stood among all His disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe!" Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Some of us approach Easter with our heads first and our critical faculties working overtime. Maybe you approach the whole subject of Jesus' resurrection with the desire for some evidence, something that will satisfy your mind and your intellect. You are looking for thoughtful explanations. That's okay! In fact – that's great! Jesus will meet you right where you are at. He has obviously done it for countless others. If you like Thomas find yourself sometimes doubting --- then I would challenge you to investigate, dig into the evidence, and search out the issue. When we honestly bring our doubts and questions to God, then He can lead us to genuine faith. Thomas thought that "Seeing is Believing." But Jesus teaches us that Believing is so much more than merely "Seeing." Believing is coming to KNOW → JESUS, as your personal Lord and only Savior.

Acts 1:3 says, "After his suffering and death, Jesus showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." This Easter Season, I pray that you would allow yourself to be challenged by the Person of Jesus Christ. Listen to His Call upon your life. Believe that Jesus died to pay the penalty of your sin and to put you in right relationship with God the Father. Believe that Jesus rose again defeating the powers of death and hell assuring Eternal Life for you and all who trust in Him.

This Easter Season, may you like Thomas come into a personal encounter with the Living Lord Jesus! Be renewed in your faith in Jesus, for He has come to call you

beyond the confusions of fear and doubt. He has come to call you to New Life --- LIFE in Him --- Full, Forgiven, Abundant and Free. I am praying for all of us to grow deeper into the New Life we have in Jesus.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Paul

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

It is time to **re-enroll** in Kroger Community Rewards for the coming year. Starting **April 1 EVERYONE** must re-enroll at . This re-enrollment will help ensure that First English Lutheran receives the greatest rewards possible. We also want to invite any members who have not participated in the past to enro www.krogercommunityrewards.com !! How much we earn depends on how much members purchase.

LITTLE DRESSES FOR AFRICA

We have another great opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of the orphans in Malawi. Jan Fisher has become aware of a program that makes dresses for orphans in Malawi. We have contacted the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries to see if they would be interested in having us bring dresses to them this summer. They are very interested in being able to give the girls of the orphan project some new dresses.

Currently, we are in conversation with Shadreck and Yamikani to develop a pattern that will be acceptable in their culture. The pattern from the organization that Jan is aware of is similar to a sun dress; however, showing their shoulders is not culturally acceptable in Malawi. The pattern that Shadreck and Yamikani are looking at seems very easy to make. There are many ways that you can help to make the dresses for the girls at the orphan project a reality. We are also looking at the possibility of making shorts for boys, too. Please see Jan's article for more information.

More about "Little Dresses for Africa"

An exciting opportunity has been put before us! We have the opportunity to get our members sewing "Little Dresses for Africa." As the story goes a woman in Michigan made a life changing trip to Africa a few years ago. She wanted to bring hope to the little girls there, who have such tattered and worn clothes. She got her church women sewing, the media told her story and before long people began shipping cartons of dresses to her home address! They came from all over our country! It has grown and grown. To read more, go to:

www.littledressesforafrica.org

Now comes First English Malawi Mission Team. They have been there and will be going again in June. We can start sewing now and have dresses ready for them to take over to Africa in extra pieces of luggage. What an outreach – what a gift this will be for the orphanage!

The patterns are very simple and basic. In fact the dresses are sometimes called "pillow case dresses" because they can be fashioned out of a pillow case.

Little Dresses for Africa Instructions:

These instructions include making dresses from new or gently used pillowcases and making them from fabric. I will start with the pillowcase dresses which are good for beginners to experienced- level seamstresses. The arm hole pattern can be found at the end of these instructions. I encourage you to be as creative with trim, pockets, and fancy or colorful buttons or items you feel comfortable adding.

Materials needed:

A pillowcase (Standard size will make the smaller 3-5 sizes, Queen will make sizes 7-9, and the King will make sizes 10-12) Because of climate concerns 75%- 100% cotton is recommended.

(2) each 38” lengths AND (2) ea. 6” lengths of double fold bias tape to match or compliment the pillowcase for size 3-5; (2) each 38” lengths AND (2) ea. 7” lengths of double fold bias tape for 6-9; (2) each 38” lengths AND (2) ea. 8” lengths of double fold bias tape for 10-12.

WE DO NOT RECOMMEND USING ANY ELASTIC IN THE CASING. ELASTIC DETERIORATES QUICKLY IN THE HOT HUMID CLIMATE OF MILAWI.

Thread in a matching or complimenting color.

Optional trims such as rick rack, eyelet, durable lace, appliqués, fancy or colorful buttons, contrasting or matching pocket (s), ribbon sown across the casing and or hem or whatever you think the girls would like. Use your imagination!!!

To create a dress from a pillowcase:

Trace the armhole patterns on tissue paper or tag board as desired. Put aside for later use.

Cut (open) the closed end of the pillowcase . This will be the top of the dress and the pillowcase hem will be the hem of the dress. You may even be able to use this left over fabric for your binding.

Orient the side seam of the pillowcase so it will be in the center back of the dress. If your pillowcase has 2 seams leave them as side seams.

Measure the length of the pillowcase and **decide what size dress** you will be making. (use the chart below)

Sizing Chart

For a size: the cut length: For a finished length: For fabric method the **fabric width** should be:

Size	Cut Length	Finished Length	Fabric Width
3	22”	19”	36-42”
4	25”	22”	36-42”

Size	Cut Length	Finished Length	Fabric Width
5	27"	24"	42"
6	29"	26"	42"
7	31"	28"	42"
8	33"	30"	42"
9	35"	32"	42"
10	37"	34"	42"-48"
11	39"	36"	42"-48"
12	41"	38"	42"-48"

Once you have decided on the size, you need to **select the armhole pattern** for that size. (example dress size 4 use the pattern marked 3-5).

You may choose to mark and cut each side individually or (I prefer to fold the dress in half length wise matching the sides), place the flat side of the pattern on the side and trace and then cut out the armhole(s).

The **casing** is next. Fold under the casings at the front and back top edges by first folding over 1/4" of the edge toward the inside of fabric and pressing. Next fold 1/2" to 3/4" (depending on width of your bias binding,) press and/or pin. Then stitch along the lower edge.

At this time, if you choose to add trim to the lower edge of the casing do that.

Next you put your short length of stitched bias binding through the casing, anchoring down each end. Do this on both front and back of dress.

Cut your longer lengths of bias tape (see page one) and open the ends so you can turn and stitch so raw edge will be inside when the bias is folded to original position.

Pin the bias tape to the armhole so that the ends are of equal length. (Once you have divided the bias tape in half, start pinning down at the side seem, working up each side of the dress.) Then using a straight, zigzag, or decorative stitch, sew the bias tape to the dress.

At this point you have a dress. If you want to embellish it further by adding trim to the hem or adding pockets or decorative button etc. you may.

Now **Tag the dress** so the girls know who made the dress and the size of the dress. Tags can be fancy or plain and **should at least provide the size of the dress.**

Using Fabric to make the dresses: Use fabric with a high cotton content, 100% is best.

Use the length and width measurements on page one.

Sew the back seam.

Follow instructions (above) for armholes, casings, trim and elastic.

Next you will need a hem. A fold of 1/4" and then 2" is recommended.

PLEASE PICK UP A COPY OF INSTRUCTIONS TO GET THE ARMHOLE PATTERN.

Thank You For Sewing!

The armhole pattern is the correct size. It does not need to be enlarged.

This “sundress style” dress will be worn with a cotton T-shirt, according to Malawi’s custom of having the shoulders covered.



Should FELC Join The North American Lutheran Church?

PROS

It will expand our network of Orthodox, Biblical Lutheran congregations: Strong, Healthy, Broad Networks are Key:

- More Resources
- More Ideas
- Broader, Stronger Support System for our congregation

By joining the NALC, we will be officially aligned with those who have helped FELC the most during our own congregation's transition:

- Bishop Kenneth Sauer
- Bishop Paul Spring
- Dr. James Nestingen
- Pastor Paul Uring
- Pastor Mark Chavez
- Ryan Schwarz – Legal Council of CORE

The NALC plans to provide a slightly more “robust” structure than LCMC. This is more what our congregation is historically used to. For example – there is a Bishop. However this will not be the heavy, expensive, and controlling “top-down” model of the ELCA.

There are times when congregations and pastors need a bishop for support and ideas, and for spiritual discipline.

We will be officially aligned with other NALC congregations in our area for joint ministry efforts. More than 180 congregations have already voted to join the NALC since their constituting convocation in August 2010. For Example, in our area, these congregations are already part of the NALC:

- Trinity Lutheran, Ashland, OH
- UALC, Upper Arlington, OH
- Holy Trinity, Mansfield, OH
- Oakland Lutheran, Mansfield, OH

There will be some additional expenses in being part of the NALC, but these are more than worth the price for a “seat at the table.” This investment will support our efforts to continue to work directly with those who have been so supportive of our stand for Lutheran Orthodoxy. We will be working with the growing worldwide movement of Orthodox, Biblical Lutherans. The NALC (like LCMC) has a congregation-focused structure; therefore they encourage the local congregation to choose their Benevolences instead of routing Benevolence dollars through the Synod.

The NALC is → Easy to Join and Easy to Leave. (Not like the ELCA).
There will be NO property ownership control issues – like with the ELCA.
It will broaden the pool of pastoral candidates for future Call Committees.

CONS

We will have additional expenses for NALC Synod Benevolences and NALC Synod Assemblies.

There will be an additional time commitment for our staff and lay members in being part of another Synod, including:

- Regional or national meetings
- Supporting other NALC congregations

Special Informational Forums

The North American Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 1st 2011

Two congregational informational forums about the North American Lutheran Church will be held here at FELC on Sunday, May 1. The first will be at 9:00 a.m. and the second will be at 11:15 a.m. with identical information at each meeting. **The Rev. John Bradosky, NALC General Secretary, will be attending both meetings and will preach that Sunday.**

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

MEMORIAL FUND

Edward Albrecht

Madison High School Class of '47 & '48

Joy Hunt

Robert and Louise Runk

Mark and Darlene Reed

Keith and Judith McClead

Heartland Estates Recreational Club

Lily Marie Risen

Evelyn Konves

Sherry Winbigler

Milton and Mary Allmandinger

Our Deepest Sympathy



We remember the families and friends of those who died March 13-April 19, 2011:

Roger Snavely,	March 23
<i>Niece's husband of Marilyn Dinges</i>	
Donald Gestenslager	April 3
Evelyn Konves	April 4
Mabel Wolf	April 20

We pray for Christ's gifts of healing and peace to touch their lives during this time of loss and sorrow that they may be comforted with the promise of the Resurrection through faith in Christ our Savior.

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals: April 4, 2011 Evelyn Konves
 April 23, 2011 Mabel Wolf

Pentecost

GERANIUMS

Pentecost

The **Festival of Pentecost falls on Sunday, June 12.** This festival is the climax of the “Great Fifty Days” of the Easter Season, and we will decorate the chancel with bright red geraniums, symbolic of the fire of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to sponsor a plant in honor or in memory of someone, please **fill out the form below and return it to the church office either in person or by mail.**

SUNDAY MAY 8, is the deadline for orders.

Cost is \$3.50 per plant.

The geraniums will decorate the chancel for our Pentecost services on Sunday, June 12; they may be taken after the 10:00 service that day. We encourage you to plant them in your garden at home as a continual reminder throughout the summer of the work of the Holy Spirit in your own life.

GERANIUM ORDER 2011

___ Number of Geranium Plants \$ ___ Amount (\$3.50 per plant)

___ I will **take** my geranium on Sunday, June 12.

___ I will **pick up** my geranium by Wednesday, June 15.

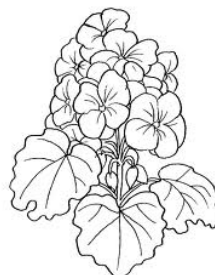
___ Please **plant** my geranium in the church yard.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Person ordering _____



APRIL COUNCIL NOTES:

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

SOLES 4 SOULS: Joy Jones presented information about the “Soles4Souls” organization which collects new and gently used shoes for donating to people in need. They are willing to donate 3 bags of new children’s shoes for the Malawi Mission team to take to Malawi. Joy Jones will be the contact person for Soles4Souls. Council approved a contract with Soles4Souls and to hold a shoe drive at our church sometime within the next 12 months. Joy Jones presented information about the non-profit Malawi Orphan Care Project. Council approved allowing The Malawi Orphan Care Project to use the church address once the 501.3c non-profit status is obtained.

SENIOR PASTOR: Pastor Larson expressed appreciation to Becky Pittman for her work in coordinating the CDS/Sunday School Youth service Sunday evening, April 10. There were over 200 people in attendance for a wonderful evening. Pastor Larson distributed copies of the Nominating Committee report, thanking the committee for their work. He expressed appreciation to Jeanne Hillman for her work with the April 9, 2011 Global Mission Festival, to Nancy Pasheilich for meal preparation and to Karen Frayer for registration. Forty-two people from 8 different churches were in attendance. Two congregational informational forums about the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) will be held on Sunday, May 1, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. with identical information presented at each forum. The Rev. John Bradosky, NALC General Secretary will be at each forum and will preach that Sunday.

Pastor Larson highlighted upcoming dates:

May 8 - combined worship service for confirmation

May 15 - baptism and new member reception

May 22 - Henrik Christopherson will give the message

May 29 – 5th Sunday combined worship service and graduate recognition

Pastor Larson mentioned “The Truth Project” adult Sunday School study will begin Sunday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. in the Emmaus Room.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: **Pastor Jones** stated that last month he announced there were 7 people going to Malawi this summer and presently there are 3 adults and 3 teens on the team thus \$6,600, not \$7,700 was withdrawn from the New Ministries and Missions Endowment Fund. The Malawi Mission Team has been meeting regularly to make plans for, among many other things, conducting a Vacation Bible School as well as teaching the Malawi residents how to teach VBS and to do crafts with the children using materials available in Malawi.

WOMEN OF FELC: **Jan Fisher** reported plans are being made for the All Daughters Brunch on May 7, 2011.

FINANCE: **Don Harruff** reviewed the Financial report.

PROPERTY: **Gary Lane** said some roof repairs have been done and more will be done later. The roofing contractor is being asked to pay for plaster repair caused by water leaks. Some sanctuary seat cushions need repair. Quotations are being received for a new dishwasher/sanitizer and information about a fire suppression hood for the undercroft kitchen is being obtained. Appreciation was expressed to Wes Volz for replacing some deteriorated railroad ties in the front yard area, replacing carpet in the Luther Hall entrance and for creating and installing beautiful stained glass windows in the Narthex Lounge doors. Teri Brenkus expressed thanks to Bill Schwartz for repairing the leak in the third floor bathroom.

EVANGELISM: **Steve Ritz** said our Holy Week worship schedule will be printed four days in the News Journal. Pastor Jones is working to update our church website. Under consideration is asking church members for their email addresses in order to update them of worship events and activities at the church.

WORSHIP: There was concern expressed to a Council member by a couple people about the pastors arriving late from the upstairs service to the Proclaim service.

STEWARDSHIP: **Jan Fisher** is excited about the excellent response to the Little Dresses for Africa program. More than 60 dresses have been made as of this week. Plans are being made to sew shorts for the boys. The sanctuary worship service is ahead of the Proclaim service with response to the Lenten Challenge of donations to the Salvation Army.

SERVICE: **Becky Sarbach** mentioned the Love, Inc. national office closed but the Love, Inc. local program is still in operation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: **Chris Cichanowicz** commented the Sunday evening combined CDS and FELC Sunday School Youth “Spring Sing” was well done with good attendance. She expressed thanks to Mary Schwartz for purchasing and helping cook the food for the meal following the program, to Terry Bianchi and the CDS teachers for helping with the meal and to Ed Farner for helping set up the sound equipment. The last day of Sunday School will be May 22. Children’s Church will continue during the summer. The M.A.D. packages were received by Zak Eggeman’s military unit of 17 men. Vacation Bible School will be held July 24 to 28.

YOUTH: **Teri Brenkus** said a profit of \$733.84 was made from the Youth Spaghetti supper. Twelve youth plan to attend the Impact event in Chicago this summer. The Junior High School youth mission trip will focus on Dayspring. The senior high school youth will provide breakfast for the confirmands and their families on Confirmation Sunday, May 8.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: **Cindy Russell** reported there are 68 students enrolled and there were no staff changes.

NEW BUSINESS: The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on May 22, 11:15 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Larson.

Mary M. Schwartz, Secretary

First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council

Thank you!

A note of thanks to **Bill Schwartz** and **Gary Lane** for a wonderful job of doing repair on some of the pew cushions in the sanctuary. Over time some of the pews had revealed their staples to us. Thanks, guys, for taking care of that “in house.”

Youth Rummage Sale

The Youth Rummage Sale is coming up in just a few months so soon it will be time for us to start collecting, organizing and pricing your donations. Once Sunday School is finished for this year, we will once again have room to store your donations in the first Sunday School room on the right (Trish Volz's room which is across from the resource room on the third floor). If you have already started your spring cleaning, we have some cardboard boxes in Trish's Sunday School room that you can use to store your items for now and transport them to church in June when we begin collecting them.

In June, you can bring your donations to Trish's Sunday School room, the collection box in the narthex or for larger items, you can arrange to have them picked up. Further information about donation pick-ups will be in the June Visitor. Thank you in advance for your donations. If you have questions please call **Joy Jones at 419.884.1016.**

Malawi Mission and much more!

Our church is amazing!!! We are coming to believe that we are all one big mission team with different roles, working in different places. We are missionaries to the people of Mansfield. We are also missionaries to the people of Kanyenyeva, Malawi. Many people are making dresses, shorts and shirts for the children of Kanyenyeva. Many people are praying for the work that is being done at the orphan project as well as for the people that will be traveling there in June. We are together a team and without the whole team, our work could not be done - in Mansfield or Malawi.

Please pray for the people that are going to Malawi in June. We will be leaving on Wednesday, June 8 and returning, Tuesday, June 21 (except for Pastor Andy, who, due to a prior commitment, will be leaving on Sunday, June 12 and returning with the group on the 21st). Please pray for a safe and uneventful trip. Please pray for the activities that are being planned for while we are there; such as:

- serving the KOCM leadership by assisting them in their established work, such as feeding the children,
- assisting the leadership of the KOCM in evangelization through:
 - Bible lessons for adults and children
 - games, singing, puppets, drama and crafts,
- helping the people of Kanyenyeva explore income producing opportunities, such as sewing articles which can be sold locally in Malawi and/or globally with the assistance of the Malawi Orphan Care Project, or a chicken business,
- delivering dresses, shorts, and shirts to the children that were made and donated by people from FELC,
- delivering shoes to the children that were donated by Soles4Souls,
- helping the people of Kanyenyeva make solar cookers in order to decrease their use of firewood,
- helping the people of Kanyenyeva prepare for the possible 2012 group which will focus on building rocket stoves and a bicycle powered corn sheller.

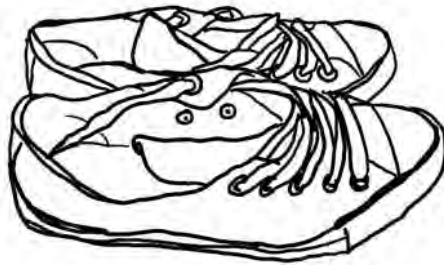
Please continue to pray for God's will to be done on this trip. If possible, your financial help is welcome, too. If you are able to help with the costs of the work that will be done, please write the check to FELC and put Malawi Mission Trip on the memo line. There are envelopes on the Mission information tables in the narthex and in the undercroft in which you can put your tax deductible donation.

Thank you for your work, prayers and support which is needed to make this mission trip possible.

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

Shoes for the Orphans

The national charity 'Soles4Souls' has donated about 100 pairs of shoes to our Malawi Mission team. These would only outfit about half of the children of Kanyenyeva. The Mission team would like to provide a pair of shoes for each orphan. To bridge the gap, we are accepting donations of new and ***gently used children's*** shoes and sandals. There are boxes in the narthex and the undercroft where you can deposit your donation of new and ***gently used children's*** shoes and sandals. We are hoping to have an additional 100 – 150 pairs of children's shoes donated in order to be able to give each child a pair of shoes. **Questions? Contact Joy Jones please.**



Stewardship Corner

An excerpt from The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn:

A question to ask God: Lord you commended the poor widow for giving everything she had to you, leaving nothing for herself. So is it ever irresponsible for me to give to You now -- no matter what my situation-- rather than wait until later? Have I fallen for the lie that I just don't have enough to give, despite the fact that the greatest examples of giving in Scripture were poor people?

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on." Mark 12:43-44

The Truth Project®

Learning & Living a Christian Worldview!

New Adult Sunday School Series

Starting Sunday, April 17th

In a recent study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic that continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world. Only 9 percent of professing Christians have a biblical worldview.

Because of this, today's believers live very similarly to non-believers. A personal sense of significance is rarely experienced, we spend our money and time on things that fail to satisfy and we begin to wonder what life's ultimate purpose really is. We are, in short, losing our bearings as a people and a nation.

To counter this slide within the Body of Christ, “Focus On the Family” has launched one of the most ambitious and powerful projects in the history of their ministry—**Focus on the Family's The Truth Project.**

We will be previewing this new exciting Small Group Study in our Sunday Adult Sunday School Class in the Emmaus Room → starting Sunday, April 17th promptly at 9:00 am. Everyone who is interested is invited.

The Truth Project is a DVD-based small group curriculum comprised of 13 lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett. The presentations are comprehensive and dynamic --- challenging us to begin to see our lives and the world in which we live through a Biblical Worldview ... **GOD's View!** Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of **living the Christian worldview in daily life**

We believe this one project represents the possibility for exponential change within the Body of Christ, as we are transformed by the TRUTH of God's Word. As it has been throughout history, God continues to call ordinary people to make an eternal difference in His world. We invite you to be a part of this exciting, life-transforming change by participating.

www.thetruthproject.org

**“Do you
Really Believe
that what you believe Is Really Real?”**

Within The Fold

THE MARCH FOOD COLLECTION totaled \$255.00 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch program. Five bags of grocery items and canned goods were collected Sunday, March 27, which were donated to Salvation Army. Thank you for helping those less fortunate!

We have a very talented artist and craftsman in our midst! **Wes Volz** recently installed stained glass windows, personally designed and crafted, in the Narthex Lounge doorway. They are simply beautiful, Wes, and we all thank you for sharing your artistic gifts with us! God has richly blessed us!

A thank you from CHAP... Dear Friends, Thank you so very much for the beautiful baby blankets you handmade for our CHAP babies. We were totally out of blankets the day we received your gift. Thank you also for the gift bags and baskets and bath products for our new mamas. I was so happy I was in the office to personally thank you and send a hug of appreciation to you on behalf of my staff and all our clients. May God bless you in your work and lives. Sincerely, *Nancy Holtrey, RN* with CHAP (Lydia Circle made these donations)

Dear Church Council and Staff of First English Lutheran Church, It is with a grateful heart and warm thankfulness for the gift to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation in memory of my brother Fred Hink. Several members of his family have diabetes, thus it is a cause near and dear to our hearts. The thoughtfulness of friends is deeply appreciated. In Christ's love, *Mary Schwartz*

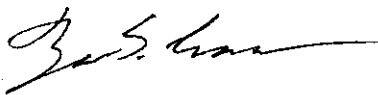
Members of the First English Lutheran Church,

I wanted to send a letter of thanks for all who had a hand in sending over the boxes of wonderful things to us here in Afghanistan. When the boxes arrived, I believe that they had barely touched the ground before everything was being claimed. However, by the condition of the box, I believe there were more than a few disgruntled postal employees regarding the weight of the boxes☺. None-the-less, we appreciated everything that was sent and are sure that the postal employees will fully understand!

In all seriousness, everyone does appreciate the kind words and things that are sent. We try as much as possible to make our deployment as "home-like" as possible but it is always nice to receive something from The States that we can't normally get over here.

Please tell Forest, Mitch, Noah, Hannah, Rachel, Jaedin, David, Isaiah, Katy and anyone else who wrote a letter/card, but may not have signed it, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zak Eggeman', written in a cursive style.

TSgt Zak Eggeman

USAF/OANG

And from all the Servicemen and Servicewomen here at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan

May Newsletter CDS

The Bible verse for May is “I will make you fishers of men.” Luke 5:11 We will be reading stories about Jesus this month. The children will also be making gifts for Mother’s Day, and preparing for graduation. Graduation will be held in the undercroft on Thursday, May 26th from 4:00 to 5:00pm. Everyone is invited to join us. We expect to see many parents and grandparents there. The children will be singing and dancing and showing their work from this past school year. Some of our pre-school children will be



finished for the year and we will miss them. The rest of the children will be ready for a fun filled and relaxing summer.

Our summer camp will be starting soon, and we will be welcoming back most of our campers from last year. We would like to thank everyone who attended the CDS/Youth Sunday service on April 10th. The children from CDS and Sunday school did a great job. We would especially like to thank Becky Pittman and Mary Schwartz (who prepared the dinner) for all their hard work. The staff and children truly appreciate your continued support.

Terry Bianchi director

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

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

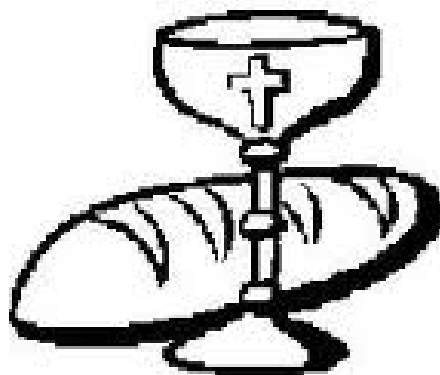
Larry Lantz, Coordinator

Nursing Home and Assisted Living Communion Services

May 17, 9:00 AM Elmcroft of Ontario

May 17, 10:15 AM Waterford

May 19, 9:30 AM Brookdale Sterling House



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

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

Worship Committee

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

Beth Harruff, 419.589.2762

Communion Preparers
Communion Assistants

Gene Harsch, 419.774.0247

Ushers

Evangelism Committee

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 Superintendent

Gene Luedy, 419.526.4304

Pew Pad Gleaners



Ruth Sweval, 419-529-5090

8:30 AM Sunday Prayer
Partners

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

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

MAY VOLUNTEERS
10:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

GREETERS **NAVE**

May 1 Tom and Stacy Crall
May 8 Sherry Winbigler
May 15 Sherry Winbigler
May 22 Sherry Winbigler
May 29 Sherry Winbigler

USHERS **NAVE**

Bill Schwartz Mary Schwartz
Bill West Pearl West

8:30 AM SUNDAY PASTORS
PRAYER PARTNERS TEAMS

May 1 Mary Schwartz, Jim Scheiber
May 8 Ken & Karen Frayer
May 15 Lowell Weeks &
Chris Cichanowicz
May 22 Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz
May 29 Mary Schwartz, JimScheiber

COMMUNION PREPARERS

May 1 10:00 am regular communion
Carol Fry & Margaret Runyon

COMMUNION SERVERS

May 1 10:00 am regular communion
Bread Servers Pastor/Assisting Minister
Wine West Donna Rettig
Cups West Gary Lane
Wine East Gary Simmons
Cups East Pat Smith

Intinction Beth Harruff

ASSISTING MINISTERS

May 1 Greg Hughes (communion)
May 8 Alicia Schulz
May 15 Chris Kaschube
May 22 Greg Hughes

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Global Mission

ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Devera Ritz
Proclaim!: Jan Fisher

ACOLYTES

May 1 Taylor Grossenbacher
May 8 Jake Caseman
May 15 Egypt Murphy
May 22 Erica Kick
May 29 Casey Kelley

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

May 1 Teri Brenkus
May 8 Kristlyn Brock
May 15 Suzanne Rippel
May 22 Heather Kraft
May 29 Wendy Large

LAY READERS NAVE

May 1 Alicia Schulz
May 8 Dan Shupp
May 15 Amy Skropits
May 22 Sandie Volz
May 29 Jan Fisher

POWERPOINT NAVE

May 1 Jim Scheiber
May 8 Jeff Kilgore
May 15 Paul Ward
May 22 Jim Scheiber
May 29 Jeff Kilgore

PEW PAD GLEANERS

May 1 Jodi Mumaw
May 8 Lolita Scheiber
May 15 Stacey Crall
May 22 Jane Sprang
May 29 Marilyn Motson

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

May 1 Heather Kraft/Sunday School
Nancy Thompson/Church
May 8 Annette Doklovic/Sunday School
Trudy Watts/Church
May 15 Amy Elgin/Sunday School
Teri Brenkus/Church
May 22 Kellie Ellington/Sunday School
Kristlyn Brock/Church
May 29 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL;
Dawn Buttermann/Church

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR MONITORS

8:40 to 10:05 am

May 1 Wes Volz
May 8 Shirley Shupp
May 15 Ron Rehm
May 22 Henry Keultjes
May 29 Tom Hillman

10:00 A.M. PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

GREETERS/USHERS

May 1 Sarah Jones and Elizabeth Volz
May 8 Combined Confirmation service Nave
May 15 Cindy Russell and Ted Ellis
May 22 Brad and Trudy Watts
May 29 Combined service fifth Sunday Nave

COMMUNION PREPARER

May 1 Ronda Rehm

COMMUNION SERVERS

May 1 Ronda and Ashley Rehm;
Donna Rettig and Haley Pittman

POWERPOINT ASSISTANTS

May 1 Kayla Thatcher
May 8 Combined Confirmation service Nave
May 15 Nolan Thatcher
May 22 Mike Brenkus
May 29 Combined service fifth Sunday Nave

BEVERAGE PREP/CLEAN-UP

May 1 Ron and Ronda Rehm
May 15 Ted and Karen Ellis
May 22 Lynda Ringold

Women's Ministry

Circle/Event	Date	Day of Week	Time	Meeting Place/Topic
Eve	May 3	Tuesday	7pm	Emmaus Room/Prayer Shawl Ministry
Lydia	May 9	Monday	11:30 am	Ruth Sweval hostess, meet at Grill in Lexington
Sarah	May 2	Monday	1pm	Emmaus Room/Program by Kay Jewitt
Mary	May 13	Friday	10am	Home of Virginia Blizzard 175 Lynn Drive, Mansfield Bev Bishop/Dee Hautzenroeder, hostesses
Workday Ladies	First and Third Wednesdays	Wednesday	8:30 am	3rd Floor Luther Hall
Planning Team	May 16	Monday	1pm	Emmaus Room
All Daughters Brunch	May 7	Saturday	10:00 AM	Undercroft Everyone welcome!

Funeral Squad Leaders:
Mary Schwartz

ATTENTION LADIES AND GIRLS! Please reserve May 7th, 10:30 a.m. for a delightful time and a "GATHERING OF DAUGHTERS" brunch held here at First English. Again this year several ladies are decorating festive and creative tables for your enjoyment. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$3.00 for girls under 10. Mark your calendars for May 7th and bring a friend! Please make reservations with Carolyn Weeks or Shirley Lane.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry for the needy

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

WORKDAY LADIES NEED MACHINE SEWERS!

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

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

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

RITE OF CONFIRMATION, SUNDAY, MAY 8

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on May 8, 2011, at the combined 10:00 a.m. service in the Nave. Having completed their catechism instruction, these 8th graders will affirm their faith:

Michael Detrich Brenkus
Michael Burch Ward
Charles Phillip Keller
Isaiah Colton Thompson

Casey Marie Miller
Stephen Troxel Ward
Zachary Charles Sarbach

A cake reception will be held in the Narthex following the 10:00 worship service in honor of the confirmands.

Youth News

The FELC youth spaghetti fund raiser made over \$700 to help our kids with the upcoming Impact youth trip to Chicago which 12 kids will be attending. A big thanks goes to Nancy Pasheilich and Tricia Volz for heading up the project.

Some FELC students have chosen to have their own individual candy sales to help them with their trip to Chicago and will be selling candy to help lighten the financial burden. If you have a sweet tooth you are in luck:) keep an eye open for those candy boxes.

As always, the FELC youth truly appreciate the congregation's support financially and even more so, spiritually.

Teri Brenkus, on behalf of our youth

Spring Sing -- Awesome Event!

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord?" Not a problem! It was an awesome first "Spring Sing" on Sunday evening, April 10th!! 206 people attended the youth-led worship event as our FELC and CDS children combined their talents and praised the Lord in a variety of ways. The FELC youth band, string ensemble and Bell Bangers filled the sanctuary with music. Everyone LOVED the combined efforts of our "Fireflies" and the CDS children. They worked very hard to learn many songs; the singing was beautiful.

The hotdogs were delicious after the service! It was wonderful to have so many friends and family stay to share in the "kid-friendly" meal. See you next year at our 2nd annual "Spring Sing!"

Becky Pittman, coordinator

Requests for Prayer Chain

Please call **Carol Lauthers** at **419.756.8870 (home)** or **419.612.4088 (cell)** with any requests for special prayers and support. Prayers can be for members or non-members. Also please consider joining this group of prayer warriors!

Property Committee Volunteers Needed

We are a downtown church, but that doesn't mean that we have no landscaping and yard maintenance around our property! *This spring there will be a need to do several tasks.*

April or very early May: rake up leaves and clean up debris between the church building and Luther Hall. May: plant about 30 geraniums around the large church signage. Continue through summer to deadhead, weed and water that garden area. Mow the small amount of grassy area around the sign (between the church bldg. and sidewalk.)

Clean up debris in east parking lot and also next to the closed National Graphics Arts building. Dead head any plants along NGA building.

June: remove the large weeds from along the perimeters of the 4 parking lots west of the church. Also remove any vines, bottles, cans, small trees, etc. from the hedge in the "St. Peters" parking lot.

June: trim the bushes in the front of the church as needed.

June, July, August: Depending on the weather and the season, spray the small weeds and grass in the parking lots with Roundup.

July: trim the hedge along the sidewalk in front of the Luther Hall parking lot and trim the bushes along the east side of the Luther Hall parking lot.

July: remove the "dead blooms" from all the hosta plants.

October: Pull up the geraniums, cut off the hostas and the ferns and dispose of them. Rake up the leaves, trim the bushes and cut down all the plants along the east side of the Luther Hall parking lot.

Throughout the year it is always necessary for someone to pick up cans, bottles, paper scraps, etc. from the parking lots. If this is not routinely done the lots will soon look unsightly! Someone could volunteer to handle this task.

A group of 4-6 volunteers could handle these tasks either on a summer evening or on Saturday mornings. *How about doing this as a service project in your small group?*

If any members feel that they can help with these tasks, please contact **Gary Lane, Property Chairman at 419.775.8822.**

Visitor Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, May 18, 2011
Assembled and mailed: Thursday May 26, 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.

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2011

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

<u>June</u> 5	<u>September</u> 4, 11	<u>November</u> 6, 23 (Thanksgiving Eve), 27
<u>July</u> 10, 17	<u>October</u> 16, 23	<u>December</u> 4, 11, 18
<u>August</u> 7, 21		

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

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

Visit our web site at: www.felc-mansfield.org

*Emergency cell phone numbers if the pastors cannot be contacted at church or
home:* Pastor Paul Larson, 419-632-1875.

Pastor Andy Jones, 419-989-3715

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am NALC Information Forum (Nave) 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Holy Communion(Nave) 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:15am NALC Information Forum (Nave)	2 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 9:30am Men's Group @ Denny's 1:00pm Sarah Circle (ER) 7:00pm Property Committee (UC)	3 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 4:30pm Malawi Orphan Care (FR) 7:00pm Prayer Shawl (ER)	4 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:30pm Malawi Mission Team Meeting (FR)	5 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	6 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	7 11:30am Women of FELC Gathering of Daughters (UC)
8 **Confirmation Sunday** 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Combined Worship w/Proclaim!(Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	9 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 11:30am Lydia Circle @ The Grill in Lexington 1:00pm Finance Committee (FR) 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	10 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 7:00pm Council (UC)	11 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:30pm Malawi Mission Team Meeting (FR)	12 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	13 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:00am Mary Circle @ Virginia Blizzards' home	14
15 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 3:00pm Greek Isle Informational Meeting (ER)	16 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 1:00pm Women of FELC Planning (ER)	17 **Visitor deadline** 9:00am Holy Comm@Elmrooft 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 10:15am Holy Comm@Waterford 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER)	18 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:30pm Malawi Mission Team Meeting (FR)	19 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	20 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30am - 2 PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER)	21
22 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 11:15am Congregational Annual Meeting (Nave)	23 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	24 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	25 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:30pm Malawi Mission Team Meeting (FR)	26 11:30am Bulletin Assy (3rd fl) 12:30pm Visitor Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 4:00pm CDS Graduation (UC) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Sr Choir Reh	27 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	28
29 **Graduate Sunday** 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	30 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED*	31 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm - 1pm Bible Study (ER)				

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