

THE VISITOR



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

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Number 9

MISSION STATEMENT: First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Andrew W. Jones, Associate Pastor

Mr. Scott Berry, Organist and Senior Choir Director

Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts

Mrs. Terry Bianchi, Christian Day School Director

Karen Frayer, Bookkeeper

John Meyer, Custodial Maintenance

Connie Stewart, Parish Secretary/Printer

Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance

Jan Fisher, The Visitor Editor

Jim Scheiber, Property Manager

Michelle Myers, Christian Day School Secretary

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

Go Missions International missionaries to Bolivia, South America:

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

Missionaries to India: Brian and Barbara Sorge and family;

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President Ken Frayer

Personnel open position

Vice President Alicia Schultz Keultjes

Property Gary Lane

Secretary Mary Schwartz

Service Ministry Becky Sarbach

Christian Day School Cindy Russell

Stewardship Jan Fisher

Christian Education Devera Ritz

Worship Roscoe Thompson

Congregational Life Karen Ellis

Youth Ministry Teri Brenkus

Evangelism Susan Hogsette

SCS Superintendent Chris Cichanowicz

Finance Don Harruff

Women of FELC Carolyn Weeks

Global Mission Chris Cichanowicz

Dear Church Family,

In early August, Pastor Paul, Chris Kaschube and I were your delegates to the Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). We here at First English voted overwhelming in May to become a member congregation of the NALC – and we are already enjoying the fruits of that decision. The NALC is born from great leadership, scholarship, and theology – and is well shaped by those foundational forces.

The theological conference that preceded the convocation brought together many of the leading orthodox Lutheran theologians who set the tone for the days that followed. Through the NALC, we are now part of a church that takes the Great Commission seriously, holds Holy Scripture in the highest accord, and calls congregations to enter into ministry together.

The NALC has embraced 4 Core Values that shape our life together as a part of the Body of Christ. They are:

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 servanthood and a

spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.”

In the days of the convocation, we heard a call to live out these values through intentional lives of Discipleship. As disciples of Jesus, we share together moments of worship, evangelism, service, prayer, study, ministry and the like. We need to daily commit to these disciplines, and seek God’s guidance in them.

As a member congregation of NALC, we are also encouraged to live out our Discipleship through intentional Ministry Relationships that occur locally, nationally, and globally. We are already doing a fine job with this locally, with our Wednesday Noon Lunch program, our involvement in local service ministry, and relationships with neighboring congregations. We are also doing a fine job with this globally, with our ministry partners in Malawi, Lithuania, India and Peru. We are beginning to explore what this might mean for us on a national scale – but I am confident that God will lead us into exciting and powerful partnerships in this area, just as He has in other areas.

These are exciting days to be Lutheran, to be Christian, to be a part of the Church. God is leading us on a grand adventure – I can’t wait to see what He has in mind!

Pastor Andy

<p>³¹ ... Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (NIV)</p>
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Dear Friends In Christ:

It’s September again and that means it’s *back-to-school-time!* Our youngest ones are heading off for their first classroom experiences and our older youth are packing their belongings and heading-off for college. It is that annual Fall rhythm of life in our American culture as we re-orient our lives around our schools and the goals of study and learning.

It is a good time for all of us adults to also be re-focusing our lives as well. This is a good time for us to be ... “heading back to school.” Jesus reminds us that HE is the greatest source of all knowledge and truth. Indeed, HE is The Way, The TRUTH, and The Life!

Starting again this Fall on Sunday, September 11th, we will be offering ***“The Truth Project – Learning & Living a Christian Worldview.”*** We began this revealing and challenging series last April and we are now picking-up where we left off.

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 experiencing this new exciting Small Group Study in our Sunday Adult Sunday School Class in the Emmaus Room  starting 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.**

This project represents the possibility for exponential change within your life and 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. For more information visit: www.thetruthproject.org

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

Come and Grow in God's Word of Truth!

Pastor Paul

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorial Fund

Edna Stevens

Patricia Mehl
Tom and Jeanne Hillman
Ron and Jo Ellen Stevens
Bill and Mary Schwartz
Beverly Stevens

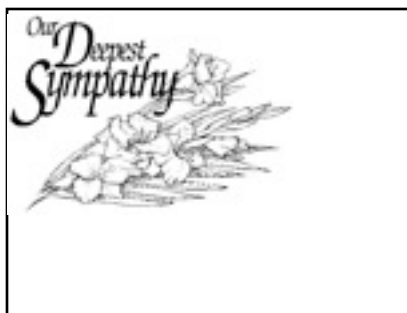
Evelyn Konves

Susan Konves
Jack and Mary Ann Pollock
Joel and Melanie Lilies

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals/Memorial: July 29, 2011 Edna Stevens

Our Deepest Sympathy



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

Edna Stevens

July 25

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Blanket collection coming up in September!

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



October 2, 2011 will be Thankoffering Sunday at First English. We have a special message planned for that Sunday. We will also be blessing all of the quilts that will be sent off to Lutheran World Relief.

We also are announcing that we have a special opportunity whereby we are invited to attend a Women's Spirituality Retreat and Conference along side many other women from Mansfield and the surrounding area. This retreat is being planned by women from several churches in the Mansfield area. It begins on Friday evening October 21, and continues on Saturday October 22 right here in town at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center on West Fourth Street. Cost is \$49 if registering by October 1st, \$55 if registering after October 1st. Price includes a gourmet lunch on Saturday plus unlimited coffee, tea, and water. The main speaker will be Carol McLeod, well known in women's circles. Registration/informational brochures are available in the narthex. All women are invited and please consider bringing your Mom, sister, best friend!

Calendar

Circle	Date	Time	Place	Hostess
Eve (Prayer Shawl)	Tues. Sept. 6	7:00 PM	Emmaus Room	Jan Fisher
Sarah	Mon. Sept. 12	1:00 PM	Emmaus Room	TBA
Lydia	Mon. Sept. 12	11:30 AM	Fork & Fingers/ UC	Chris Cichanowicz
Mary	TBA			
Women's Ministry Team Meeting	Monday Sept. 19	1:00 PM	Emmaus Room	Officers and Circle Leaders attend

Funeral Squad Leaders for September: Sandie Volz and Pearl West

AUGUST COUNCIL NOTES

President Ken Frayer called the August 16, 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** reported that he and Pastor Jones are both rostered in the North American Lutheran Church as well as the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. Our congregation is also a member of both church bodies. He reported that the Lutheran Core Convocation, the liturgical event and NALC Convocation held August 9 - 12 were all refreshing and inspiring. NALC has discipleship as its core identity of church with a focus on accountability and networking together locally, nationally and globally. Council approved holding a Reformation service at our church on Sunday, October 30, 4:00 p.m. All LCMC and NALC congregations in Ohio will be invited to this worship service. Council appointed Mary Schwartz as the lay delegate to the LCMC annual meeting October 2 to 5, 2011. Council approved moving communion in October from the first Sunday, October 2 to the second Sunday, October 9. Council approved that our congregation hosts a "Call to Unity" gathering of local area pastors and their spouses on Friday, October 7 to include a meal and worship service.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: **Pastor Jones** stated the NALC event was fabulous, with a definite attitude of trust. He said it was nice to have Jan Fisher and Susan Hogsette in attendance. Council approved exploring a national ministry relationship with Iglessia Lutherana San Pedro of Miami, Florida. Council approved Pastor Jones to preach at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Lucas, OH on October 16 or 23. Pastor Larson stated he recently met with the Mt. Zion Congregation Council to answer questions about our church's experience while leaving the ELCA.

WOMEN OF FELC: **Jan Fisher** said she has information about a Pure Gold Women's Conference to be held at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center October 21 and 22. Lutheran World Relief kits are being collected. The Thankoffering worship service will be held Sunday, October 2 with a dialog sermon about women's ministries of First English Lutheran Church.

PERSONNEL: **Cindy Russell** recommended, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, with Council approval, to hire Angie Murphy as the new Christian Day School Director beginning September 6, 2011. It was noted that Angie has been employed by CDS for 13 years and will be replacing Terry Bianchi who is moving from the area.

FINANCE: **Don Harruff** presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee, with Council approval, that a bequest of \$20,000 from the Don Gestenslager estate be placed in the Renewing God's House of Prayer fund for sanctuary renovation. There is a total of \$217,784.84 in the Renewing God's House fund which includes \$34,295.29 for undercroft kitchen renovation.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: **Ken Frayer** highlighted the following from Property Committee: Jim Scheiber is contacting Midstate Roofing to replace missing shingles on the sanctuary roof; we are waiting to hear from Larry Ritchie of Air Solutions for information about the undercroft kitchen fire suppression hood; Dan Obrynba is working to secure quotations for painting the sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: **Karen Ellis** reported approximately 90 people attended the July 31st 5th Sunday potluck meal. Twenty-five containers of Christmas cookies were prepared to be given to shut-ins during Christian caroling following the meal. The next 5th Sunday potluck meal will be held October 30, 2011.

EVANGELISM: **Susan Hogsette** stated she is excited about the NALC focus on discipleship.

GLOBAL MISSION: **Chris Cichanowicz** reported the Christophersons and Krafts are serving in Peru and the Sorges are serving in India. Council approved fundraising efforts for the October 2, 2011 Crop Walk.

STEWARDSHIP: **Jan Fisher** will meet with Pastor Larson to start planning Consecration Sunday.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: **Devera Ritz** reported the average attendance at Vacation Bible School was 52 and \$567.59 was collected to benefit the “Feed the Starving Children” program. Sunday School Rally Day will be on September 11.

YOUTH: **Teri Brenkus** said 10 youth participated in the Junior High Mission Trip, spending two days at Dayspring and one fun day. Thanks to Tricia and Shawn Volz for hosting the group at their home. The Youth rummage sale netted \$3,345.54 with 220 plus hours of work by the youth including picking up donations, assisting with the Monday evening drop off collection and during the sale. Seven adults helped during the sale: Chris Cichanowicz, Jan Fisher, Henry and Alicia Keultjes, Marilyn Motson, Mary Schwartz, Sherry Winbigler and many parents of the youth. Joy Jones and Becky Sarbach chaired the rummage sale and put in countless hours - thanks to these ladies for their tireless efforts. Thanks to Henry Keultjes for securing the use of the semi trailer for storage before and during the sale - this was a huge help! Unsold donated items were picked up by The Salvation Army. The next youth fundraiser will be a food sale during the September 24 and 25th Steam Threshers show at the Blackfork Retreat Center.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: **Cindy Russell** reported 95 students, including 43 summer campers, are enrolled. There were no employee changes.

OLD BUSINESS: There will be a Council Leadership workshop on Saturday, September 10, 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Mary M. Schwartz, Secretary

First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council

Christmas in July - Special Offering

For Tornado Victims in Joplin, MO

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our special “*Christmas in July Offering*” for the Tornado victims in Joplin, MO. As of Sunday, August 14th, 2011 we have received \$1,034.39. We will be distributing this gift through the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Joplin. Immanuel Lutheran is located on the edge of some of the worst devastation and has been a powerful and on-going witness to the people of Joplin. Immanuel Lutheran has provided a free meals program, free medical clinic and countless gifts of basic daily-needs including clothes, furniture, bedding, etc. Thank you for being part of this ministry of Christ’s Love --- reaching out to people who have lost all their worldly goods. We will continue to receive financial gifts for the people of Joplin until Rally Sunday, September 11th, 2011.

Within The Fold

THE JULY FOOD COLLECTION totaled \$87.91 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch program. Two bags and one box of grocery items and canned goods were collected Sunday, July 31, which were donated to Salvation Army. Every day they reach out to the hungry in our community with nutritious food to meet their basic need for nourishment. Thank you for helping those less fortunate!

Thank you from Congregational Life

Christmas in July was a great decorative theme dinner. Thank you so much to everyone who helped so generously: Carol Lauthers and Jan Fisher for helping set up and decorating; Jackie Moxley, Ashley Bunch, Diana, Jared, and Tony Woodard, Ted Ellis and Carol Lauthers for packing cookies and helping in the kitchen; Forrest, Jessika, Elizabeth and Shawn Volz, Mary and Bill Schwartz for clean up. I am so appreciative of everyone who immediately said “yes, I’ll help”. You are a blessing to me and to our church family!

Karen Ellis, Congregational Life Chair

We would like to thank the church for our campership that helped pay for our fun week at Camp Mowana. We made a lot of new friends and enjoyed the many activities. *From Jacob Caseman and Kylie Caseman*

Dear Friends in Christ, Thank you for the poster with all of the signatures and your prayers at the time of loss for our family. Albert, Bill's father, is now at peace. A special Thank You to Connie Stewart for her emails. Again, our thanks for reaching out to us. *Gail Elder and Bill Rothe*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We appreciate the prayers for our son, Barry, during his two and one-half months of illness, spent mostly in the hospital, and in severe pain. The doctors said that only about 30% recover from the sickness that struck Barry. Happy to report that he has returned to work. Jesus' friends are a family and come together in time of need. Please continue praying for his complete recovery. Thank you!

Tom & Jeanne Hillman

From Weldon and Elaine Lemon,

We would like to thank everybody who signed the poster for our anniversary.

Dear Members of First English Lutheran Church,

I would like to thank all of you for the poster, cards, and kind words extended to my family and me upon the death of my brother Don Myers. It truly is a blessing to belong to such a caring congregation.

In Christ's love, *Janet Shenberger*

Dear Pastor Paul and congregation,

It was such a privilege to be with you in June. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you about Sudan. Thank you for your generous gift! God bless you for your giving towards furthering His Kingdom. Blessings, *Brooke Lane*

Dear Church Family,

Gary and I would like to thank you for the wonderful way you surrounded us with prayers and caring during this stressful time. Thank you for the cards, beautiful prayer shawl and many kind words. A special thank you to Beth Harruff for organizing rides and to the dear friends who offered to drive me to the Cleveland Clinic. Thanks to the people who brought in food. It was such a blessing not to worry about "what to fix" when family was here. A love note wouldn't be complete without thanking our faithful pastors. Pastor Larson was with us in the ICU ward many hours and Pastors Jones and Kress have been a huge comfort since Gary was transferred back to MedCentral. Our lives have been on a rollercoaster ride since June 1st (I don't like rollercoasters!) but our church family's caring and concern kept us strapped in safely. We are so very humbled and give praise and thanks to you and to our loving Lord Jesus. Blessing and hugs, *Gary and Shirley Lane*

Dear Friends at First English,

Warm greetings from very hot (99 degrees) and humid N. C. We are here enroute to Peru to celebrate with Inga and Ryan (just returned from Afghanistan) their Lucy's first birthday. Josh and Rochel also came down from DC. We covet your prayers as we begin our next assignment -- probably in Piura. Peace to all of you ! It was great to be with you in late May. Thanks for your generous gifts that helped with our travel. Much love, *Henrik and Patty Christopherson*

Dear Members of First English,

I am blessed with a loving, praying, and caring FELC family! Thank you so much for all of the cards, calls and most importantly - prayers - as I struggled with some health problems this past summer. I am adapting to my "slower" lifestyle. Very low blood pressure and a diagnosis of "vasovagal syncope" is demanding me to sit down more often and to stop and smell those roses! I greatly appreciated feeling your support during this time. *Love, Becky Pittman*

CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN SOON!



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

Scott Berry, DIRECTOR

CROP WALK

It's that time again! CROP WALK! Get your walking shoes ready. Last year the Holy Spirit touched so many of us with a "giving heart" that we won the Golden Tenney Award. That's first place! Let's do it again. Our goal is \$2900. Richland County's goal is \$15,000. REMEMBER, 25% of the total collected stays in Mansfield to help feed the hungry.

WHEN? Sunday, October 2

REGISTRATION: 1:30 P.M.

WALK BEGINS: 2 P.M.

WHERE:? Central Park Gazebo in downtown Mansfield

Thanks for caring. Let's give Jesus a BANQUET instead of a snack.

Special envelopes will be available in September in the narthex for your contributions. Put your envelopes in the collection plate or give them to Chris Cichanowicz.

See Chris Cichanowicz if you have any questions.

Global Mission News



Malawi Mission Trip

Dear Friends in Christ,

We would like to thank you for your generous support of our mission trip to Malawi. Please ask in the church office for your thank you notes.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ward, Robyn Russell, and Sarah Jones

With the end of August and the beginning of September I am busily trying to get ready for a new school year. I am enjoying moving into my new classroom in my district's new building. Northmor's new K-12 building is a beautiful, modern school with all the latest in technology and comfort. I am so blessed to be able to work in a community that supported its schools and voted to build new schools. As I spend time in my classroom I can't help but remember visiting the school located near the Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Project where many of the children went to school.

When we pulled into the school we saw a large building that was partially built. It was obvious that it was started several years before and that work had stopped well before we were there. There were weeds growing up around the building as well as growing in the center of the building. The building had no roof. I asked about it and learned that the building was started when the President was running for reelection. As soon as he was reelected he stopped funding of the building. We then approached the building that is used as the school. The building is red brick with a tin roof. The windows in the building are widely spaced apart and have no window panes. When we entered the classroom we saw that the room was large and had 3 window openings and one door opening without a door. The interior walls were smooth cement that was beginning to crack in places. We could see the rafters and tin roof because there was no ceiling. The chalk board was painted on the wall and was well used. The paint was beginning to be rubbed off in

places. The floor was a thin layer of cement over dirt. There were a few places where holes had broken through and you could see the dirt beneath.

We were invited into a Primary 1 classroom. There was one Teacher standing in the front of the classroom. She had a small desk beside her that held a pad of paper and a marker. The children were sitting on the floor in front of her. There were between 50 and 75 children in the classroom with this one teacher. They were all sitting nicely and participating in the lessons. They were working on learning to read Chichewa and were working on words with the /a/ sound. The teacher wrote words that they suggested on the chalk board and the kids did many activities with these words. She was a great teacher who involved the students in the learning and did several different activities to review the words. She had students come up and read the words individually, used flash cards that she made with the paper and marker, and did whole group practice. She then had the children think of a sentence using the words they had discussed and wrote it on the board. They did similar activities with the sentence. Finally the teacher had the children copy the sentence onto paper. At this point some of the children got out paper and a writing utensil and began copying the sentence. We learned that not all children had paper and pencil. They did not all have access to these items. It was clear that the teacher was gifted at what she did and enjoyed teaching. As we were leaving the school we noticed that there were several groups of older children under trees near the building. Each group of children had a chalk board hanging in a tree that they were using. We learned that there was not enough room in the school for the older elementary children to have classrooms. The day we were there it was a beautifully sunny but I wondered what they did during the rainy season.

School in Malawi is compulsory for grades 1 - 8; however there are no Truancy Officers to make sure that all children go to school. High school is not mandatory and the students must pass exams to be enrolled in High School. There are two types of High Schools in Malawi Local schools that children walk to, and boarding schools. Tuition for a local High school education is approximately \$150.00 US dollars a year. Boarding Schools are much more expensive. The Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Project is able to send about 12 students to school each year at this time. They would be able to send at least twice this many students to local schools if they had the funding available.

Submitted by Renee Ward member of the Malawi Mission Team

Dear Friends and Family,

When are you living for? Most of the time, I live in the moment - completing the tasks I see in front of me. Sometimes, I live a little while into the future. Like right now - we're getting ready to return overseas on August 6. If I am making progress toward my immediate goals, I go to bed satisfied. Sometimes, I think about the more distant future and wonder what God has for us in the years ahead.

But when am I really living for? We spent most of a week studying 1 Peter at a retreat in Arizona in early July. We, God's chosen people, are invited to live as strangers here with our eyes on eternity. As holy people who love each other from the heart. To remember that the world we live in now is only for a moment - but our precious faith connects us to a glorious eternity. Jesus died for this! It is worth suffering well and living holy lives. The suffering we share with Christ is only for now. He shares it, he works in it, he blesses us and others through it, and he's calling us to a glorious eternal life with him. Even though we live in the now, we are invited to live with our hearts set on eternity. Keeping the goal in mind and standing together in Christ's body will help us to face the struggles along the way. It's a good thing to hold onto as we head back across the sea.

Five months flew by as we knew it would - we can hardly believe that we are now down to less than a week in the US. Thank you for your prayers - we have had safe travels, rich learning and growing experiences at the conferences we attended, and sweet time with people who are precious to us. We didn't get to see everyone we wanted to see, but we did get to see and do a lot during these five months. We thank God for providing for us so richly through you, His people, during this time. The encouragement of caring friends, a pleasant place to live, vehicles to use, needed finances, opportunities for Joshua, and much more. Thank you! We could not continue reaching out to Islanders without your partnership!

While we have been in the US, the Old Testament book of Exodus was first-draft translated and the book of Genesis has moved into the final correction stage! Please pray that all the errors needing correction will be noticed. Ask God to enable those involved to work well together as they make joint decisions about which changes are essential and how to word things. We look forward to having a clear, easy to read translation of Genesis for Islanders!

Thank you for praying for Herman. He coped with his alone time better than we expected. We look forward to seeing him, and our dear friends and teammates, Bruce and Kathy, who will be staying in our home when we arrive early in the morning on August 8.

On August 16, one week after we arrive, Joshua starts boarding school. Please pray for grace for all of us as we move through the upcoming time of transition. Ask God for like-minded friends for Josh and caring dorm parents and teachers with whom he feels comfortable. Pray for Brian and me as we adjust to a new normal with both boys gone much of the time.

David is settling in well in Hyderabad. His fellow students come from a variety of nations, with different kinds of education, and levels of English. He's learning a lot about cross-cultural communication as they try to discuss issues related to conflict resolution. It's a challenge with different understandings of how to discuss and varied English abilities! He's begun working with a project in the slums as part of his course. We thank God for giving David this opportunity to gain deeper experience in cross-cultural communication. Ask God to guide David and give him grace for each day. Pray that both Joshua and David will experience God's presence in real ways in their different situations.

Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting during daylight hours begins on August 1. To join others around the world in prayer for Muslims during this month, check out <http://www.30-days.net/>

We plan to leave the Evansville, Indiana area on August 5 to return our van in Kansas City. We fly on August 6, arriving "home" on August 8. Attached, please find a recent family photo. If you do not receive our snail mail letters and you would like to have a real copy of this photo to remind you to pray for us, please e-mail your snail mail address to us. We plan to send out the photos in our next letter.

Thank you so much for being Christ's body to us. We are grateful for each one of you!

With living hope to share,

Brian, Barbara, David and Joshua Sorge

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your prayers.

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

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

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

As far as the work, we ask you to **pray** for our **Monday night leadership class** at the Philadelphia Church. Right now we are in the midst of an interpersonal study and it's very revealing for so many. It's always so hard to work on ourselves but the group is doing well, being transparent, and being set free! **Thursdays** we getting together for an informal time of **Worship**, seeking God's presence, and praying. **Sunday's** we are meeting with five couples to do a **marriage ministry class**. We are using the material from Married for Life and are excited by this group. They are all eager to work on their marriages and to base their relationships on God's plan for them.

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

Love, *Nick and Shannon Kraft*

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

www.gomissionsinterntional.com

Go Missions International

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

Dear friends at First Lutheran Church,

On behalf of LCC International University, I want to express my sincere appreciation to your congregation for your most generous gift of scholarship money to students in our Summer Language Institute (SLI) in Klaipeda, Lithuania. SLI is an English language program designed for high school students and adults to come together for 3 weeks of learning English while living together on our university campus. Many students also are involved in discussion groups, bible studies and games in the evenings. Two students, both orphans at a local orphanage, were able to attend SLI this summer because of your gifts. I can assure you that these two young women (ages 14 and 18) were delightful students and enjoyed every single moment of the entire month at LCC. So, there are no sufficient words to express our deep appreciation to you; as staff member it is my great privilege to see many young people find positive role models, engage in meaningful conversations, and thoroughly enjoy making new friends.

I am sending a few photos of this years' program to share with your congregation. They will come to the church office address, likely in several emails as photos take up space on this email.

Additionally, thank you for "blessing and sending" Joe Carey, Chris and Stan Cichanowicz to Kazakhstan with us this summer; I was part of the team that traveled and taught in Shymkent with them and I must say, they are fine, fine people and were perfectly suited for that adventure. Please send my best regards to all three!

May God richly bless your congregation and the gifts that you bring to the kingdom,

Robin Gingerich, PhD

English Language Institute Director

Anglų kalbos instituto direktorė

LCC International University

Kretingos 36, Klaipėda LT-92307, Lithuania

(t) +370 46 310 745

(f) +370 46 310 560

<http://www.lcc.lt/>

You'd think we were on the run!



August, 2011

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday Patty was on the phone with her mom Eunice, and she jokingly quipped, "We have been traveling here and there so much, that you'd think we were on the run!"

We write to say thank-you to many who have been so kind and hospitable "while we've been on the run!" We enjoyed visiting our home congregation Our Savior in Issaquah, WA. We also strengthened ties with other churches on the West Coast. Now we leave again for a new two year assignment in northern Peru. Our hope is to work alongside the four Lutheran congregations, as their representatives, and together plunge into outreach.

Jesus teaches us that following Him is having a share in His divine rule. He says, "*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*" Mt. 13.44

Was this "buying of the field" reckless abandon? Did you not hear of that inexpressible "joy?" That joy abundantly provided motivation and clarity for this costly transaction. The joy of this discovery possessed him so that he could do no other! We feel some of that joy as we venture with Jesus in this new assignment. We pray that you would share our joy! We covet your prayers as we leave August 2nd.

Sowing seeds joyfully,

Henrik and Patty Christopherson

World Mission Prayer League 232 Clifton Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55403

News for Prayer

1. Our first joy is to receive a team of 9 from Roseni Lutheran Church in rural Beresford, SD. They arrive on August 4th to help in some practical ways. The Peruvian churches want to make some new banners, and have a music workshop. There will even have a conversation how to better care for their new-born babies. We'll discuss how to enter into a church-to-church relationship.
2. Our plan is to live in Piura. This desert city of 250,000 is three hours further north than Chiclayo, and one of the least evangelized areas of Peru. We will need to do some preliminary survey work. This may involve a bit of travel to talk with those who may want to also "team-up" in this new outreach.
3. This month Rebekah begins her third year studying elementary education at Concordia Univ. in Chicago. Thank you Gloria and Mike for hosting her this summer.

CDS Newsletter

A Friend Loves at all Times (Proverbs 17:17) is our Bible verse for September. We will be meeting new friends and welcoming back old friends with the start of the new school year. Our Bible story will be the story of the Good Samaritan.

We said goodbye to our campers who had a fun-filled summer. They especially enjoyed their trip to the zoo and playing at the many area parks.

We welcome back our pre-school class. This is the time of year when the children move to their new classrooms. Everyone will be busy learning colors, shapes, letters and numbers. They will be painting, cutting, coloring and gluing as well as reading lots of stories.

With this new school year there will be some changes. I will be leaving the Day School after 17 years. My husband is currently working in the Pittsburgh area and we will be relocating eventually. I have many wonderful memories from my time here and I will miss everyone.

Angie Murphy will be taking over as director. She has worked at FELCDS for 13 years and has directed our very successful summer camp program for 10 years. I am sure she will do a great job.

We are looking forward to another great year at FELCDS!

Terry Bianchi director



Alpha is here again at First English!

LATEST REPORT:

The **Alpha** course at **First English Lutheran Church** is a fabulous success!

Ask any question during the 10 weeks of basic Christian teachings and small group discussions.

Come to a meal and introduction to the course on **September 7**. No commitment is expected.



September 7 through November 16, 2011

Wednesday Evenings from 6:00 'till 8:45

The Alpha course is a **FREE** 10 week journey of delicious dinners, thought provoking talks and welcoming small groups where you can ask any question (plus a bonus retreat day).

Get your Registration Materials at Church

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

September 20, 9:00 AM Elmcroft of Ontario

September 20, 10:15 AM Waterford

September 22, 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 & Assistants

Gene Harsch, 419.774.0247

Ushers

Susan Hogsette, 419.884.1446

Greeters

Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090

8:30 AM Sunday Prayer

Partners

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion

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

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS 10:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

GREETERS NAVE

Entire month of September: Ken & Vi Deems

USHERS NAVE

Bill & Mary Schwartz

Bill & Pearl West

Larry Goracke

8:30 AM SUNDAY PASTORS PRAYER PARTNERS TEAMS

September 4 Mary Schwartz & Jim Scheiber

September 11 Ken & Karen Frayer

September 18 Lowell Weeks & Chris Cichanowicz

September 25 Rob Hogsette & Steve Ritz

COMMUNION PREPARERS

September 4 10:00 am regular communion

COMMUNION SERVERS

September 4 10:00 am regular communion

Marilyn Dinges & Shirley Shupp

Bread Servers Pastor/Assisting Minister

Wine West Tom Pasheilich

Cups West Nancy Pasheilich

Wine East Gene Calver

Cups East Dawn Butterman

Intinction Beth Harruff

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Evangelism

POWERPOINT NAVE

September 4 Jim Scheiber September 11 Gordon Moxley

September 18 Jeff Kilgore September 25 Paul Ward

ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Beth Harruff &
Janet Shenberger
Proclaim!: Jan Fisher

LAY READERS NAVE

September 4 Stacey Crall
September 11 Mary Hujus
September 18 Sandie Volz
September 25 Chris Kaschube

PEW PAD GLEANERS

September 4 Marilyn Motson
September 11 Ronda Rehm
September 18 Pat Smith
September 25 Marilyn Motson

CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS

September 4 Ronda Rehm
September 11 Teri Brenkus
September 18 Suzanne Rippel
September 25 Courtney Farner

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Sept 4 10:00 Lu Diday
Sept 11 9:00 Courtney Farner
10:00 Toni Zehe
Sept 18 9:00 Stacey Crall
10:00 Angie Murphy
Sept 25 9:00 Kellie Ellington
10:00 Teri Brenkus

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR MONITORS

8:40 to 10:05 am

September 4 Wes Volz
September 11 Jodi Mumaw
September 18 Shirley Shupp
September 25 Ron Rehm

ASSISTING MINISTERS

September 4 Stan Cichanowicz
September 11 Alicia Schulz
September 18 Chris Kaschube
September 25 Greg Hughes

ACOLYTES

September 4 Jake Caseman
September 11 Egypt Murphy
September 18 Erica Kick
September 25 Renee Shupp



10:00 A.M. PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

GREETERS/USHERS

September 4 Sarah Jones
September 11 Rachel Shupp
September 18 Gregg Thatcher
September 25 Ted Ellis

COMMUNION PREPARER

September 4 Jan Fisher

COMMUNION SERVERS

September 4 Donna Rettig and Kayla Thatcher; Rachel Shupp and Karen Ellis

POWERPOINT ASSISTANTS

September 4 Haley Pittman
September 11 Kayla Thatcher
September 18 Robyn Russell
September 25 Ed Farner

BEVERAGE PREP/CLEAN-UP

September 4 Ted and Karen Ellis
September 11 Ronda Rehm
September 18 Jan Fisher
September 25 Lynda Ringold

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

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

LET YOUR LIFE BE A LEGACY

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

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

Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry for the needy

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

WORKDAY LADIES NEED MACHINE SEWERS!

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEWING KITS in September

Three yards of 44" or 45" cotton or cotton blend fabric (four yards if 36")

Two spools of matching thread

Wrap items inside fabric and tie with string or yarn.

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

Containers for completed kits are in the Narthex and lobby of Luther Hall. **All kits must be returned to the church as a complete kit ready for shipping. The deadline to turn in completed kits is October 2.** They will be packed and then taken to Seville, Ohio, later in October for shipping.

Monetary donations for shipping costs may be placed in a pew envelope with your name, envelope number, and amount (checks payable to First English Lutheran Church. Memo line: LWR kits shipping). — Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820

LWR Quilt and Kit Shipping

Did you know that it costs \$2.25 to ship one quilt overseas?

Did you know that it costs \$1.40 to ship a school kit overseas?

A personal care kit (health kit) costs \$2.65 to ship. A fabric kit (formerly known as sewing kits) costs \$1.00 to ship, and a baby care kit (layette) costs \$1.30 to ship. It costs \$11.60 for the shipping on one 18 pound carton of bath soap. Multiply this by the number of kits that get sent to the ingathering in Seville, by the number of ingatherings in Ohio, by the number of ingatherings across the country -- voila! You have a huge shipping expense. So if you feel that you can contribute to shipping costs, please use a pew envelope marked with your name and **“LWR shipping expenses”**. It will greatly help the cause! Thank you in advance. (Deadline for contributions is Oct. 2nd)

Soles4Souls Shoe Drive

During the month of September, FELC will be one off locations in the Mansfield area for a shoe drive

Soles4Souls. **Abundant Life Tabernacle,**

Shoes 56 N Main St. and Milliron Recycling are

drop off locations. There are several other churches and organizations that are participating in different ways. A few churches are hosting Soles4Souls shoe drives for their own congregations. Also, Lexington High School Cross Country team hold a shoe drive during their Invitational Meet on August 27. Lexington Jr. High will host a shoe drive for a two week period in September. There are many ways that different churches and organizations are organizing their own shoe drives.

The following information comes from the Soles4Souls website and helps to explain why they collect shoes, what shoes they collect and what they do with the shoes they collect.

What is Soles4Souls?

Soles4Souls is a Nashville-based charity that collects shoes from the warehouses of footwear companies and the closets of people like you. The charity distributes these shoes to people in need, regardless of race, religion, class, or any other criteria. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has given away over 14 million pairs of new and gently worn shoes (currently donating one pair every 7 seconds.) The shoes have been



of four drop to benefit Crowe's three other

distributed to people in over 127 countries, including Kenya, Thailand, Nepal and the United States. Soles4Souls has been featured in Runner's World, Ladies' Home Journal, National Geographic's Green Guide, and The New York Times. It has appeared on CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, BBC, CNN and thousands of regional news outlets across North America. Soles4Souls is a 501(c)(3) recognized by the IRS and donating parties are eligible for tax advantages. Anyone can join our cause, and we need your help.

Soles4Souls facilitates the donations of shoes, which are used to aid the hurting worldwide. Shoe companies, retailers, and individuals can donate footwear (both new and used).

The idea behind gifts of shoes is nothing new to the Soles4Souls team, as they coordinated relief efforts for the Asian Tsunami and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, netting over 1 million pairs donated for these disasters. The team originally operated as www.katrinashoes.org with several churches partnering in the collection and distribution of footwear.

What types of shoes are accepted?

Soles4Souls accepts all types of shoes for men, women and children: athletic, running, dress, sandals, pumps, heels, work boots, cleats, dance, flip flops, just as long as they are new or gently worn.

What does Soles4Souls (S4S) do with the shoes they receive?

All shoes are processed and graded either by our staff in Wadley, Alabama or by Village Northwest Unlimited, a nonprofit training facility for people with disabilities located in Sheldon, Iowa. New and high grade used shoes are immediately earmarked for distribution in the United States or abroad. Lower grade used shoes are sorted and packed for distribution, and some are provided to microenterprise programs in developing countries such as Haiti, Tanzania, and Honduras. The microenterprise participants clean and recondition the shoes to sell locally. Thus, the microenterprise programs provide both a rare employment opportunity to impoverished people who would like to start their own shoe businesses, but lack the capital to do so, and an affordable source of shoes for the impoverished local population. Shoes in very poor condition are unfit for the microenterprise programs and are sent to recyclers in Pakistan who salvage the usable materials from the shoes. Funds raised by Soles4Souls from the

microenterprise and recycling programs are used to sustain its programs, such as covering the processing costs incurred at the Wadley and Sheldon facilities and paying for transporting shoes to crisis areas for humanitarian relief.

For more information about soles4souls go to www.soles4souls.org.

Please consider donating your gently used shoes to benefit a worthwhile cause. If you are unable to donate new or used shoes, please consider a monetary donation to help with the cost of transporting the shoes to a warehouse in Defiance, Ohio and also some promotional costs. We estimate that \$350 will cover our transportation and promotional costs. If we receive donations totaling more than we need, we will donate the rest to Soles4Souls. To make a donation, please put your cash or check in an envelope with Soles4Souls written on the envelope. If you write a check, please write the check to FELC and put Soles4Souls on the memo line. Your envelopes can be brought to the church office or put in the collection plate.

Lastly, another way to donate is to donate rubber bands. Yes, rubber bands. They will be used to secure each pair of shoes together and we already have a lot of shoes so we can use a lot of rubber bands.

Please let you friends, family, neighbors and co-workers know about this shoe drive. Please encourage them to clean out their closets and donate their unwanted, gently used shoes to Soles4Souls.

Joy Jones, coordinator of project

CHURCH OFFICES/BUILDING CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5



The church offices and Christian Day School will be closed Monday, September 5, for the Labor Day holiday.

OFFICE CLOSING EARLY! First English Lutheran Church Office will be closing **AT NOON** on Friday, September 23. The office hours that day will be 8:30 a.m. – noon.

RECYCLE USED INK CARTRIDGES . . .
IT REALLY DOES BENEFIT!

Our Staples rewards benefits allow us to recycle up to 20 ink cartridges per month at \$2 per cartridge - we could receive \$40 a month! Through your ink cartridge recycling efforts, we have earned \$200 cash from January-June, 2011. Our current supply of empty ink cartridges is low so please bring **ANY** empty ink cartridges to the church office.

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ♥ A unique weekend workshop for a husband and wife who value their marriage! Private and focused time with your spouse ♥ Helpful no matter how long you have been married. November 11-13 at the Clarion Inn & Conference Center in Hudson Ohio. Contact David & Jean Fell, Ohio Inviting Coordinators for Lutheran Marriage Encounter at 330.541.2471 or davidjeanfell@hotmail.com

A Faith Based Stewardship Message: Take my Son.....

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art..

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands.. He said, 'Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly... He often talked about you, and your love for art.' The young man held out this package. 'I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.' The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture.. 'Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift.'

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his

home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. 'We will start the bidding with this picture of the son.. Who will bid for this picture?' There was silence...

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, 'We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.'

But the auctioneer persisted. 'Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?'

Another voice angrily. 'We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the Real bids!'

But still the auctioneer continued. 'The son! The son! Who'll take the son?'

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting...' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

'We have \$10, who will bid \$20?'

'Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.'

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son.

They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel.. 'Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!'

A man sitting on the second row shouted, 'Now let's get on with the collection!'

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. 'I'm sorry, the auction is over.'

'What about the paintings?'

'I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will... I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.

The man who took the son gets everything!'

God gave His son over 2,000 years ago to die on the Cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: 'The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?'

Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything!

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH, SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...THAT'S LOVE.



Hire-A-Youth!

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

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

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

Our Youth will be running a concession stand for the Steam Threshers Show

Richland County Steam Threshers

Steam and Gas Tractor Show

September 24th & 25th

Blackfork Retreat Site

Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4

Come support the FELC Youth concession stand and enjoy watching antique machinery at work.

Youth Rummage Sale -- A Great Success!!

Thank you to all who donated your gently used household items and clothing for the Lincoln Highway Buyway Sale. Most of the days during the sale were bright and sunny (meaning hot). Even with the temperatures in the 80's, the stream of

shoppers was steady. On Saturday, we finished a few hours early due to rain. Thanks to your donations and the volunteer efforts of **Chris Cichanowicz, Jan Fisher, Henry and Alicia Keultjes, Marilyn Motson, Mary Schwartz, Sherry Winbigler**, and the parents of our youth, we were able to raise **\$3,345.54**. The Salvation Army arrived on Monday morning and picked up all of the donations that had not been sold. Once again our church successfully worked together and the outcome was phenomenal!! **OUR YOUTH THANK YOU!!!!!!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS was a wonderful success this year - thanks to many awesome volunteers and 25 fun kids! We learned that "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" for 4 nights at the end of July. Thank you to Kristi Larson, Pat Reed, and Larry Lantz for teaching us that we can ALL be Good Samaritans in our community. We enjoyed seeing and hearing about the Prayer Shawl ministry, The Quilting Ladies, and our Communion Deacon ministry. Jan Fisher helped the kids create prayer flags that were then distributed to our shut-ins.

Mary Schwartz and Margaret Runyon helped teach the "Feeding of the 5,000" story by giving the kids a "walk-through" of a typical Wednesday Noon Lunch day. Chris and Angie Kaschube topped off the night by having a competition to see who could eat the most Saltines and sardines! (Mitchell Pittman won!) Our younger kids - led by Chris Cichanowicz - took home cute homemade baskets filled with bread and fish.

Thank you, Malawi team, for teaching us about "The Parable of the Talents." We all learned that we have God-given talents that can be used anywhere in the world!

Stan and Chris Cichanowicz shared stories about their trip to Kazakhstan with lots of pictures and a fun treasure hunt! Just like the story of David and Goliath, they helped teach us that anything is possible with God on your side!

The kids and adults raised \$557.59 in just 4 days! It will be donated to the "Feed the Starving Children" program. This will serve 2,323 meals!

A big thank you to Tricia Volz for always being there and doing what needs to get done, Sharon Bowden and Amy Skropits for being faithful helpers, Courtney Farnier for taking charge of our snack, and to all of our puppet participants ----AWESOME! What a fun way to learn about God's Word. God bless you all. See you next year!

RALLY DAY COMING UP ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

Rally Day is somewhat like "Back to Church Sunday" for those of you who might be wondering. All new Sunday School classes will be starting at 9:00 AM in their

respective classrooms. More details will follow, and won't it be wonderful to be back in class learning more and more about Jesus! See you on Sept. 11th!

GOT PRODUCE?

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

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM STARTS AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER

Our exciting Faith Inkubators Confirmation Program is set to begin once again at First English Lutheran Church. Faith Inkubators is a multi-input learning experience where the goal is "to open the student before you open the book." Faith Inkubators strives to move the young person's faith "from the Head to the Heart." Learning Workshops, Servant and Fellowship Events all work together to shape the young Christian into mature faith.

All 7th and 8th grade students and their parents should mark their calendars for Sunday, September 18 from 5:30-7:30 pm for PARENT and STUDENT ORIENTATION. Pizza is included!

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2011

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

November
27

December
4



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

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

Requests for Prayer Chain

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

Property Committee Volunteers Needed

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

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

Visitor Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, September 20, 2011
Assembled and mailed: Thursday September 29, 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.

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September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 7:00pm Senior Choir Reh	2 ***CDS CLOSED*** 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	3
4 9:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Holy Communion (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	5 ***CDS CLOSED*** **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**	6 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 Bible Study (ER) 7:00pm Eve Circle (ER)	7 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:00pm -8:45 pm Alpha (ER)	8 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Senior Choir Reh	9 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 8:30am Around 12 (ER)	10 8:00am Council & Staff Orientation (ER)
11 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	12 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** 9:30am Men's Group@Denny's 11:30am Lydia Circle @ Fork & Fingers/UC 1:00pm Sarah Circle(ER) 1:00pm Finance Comm.(FR) 6:30pm Small Group (ER) 7:00pm Property Comm.(UC)	13 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 Bible Study (ER) 1:30pm Small group (FR) 7:00pm Council (UC)	14 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 9:30am InterChurch Council (ER) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:00pm -8:45 pm Alpha (ER)	15 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Senior Choir Reh	16 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 10:30am - 2 PM Friendly Friday Srs (ER)	17
18 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee 5:30pm Confirmation Parent Orientation (ER/UC)	19 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** 1:00pm Women of FELC Planning Team (ER)	20 **Visitor deadline** 9:00am Holy Comm@Elmeroft 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 10:15am Holy Comm@Waterford 12:00pm -1 Bible Study (ER)	21 8:30am Workday Ladies (3rd fl) 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:00pm -8:45 pm Alpha (ER)	22 9:30am Holy Comm@Sterling 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Senior Choir Reh	23 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL) 12:00pm ***OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON TODAY!***	24
25 **Food Collection** 8:30am Pastors Prayer Partners 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Proclaim! (UC) 10:00am Worship (Nave) 11:00am Fellowship/Coffee	26 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** 6:30pm Small Group (ER)	27 9:30am CDS (Chapel) 12:00pm -1 Bible Study (ER) 1:30pm Small group (FR) 7:00pm Worship Committee (ER)	28 9:30am CDS Music (UC) 12:10pm Worship & Lunch (C/UC) 6:00pm -8:45 pm Alpha (ER)	29 11:30am Bulletin Assy(3rd fl) 12:30pm Visitor Assy (3rd fl) 2:00pm Staff Meeting (FR) 5:30pm Proclaim Reh (UC) 7:00pm Senior Choir Reh	30 7:00am Prayer Partners (NL)	

Legend:

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



catch the
ExCiTeMeNt!
 Sept. 11 9:00 a.m.