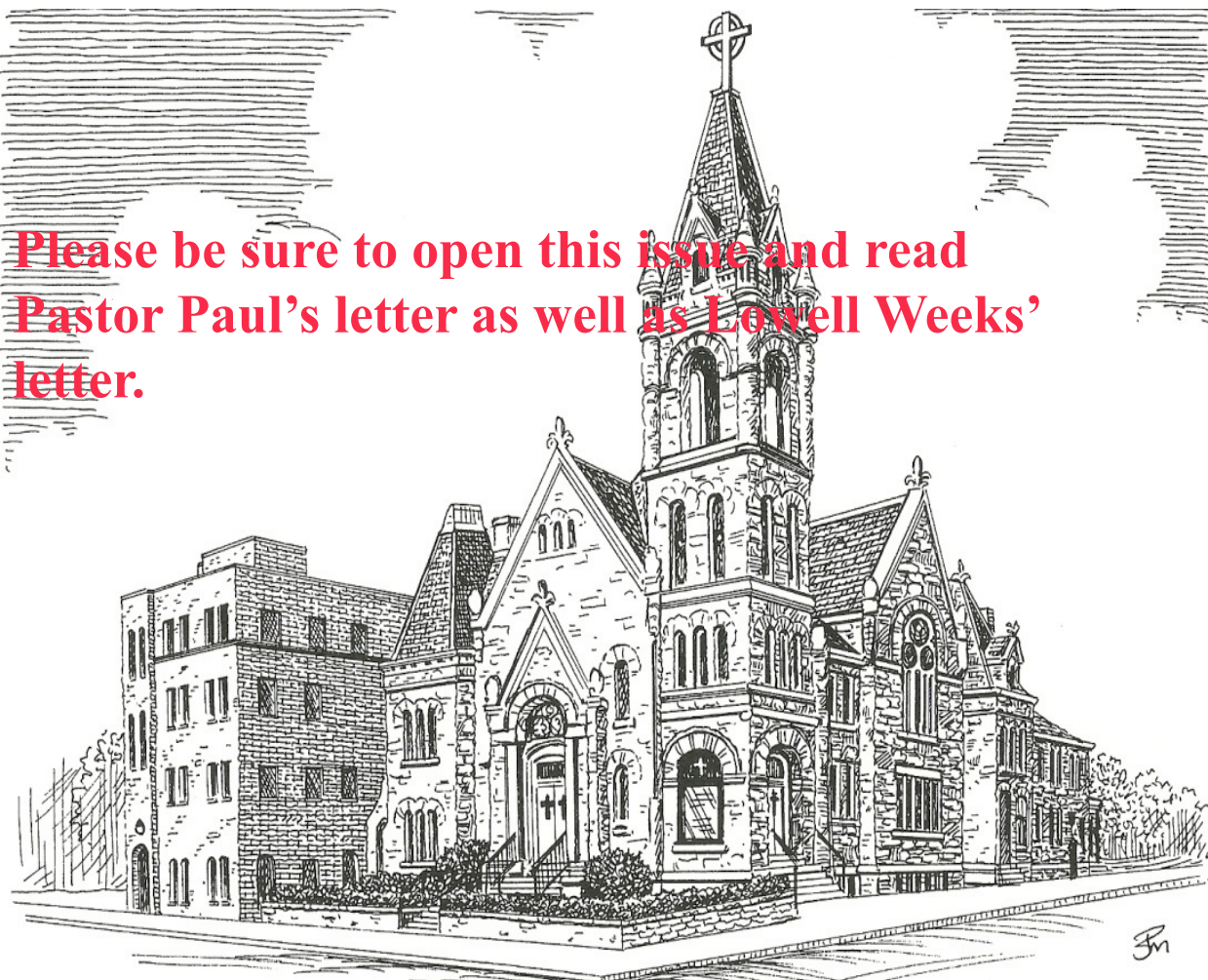


THE VISITOR

Please be sure to open this issue and read
Pastor Paul's letter as well as Lowell Weeks'
letter.



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

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"Pointing People to Jesus Through Intentional Relationships"

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Mr. Scott Berry, Organist and Senior Choir Director
Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts
Mrs. Angela Murphy, Director Early Learning Center
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World Mission Prayer League Missionaries Brian and Barbara
Shadreck and Yamikani Chikoti, Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries

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Women of FELC <i>Jan Fisher</i>	
Global Mission <i>Chris Cichanowicz</i>	

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Christ's Peace to You! Certainly, none of us would have anticipated the unusual days in which we now live as we began our planning for Lent 2020 and Holy Week 2020. Many of our congregations across Christendom have suspended all of their Worship Services, Bible Studies and non-essential meetings until the end of this March, 2020 --- All in response to the Coronavirus. Please know that I am keeping all of you in my daily prayers – especially now in these days.

I would share with you the action of our Church Council at First English Lutheran Church in Mansfield:

“After serious consideration of the serious health risk involved in public gatherings and in order to curb the spread of the Wuhan Coronavirus, the Church Council of First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield has voted, effective immediately, to suspend all Sunday Worship Services, Sunday School Classes, Confirmation Classes, Wednesday Noon Chapel Services, Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers & Bible Studies, and all non-essential meetings of Committees and Small Groups. This suspension will last through and including Tuesday, March 31, 2020.”

As we are all aware, the global spread of the COVID-19, is dramatically changing how we live our daily lives. In order to help stem the rapid spread of this virus in our society and “flatten the curve” of the peak number of those who will become infected, both President Donald Trump and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued public directives on Monday, March 16th that impact all of us. Key to their directives was the emphasis that persons should avoid meetings for non-essential purposes, and that we should avoid any gathering of more than 10 people. Both our President and our Governor are issuing these directives to us based on the very best scientific research that is available.

Science has proven that participation in public gatherings significantly increases the risk of contagion. This poses a serious danger to those especially most vulnerable.

Maybe you have mixed feelings about not gathering for worship. I would share this information with you that I read on Pastor Greg Finke's blog from ***“Joining Jesus On His Mission!”***: <https://dwelling114.org/blog/2020/3/18/is-now-the-time-to-become-an-acts-8-church>

“The Church especially needs to take “social distancing” seriously to help slow the spread of the pandemic. Why? In South Korea, they have tracked 80% of their COVID-19 infections to one dear woman who went to church services twice within a few days. She thought she had a cold. This woman is known as Patient 31. Patient 31 had all the best of intentions when she went to church. But because she did not practice social distancing, she unintentionally led to 80% of South Korea's COVID-19 infections. As of Monday, March 16, there were 8000+ COVID-19 cases and 75 deaths.” (Information from Reuters)

You should be aware, that the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ohio have now suspended ALL Masses beginning immediately - through all of Holy Week and including Easter Sunday. As I write to you, our FELC Church Council, is not yet at that point. However, this may very well happen. We are assessing the situation from day to day. We will keep you posted. Please check the church's website for the most recent updates: <https://www.felc-mansfield.org>

I want to acknowledge that this is a very fast-changing and dynamic time in which our plans can change quickly. For the present, we are only cancelling ALL Worship Services and non-essential gatherings through Tuesday, March 31st. This is in keeping with our President's and Governor's 15-Day directive. At FELC, we will, however, continue to assess the situation and seek to follow the best practices as they unfold from our President & Governor. If we need to extend this decision beyond March 31st we will most certainly do so. Until that time, we have already begun "Live Streaming" our Sunday worship services on Facebook Live. You can find the link on our FELC Facebook page.

All of us regret that we will not be able to worship together during these days. We love to be together in worship! However, the safety of one another and of our larger society is paramount. Part of our Christian Witness is being good citizens, and this intentional "social distancing" is something that our leaders are calling all Americans to do. It is for our national health and security and the safety of the most vulnerable. As our President has noted: "We are at war with a virus!"

I would encourage each one of you, that there has been no greater time in my lifetime, for us as Christians to look for ways to show Christ's Love and Compassion to one another. Even as I have asked our Communion Deacons to be making a phone call to their shut-ins each week, I am also encouraging each of you to do the same with your neighbors, family members, and whoever else the Holy Spirit may lay upon your hearts.

If you have not yet done so, I would encourage you to be in contact with your brothers & sisters in Christ. Please call neighbors and family members, especially those who are alone. This is an opportunity to actively LIVE our love for Jesus by loving one another!

When I called one of our Shut-ins, yesterday, who has been facing some real health challenges, I was delighted to hear what she had to share. She told me with JOY about the wonderful people from our congregation who have been contacting her: praying with her over the phone; bringing her special meals; and running essential errands for her. God Bless You! You Are The Body of Christ! **You Are Being "JESUS with Skin-On!"**

I will be the very first to admit that I am not tech-savvy! I know this is new ground for me, ... But, this is a great time for all of us to learn new ways to bless one another. I thank God for those in our congregation who are working together so we are now able to live-stream our worship service using Facebook-Live. On Sunday, March 22nd, we did

this for the first time! Our hope is to build our technical skills and needed equipment so that we can do this on a permanent basis. Thank you for your spirit of patience, as we embrace this new “learning curve!” We are learning and working together!

(Please Note: At present - The church building will not be open to the public on Sundays. But we will have the organist, our music worship leader, the pastor, our sound booth operator, and our videographer all present ... AND we will all be properly social distancing ourselves from one another.) We have talked about this idea of “Live-Streaming” our worship services for years – So we are seeing the “crisis” as an opportunity to do good problem solving and push forward into a new area of ministry for us.

Interestingly, the word “crisis” comes from a Greek word meaning “decision” or “decisive point.” Does the new reality of COVID-19 present our congregation with a crisis or with an opportunity? I believe the Holy Spirit says this is our opportunity!

Finally, let us remember who we are and to Whom we belong. We are and always will be → God’s Easter People! We are the Children of our Lord and of His Resurrection! Therefore, let the Church of Jesus Christ, commit ourselves to Him and to the power of prayer. *“More things are wrought through Prayer than this world dreams of !”* (Tennyson)

As we move forward, we need to rely on the health professionals at our CDC for the best practical advice and then entrust our lives into the Mighty Arms of Our Lord Jesus. We need to take full advantage of the tremendous resources that we Americans have been given by our Heavenly Father. And then we need to follow the best-practices of those incredible scientists and health professionals who can give helpful and health-giving advice. And then we need to step back and stay centered, and remember, and remind each other that → Our God is Always Greater Still! ... Greater than all that this life might throw at us!

Yes, we should be concerned. And we must be responsible. But let us not be afraid! We Belong to JESUS!

Together In The Love of Our Lord Jesus,

Pastor Paul L. Larson

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday February 11, 2020

PRESENT: Mike Anderson; Chris Cichanowicz; Lana Conry; Ted Ellis; Kathy Hoecker; Gary Lane; Dan Obrynba; Cindy Russell; Tom Sarbach; Alicia Schulz; Mary Schwartz; Lowell Weeks; Pastor Paul Larson. Excused: Jan Fisher; Todd Heichel. Also present: Myra Cordrey

- Council president Lowell Weeks called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Mary presented the devotion and prayer.

Myra Cordrey, convener of the 2020 Nominating Committee, brought to council the thoughts of that committee that perhaps Congregational Life need not be a council position. This idea is consistent with the ongoing council discussions about combining or eliminating council positions. Motion (Ted/Chris) that the Nominating Committee may intentionally not seek a candidate for the Congo Life council chair person but instead look for someone(s) to carry out the duties that fall under the duties of that council committee. **Motion carried.**

Reports:

Secretary: Motion (Dan/Gary) to approve the minutes of the 1/14/20 council meeting previously emailed to council members. **Motion carried.**

Executive: Lowell had conveyed to Christian Ed Committee a request to consider making new young adult Sunday school classes available. – A TAG meeting has been scheduled for February 23. – The James Dickson Endowment Fund committee will meet with the Executive committee and two additional persons appointed by Exec to review the fund's performance and make recommendations about distributions pursuant to the fund instructions. – Lu Blankenship's Safety/Security group is moving ahead with ideas and has been in discussion with Finance Committee regarding whether there might be funds available when needs are identified. Property and Finance Committees will be involved as plans are formulated.

Senior Pastor: We are looking forward to hosting an exciting Mission Conference for our Ohio Mission Region - NALC, here at FELC on **Saturday March 21, 2020.** Our Guest Speaker will be the fun and dynamic, Pastor Greg Finke, author of *"Joining Jesus On His Mission!"* This is called a "Kick The Tires" Mission Conference – giving all of our congregations an

opportunity to learn how Jesus led and equipped His first disciples, and how we can learn from Jesus model to do the same today – right in the realities of our everyday lives. The weekend is guaranteed to significantly advance the mission-conversation in every participating congregation and among our leadership. Every congregation is being strongly encouraged to bring a large group from their church for the maximum impact on our mission outreach! - On Wednesday, February 12th, I will be traveling to Orlando, FL to participate in the Gathering of the Ministerium of our NALC. This is that important annual meeting of all of the clergy of our NALC with our bishop, as he lays out his vision for our church in the coming year. This year will be especially historic, as we will be meeting with our newly called bishop, Bishop Dan Selbo. – The Ministerium will be followed immediately by a joint gathering of the pastors and leadership of both The NALC and The Anglican Church in North America. That conference will focus on working together as “Word & Sacrament” churches in North America that are both Biblically orthodox and confessional to develop congregational cultures which intentionally and authentically, with accountability, will foster and support disciple-making. The conference ends at noon on Saturday, February 15th, and I will be returning later that day in time for services on Sunday morning.

While I am out of town, Pastor Pentti Maki from Holy Trinity Lutheran, Mansfield will be available for any pastoral emergencies. - _We will be hosting the Executive Committee of The North Central Ohio Mission District of The NALC on February 28 from 10 - 1:30 - We will be hosting the Executive Committee of The Ohio Mission Region of The NALC on February 29 from 10 to 12:00pm. – There will be a soup supper and Bible Study on Wednesdays in Lent this year beginning on March 4. PLEASE NOTE the new time: 5:00 soup supper followed by a Bible study series at 6, all in the undercroft. Childcare will be provided during the Bible Study. Bring your Bible! - Last year, a March of Prayer involved 47 churches each hosting a 6-8 p.m. prayer service for the area, for revival, for local officials, for praise of God, for focus on Jesus, for the community to worship with each other in each other’s church. This year we are doing it again. While we will continue the theme “Mansfield is Godsfield”, we want to expand it to “Richland is God’s Land!” and it is being expanded to include all of April, and conclude on the evening before the National Day of Prayer on May 7. First English will have its turn for the Easter Vigil Saturday, April 11, at 8:30 p.m. - National Day of Prayer – May 7th, 2020. We have been asked by the leadership team for the ***Richland County National Day of Prayer*** to host this community prayer event at FELC on Thursday, May 7 from 11:30 am to 12:45pm. Motion (Alicia/Chris) that we approve this request. **Motion carried.**

Vice President: Dan raised the issue of whether we should be considering issues relating to a new pastor before Pastor Larson leaves. It was agreed to delay this discussion until after the new council members are seated in May. – At Dan's request, Pastor Larson agreed to share with council his schedule for the rest of this year, when/as he knows it.

Personnel: (Todd written) Personnel Committee has begun work on the compliance updates as requested by the insurance company, collecting names for background checks and beginning work on the training and new policy as it relates to abuse and neglect. – The job posting for Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry has been posted to both Indeed.com and Christian Jobs.com. Two resumes received to date. – Have begun comprehensive review of the FELC employee handbook. Last updated in 1991.

Finance: The January Treasurer's Report was distributed and discussed. Ted reported that we are working to get the property tax off of the Flippin building but will have to pay the 2019. – Hope to hold off withdrawing from the endowment fund in April. – Offerings are up.

Property: Mike reported that Andy Kershaw had Attorney Haring send out the letter hoping to recover \$10,000 from Page Construction. – Eagle Scout troop #544 put in a beautiful new floor at the Bill Schwartz Retreat Center at no cost to us. This is the 3rd significant project there by this troop. They won't take any money for this, but property committee recommends that we take up a free will offering for them. Motion (Ted/Tom) to have a free will offering at some future point for troop #544. **Motion carried.** – James and Angie Murphy have sold their house and can't occupy their next house until May. They are asking to be able to use the BSRC from about mid-March – mid-May. Property Committee recommends we approve this. **Recommendation approved.**

ELC : (Tom) 15 personnel (12 teachers/3 admins) – 56 Kids enrolled, 20 schoolagers. – Recommend council approve the hiring of Julie Turner and Janda Moore. Both ladies have survived the interview process and a thorough vetting by our diligent director and, as such, probably deserve a job if not a medal. **Recommendation approved.** - Angie has made contact with Snider Recreation in Brunswick to determine our needs and provide us with a solution for new playground equipment. – Angie is working with Creative Bus Sales in Cincinnati hoping to locate our new ride. – Congrats as ELC has received a \$2149 grant from Richland Foundation Women's fund and ODJFS to upgrade curriculum. – More Congrats as ELC has been nominated by the YWCA for Child Care Provider of the Year for the Mansfield area. Nominations were based on center improvement,

continuing education and improvements within the community. ELC will be recognized at Business Summit in Toledo April 3. – Lots of good things happening. Take a few minutes and stop by, hang with the kids, it will please them and the staff and do wonders for your own disposition. Many thanks to Dan and Lowell who did that recently.

Youth: (Ted) Our youth will be attending Winter Jam in Columbus in March.

Congo Life: (Lana) There will be a lunch for the Image choir and their families and our youth after the worship service on February 16. Fastnacht, the Pancake and sausage dinner will be Tuesday, February 25 from 5-7. We hope to have a big turnout with the kids and their families from ELC. March 4 is the first soup supper and council will be doing that one. I would really appreciate help and soup for it.

Evangelism: (Jan written) All the hard work on the new mobile friendly church website has now come to fruition! The site went live on February 4, 2020. Bugs are being ironed out and are minimal. Jonathan Keim is actually using our new site as a sample of how his company can develop a church website! - We continue to watch our congregation as to who is at worship and who might be missing. Keep those “intentional” cards going out in the mail, please! We all need to be evangelists in that regard. Spread the love of Jesus in your daily walk.

Worship: (Cindy) The Lenten soup supper and bible study has been moved 5 – 6 p.m. for soup, followed by Bible Study from 6 – 7 in the undercroft. The change in time is an effort to encourage some ELC families and/or staff to feel comfortable in joining us. The decision to have a bible study as opposed to a worship service was based on the dynamics of who we are inviting and the logistics of needing the sound board, projector, hymnals and time. – March of Prayer is once again being carried out for this year. Our date to host will be the evening of Easter Vigil, Saturday April 11, 2020. We will begin at 8:30 p.m. out in the street joined by St. Peter’s parish. – Scott Berry reported that choir is moving in a better direction and the 5:30 rehearsals seem to fit well. Festival Sundays are a focus for choir, since they can’t sing every week. The descriptive word “senior” has been dropped from the title.

Stewardship: (Mary) The Lenten mailing is being prepared this week and will include a letter from Pastor Paul, the Lenten schedule and an offering envelope to benefit the Kraft family, our missionaries to Peru as they share the Gospel message. The mailing will be available for distribution during the February 16 worship service and if all Council members have not received

theirs, it will be put in your church mailbox. The other letters will be mailed the week following February 16.

Christian Ed: (Kathy) Christian Ed. has no request of council, however, there has been discussion regarding new Sunday school classes. Lowell, Amy and I will be meeting soon to address this.

Global Missions: (Chris C) Malawi: There will be a benefit and meal called “Manna for Malawi” on June 28, 4 – 8 p.m. Check facebook for several eye-opening videos concerning the Bride Price girls and the education difficulties in Malawi. The progress in becoming agriculturally sustainable and Shadreck’s work and influence in Malawi are also featured on facebook. – Peru: The Krafts have donated another \$10,000 to their project. As of today, the boys’ and girls’ dorms are complete (beds, showers, toilets, sinks). Each room houses 25 people. Donations for the new building through 12/2019 reached \$24,450. FELC has collected \$2610 so far. There is a good possibility that some of us would go there this summer to participate in the IMMERSE program. Keep this program in prayer as the students learn how to be active members of God’s kingdom on earth.

Social Ministry: (Gary) Cindy Russell is doing a fine job with the Wednesday noon lunch.

WFELC: (Jan written) Women’s Ministry is helping to host the ELC Valentine’s Dance on Feb. 12th. Several of us will be helping to serve refreshments to the kids and their parents. We are also providing Valentine Goody Bags for each child, filled with a salty snack, Tootsie Roll pop, candy bar, Rice Krispie Treat, and mini chocolate chip cookies. The parents attending will be given a packet of microwave popcorn with a Valentine sticker on it inviting them to join us for worship. Once again, being intentional!

Announcements: March coffee fellowship and council devotions: Youth Committee

Next meeting March 10, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Alicia Schulz, Secretary

.

This from our Congregation Council President.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am sure by now all our membership is aware that we are in the beginning stages of a worldwide pandemic which our medical people call COVID-19. Reacting to this news, the governor of the State of Ohio has ordered the closure of our church building and the suspension of all public gatherings that have more than ten (10) participants. Our ELC is still open but at a reduced level of attendance. Our church staff is working faithfully on their regular schedule.

Church council has canceled all parish activities as they relate to our building at 53 Park Ave. West through March 31, 2020, and there is a possibility that closure could extend beyond March 31st.

My immediate concern, as always, is the financial status of the operation of our church.

How can we meet our obligations and make payroll? I would ask each member to faithfully write your offering checks to the church as though you were attending worship on Sunday, and then mail your offering to the parish financial secretary.

My prayer is that the attendance restriction will only last several weeks, and very soon we will gather together in personal community in Christ our Savior.

May you all stay safe and secure in your home environments as we peacefully and faithfully await the outcome of this very unusual pandemic.

Proverbs 19:21 (ESV) “Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.”

Yours in Christ’s service,

Lowell

As Editor, I guess I'll state the obvious here: Anything you see in the way of calendar items, of course is subject to change. We are all very anxious to be gathering back together and it cannot be too soon. We may not be up close and personal for Holy Week or Easter and most of us know that. But none the less, we have made assignments for those wonderful worship services: acolytes, crucifers, lay readers, communion preparers and servers, etc.

Jan Fisher

Christian Education

The Sunday School committee, plus Pastor Paul and Lowell Weeks, met Sunday, March 1st. It was a productive meeting! Chris Kaschube is putting together material to teach a class on Lutheran Liturgy. It will be four to six weeks in length. This will begin May 1st.

Also, Elizabeth Volz and Stuart Brenkus are interested in starting a young adult class and are kick starting it with a reunion group meeting on March 22, 2020. It will be exciting to see where this goes! We have needed to add this.

Kathy Hoecker
Christian Education Council Representative

ELC

Little People **BIG** News April

Flashback into March



Our children loved celebrating Dr. Seuss with Mitchell Pittman and Egypt Murphy putting on a skit and Chris Cichanowicz as the reader.

A Peek into April



We are looking forward to being outside more! We are hoping to get a fence installed soon to our new playground. We will be closed on Good Friday, April 10th.

Save the Date

May 4th we will have Muffins with Mom.

June 15th we will have Donuts with Dad.

We hope everyone stays healthy!

We are excited that we have a special place on our new First English Lutheran mobile friendly website! Check us out! Lots of pictures and activities posted.

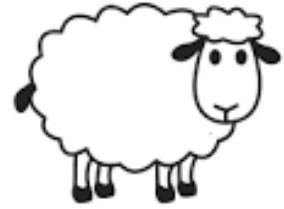
Don't forget the campaign to FUND THE BUS! The bus will be used "churchwide", not just for the ELC!

Angie Murphy, Director

WITHIN THE FOLD



Wednesday Noon Lunch



Donations for February: \$7.00

Kroger Rewards \$264.78 from 11/1/2019-1/31/2020 which supports the feeding program for orphans at MOCP.

Recently several of us jumped in and responded with cookies and other goodies for Awakening. This came from Elizabeth Volz: Dear Jan, Thank you so much for making the calls to get baked goods! We usually have 30 to 40, but we had 78 people this time! Everyone loved your lemon pound cake! I need a recipe for it!

Elizabeth Volz

FELC family,

We gratefully acknowledge your kind support of our program. Your contribution of used stamps (January 2020) will help cheer hospitalized or out-patient Veterans. We thank you on behalf of those will benefit from your generosity. Thank you for your support of our Veterans! Sincerely, Bruce Unkel Acting Secretary Stamps for the Wounded

Women of FELC received this Thank You from Mitchell Pittman: Dear Women of FELC, Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day Card and Subway gift card you all sent me! It made my day. I will miss you all after I leave (for Air Force boot camp). I hope that you all have a great day and I will see you soon!

Sincerely, **Mitchell Pittman**

And just this past Sunday **Jared Sweeney** was home from OSU and walked up to me to say Thank You in person for the Valentine's Card and Subway gift card that he received from Women's Ministry. We are blessed to be able to stay in contact

with our college young people and occasionally give them a surprise gift! You are very welcome, **Jared Sweeney!**



Good morning

Worship Committee

Cindy Russell sent this to all of us on Worship Committee, and I decided to share with all of you!

Prayers that you and your families are all doing well.

First of all, a huge thank you to all who made this morning's Worship service possible!! It was incredible. I'm not sure exactly what I was expecting, but it far exceeded my expectations!! Great job all of you. We are so blessed to have each and everyone of you in our church family. Thanks again and thanks be to God!!

Second, as you all may know, we will not be having our Worship Committee meeting this coming Tuesday due to the Corona Virus. So I just wanted to touch base with everyone. I am going to be optimistic about Holy Week and Easter and pray to God that we can all gather together during that time. So, I believe we have everything covered. If there is anything anyone has thought of that we may have forgotten, please let me know. Also, Pastor Paul, Scott and Becky, is there anything you need for these services??

In case my optimism doesn't work and God has other plans, Pastor Paul and I spoke briefly (nothing definite) about live streaming Maunday Thursday Service and Easter Sunday Service. More to come on this as time approaches.

Have a blessed day,

Cindy

calendar here

calendar here

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

CALENDAR



GROUP	Date	Time	Place	Hostess
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Tues, April 7, 2020	7:00 PM	TBA	Bring your latest knitting and crocheting of shawls. Everyone invited!
Sarah	Monday, April 6, 2020	1:00 PM	Emmaus Room	Marianne Sweat and Kay Jewett leading
Women's Bible Study (formerly Lydia Circle)	Monday, April 13, 2020	1:00 PM	Emmaus Room	Video study of Luke, Pat Heichel will be hostess. All women are invited to join us!
Women's Ministry Team Meeting	TBA as needed			Officers and Circle Leaders attend. All women are welcome to join us.
Workday Ladies	Wed. April 1, 2020 and Wed, April 15, 2020	1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Third Floor	Cutting squares and quilting tops. All women are welcome to join us! We would love your help!

Funeral Squad for APRIL Squad D: Mary Schwartz, Pat Heichel

Women's Bible Study continues with a video on the study of Luke. We have learned a lot and enjoyed the video thus far! All are welcome! Join us for Women's fellowship.



Global Missions

We want to share with you that Ken Ekegren recently returned from a trip to Africa. This trip was an extension of his year-ago trip where he took four of his students over to four countries in Africa. While he was there recently he was able to see **Shadreck and Yami Chikoti** and our other friends in Kanyenyeva. He was able to meet with the people who serve on the board of directors there. In meeting with them he found out that diminished resources have required them to feed the orphans only two days per week. We were all rather surprised that we hadn't been told this earlier. There will always be a need for feeding, as so many grandparents are raising their grands on very little income! But on a lighter note, we have just sent a wire transfer of funds to support feeding as well as other entities. *When you think about how blessed you are to have plenty of groceries, please remember our precious orphans who are lucky to have even one meal per day or less.*

We give God the Glory that so many faithfully supported the collection of funds to support the **Kraft's** building project in Peru. Wonderful ministry is happening there! People are finding Jesus as they work and study with the Krafts. Yes, we made the \$5,000.00 goal and thus the \$5,000.00 matching funds so graciously and anonymously donated made our check to the Krafts amount to \$10,000.00. Hurray and hallelujah!

Brian and Barb have just in the last day or so been able to leave the Islands where they serve! They successfully flew back to the United States, not an easy thing with this Covid-19 quarantine in place here.

We continue to pray for their safety as they do difficult mission work.

Please keep all of our missionaries and their families in your daily prayers. They are taking the WORD of Jesus to far-reaching places in our global world!

Chris Cichanowicz

Global Mission Chairperson

Some Missional Acts of Kindness via Thrivent Action Team Cards!



We here at FELC continue to do some very missional sharing by using our Action Team cards. Recently Mary Schwartz used her card to purchase a huge amount of personal care and laundry items for Mansfield City Schools “homeless” kids. What a blessing it was to deliver a carload of items out to Raemelon Building where they disperse these things.

We use Action Team cards to continue purchasing our toilet paper from G and L Supply Janitorial. We then give it out once a month to our WNL guests who so gratefully accept it.

Gary and Shirley Lane recently used one of their cards to purchase a car load of blankets, twin size sheets and pillowcases, bed pillows and Tide pods for Harmony House. When those goods were delivered it was like Christmas all over again! The staff mentioned how really needed all items were! They are given out to their temporary guests.

Another recent Action Team has been purchasing after school snacks for Zoe’s Learning Center on Reba Avenue. The kids that go there after school get to take a snack home with them, and it may be the only goody they get until the next day when they are there again. There are 36 to 38 kids there after school four days a week!

Back in December Wes and Sandie Volz had an Action Team card to purchase fleece for our Youth to make fleece blankets. That was a great project and those blankets went to Newhope where they told us that they would gladly take them again.

Gary and Shirley also had a card back in December that purchased laundry detergent, blankets,

Right here I have listed five Action Teams that amount to \$1250.00 in value. If you have Thrivent, why not create a project to do mission here in our city?

For assistance in creating or suggesting a new “program proposal” contact **Jan Fisher or Lu Blankenship** because we are willing to help use this valuable resource at no charge to our church financially.

“Love Notes from Shirley”

written by Shirley Lane.....



The Dynamic Duo, Angie Murphy and Becky Pittman, of the Early Learning Center (ELC) are always looking to try different projects.

Recently the Duo came up with the idea to have a special story time for the children. Knowing that I, your humble author, enjoy reading, etc. they approached me to be the story teller.

At first I hesitated, but if any of you have ever been approached by the Duo, you know it takes a brave heart to refuse their requests! Thus it was decided the children would have a Story Time twice a month, and I would be the story teller.

It is a snap to read and have the attention of a couple of kids, but when I saw TWENTY little three and four year old angelic Wiggleworms gathered together, it was PANIC TIME! Dave Carew, our custodian, happened to be in the Emmaus Room at that time, and much to my eternal shame, I grabbed him and pleaded, “Please don’t leave me!”

Actually the Story Time went off quite well. The little Wiggleworms were perfect and quite attentive. The teachers who were with us were great and really appreciated my efforts. The story was about the Good Samaritan and how we should help one another and offer kindness to all. A couple little Babes suggested giving the poor traveler who was beaten and robbed band-aids to help him.

I thought to myself, “Wouldn’t it be sweet if we would all be kind and loving to each other and always have a bandaid handy to give each other when we have an “owie” in our life.?”

NOTE: Band-aids aren’t expensive and are always welcomed!

Becky's Views.....

An update from FELC's Coordinator of Music and the Arts:



Well, a lot has been planned and a lot has been cancelled or postponed since we talked last! I first want to thank Angie Murphy and her amazing staff for their dedication, love and support they continue to give our ELC families during this difficult time. Many changes have been made to keep our daycare kids and teachers as safe as possible as long as we are open. Music circle times with Ms. Becky are currently being held as "music in the classroom doorway times!" God's gift of music is healing and encouraging for everyone. We even got to lift our Lord's Name on High outside in our chapel parking lot together!

I am looking forward to leading worship with Pastor Paul and Scott via Facebook Live in the weeks ahead! You may also go to our website at <http://www.felc-mansfield.org> and listen to the sermon at the conclusion of each worship service. Praise God we have technology that is enabling us to still come together as a body of Christ. Be patient and prayerful as we figure out this "new normal." Also, please thank Jan Fisher for her willingness to do the live recording (while practicing social distancing!) and Ed Farner for continuing to be our amazing, dedicated sound guy in the booth. God is good all the time! All the time, God is good!

BE INTENTIONAL! BE LIKE JESUS!

Find us on Facebook: **First English Lutheran Church**

Podcasts of weekly sermons are on the website: [felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)



And please check out our new FELC mobile friendly website!
[felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)

Memorial Donations received through



Memorial Donations received through March 18, 2020

Building Maintenance Fund

In memory of Elaine Lemon

Given by: Ken & Linda Stanley, Mary Loescher, Ruth & Courtney Mitchell, Don & Nadine Lemon

ELC Bus Fund

In memory of Elaine Lemon

Given by: Diana Bruns, Mary Schwartz, Karen Pastlethwaite, Ron & Susan Hubert, Wes & Sandie Volz,

Renewing God's House

In memory of Elaine Lemon

Given by: The Shupp Family

With Sincerest Sympathy

Pastoral Acts

Pastor Paul Larson officiated at the funeral service for Elaine M. Lemon on Monday, March 3, 2020 at FELC.



Elaine Lemon

February 26, 2020

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of those who have recently lost loved ones through death. We pray for Christ's gifts of healing and peace during this time of loss and sorrow that they may be comforted with the Promise of the Resurrection through faith in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior.



Safety/Security Committee Update

We had training scheduled for Sunday, March 22; however, with the current situation with the COVID-19 Virus, we have had to cancel. This will be rescheduled as soon as possible after we are able to begin meeting for worship again.



From our Property Committee.....

Dear FELC Members, Stay tuned to what's going on around our church in the way of PROPERTY. There will be many opportunities to help financially as well as physically as we proceed to beautify our newly cleaned up space across the street on Mulberry St. We might even plan some workdays! That would be wonderful relief from being cooped up under quarantine whenever that might end!



Nursing Home Communions

A message from our caring group of Communion Deacons and home visitors

If you know of anyone who wants a Communion Deacon to give Communion to them in their home, or if you just want a home visit, please contact the Church Office or call Larry Lantz at 419.756.5506.

Larry Lantz, Coordinator

Nursing Home and Assisted Living Communion Services

April 21, 2020	Tues. 2:00 PM	Mifflin Care
April 22, 2020	Wed. 2:30 PM	Primrose
April 22, 2020	Wed. 3:30 PM	Msfd. Place

OF COURSE THIS IS ALL SUBJECT CHANGE OR CANCELLATION

Volunteer Scheduling Contacts	The monthly volunteers are published in Visitor and posted on bulletin boards.
Worship Committee Heather McFadden 419.295.6467 Acolytes	Pew Pad Gleaners Jane Sprang 419.610.9776 <hr/> Ushers Charles and Myra Cordrey 419.632.4121
<hr/> Cindy Russell 419.544.0878 Assisting Ministers and Lay Readers	
Evangelism Committee Jan Fisher 419.589.2820 Greeters	Becky Pittman 419.989.8585 Power Point, Nave
Property Committee Mike Anderson 419.295.4598 Property Chairman	Finance Committee TBA
Becky Pittman 419.989.8585 Sound Board/Audio	Amy Skropits 419.747.3076 Sunday School Superintendent

April 2020 Volunteers

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship (Nave)

ACOLYTES

April 5: **Palm Sunday**
TBA-Acolyte
TBA-Crucifer
April 9: **Maundy Thursday**
TBA-Acolyte
TBA-Crucifer
April 11: **Easter Vigil**
TBA-Acolyte
April 12: **Easter Sunday**
TBA-Acolyte
TBA-Crucifer
TBA-Torch Bearer
TBA-Torch Bearer
April 19: TBA-Acolyte
April 26: TBA-Acolyte

ALTAR WORKERS

Chris & Kathy Hoecker

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Todd Heichel

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Personnel Committee

COMMUNION PREPARERS

April 5: Chris & Kathy Hoecker
April 9: **Maundy Thursday**
Ted & Karen Ellis
April 11: **Easter Vigil**
Beth Harruff & Lana Conry
April 12: **Easter Sunday**
Wes & Sandie Volz

COMMUNION SERVERS

April 5:
Wine West: Pat Heichel
Cups West: Sherry Abney
Wine East: Dawn Frayer
Cups East: Paul Theaker
Intinction: Jane Mako
April 9: **Maundy Thursday**
Wine West: Lu Blankenship
Cups West: Sandie Volz
Wine East: Alicia Schultz
Cups East: Stacey Crall

Intinction: Jan Fisher
April 11: **Easter Vigil**
Wine West: Gary Lane
Cups West: Ed Corley
Wine East: Chris Cichanowicz
Cups East: Don Harruff
Intinction: Mary Schwartz
April 12: **Easter Sunday**
Wine West: Karen Ellis
Cups West: Rachelle Zehe
Wine East: Tricia Volz
Cups East: Elizabeth Volz
Intinction: Alicia Schultz

GREETER

TBA

LAY READERS

April 5: Chris Hoecker
April 9: **Maundy Thursday**
TBA
April 10: **Good Friday**
TBA
April 11: **Easter Vigil**
TBA
April 12: Amy Skropits
April 19: Kathy Hoecker
April 26: Sandie Volz

PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz
Mary Schwartz
Lowell Weeks
Jan Fisher

PEW PAD GLEANERS

April 5: Jodi Mumaw
April 9: **Maundy Thursday**
TBA
April 10: **Good Friday**
TBA
April 11: **Easter Vigil**
TBA
April 12: Lana Conry
April 19: Stacey Crall
April 26: Liz Sprang

POWER POINT OPERATORS

April 5: Taylor Grossenbacher
April 9: **Maundy Thursday**
Cindy Russell
April 10: **Good Friday**
TBA
April 11: **Easter Vigil**
Ross Justice
April 12: Cindy Russell
April 19: Isaac McFadden
April 26: Shelley Shupp

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

April 5: Suzanne Rippel
April 12: No Sunday School: Easter
April 19: Linda Hughes
April 26: Youth Leaders: Confirmation

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

April 5: Dan Shupp and Ross Justice
April 9: **Maundy Thursday**
Andy Kershaw and Ross Justice
April 10: **Good Friday**
Ed Farner
April 11: **Easter Vigil**
Ed Farner and Dan Shupp
April 12: Ed Farner and Ross Justice
April 19: Ed Farner and Dan Shupp
April 26: Ed Farner and Dan Shupp

USHERS NAVE

Greg Hughes & Pat Smith
Lana Conry & Brady Zehe

Congo Life

No need to explain that we cannot really say what the plans are for an Easter breakfast! Please watch the website and more importantly the Facebook page for updates as we move through the quarantine and “stay at home” rules.

Lana Conry, Congo Life

Stewardship Message

Please refer to Lowell’s message which is printed near the beginning of this Visitor issue.

Mary Schwartz,

Stewardship chairperson



The following opportunities are available for the donation of Altar Flowers. Please consider purchasing flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please call Angie Cockrell at the Church Office (419-522-0662) to reserve one of the dates listed below or to check the availability of other upcoming dates. *OR* you can sign up to sponsor flowers by filling out the Altar flower Sign Up Form on the table in the Narthex. Flowers are \$40. We have no altar flowers during Lent.

April 12, 2020: Easter Sunday

April 19, 2020

April 26, 2020

May 24, 2020

May 31, 2020

It is an awesome act of Worship to give God the Glory in beautifying the church on Sunday morning!



YOUTH NEWS!

Stay tuned, as things get back to normal we will post updates of activities on our new “bulletin board” section of the website.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Devotional booklets for APRIL, MAY, JUNE are in the tract racks, so please help yourselves to these booklets. Make daily devotions a necessary part of your “routine.” There are also many good apps available for your iPhone or Android. In today’s busy world, apps are a wonderful digital tool!



Prayer Requests

To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the pastors or call Angie Cockrell (419.522.0662) in the church office to be added to the list. Please call again when it is appropriate to have that prayer request deleted.

We also invite you to use our two prayer chains. Your request will be shared with a small group of prayer warriors via phone call chain.



Call **Pat Shenberger** to activate the prayer chains. Her home # is: 419.589.2399 or cell# is: 419.632.4850.

Prayer is very powerful, and we encourage you to use these methods for many needs.

BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE!

Need to get information in the bulletin for a meeting or an announcement?
Send details to Angie Cockrell at acockrell@felc-mansfield.org or phone the church office at 419.522.0662.

Weekly deadlines are noon on Wednesday for bulletins pertaining to that particular weekend. Bulletins assembled at 11:30 AM on Thursdays each week.

Nicole Goddard, our bookkeeper, may be reached by calling the church office at 419-522-0662 or email her at NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org

APRIL Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2020.

Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: newslettereditor53@yahoo.com or leave in the mail slot marked Visitor Editor. Volunteer editor Jan Fisher can be reached at 419.589.2820.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Pastor Larson	<u>plarson@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Scott Berry	<u>saberry31@yahoo.com</u>
Becky Pittman	<u>beckypittman@yahoo.com</u>
Angela Murphy	<u>cds@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Nicole Goddard	<u>ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Angie Cockrell	<u>acockrell@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Church Office	<u>office@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Jan Fisher, Editor	<u>newslettereditor53@yahoo.com</u>
Andy Kershaw	<u>propman@felc-mansfield.org</u>

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

Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.

Emergency cell phone number if the pastor cannot be

contacted at church or home:

Pastor Paul Larson, 419-632-1875

IF YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETED THIS FORM, PLEASE DO SO. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE GET ONE FROM EACH MEMBER.

Information for church records update:

Please complete a slip for each family member indicating birthday and, if applicable, mobile phone and/or separate e-mail address.

Name		
Street Address		
Mailing Address	(if different)	
City/Zip		
Home Phone		
Mobile Phone		
Do you text?		
Can you receive group texts?		
E-mail		
Birthday		
Marriage Date	(if applicable)	

Newsletter preference – Newsletter will appear on new web site soon. Let us know how you would prefer to get your newsletter in the future.

Continue to receive by mail?	
Will read on the web site	
E-mail would be fine	