

# THE VISITOR



## **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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CHURCH STAFF

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Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts  
Mrs. Angela Murphy, Director Early Learning Center  
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Nick and Shannon Kraft, and children Madison, Tanyon, Moises and Tucker  
World Mission Prayer League Missionaries Brian and Barbara  
Shadreck and Yamikani Chikoti, Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries

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## ... *So Why LENT?*

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

On Ash Wednesday, at the end of February, we entered into the Season of Lent. Lent is often referred to as “The Spring-Time of the Soul.” Spiritually, it is a wonderful opportunity for us to open ourselves to a new and deeper relationship with Christ Jesus our Savior. The 40-Days of Lent are our special time - for us to prepare our hearts and lives to celebrate God’s Easter! Christians will often speak of giving up something for Lent. Some people give up all sweets and desserts. Some people do a “technology fast” and give up Facebook or watching television. Some people give up all meat during Lent. One friend told me he gave up his “Pepsi” for Lent. He would drink a lot of pop each day on a regular basis. It was a well ingrained habit or pattern in his life-style. I wondered how he was growing spiritually by not drinking Pepsi.

I wondered, so I asked. This was his response: “Every time I reach for a pop or even think of it (which is many times a day) I am reminded that I have chosen to give it up for Lent. My little act of self-denial works like a spiritual trigger, reminding me many times a day of Christ’s infinite act of self-denial. I too easily take for granted Christ’s sacrifice for me. This is my way of reminding myself again and again: ‘Jesus – He’s the Real Thing!’”

Now, we don’t earn “brownie points” with God by giving up something for Lent. But it is good to find a part of your life that may need some re-evaluation. All too easily many things in your life can get out of proportion. We all have those areas of our lives that need to come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ: spending habits, hobby habits, eating habits, television habits, technology - cellphone habits, just to name a few.

Lent really can be an especially fun time to try some new spiritual disciplines in your faith life. Start a new positive habit! Start a special time each day for just you and God — a time to pray and read His Word. Listen as God speaks to your heart and mind. Experience the blessing of Christ’s peace and strength in your daily needs. Try out a new family tradition: a special family night, family devotions, a family service project, etc. Say “YES!” to God’s Call to Tithe – this is giving back to God the first 10% of everything you make. Put God to the test and see how God truly does provide! The possibilities for you this Lent are as great as your imagination and the Holy Spirit’s inspiration.

What really is the goal of all our different Lenten activities: these special worship services; this call to an intense examination of conscience; these spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, tithing, and deeds of love and mercy? These are all God’s “spiritual can openers” by which He “opens us up.” God wants to fill you to overflowing with the treasures of His Love! Are you allowing God’s “spiritual can openers” to work His blessing in your life?

Through these experiences of service and devotion, we work to set our hearts and minds on Jesus only. It is to see Jesus – to know His mercy and healing power; to experience His life-giving death and resurrection; to be transformed by the power of His Holy Will; and finally to live each new day in the promise of His steadfast love! Come! Let us follow Jesus!

***Growing Together In Christ’s Service,  
Pastor Paul***

**Journey To the Cross:**  
**The Events of Holy Week!**  
*Lenten Mid-Week Bible Study*

Come and join us for this year's 2020 Lenten Mid-Week Bible Study Series on **Journey To the Cross: The Events of Holy Week!** Come at 5:00pm (March 4<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>) for a great time of food & fellowship with our Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers in the undercroft. **PLEASE NOTE the NEW TIME this YEAR → 5:00pm for Soup Suppers! Bring the family.** Then join us at 6:00pm for our Bible Study Series, also in the undercroft. Childcare will be provided during the Bible Study. Bring your Bible!

February 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 7:00pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	THE UPPER ROOM
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	GETHSEMANE
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	THE TRIAL BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	THE TRIAL BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	THE CRUCIFIXION

# Our Special Lenten Offering

One of our great joys as a congregation is to be mission partners with **The Kraft Family**. On the **GO** since 1998, **Nicolas and Shannon Kraft** first worked in Chiclayo, Peru as church planters and youth ministers. In 2003 they went to Caranavi, Bolivia where they served four years at Radio Television Caranavi as producers of a Children's Television program called ABC KIDS.

The Krafts with their four children (Maddy, T.J., Moises, and Tucker) have been all over the USA and Bolivia, up the coast of Peru and down to the middle of Chile as **Go Missions International**. In years past, they have even been present here at First English Lutheran to lead us in special Mission Festivals and also our summer Vacation Bible School.

Today, they are well known in Chiclayo, Peru for their great evangelism work with young people and married couples. They have built a wonderful retreat center, where they bring young people for multiple-week Christ-centered retreats and host couples' marriage retreats. In all their work, they are lifting up the Name of Jesus and teaching individuals, couples and families how to build their lives on the strong and sure foundation of God's Word and the Love of Jesus Christ. Through the relationships that they are building in their community, they are discipling many families and young adults - equipping and encouraging them to step out into daily missions. Based in Chiclayo, Peru, they are now engaged in a major building project to expand their much needed Christian retreat ministry.

This year our special LENTEN OFFERING envelope is designated to help support their wonderful ministry. This Lent, I pray that each one of us will give a special gift of true sacrifice so that we might show Christ's Love and our ministry with ***The Kraft Family*** will continue to grow!

Christ has blessed us richly! Freely we have received! Freely let us give! The LORD Loves a Cheerful Giver! Let us give in great Joy and Generosity!

Your Love Offering may be placed in your special Lenten Missions Offering Envelope. Please make Checks payable to First English Lutheran Church (Memo: KRAFT Missions).

**Serving Together in the Love of Jesus,**  
***Pastor Paul***

For more great information about the Kraft Family's ministry in Peru, visit their Webpage: <https://www.gomissionsinternational.com/who-we-are>

# *Don't Give Up on Lasting Love*

By Pastor Rick Warren

*“Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance” (1 Corinthians 13:7 NLT).*

Lasting love is persistent. It is determined. It is diligent. It is resolute. It endures the worst and is stubborn in its insistence to not give up on a relationship.

In fact, the purpose of a relationship is not just to make you happy but also to make you holy and teach you how to think of others more than you think of yourself. You will learn certain things as you persevere through difficult times that you would never learn any other way.

When my wife and I got married, we discovered that we were complete opposites. We started arguing on our wedding night, and from there it just got worse. We loved each other, but we did not get along.

But we had made a vow, and we decided divorce was not an option. We said, “We’re going to make this thing work if it kills us,” and it nearly did! We got counseling, even though we were broke. We sacrificed so that we could honor our commitment to each other. We grew up. We struggled for the first two years of our marriage, but we’re better for it today.

Maybe you need to hear this today: Don’t give up. Keep on. Persevere. Be stubborn! Don’t let go of God’s gift of lasting love because you have to work for it. It will always be worth the fight.

Learning to love is the single greatest lesson in life. It is why God put you on this planet. But it’s not always easy—and it’s just plain hard to love some people.

There really isn’t a “secret” to lasting love. The key, however, is to let God’s love flow through you. Philippians 2:5 says, “*You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had*” (NLT). Human love wears out. That’s why you need Jesus’ love in you so you can offer lasting love to others. You first have to open your life to him; then he can love others through you.

## **Talk About It**

- How have you had to be persistent to maintain lasting love in a relationship? How did your relationship grow as a result?
- Why do you think God wants us to learn how to love, more than any other lesson in life?
- What marks the kind of love Jesus has shown for you? How can you learn to love more like Him?

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday January 14, 2020

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

Alicia led in a prayer.

Roll was taken. Motion (Mary/Pastor Larson) to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019, Council meeting. **Motion carried.**

**Reports:**

**Visioning:** Lowell posed the question how does our vision play into calling a new pastor, and how/when do we move forward. Pastor Larson stated that typically once there is a vacancy the Ohio Mission Region Pastoral Care and Transition Team will assist with the process. Alicia read notes from a prior telephone call with Rev. David Wendell (the head of that team) recommending that the process of calling a new pastor wait until there is a vacancy but he recommended that we begin the process of defining the expectations of a single pastor. Lowell proposed to call the TAG group together in January for such discussions.

**Executive:** Lowell noted that there is one council chair vacant (finance). The issue of combining the work and reducing the number of council chairs has been discussed in the past and was further discussed. Some of this combining/collaborating can be done on an informal/trial basis, but formal changes would require amendment of the constitution and bylaws. Council elections will be coming up in May and the Nominating Committee is beginning its work. A number of chairs are term limited.

**Senior Pastor:** Many thanks to the great crew of FELC volunteers that did such a beautiful job of decorating our sanctuary and the whole church for the Advent-Christmas Season. You have given a festive gift of Joy to all of us! Many thanks also to our Altar Guild that works so hard to prepare our worship space for all of our special services at this time of year! - We will be hosting ***The Executive Committee of The North Central Ohio Mission District of The NALC*** on Friday, January 10, 2020 from 10:00am to 1:30pm. - I will be taking 4 vacation days in December: Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup>; Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>; Monday the 30<sup>th</sup>; and Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup>. I am requesting to carry 1 vacation day over from 2019. I will use it on Thursday, January 2, 2020. Motion (Ted/Alicia) to approve of the vacation carryover. **Motion carried.**

**Finance:** Ted reviewed the latest financials and reviewed the proposed 2020 budget which had been distributed. Motion (Tom/Jan) that the Council accept the proposed budget and recommend that it be adopted by the congregation. (with a modification that line 26 be completed). **Motion carried.**

**Property:** (Mike) H&T Demolition was hired to remove the additional asbestos in the Flippin Building for the sum of \$7500. Andy Kershaw is talking with an attorney to try to obtain that money from Page excavating. H&T is expected to start demolition the week of December 9th. - Koorsen is close to completing the new fire alarm .

**ELC:** (Tom) Personnel: 3 Admins 13 Teachers; 59 children + 20 school agers. - 3 of our staff have received their CDA credentials. - We had 211 at our Christmas Program. - Upcoming Events: We will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1. - We are currently working on revisions to the staff handbook and hope to have it to personnel for review in the next week.



**Youth:** (Ted) A number of our youth had a meal at church and then went to Mansfield Place to play bingo with the residents. Small prizes we handed out to the residents. – 100 % of our youth are going to Quake! An apple tree was placed in the narthex to help fund the youth registration costs and travel expenses for attending Quake. These funds will go in the youth account.

**Evangelism:** (Jan) We continue to monitor guests and those missing in action, greeting them with notes of welcome and encouragement.- A link to the new website was made available for review. We are excited to be able to share this with all of you.

**Stewardship:** (Mary) As of December 5, 2019, 67 members have pledged \$187,106.00 for an average pledge of \$2,791.28.

**Global Missions:** (Chris) 1) The Krafts are asking for prayer for God's provision to finish the building before the January 4th anniversary and future vision for a 2nd floor at the right time. There is still a need for \$5000 for bathrooms, staircase and floor. Pray for Bolivia and their political struggles and for violence to end. Pray for a pastor from the jungle who wants to send some students to them. Pray for God to be the center of Potter's House. (FELC will be sending our Epiphany donations to help the Krafts with their building expenses. Please give generously!) - 2) The Sorges had 4 days of training in "Bible Based Healing of Trauma" and are asking for us to pray that God will help them become more effective mediators of His healing for the broken hearts of Islanders and others through this training. Pray for their safety as well. - 3) A summer mission trip to Malawi may happen if there is enough interest. Please see me if you would like to be part of the team.I'll have more information about this after a conversation with Pastor Andy and Joy on January 5.

**WFELC:** (Jan) We packed cookies for at least 25 shut-ins on Monday, December 9, 2019. They will be delivered by the communion deacons very soon. - Our outreach project of knit hats, gloves, scarves, and kids books is being completed at present and will be delivered to both Zoe Learning Center and our own ELC by the end of this week. - Please watch for more details about the January Epiphany Thank offering focus on the Kraft's building project.

**New Business:** Motion (Cindy/Chris) that the January Congregational Budget Meeting be held on January 19, 2020, following the worship service. **Motion carried.** - Motion (Alicia/Gary) that in the calendar year 2020, subject to congregational approval of the proposed 2020 budget, First English Evangelical Lutheran Church will pay the following compensation package to the Reverend Paul Larson: a base salary of \$47,283.38 and a designated housing allowance of \$39,850, for a total of \$87,133.38. **Motion carried.** – Lowell asked that attention and thought be given to the proposal regarding a safety plan developed by Lu Blankenship which had been provided to council members via email. – Discussion was had regarding the bulk mail permit and mailing costs. It was recommended that we go ahead and pay for the permit but strongly encourage the use of electronic means for mailings, where appropriate.

**Announcements:** January coffee fellowship/council devotions: Property Committee.

Next meeting: January 14, 2020 @ 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:20 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted, Alicia Schulz, Secretary**



**From Lu Blankenship ... (This was originally posted one year ago. Good to re-post as a reminder and point of information.)**

## **You Can Donate Your IRA Required Minimum Distribution to Your Church or Other Charity Free of Taxes**

Retirees don't need to itemize to qualify for this charitable tax break.

Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts are required after age 70 1/2, and the penalty for skipping a required minimum distribution is 50 percent of the amount that should have been withdrawn. However, if you are in the fortunate position of not needing your distribution for living expenses and are charitably inclined, you can [avoid income tax](#) on your required withdrawal by donating your money directly to a qualifying charity.

So, if you intend to give a tithe to your church every month, you can annualize it and give the full annual amount from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and not pay income tax on that portion. For instance, if you have decided to give \$200 per month to your church and your RMD is \$5,000, you could arrange to have \$2,400 sent directly to your church free of taxes. The balance (\$2,600) would be taxable. If you give your entire RMD to your church or charity, the whole amount would be tax free.

Here's how a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA can be used to help others and reduce your tax bill.

- Meet the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) requirements.
- Satisfy required minimum distributions.
- Calculate your QCD tax break.
- Set up a direct transfer to a charity.
- Select a qualifying charity.

IRA owners must be age 70 1/2 or older to make a tax-free charitable contribution. Those who meet the age requirement can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from an [IRA](#) to an eligible charity without paying income tax on the transaction. If you file a joint tax return, your spouse can also make a charitable contribution of up to \$100,000, meaning couples can exclude up to \$200,000 of their retirement savings from income tax if they donate it to charity. If you donate more than the maximum allowable amount, it is considered income and could be subject to income tax. Qualified charitable contributions must be made by December 31 each year in order to exclude that amount from taxable income.

Charitable contributions can only be made from IRAs, not [401\(k\)s](#) or similar types of retirement accounts. So you might need to [roll funds over from a 401\(k\)](#) to an IRA if you want to make tax-free charitable contributions part of your retirement plan. You don't need to itemize your taxes in order to make an IRA charitable distribution. However, you cannot additionally claim a charitable contribution tax deduction on a charitable distribution from your IRA. "You are not getting taxed on this money, so you don't get to count it as a charitable deduction in addition," says Jill Schlesinger, a certified financial planner and Senior CFP Board Ambassador. Remember to request an acknowledgment of the donation for tax purposes if you don't receive it automatically.

ELC

## Little People **BIG** News March

### **Flashback into February**



Our children loved celebrating Valentine's Day with passing out cards and having class parties. We also would like to thank those who helped us with our Valentine Dance: Becky Pittman, Mary Schwartz, Sandie Volz, Mary Shaffer, and Pat Smith. We would like to thank Chris and Kathy Hoecker for the presentation to our kids on President's Day. Chris, you made a great George Washington! You gave our kids lot of interesting facts and they really enjoyed it!

### **A Peek into March**



We hope this month is healthier! This month we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with "Wacky Week."

We will even have a visit from Thing 1 and Thing 2.

We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

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**

To:  
First English Lutheran Early Learning Center  
Attn: Angela Murphy  
53 Park Av. West  
Mansfield, OH 44902

From:  
The YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral  
1018 Jefferson Av.  
Toledo, OH 43604

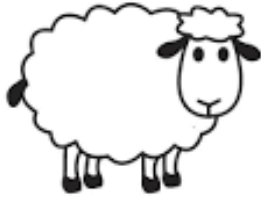
The YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral is pleased to inform you that your program has been nominated for Child Care Provider of the Year! Providers are nominated by members of the YWCA CCR&R staff for their work in increasing the quality of care provided within their own programs, as well as increasing levels of staff education, and advocacy efforts within the child care community within the last year.

All nominees will be recognized during the Friday Evening Mix and Mingle event at the Child Care Business Success Summit on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6pm to 9pm at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg Ohio. We will also name Providers of the Year from each of our three areas (Toledo, Lima, and Mansfield) during this event. We would love for you to attend and be recognized in person! If you are participating in the Business Success Summit your \$20 ticket for the Friday Evening Mix and Mingle can be added to your Summit registration on [ocrra.org](http://ocrra.org). If you are not participating in the Business Summit, or if you would like to bring a guest who will not be participating in the Business Summit, you can purchase tickets by calling our Toledo office at 419-255-5519.

This outstanding achievement is to be commended, and the YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral is honored to share in the celebration of your hard work!

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Gall  
Director  
YWCA Child Care  
Resource and Referral





## **WITHIN THE FOLD**

### **Wednesday Noon Lunch Ministry**

In January, the Wednesday Noon Lunch Fund received \$2.00 in donations.



FELC family,  
I was so touched by the poster with condolences for my Mom's passing. I felt hugged 😊

Thank You,  
**Connie Roy**

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

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



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



## **Mansfield Community March & April of Prayer**

Current Dates: As of 1/23/2020

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. It began March 1 and continued until Easter on April 19.

This year, we are doing it again; God has blessed us greatly. While we will continue the theme Mansfield is Godsfield, we want to expand it to "Richland is God's Land!" and while the first 42 days are already filled up till Easter, we want to expand it to include all of April, and conclude on the evening before the National Day of Prayer on May 7.

Saturday, Feb. 29 — Leap of Faith Concert, **6:30 p.m.**, 2 Marion Ave.

### **EVENING SERVICES: 6-8 p.m.** (except April 5 and 11)

Sunday, March 1 — Living Hope 670 Kentucky Ave.

Monday, March 2 — Holy Trinity Lutheran, 575 Lexington Ave.

Tuesday, March 3 — Linden Rd. Presbyterian, 160 S. Linden Rd.

Wednesday, March 4 — Shiloh Baptist, 130 E. Second St.

Thursday, March 5 — Oasis of Love, 190 Chester Ave.

Friday, March 6 — Church Requel, 2 Marion Ave.

Saturday, March 7 — Upper Room, (Green House) PAW

Sunday, March 8 — Zion's Refuge, 1400 Lucas Rd.  
 Monday, March 9 — Grace Fellowship, Straub Rd  
 Tuesday, March 10 — Grace Point Sanctuary, 36 Eagle Rd., Lex  
 Wednesday, March 11 — Main St. United Methodist, 230 S. Main  
 Thursday, March 12 — Mansfield FourSquare Gospel, 383 Davidson St.  
 Friday, March 13 — Ambassadors for Christ, 152 Cline Ave.  
 Saturday, March 14 — TBA  
 Sunday, March 15 — First Ev. Presbyterian, 399 S. Trimble Rd.  
 Monday, March 16 - - St. Peter's Catholic, 60 S. Mulberry St.  
 Tuesday, March 17 — Recovery Road, 2 Marion Ave.  
 Wednesday, March 18 — St. Paul Lutheran, 2010 PAW  
 Thursday, March 19 — First Church of Open Bible, 1150 Rayfield  
 Friday, March 20 — Fusion, 220 Industrial Dr., Lexington  
 Saturday, March 21 — Belmont Community, 1119 Belmont Ave.  
 Sunday, March 22 — Grace Evangelical Free, 536 Kentucky Ave.  
 Monday, March 23 — Community Bible , 1043 Springmill St.z[[  
 Tuesday, March 24 — Kingdom Grace Fellowship, 105 Reba Ave.  
 Wednesday, March 25 — Potter's House, 374 Willowwood  
 Thursday, March 26 — TBA  
 Friday, March 27 — Paradise Church, 87 N. Illinois Ave.  
 Saturday, March 28 — Community Life, 12 N. Diamond (PAE)  
 Sunday, March 29 — New Beginnings, 91 Marion Ave.  
 Monday, March 30 — First Christian, 200 W. Third St.  
 Tuesday, March 31 — Shelby Life, 7 Consolidated Dr, Shelby  
 Wednesday, April 1 — Lexington Church of Cross, 236 Otterbein  
 Thursday, April 2 — First United Methodist Church, 12 N. Diamond St.  
 Friday, April 3 — Sar Shalom, 2510 W. Fourth St., Ontario  
 Saturday, April 4 — Grace Brethren, 215 W. Main, Lexington  
 Sunday, April 5 — **5 p.m.:** Grace Episcopal, 41 Bowman — MIMA Palm  
 Sunday  
 Monday, April 6 — Diamond Hill Bible Walk, 500 Tingley  
 Tuesday, April 7 — Journey Life, 2578 Springmill Rd.  
 Wednesday, April 8 — The MAC: Mansfield Alliance, 291 W. Cook Rd.  
 Thursday, April 9 — The Way, 378 Park Ave. West  
 Good Friday, April 10 — Noon services by MIMA and ICC  
 Saturday, April 11 — Easter Vigil, **8:30 p.m.**, First English Lutheran, 53 PAW  
 Easter Morning, April 12 — Kingwood Center, St. Mark's Lutheran, 7 a.m  
 Monday, April 13 — St. Luke's Point of Grace, 2 Marion Ave, Holy Humor  
 Night  
 Tuesday, April 14 — Christian Life Church  
 Wednesday, April 15 — Diamond Hills Baptist, 647 S. Diamond St.  
 Thursday, April 16 — Clay Memorial, Bowman St. Rd. at Amoy East Rd.  
 and it goes on until Wednesday, May 6.....

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



## CALENDAR

GROUP	Date	Time	Place	Hostess
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Tues, March 3, 2020	7:00 PM	TBA	Bring your latest knitting and crocheting of shawls. Everyone invited!
Sarah	Monday, March 2, 2020	1:00 PM	Emmaus Room	Marianne Sweat and Kay Jewett leading
Women's Bible Study (formerly Lydia Circle)	Monday, March 9, 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	No meeting first week of month, Wed. March 18, 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 MARCH Squad D:** Mary Schwartz, Karen Frayer, 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.



calendar here

calendar here



## “Love Notes from Shirley”

written by Shirley Lane.....

A fun part of my NOTES column is introducing members of our church family and getting them better acquainted with each other.

It is a known fact that it takes many members to keep our beautiful church running smoothly. Often it is people working in the background who add that special touch. One special couple comes to mind. I'd like to let you know more about **Myra and Charles Cordrey**.

Myra and Charlie grew up in this area and joined First English Lutheran Church in 2011. Early in their marriage Charlie was in the U. S. Army and they were stationed in Turkey. Charlie is retired from AK Steel in Mansfield. They are parents of four children. A son lives in Shelby and the other three live out of state. Best of all they have twelve grandchildren!

Charlie is a church usher and helps with communion. A big job in the summer is mowing the Blackfork Retreat Center, (recently re-named the Bill Schwartz Retreat Center.) Charlie willingly helps with this mowing.

During fair weather seasons you will find both Myra and Charlie doing landscape work or planting flowers around their property.

Myra is very busy with several activities: funeral dinner co-ordinator, co-leader with Pat Heichel of Women's Bible Study group, quilting, handbell choir, and keeping ushers organized to name a few. She also hand designs many of the beautiful shut-in cards sent out many months.

Myra and Charlie are always willing to help in any area of congregational life here. And one last thing — Myra and Charlie are both Prayer Partners with our youth!

## Becky's Views.....



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

It has been wonderful getting to know the ELC teachers and children over the last 2 months, and it is awesome working closely with Angie Murphy and Cindy Sprang several days a week. I am learning MANY names along the way!

Circle times are now held weekly in each classroom while still continuing our large group music time together on Wednesday mornings in the undercroft.

The Valentine's dance was a success on February 12th! The kids enjoyed dancing, playing, and eating the cookies provided by many of YOU! Thank you for your donations. A BIG thanks to Pat Smith, Mary Shaffer, Mary Schwartz and Sandie Volz for giving up your morning to help serve the treats to the kids. We appreciated it! The "take home" goodie bags from our women's ministry made the morning even more special.

Abraham Lincoln and George Washington visited our kids on Monday, February 17th. Thank you, Chris and Kathy Hoecker, for teaching our preschoolers about our presidents in a fun and creative way!

Numerous friends from Newhope are joining our ELC children on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 in the Emmaus room for a special music time! Everyone is invited.

The first week of March is Dr. Seuss week! Thing #1 (Mitchell Pittman) and Thing #2 (Egypt Murphy) will be making a special visit on Monday, March 2nd at 10:00 to teach our children a special Bible lesson on goodness.

"Stories with Shirley" (Lane) begin on Wednesday, March 4th!! Who WOULDN'T love to hear a story read by Shirley??? The kids will be joining her in the morning in the Emmaus room on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

**BE INTENTIONAL! BE LIKE JESUS!**



## **Memorial Donations received through**

**February 20, 2020**

### **Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Patricia Leonard*

*Given by: Linda Sparr*

*With Sincerest Sympathy*

Iris May Trumpower

February 9, 2020

(Mother of Scott (LuAnn) Trumpower)

Doris Farina

February 5, 2020

(Aunt of Amy Skropits)

Pastor Walter Jordan

January 26, 2020

(Pastor at Oasis of Love Church)

Dorothy King-Mullens

January 23, 2020

(Connie Roy's Mother)

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.

### **Pastoral Acts**

None to report



### **Safety Security Update**

On March 22, 2020 those people who have volunteered to be part of the **Safety/Security Team** will meet immediately following worship for brunch, which will be followed by a two-hour training session (Noon to 2:00 PM) led by Lt. Carver of the Mansfield Police Department.

This training will focus on being prepared for an unwanted intruder. Other training that will be scheduled at a later date will be First Aid/CPR.

If you are willing to make a commitment to this effort and haven't yet done so, please contact Lu Blankenship at 419-564-1469. As always, your comments and/or concerns are welcomed.

### **From our Property Committee.....**

Recently our congregational council took action to approve re-naming the **Blackfork Retreat Center** in honor of Bill Schwartz. Our retreat center is now known as the **Bill Schwartz Retreat Center!** A sign has been posted on one of the buildings, so naming it.



### **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**

March 18, 2020	Tues. 2:00 PM	Mifflin Care
March 19, 2020	Wed. 2:30 PM	Primrose
March 19, 2020	Wed. 3:30 PM	Msfd. Place



<b>Volunteer Scheduling Contacts</b>	<b>The monthly volunteers are published in Visitor and posted on bulletin boards.</b>
<b>Worship Committee</b> <b>Heather McFadden 419.295.6467</b> Acolytes <hr/> <b>Cindy Russell 419.544.0878</b> Assisting Ministers and Lay Readers	<b>Pew Pad Gleaners</b> <b>Jane Sprang 419.610.9776</b> <hr/> <b>Ushers</b> <b>Charles and Myra Cordrey</b> <b>704-431-5057</b>
<b>Evangelism Committee</b> <b>Jan Fisher 419.589.2820</b> Greeters	<b>Becky Pittman</b> <b>419.989.8585</b> Power Point, Nave
<b>Property Committee</b> <b>Mike Anderson 419.295.4598</b> Property Chairman	<b>Finance Committee</b> <b>TBA</b>
<b>Becky Pittman</b> <b>419.989.8585</b> Sound Board/Audio	<b>Amy Skropits 419.747.3076</b> Sunday School Superintendent

## *March 2020 Volunteers*

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

#### **ACOLYTES**

March 1: Callie Kaschube  
March 8: Lily Garn  
March 15: Hayden Skropits  
March 22: Peyton McFadden  
March 29: Lydia McFadden

#### **ALTAR WORKERS**

Bryce and Allison Carroll

#### **ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Greg Hughes

#### **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

Youth

#### **COMMUNION PREPARERS**

March 1: Mike & Jane Anderson

#### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

March 1:  
Wine West: Jodi Mumaw  
Cups West: Ed Corley  
Wine East: Kathy Hoecker  
Cups East: Chris Hoecker  
Intinction: Jan Sprang

#### **GREETER**

Sherry Abney

#### **LAY READERS**

March 1: Shirley Lane  
March 8: Chris Kaschube  
March 15: Alicia Schulz  
March 22: Chris Cichanowicz  
March 29: Stacey Crall

#### **PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS**

Chris Cichanowicz  
Mary Schwartz  
Lowell Weeks  
Jan Fisher

#### **PEW PAD GLEANERS**

March 1: Lana Conry  
March 8: Stacey Crall  
March 15: Brenda Eyerly  
March 22: Rhonda Rehm  
March 29: Jane Sprang

#### **POWER POINT OPERATORS**

March 1: Taylor Grossenbacher  
March 8: Shelly Shupp  
March 15: Cindy Russell  
March 22: Isaac McFadden  
March 29: Cindy Russell

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

March 1: Tom Sarbach  
March 8: Angie Kaschube  
March 15: Ashley Berry  
March 22: Katie Garn  
March 29: Suzanne Rippel

#### **SOUND BOARD OPERATORS**

March 1: Ross Justice & Andy Kershaw  
March 8: Ed Farner & Andy Kershaw  
March 15: Ed Farner & Ross Justice  
March 22: Ed Farner & Andy Kershaw  
March 29: Ed Farner & Ross Justice

#### **USHERS NAVE**

Jeff Davis & Annette Doklovic  
Taylor Grossenbacher & Tim Ludwig



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!***

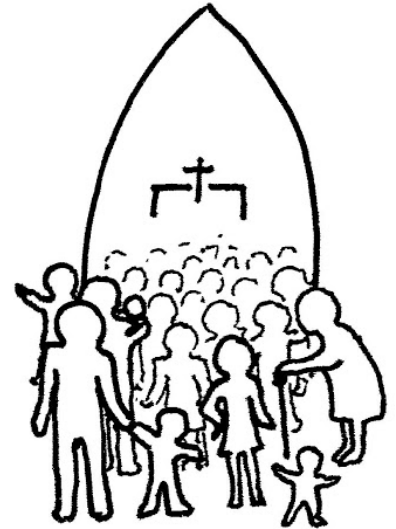
## ***Congo Life***

### **Lenten Soup Suppers and Bible Study all in the Undercroft**

The Lenten soup suppers and bible study will be March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1. Soup will be from 5:00 PM with bible study following at 6:00 PM in the undercroft.

There will be a 5th Sunday potluck on March 25 in the undercroft following the worship service. **Homemade meatloaf will be provided.** Please bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the fellowship!

**Lana Conry, Congo Life**



### **From our Worship Committee.....**

We will all be worshiping together this year. We think that you will find our Lenten and Holy Week worship very meaningful in your faith walk. Please make a special effort to offer prayer, steadfastness, and praise to God during this Holy season of Lent and Easter.

## ***Stewardship Message***

The Lenten mailing was prepared for distribution at the Sunday, February 16 worship service. For those who were not able to receive their mailing that date, the letters were mailed the following week. The envelope included a letter from Pastor Paul, the Lenten worship schedule and a Lenten offering envelope to assist the Nick and Shannon Kraft family, our missionaries to Peru, as they spread the Gospel of Christ with the people of Peru. Please join me as we help support these dedicated missionaries with our Lenten offerings.

***Mary Schwartz, Stewardship chairperson***

# Joining Jesus On His Mission!

*“Kick The Tires”*

**Guest Speaker: Pastor Greg Finke**

*A Mission Conference of  
The Ohio Mission Region – NALC*

**Saturday, March 21 – Sunday, March 22, 2020**

**Hosted By:  
First English Lutheran Church  
53 Park Avenue West  
Mansfield, Oh 44902**

The “Kick-the-Tires” Mission Weekend is designed to be a low-risk way to introduce your congregation to what it could look like for them to join Jesus on His mission in their everyday lives and support each other as a congregation. The weekend is guaranteed to significantly advance the mission-conversation in your congregation and among your leadership. Bring a large group from your congregation for the maximum impact on your mission outreach!

- The Mission of our congregation: Are we accomplishing what Jesus wants us to accomplish?
- What is happening to U.S. churches?
- Our strategy needs to return to Jesus’ strategy: From, “Y’all Come!” To, “Let’s Go!”
- We Need to be re-disciplined or re-trained in the ways of Jesus.
- At this conference we will see ...
  1. How to join Jesus on His mission in everyday life
  2. How to disciple our family and friends to do the same
  3. How to multiply this missional lifestyle and training throughout the congregation and out into the community.

**Saturday Schedule:**

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-10:15 Framing Today's Conversation

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:45 Practical Steps for Joining Jesus on His Mission

11:45-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:30 How the Congregation Supports a Missional Lifestyle

1:30-1:45 Break

1:45-2:45 Joining Jesus in Discipling Our Family & Friends

2:45-3:15 Connecting in Relationship for Discipleship & Multiplication

**Sunday Schedule:**

9:00-9:45 Adult Forum (main sanctuary)

10:00-11:00 Worship – Pastor Finke as Guest Preacher

**REGISTRATION COST – INCLUDING LUNCH:**

Received By March 7<sup>th</sup> - Registration is \$20.00 per Person

Received After March 7<sup>th</sup> - LATE Registration is \$30.00 per Person

**Make Checks Payable To:** *“The OMR – NALC”*

**Mail Registration & Payments To:**

Ethel Briggs

1067 Laurelwood Road

Mansfield, OH 44907

**DETAILS: PLEASE FIND PRINTED SHEETS FOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE AND FEES ON OUR POSTER TABLE.**

## YOUTH NEWS!



The Jr. and Sr. High youth are invited to our annual lock in right here at FELC on **SATURDAY, MARCH 14th!!** Arrival time is 7:00. Please bring a snack to share and sleepover gear. Invite a friend! It's a great night of fun, fellowship and silliness! Questions? Please talk to Becky P. or Tricia.

### DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Devotional booklets for MARCH 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](mailto: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](mailto:NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org)

**APRIL Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020.**

**Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020.**

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: [newsletereditor53@yahoo.com](mailto:newsletereditor53@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	<a href="mailto:plarson@felc-mansfield.org">plarson@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Scott Berry	<a href="mailto:saberry31@yahoo.com">saberry31@yahoo.com</a>
Becky Pittman	<a href="mailto:beckypittman@yahoo.com">beckypittman@yahoo.com</a>
Angela Murphy	<a href="mailto:cds@felc-mansfield.org">cds@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Nicole Goddard	<a href="mailto:ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org">ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Angie Cockrell	<a href="mailto:acockrell@felc-mansfield.org">acockrell@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Church Office	<a href="mailto:office@felc-mansfield.org">office@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Jan Fisher, Editor	<a href="mailto:newsletereditor53@yahoo.com">newsletereditor53@yahoo.com</a>
Andy Kershaw	<a href="mailto:propman@felc-mansfield.org">propman@felc-mansfield.org</a>

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

Please use this form if you would like to give an Easter lily, or daffodil plant,

**in honor of or in memory of a loved one on Easter Sunday.**

The deadline for ordering is **SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020\***  
(\*No orders will be accepted after March 22<sup>nd</sup> because our order must be submitted to the greenhouse soon after.)



You can turn your order and money in  
to the Church Office either in person or by mail, or you can put it in the offering basket on  
Sunday. **If you put the order in the offering basket, Please put check & order  
form in  
a separate envelope marked for flower order.**

The lilies and daffodils will decorate the Church on Easter morning, April 12th.

The plants may be removed by the donor after the **worship service** that morning.

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



cut here

**Lily Order:**

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00 per plant) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Daffodil Order:**

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00 per plant) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

– OR –

**Donation (no plant):**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing God's House II

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ELC Bus Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Major Capital Improvement Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund



"In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_"

"In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_"

"Given by \_\_\_\_\_" (Person ordering: \_\_\_\_\_)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **FELC**

**Non-Profit Org.**

affix label here

**U.S. Postage**

**PAID**

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**Mansfield, OH**

**44902**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DO NOT DELAY – DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED**

**MARCH 2020**

**We have made a commitment to focus on the following values and objectives:**

**CORE VALUES**

- 1 Relationships
- 2 Standing on the Word of God
- 3 Sacrifice
- 4 Giving Our Best to God
- 5 Worship Space
- 6 Worship Experience

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- 1 ELC (formerly CDS)
- 2 Align Ministries to Strategic Focus
- 3 Engaging Youth
- 4 Repurpose Staff Including Accountabilities
- 5 Create Culture of Engagement