

# 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

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior Pastor  
Mr. Scott Berry, Organist and Senior Choir Director  
Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts  
Mrs. Angela Murphy, Director Early Learning Center  
Nicole Goddard, Bookkeeper Jan Fisher, The Visitor Editor  
Angie Cockrell, Parish Secretary/Printer  
Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance  
Andy Kershaw, Property Manager  
Michelle Couch, Early Learning Center Secretary

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

Go Missions International missionaries to Peru & Bolivia, South America:  
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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| President <i>Lowell Weeks</i>            | Personnel <i>Todd Heichel</i>    |
| Vice President <i>Dan Obrynba</i>        | Property <i>Mike Anderson</i>    |
| Secretary <i>Alicia Schulz Keultjes</i>  | Social Ministry <i>Gary Lane</i> |
| Early Learning Center <i>Tom Sarbach</i> | Stewardship <i>Mary Schwartz</i> |
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| Worship <i>Cindy Russell</i>             |                                  |
| Congregational Life <i>open</i>          | Youth Ministry <i>Ted Ellis</i>  |
| Evangelism <i>Jan Fisher</i>             |                                  |
| SCS Superintendent <i>Amy Skropits</i>   |                                  |
| Finance <i>Lu Blankenship</i>            |                                  |
| Women of FELC <i>Jan Fisher</i>          |                                  |
| Global Mission <i>Chris Cichanowicz</i>  |                                  |



**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 Early Learning Center (ELC)**
- 2 Align Ministries to Strategic Focus**
- 3 Engaging Youth**
- 4 Repurpose Staff Including Accountabilities**
- 5 Create Culture of Engagement**

## **“A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”**

*“Under His wings you will find refuge;  
His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.”*

– Psalm 91:4

### **Dear Friends in Christ:**

When the great 16<sup>th</sup> century German reformer, Martin Luther, took his famous stand on the truth and authority of Holy Scripture, he quickly met with opposition from every corner of the continent. At one meeting, the Cardinal Legate, in great anger, thundered at Luther, “The Pope’s little finger is stronger than all Germany. Do you expect your (German) princes to take up arms to defend you, a wretched worm like you? I ask you now. And where then will you be?” With calm and confidence, Luther responded, “Then, as now, in the hands of Almighty God!”

Quoting from the Psalms, he continued, “He who dwells in the shelter of the most high, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.’ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler.”

God’s faithful children have the sure confidence that underneath are His everlasting arms. They who put their faith and trust in the Heavenly Father will never find themselves shut out from the gracious mercies of the Almighty. Life can be so often filled with storms and adversity. Especially during these days of Covid-19 and shut-downs; especially when we see peaceful protests twisted into hateful violence, then we all experience the brokenness of creation. We see it in burning storefronts and looting. We experience it in businesses and families struggling to survive. We know it in the forms of sickness and disease and human conflicts and torn relationships. But in the face of such powerful forces for evil tearing at our families and our society, we do not stand helpless and alone. We have the Promise of our God in the Victory of the Resurrection that He is still more powerful. **God is Always Greater Still!**

Therefore, no matter how terrible life’s battles may become, our Mighty Savior has promised to never leave us or forsake us. He is our God, ever-present with us, and for us; giving us that Hope in the Resurrection which shall not be disappointed, and a faith and trust in Him which shall endure.

In Jesus Christ, the Son of God Himself has come to defeat the powers of Sin, Death, and the Devil. In our strife-torn world, we experience the forces of evil waging warfare against us. But in Jesus we have the promise of the great and final Victory. Underneath are the everlasting arms to hold us safe and secure in the promise of His never-failing Love, “For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

**In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Paul L. Larson**

<sup>1</sup> The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons  
the earth from the rising of the sun  
to the place where it sets. ...  
<sup>10</sup> Every animal of the forest is mine,  
and the cattle on a thousand hills. ...  
<sup>15</sup> Call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.  
*Psalm 50*

## **Dear Friends in Christ,**

I think most of us live our daily lives - just simply assuming that our next breath will be there. We assume that our next heartbeat is coming. We take this daily miracle for granted. The truth is that when you wake up each morning and climb out of bed ... It is only because GOD has given you the Gift of this new day.

Every Heartbeat ... Every Breath ... Every New Day ... They ALL are a GIFT to you from GOD. But, for what PURPOSE? ... Will you live this day for Jesus?

God invites you to live this Gift of Life ... Fully Aware. He invites you to be intentional about how you live → Being conscious of Him ... conscious that God is with you, as close to you as your next breath, your next heartbeat.

Do you know WHY God gives you this new day?

Do you know that it is so that you might LIVE this day for HIM?

You say that you trust GOD ... literally, for your very next heartbeat, your very next breath. But, ... how much do you really trust Him? Do you trust Him to provide your daily bread?

I believe that most Christians have all the head knowledge that they need. They know in their heads that GOD has made them and ALL that exists. EVERYTHING belongs to God. We own NOTHING. We are privileged to be God's stewards of God's stuff. A steward is like a manager → someone who uses the Master's possessions for the Master's purposes.

So that we do not get our roles confused, so that we remember that we are NOT the owners, but the managers, GOD has commanded us to return at least one tenth (1/10) of what He entrusts into our care → back to Him. This is called Tithing. The act of Tithing is actually something GOD established in His Word hundreds of years even before Moses and the Ten Commandments. It goes back all the way to the very beginning with God's relationship with Abraham. It is obvious in both the Old and New Testaments that God sees this action of Tithing as foundational to having a healthy relationship with Him. When we do not Tithe, we start to get funny ideas about the "stuff" in our lives. We start to think that it is OUR stuff. ... That's a Big Mistake!

Yes, most Christians know in their heads that GOD has made them and ALL that exists. They also know that God has promised to provide. And they know that God has called them to First Fruits Giving, and to bringing the Full Tithe into His temple. YET, so many Christians disobey this most basic of God's commands. *WHY?*

For most, it is a matter of Faith, ... a matter of Trust. Yes, they believe (as the Psalmist said) that God owns "the cattle on a thousand hills." Now, that is a LOT of hamburgers and steaks! But, they do not believe that they can trust this God to keep His promise. And what is that promise? *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."* (Malachi 3:10)

God promises that He will provide. Your Lord Jesus calls you to trust in Him for your most basic, every day needs --- teaching you to pray for "daily bread." He has forever proved His LOVE for you on the cross. This is why He died for you on the cross → so that you might never have reason to doubt His Love for you. And this is why He rose from the dead → so that you might never have reason to doubt His Power for you:

- His Power to Save you;
- His Power to Forgive you and Raise you from the dead;
- His Power to Provide for ALL your needs ... yes, even daily bread.

**So the question is:** "How can you say that you trust God for your Eternal Salvation, yet, claim that you cannot trust God to provide a simple loaf of bread?"

It is time for Christians to put their FAITH into ACTION, for Faith without works is dead. Faith not practiced → dies. But, Faith that is exercised → strengthens and grows! It is time to get out of bed. Sleeping giants go nowhere. It is time to LIVE! It is time to GROW! This is the Day the LORD has made!

**Together In His Service,  
Pastor Paul**

# GOD'S COMMANDS ARE NECESSARY

By Martin Luther

*Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah – from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus, He overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities – and also the vegetation of the land.*  
*Genesis 19:24-25*

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah shows God's fierce anger being poured out on sinful people. Reflecting and meditating on this story is an unsettling experience. That's why I am deeply moved whenever I read or speak about it. Even though I am often furious at wicked people who refuse to change their ways, the terrible suffering and agony that took place at Sodom upsets me. I also feel the mental anguish that Abraham suffered when he interceded with God. Though the wicked people of Sodom refused to change, Abraham sincerely hoped that disaster wouldn't fall on them.

Today, some people want to de-emphasize God's commands. They think that people should be treated only with love and tolerance and shouldn't be frightened by examples of God's anger. Paul says quite the opposite. In the letter to the Corinthians, he tells many stories about God's anger against sinners. Then he states, "Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did" (I Cor. 10:6).

Arrogant and stubborn people despise the Word of God and laugh at well-intentioned words of caution. They feel so good about themselves that whenever anyone tells them about the extent of God's mercy and grace, it only leaves them worse off than they were before. This is what happens when people try to get rid of God's commands. We must guard against this false teaching. It's not enough for these people to bring destruction on themselves. They intend to drag us down with them. Like the people of Sodom, they don't realize that their sins will soon be punished. From: "**Faith Alone**" - Edited by James C. Galvin

## **The BIG TEN!** ***Back to the Basics!*** *New Adult Sunday School Class* *and New Members' Class*

***The Big Ten!*** .... Yes, that's the name of our NEW ADULT Sunday School Class and New Members' Class. This 10-week class will be the Lutheran Catechism up-close and personal like you probably have never had it before! This is your chance to ask all those questions you were always afraid to ask when you were in Junior High. This is your chance to ask all those new "adult-type" questions that have come into your mind SINCE Junior High. This is your chance to prepare yourself for all those interesting questions that your children and grandchildren ask. This is your chance to come and learn with other seeking adults as we grow in our Christian Faith. This is your chance to learn afresh and anew the answer to that time-old Question: "**What Does This Mean?**"

Please Note that this is **ALSO** the Opportunity for anyone desiring to prepare themselves for Adult Membership at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mansfield, OH.  
***Come and join us!***

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

PRESENT: Mike Anderson; Lu Blankenship; Chris Cichanowicz; Ted Ellis; Jan Fisher; Gary Lane; Dan Obrynba; Cindy Russell; Tom Sarbach; Alicia Schulz; Mary Schwartz; Lowell Weeks; Pastor Paul Larson. EXCUSED: Todd Heichel.

- Council president Lowell Weeks called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Reports:**

**Secretary:** Motion (Jan/Gary) to approve the July 14, 2020, council meeting minutes as previously distributed via email. **Motion carried.**

**Exec:** Lowell reported that since our worship services are available on the internet, it raises again a question of how offerings can be received other than via the offering plate. Brief discussion about electronic and credit card payments- Lowell reviewed the results of the annual meeting and elections in July. Motion (Alicia/Chris) that council formally approve the actions of the nominating committee in deliberately leaving the council positions of Congregational Life and Christian Education vacant for the time being. **Motion carried.** – Todd Heichel is being asked to work with Nicole Goddard regarding expanding her job responsibilities.

**Vice President:** Dan expressed thanks to those persons who made presentations at the meeting of the congregation July 26. – He raised the issue of making sure that we have from Pastor Larson's private files anything unique that we may want or need. Confirmation photos is an example. This may not be an issue but Lowell will follow up with Nicole and Angie to see if there are times they have to go to Pastor Paul for information not located in their offices or not available to them. – We need to keep making progress on combining council positions.

**Senior Pastor:** Life these days continues to be filled with many different virtual meetings and phone calls, as we all work together locally, regionally and nationally to stay connected and to continue the day to day ministry of Christ's Church. For many of us, myself included, this has been an opportunity to embrace new technology and all the new challenges that come with that learning curve. Again, I want to express my thanks to those patient people who have helped me. -Our Church Offices re-opened on Monday, June 1 with specific guidelines to keep staff safe. Our Early Learning Center also re-opened on June 1 under very strict guidelines from the State. - Andy Kershaw has made arrangements to add the capability for the Parish Secretary's Office and the Bookkeeper's Office to be able to also "BUZZ" people into the building using the same magnetic door lock. Both Angie Cockrell and Nicole Goddard are still able to do most of their jobs from home by accessing their church computers from home. They have developed a schedule between the two of them so that one of them will be available at the church from Mon-



days through Fridays from 8:30am until 4:00pm. If parishioners need to speak to either of them face-to-face, they can contact them to make an appointment and must utilize hand sanitizer and be wearing a mask. - ONLY the ELC Staff are allowed to be on the ELC floors and in their classrooms and offices. They will be handling ALL of their cleaning and disinfecting. Angie Murphy and her staff have worked very hard to be awarded a **5-STAR** rating from the State. **Congratulations!** We want to make sure that ALL of us do everything we can, so as not to engage in any careless behaviors that might endanger our staff and children with the Covid-19 virus. - As Pastor, I know that ALL of our Staff is continuing to work very hard, whether it is remotely from home, or on-sight at our physical building. I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and consideration so that we can keep all of our FELC staff as safe as possible. - Don Harruff died at the age of 82 on May 10. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, funeral services were delayed. We were able to finally have a memorial service for Don on July 25. Don was a faithful and longtime member of First English Lutheran Church. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathies go out to his wife Beth and their whole family. - Looking ahead to this Fall, we are making arrangements to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. We are presently putting together a comprehensive Youth Activities & Confirmation Schedule for this 2020-2021 School Year. (Confirmation students: Justin Crall, Max Weeks, Hayden Skropits, Payton McFadden) We will have a plan in place so that we can hold our Confirmation Classes either in person or remotely, whatever the changing guidelines allow. - On August 7 and 8 the NALC held its Annual Convocation remotely. This was due again to the Covid-19 virus. Greg Hughes, our Lay Delegate and I both participated from our respective home offices. Two key things stand out for me.

**First**, our new Bishop, The Rev. Dan Selbo, laid out for all of us his **Vision 2020** for our NALC. There are 10 key points to his vision plan: **1. A church body committed to developing disciple-making congregations and cultures; 2. A body of believers committed to increasing our mission outreach and congregational multiplication efforts; 3. A denomination in which every congregation receives regular and consistent pastoral support; 4. A continuing education emphasis that supports the ongoing development of all NALC pastors and lay leaders; 5. A strategy for continental restructuring that is able to expand with denominational growth; 6. A denomination with the strongest and most highly respected Lutheran seminary training system in North America; 7. A communications strategy focused on forming identity, unity and testimony across our church body; 8. A denomination in which our international and ecumenical relationships strengthen our shared commitment to the Great Commission, the Great Commandments and the Church catholic, and which enhance our partnership on the congregational level; 9. A church body with the financial strength to support its God-given vision; 10. A Strategic Planning Team (SPT) that continually prays for and works to develop the next steps for our God-given vision and future**

**Secondly**, The NALC in convocation passed constitutional amendments, laying the groundwork for establishing our NALC National Convocations biennially (every two years). In order for this change to take effect, it must be formally ratified by 2/3 of the

NALC congregations by no less than 6 months from August 8, 2020. This is a matter that can be easily addressed at the congregational budget meeting in January 2021.

**Personnel:** (Todd written) The Personnel Committee would like to put forth a recommendation for consideration: Scotty Berry has now been with us for 10 years. As a result of reaching the 10-year mark, the committee recommends Scott receive an additional week of vacation time, bringing his total vacation time to three weeks. This is in line with other employees in similar roles. - The Personnel Committee was invited to attend a Youth Committee meeting where we discussed the Youth Director position and resumed the search. - On the video side, we continue streaming to Facebook live and then post recorded services to our YouTube channel. With the help of Tom, Ed, and Becky, we have found a temporary solution for our audio issues. This fix should serve us until/if we are able to upgrade our sound board. - According to Facebook, from July 14 through August 10, we have:

- 8 new page likes - 9 new followers - 2 click throughs to our website - 316 visits - 335 total page likes - A 5,343 Post Reach - 1,407 Post Engagements. The produce distribution posts are reaching the most people. The post from Aug. 5 reached 3,200 people with 581 engagements, The July 19 Sunday worship video reached 314 people with 92 engagements; the Aug. 2 worship stream reached 378 people with 86 engagements

**Finance:** (Lu) Finance will meet Monday afternoon. Issues being considered: Check from Navelier for overcharge in fees. - Ownership/use of bus - Monies available for New Ministries & Missions (\$10,000 can be spent yet this year) Can we use this for advertising for the new youth leader? Looking at Christian radio stations. - CDs in several different banks. - Recommendation that we allocate \$1900 from the Memorial Fund to pay for 2 security door locks needed to isolate the sanctuary from the rest of the building on Sunday morning. **Recommendation approved.** - At the end of July, giving was up \$2337 over last year this time.

**Property:** Mike reported that Andy Kershaw is getting quotes for playground fencing. - He is also working to arrange for new insurance that is expected to provide better coverage at a lower cost. Tabling this for action at a later date.

**ELC:** (Tom) Current Staff numbers stand at 3 Administrators and 15 teachers. There are 70 children currently enrolled and attending, up from 63 this time last month.- We are currently waiting for a new **fence** to be installed around the Flippin lot so that we might be able to finally utilize this space. To date a permit for the fence has not yet been applied for and a contractor not yet hired to complete the work.- We have three design possibilities for the new **playground** to be installed on the Flippin property. To date no design has been finalized, no permit applied for and no funding secured. - We have worked very hard to achieve the 5 Star rating. If we continue to operate without a facility for motor development (a playground) we risk that rating.

- **Circus week** the first week of August. Angie and staff continue to amaze with themed weeks to keep the kids entertained without the availability of the usual summer field

trips. - We are currently in the planning stages for what the ELC will look like at the start of the school year. With new State mandates every day, the possibilities at this point are too numerous to contemplate.- A special thank you to Becky Pittman for continuing to provide a solid music program for our students!

**Youth:** (Ted) The Youth committee met with with Todd to determine the status of the search for the youth director. Reviewed the job description and the few applications we received. We spent quite a lot on website listings previously and now intend to post to a number of free sites. August 1st is the goal to have as many postings as possible completed. It was also felt the need to have the description posted on the church web site. Becky P.'s web address will be used for the response location for outside postings.

**EVANGELISM:** (Jan) The printed church directory of active members and friends of FELC now available. It is the light blue booklet that can be found on the Welcome Table. Everyone is encouraged to take one for their household. I might also suggest that if you are visiting anyone who might not get into the church, please take a copy to them. – Today's produce distribution - We had 39 volunteers helping to pack bulk produce and load it into our guests' cars. Along with produce, they received Dairy Boxes which were filled to the brim with one gallon chocolate milk, one gallon white milk, one pound of butter, shredded cheese, cottage cheese, a block of cheese and even a big container of yogurt. We served our highest number to date over the past five years: 213 families, of which 76 were new families, and this equates to 153 were children, 275 adults, and 160 were seniors, giving a total served within these families of 588 people. We are blessed to be able to do this at no cost to our congregation. I am always so thankful for so many willing volunteers that help so regularly. Our next Free Produce Distribution will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. - Becky Pittman and I have had our heads together thinking about the many who have not been coming out to "live" church. We have decided to send out an in-house developed post card stating that "We miss you!" Those will be going out sometime this week after Angie Cockrell develops the card. We want to stay in touch with people so that they don't think that they have been forgotten! Becky also has some personal call ideas perhaps using the new bus with youth and getting around to folks' front yards. Details forthcoming. - Once every two years Lind Advertising will re-design our billboard poster. This is at NO COST to FELC, as we have an agreement with Lind because they use space in our West parking lot for one of their big billboards. They have contacted me for a new design and we are in the process of gathering suggestions and best marketing ideas. I have asked Todd Heichel for his expertise in this area. Details to come as we progress. We have also been given the option to list location destinations for where they place our newly designed billboard. Two years ago our design had Becky Pittman sitting with a group of our kids, singing and smiling. Text said "Kids Thrive!" and it had the FELC and ELC LOGO on it. If you have suggestions, please speak up!

**WORSHIP:** (Cindy) Committee has reviewed the guidelines for in person attendance and decided to leave them as they are. – Discussing redoing the sound board. – Approximately 70 persons for communion on July 26.

**Stewardship:** Mary reported she is looking at a campaign for fall. We used the booklet from the NALC website last year. May use again. Is good.

**Christian Ed:** Amy Skropits submitted this written report: Sunday school committee will be having a meeting this month to sort out when/where Sunday school will take place and what covid safety measures we need to put into place. Any guidance from Council could give would be appreciated. We have to figure out where we can meet since the Day School covid safety measures shut us out of alot of areas. Tom reports that he has been talking with Amy about this.

**Global Missions:** (Chris) Malawi Orphan Care Project: According to Penny Ekegren, Yami just finished translating the Days for Girls educational flip chart into Chichewa. It is being reviewed by the DFG translation coordinator and will then be printed and made available for purchase and use by other regional teams and enterprises, as well as by our own women from Kenyenyava when they do distributions and education. - 275 bags of maize were delivered from the farm to Kenyenyava for use by the feeding program and given to the caregivers. - Covid-19 is now in Lilongwe, but no sign of it yet at Kenyenyava. Please keep them all in your prayers. - Peru: the Kraits: 1) They need at least \$6000 more to complete their building project and surrounding area. The plan is for the building to be self-sustaining by renting it out for weddings, retreats and other projects. 2) They would like to have an American couple come and help them lead their retreats to see what that experience is like in 2021. 3) They are now down from 12 to 6 people staying with them. 4) Anne Valorie, the young nurse, is still helping at an orphanage in Peru. Not able to enter Bolivia yet where she was assigned to help. Her counterpart, Tabea, hopes to begin a Go Mission in Switzerland when she returns home. - 5) Kijsten Thingelstad is still in Peru. She hopes to finally return to the states by September 4. She has had to remain almost 8 months longer than planned! - 6) The Kraits' car is too far gone to even repair! They were told to purchase a newer one that can hold 7 people. - 7) The entire team in Peru is exhausted but hopeful that our Lord will bless all they are trying to accomplish. - The Christophersons: The last I heard they are in their rental home and are making progress getting their own home liveable again (after fire). Lots of memories lost, but more to be made. It will take months to organize and purchase what they need. Keep all of these friends in your prayers!

**WFELC: (Jan)** We continue to send out shut-in note cards once a month to seventeen or eighteen of our older members. It is difficult to do much more than that with the COVID19 restrictions. I wish we could do more as I feel this is such a difficult and depressing time for those folks. - The collection of laundry detergent continues at least until mid-September. The response has not been great, but it has been adequate. With all the extra laundering that ELC is required to do, it would be nice to be able to share a larger amount of detergent with them. Please keep this in mind as you purchase your groceries and buy some liquid detergent or a big container of laundry pods!

### **Ad hoc committee reports:**

**Interim Pastor Team** (Angie Murphy, Rob Skropits, Elizabeth Volz, Christopher Kaschube, Cindy Russell, Becky Pittman, Jan Fisher) Jan reported that the team has met once and plan a meeting either on Monday or Thursday of this week. We have been assured by Rev. David Wendell that we are right on target time-wise with our planning and contacting. – We recommend engaging and potentially hiring Rev. Dr. Timothy Hubert as our Interim Pastor, to begin on January 2, 2021 following the retirement of Pastor Paul Larson. A salary/compensation package will be the next order of business. Pastor Hubert recently served at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland and is a retired Lutheran pastor. Discussion: It is obvious that a lot of research and work is being done, which is greatly appreciated, but concern was expressed that perhaps this team is getting a bit ahead of its mission which is to define the role and responsibilities that we feel we want an interim pastor to fill.

**Safety Committee:** Lu reported nothing new beyond the \$1900 item for locks. Will put together a budget and plan to get some training.

**Technology Team:** Tom reported that Microtonics is building a new server for us. Will audit all the hardware. This will fall under the property budget.

**Announcements:** Next meeting September 8, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:25 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Schulz, Secretary

**Addendum:** An e-vote was solicited by Lowell Weeks as follows: Motion (Todd Heichel/Lowell Weeks) that Scott Berry's FELC employment time be credited to extend through the COVID19 lock down period thereby allowing Scott Berry to accumulate the ten(10) years service required to qualify for the three weeks' vacation in December, 2020 and beyond. On August 21 Lowell reported the **Motion carried.**

**Alicia Schulz, Council Secretary**

ELC

## Little People **BIG** News October



### **Flashback into September**

Our school year is off to a good start! Classes are back into routine and learning. Our school agers have attended school on a hybrid schedule so far. ELC had a small apple festival with our kids. The kids really enjoyed it.



### **A Peek into October**

Teachers will be completing assessments on each child. FELC will be hosting a trunk or treat event for our kids on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Classes are preparing for fall. Although holidays will be different this year, we look forward to still making it fun!

### **Singing with Miss Becky**

The kids are really having a great time singing to the community while standing on the front steps of the church! Many comments come across the airwaves as people drive or walk by. What a great witness to our downtown community! There is always a new way to do things, even during COVID19, which we hope is over soon. Thank you, Miss Becky, for your great music skills!

### **Volunteers needed**

In November we will be offering our annual “Thanksgiving Feast” for ELC families — COVID19 style. We would love to have some new volunteers join us in preparing this meal and passing it along to our ELC families. If you can volunteer see Jan Fisher, Becky Pittman, or Angie Murphy.

**Angie Murphy**  
**Early Learning Center Director**

## **From our Finance Committee – Report as of August 31, 2020**

Looking at **monthly** averages:

### **General Operating Fund:**

At the end of eight months, income has averaged \$59,796, which is \$3,011 over the average monthly budget. Good News!

Expenses are averaging \$68,000, which is \$3,000 less than the average monthly budget figure of \$71,000.

Things are going well; so hopefully this trend will continue.

### **Early Learning Center:**

At the 8-month mark, income is averaging \$26,459 while the average monthly income budgeted is \$35,625.

Expenses are averaging \$32,540 as compared to the monthly average budgeted of \$32,679.

As you can see, the expenses are right in line. The shortage in income is due to having fewer children due to the stringent rules in place during the COVID 19 virus outbreak.

**Lu Blankenship**  
**Finance Chmn. and Council Representative**

calendar here



calendar here

## WITHIN THE FOLD



### Wednesday Noon Lunch Ministry

In August, due to the continuing restrictions resulting from the Coronavirus, there was no Wednesday Chapel Service, and therefore there was no Wednesday Noon Lunch Fund donations. We are, however, offering a “carry-out” lunch on the first and third Wednesdays each month. It’s being served on the sidewalk beside the East doorway.

Dear Ladies:

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. I'm sorry that I am not able to attend church. I watch the church service on TV.

**Mary Andrasic**

Dear FELC Members,

A big thank you to everyone who has sent me a card or made a telephone call to me or transported me somewhere. And now a beautiful mum! Thank you so much! You will never know how much it was all appreciated. In Christ’s love, **Jo Wirstrom**

**As Christians it is very important that we exercise our right to VOTE!**

### VOTING INFO

Call for an absentee ballot request. (419-774-5530) if you don’t want to go to the polls on election day. They’ll send you an application that you must complete and return. Then, they will send you an Absentee Ballot. Allow plenty of time.

If you vote Absentee, you can mail your ballot back to the Board of Elections or you can drop it in their locked mail receptacle outside their office at 1495 West Longview Avenue.

| Day, Date         | Board of Elections Hours | Description   |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Monday, October 5 | 8 AM – 4 PM              | Deadline to register or update your voter registration  |
| Oct 6 – Oct 10    | 8 AM – 5 PM              | Early Voting at Board of Elections, 1495 West Longview Avenue<br>Mansfield OH 44906<br>Use back entrance at Longview Building |
| Oct 12 – Oct 16   | 8 AM – 5 PM              |   |
| Oct 19 – Oct 23   | 8 AM – 5 PM              |   |
| Saturday, Oct 24  | 8 AM – 4 PM              |   |
| Sunday, Oct 25    | 1 PM – 5 PM              |   |
| Oct 26 – Oct 30   | 8 AM – 6 PM              |   |
| Saturday, Oct 31  | 8 AM – 4 PM              |   |
| Sunday, Nov 1     | 1 AM – 5 PM              |   |
| Monday, Nov 2     | 8 AM – 2 PM              |   |
| Tuesday, Nov 3    | 6:30 AM-7:30 PM          | Polls Open  |



# Altar Flowers

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.

*October 4, 2020*

*October 11, 2020*

*October 18, 2020*

*October 25, 2020*

*November 1, 2020 (All Saints Day)*

*November 15, 2020*

*November 29, 2020*

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**Women's Ministry is currently not meeting regularly.** Stay tuned for update on those meetings. Funeral meals, when necessary, will be provided. Below is the squad assignment :

**OCTOBER: Squad C: Sandie Volz and Kathy Hoecker**

Thank you to everyone who contributed detergent containers for our "Summer Project". That detergent will be divided between our ELC and Crossroads City Center on the square downtown, for their free laundry program.



## *Love Notes from Shirley*

Our church family is blessed to have a rising star in our midst. Her name is Elizabeth Volz. It seems like only yesterday she was a cute little girl. Turn around twice and she is a lovely young lady.

Elizabeth graduated from Heidelberg University in 2017. She had a double major: Early Child Development and Special Education. She is employed as a Special Ed teacher in Galion Schools. Elizabeth bought a house and lives in Lexington.

Elizabeth celebrated her birthday in August in a BIG way! Due to a card shower she received about 100 birthday cards! There was also a drive-by celebration with lots of cars honking as they passed by. The Bible does say to “make a joyful noise.”

Our Youth and Jr. High kids are blessed to have Elizabeth’s support and involvement. Another important obligation is serving on the Interim Pastor Team. Being part of the Praise Team is both fun and rewarding. Elizabeth often plays the viola.

Elizabeth’s proud parents are Tricia and Shawn Volz. Older sister Jessika lives in Utah, and younger brother Forest is serving in the US Marine Corp. Sandie Volz and the late Wesley Volz are her beloved grandparents.

Note: Keep your eyes on Elizabeth! She truly is a bright rising star in our congregation.

Story by Shirley Lane



## Global Missions

I think it's great to keep you all informed about our  
**International Missions:**

**Peru: The Krafts** 1) The 4 Krafts are still busy every day in the construction area. The family helped Nick with the roofing of one apartment and will do the classroom next week. 2) They are somewhat worried about their son Moi after they saw the photos he sent of the skyline fires close to where he lives. He told them he may have to evacuate. 3) In Bolivia they are starting the distribution of the food baskets. 4) Kjirsten Thingelstad has finally returned home to the US after being confined in Peru nearly 8 extra months due to the Covid crisis.

**Malawi:** 1) I have 6 pictures that I'll put in the Narthex - three of the new Skills Center which has a new paint job provided by the Board of KM and three of the truck purchased last year. Both look great! 2) \$2500 has been donated to start a soap business in Malawi. 3) The feeding program is back to 5 days a week!

**The "Far Side"** 1) I wanted to quote some of the information sent by Brian and Barb. "During the pandemic, our own hearts have been strengthened by doing comprehension test reading of the translated draft of Revelation with an Islander ... As we read, we felt such comfort knowing that God loves HIS OWN, loves us so passionately! ... In the midst of the uncertainties of this pandemic we belong to the One who sets the times and limits." 2) They are now in Nashville, Tennessee with Barb's mom after spending a month with Brian's mother. 3) A few of their prayer requests include the following: - Pray for clarity about the timing of their return to the Far Side. - Ask God to watch over Brian's mom as she prepares for a heart valve transplant - hopefully this fall. - Pray that the Islander who agreed to significantly revise/rewrite the first chapters finds words that communicate clearly and gets the work done in a timely manner.

Pray for the safety and health for our missionaries and all people!

**Blessings to all,  
Chris Cichanowicz, Global Mission Chairperson**



## **Becky's Views.....**

It is so nice to be worshiping together on a regular basis in the sanctuary! Scott and I are beginning to schedule special music spots and adding musicians to our music team on Sunday mornings. If you have a musical gift you would like to share, please don't hesitate to let either Scott or me know! We would be happy to have you.

Our livestream journey continues on into month 7! Tom, Todd and Ed continue to learn (sometimes the hard way - LOL!), polish and fine tune their approach to what is presented to our church family, friends and visitors via the internet. I cannot thank this group of dedicated guys enough.

We are happy to welcome our ELC children back to another school year. Music time with Ms. Becky has been upgraded to the front steps of the church! The kids are singing to everyone who drives and walks by on Wednesday mornings. Come join us on the sidewalk if you need your spirits lifted! (With your mask on - of course) Their voices will fill you up with the love of Jesus. We also now have chapel time together on Tuesday mornings at 9:30. (Same location)

I am pleased to announce that "Stories with Shirley" has returned! The kids loved listening to Shirley Lane read to them during several circle times last winter. Because no visitors are permitted in the daycare right now, I will be recording Shirley and her wonderful gift of storytelling. The classes will be listening to her via the computer. Thank you, Shirley!

What gifts and talents has God given YOU?? Pray about it. Let me know!  
*1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now YOU are the body of CHRIST, and each one of YOU is a PART of it!"*

**BE INTENTIONAL! BE LIKE JESUS!**

**Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and the Arts**

## YOUTH NEWS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday School news:** Sunday School for all ages is now being held at 9:00 AM. Check with Amy Skropits or Trish Volz as to your location, as things had to change because of COVID19.

Pastor Paul's Adult Sunday School is meeting once again in the Emmaus Room. He will be teaching us all about Luther's Small Catechism.

A new approach to how we offer our kids breakfast during Sunday School this year!! (Yep! You said it. Covid.) We are asking for donations of PRE-PACKAGED breakfast items ONLY at this time. (PopTarts, packaged donuts, granola bars, etc...) Feel free to give the items to Becky Pittman, Tricia Volz or Elizabeth Volz at your convenience. **OR you can deposit them in the tub in the Narthex. THANK YOU ahead of time!!**

### Youth:

Our next Jr. and Sr. High youth group activity is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th! Please watch for details. The group outing will be determined a week ahead of time due to the "Rona." Thanks for your patience and flexibility!

### Send some LOVE to a college student!

College students LOVE receiving mail! "Snail" mail, emails, and texts would make the following young adults smile in the middle of the week! Here's our FELC college list:

Alaina Doklovic  
Anya Doklovic  
Taylor Grossenbacher  
Josh Hamrick  
Brianna McFadden  
Mitchell Pittman  
Justin Reeder  
Zach Rippel  
Renee Shupp  
Hannah Skropits  
Jared Sweeney



Please contact Angie in the church office or Becky Pittman for contact information. Reaching out will only take you a few minutes, but it will make their whole day!

## Memorial Donations



### **Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Sherry Winbigler*

*Given by: Beth Harruff, Marcia Bond*

*In memory of Beverly Pickett*

*Given by: Lana Conry*

### **ELC Playground Fund**

*In memory of Wes Volz*

*Given by: Mary Schwartz, Ted & Karen Ellis, Paul Theaker, Marilyn Dinges, Beth Harruff, James & Angela Murphy, Greg & Linda Hughes, Lana Conry*

*In memory of Sherry Winbigler*

*Given by: Mary Schwartz*

*With Sincerest Sympathy*

Wes Volz

September 12, 2020

Beverly Pickett

September 9, 2020

Eva Pahl

September 7, 2020

Bob Reiser  
(friend of Jan Fisher's)

September 1, 2020

Sherry Winbigler

August 31, 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.



## **Pastoral Acts**

Pastor Paul Larson officiated for the Funeral of Eva Pahl at Stombaugh-Batton Funeral Home with the burial following at Spring Grove Cemetery in Carey, OH.

Pastor Paul Larson officiated for the Funeral of Sherry Winbigler at Snyder Funeral Home with the burial following at Mansfield Memorial Park.

There will be no Nursing Home Communion during the month of October. Please hold our shut-ins close in your prayers.

### **October update from our Worship Committee**

We are excited to share the news that Rachel Justice, daughter of Ross and Barbara Justice, will be doing a “live” painting during worship on Sunday, November 29, 2020 which is the first Sunday in Advent. You might want to save that date to be sure to come to live worship on that day.

God continues to richly bless us as we gather for worship each Sunday. Our attendance is quite consistent with an average of 74 people each week. For those of you who worship online with us, you might be surprised at our very consistent number of online worshipers who join you virtually each week. We have 160 regular followers to our Facebook page, but most weeks we have about twice that many people logging on to view our worship service! Our volunteer “tech guys”, Tom Sarbach, Todd Heichel, and Ed Farner have done a superior job of making certain that we have a very professional online presence! Thanks to them and to Becky Pittman and Scott Berry for their planning and hard work in giving our BEST to God via this online venue!

On another note, it seems that we will continue serving communion in the “social distancing” mode which has been developed to keep us all safe. The prepackaged communion cup of host and grape juice is simply picked up from a long white table when you approach the sanctuary. At the appointed time, Pastor Paul gives the words of institution and we all take communion in place in our pews. As Lutherans, communion is a very important part of our liturgy and service. We are blessed to be able to receive communion in this manner.

**Cindy Russell**  
**Worship Committee Chairperson**

## Stewardship Message



Consecration Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2020. The Stewards of God's Influence focus will begin with a letter from Chris Cichanowicz, who is the Prayer Chairperson. The letter will be sent to members of our congregation asking each person to pray for guidance for themselves and the congregation to fulfill what God is asking us to do to accomplish His plans for our church and its ministries during the coming year. You will also receive a letter from Lowell Weeks, Congregational President in mid October and in late October, a letter from Pastor Paul Larson will be sent. Included in that mailing, will be a pledge card, an estimate of giving chart and a stamped return envelope with the church address on it. Please join me by thanking God for richly blessing us each and every day.

In Christ's service,  
**Mary Schwartz, Stewardship Chairperson**

## Evangelism for Today's World



**DRIVE THROUGH PRODUCE** was offered again on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. It was a great day to serve our community!

*We had 204 households register for produce. The produce was all back to bulk, much like it always used to be. My faithful volunteers did a great job of boxing up the produce. We received 6700# of produce. Of those registered, 55 had minor children in the house, and 149 did not. There were 30 seniors with minor children, 135 without. 108 adults had minor children, 136 did not have minor children in the home. Our numbers indicated that we served 114 children in total. All this equates to 523 people enjoying fresh produce this week, at no charge to them, and no charge to FELC. Blessed to be a blessing! It looks like we are all quite pleased with offering our produce distribution in this manner and it certainly fits well with social distancing!*

**Our next Produce Distribution will be Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:00 to 1:00.**

**Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Volunteer Scheduling Contacts</b>  | <b>The monthly volunteers are published in Visitor and posted on bulletin boards.</b>  |
| <b>Worship Committee</b><br><b>Heather McFadden 419.295.6467</b><br>Acolytes <hr/> <b>Cindy Russell 419.544.0878</b><br>Assisting Ministers and Lay Readers | <b>Pew Pad Gleaners</b><br><b>Jane Sprang 419.610.9776</b> <hr/> <b>Ushers</b><br><b>Charles and Myra Cordrey</b><br><b>419.632.4121</b> |
| <b>Evangelism Committee</b><br><b>Jan Fisher 419.589.2820</b><br>Greeters   | <b>Becky Pittman</b><br><b>419.989.8585</b><br>Power Point, Nave   |
| <b>Property Committee</b><br><b>Mike Anderson 419.295.4598</b><br>Property Chairman   | <b>Finance Committee</b><br><b>Lu Blankenship</b><br><b>419.564.1469</b>   |
| <b>Becky Pittman</b><br><b>419.989.8585</b><br>Sound Board/Audio  | <b>Amy Skropits 419.747.3076</b><br>Sunday School Superintendent   |



## Prayer Requests

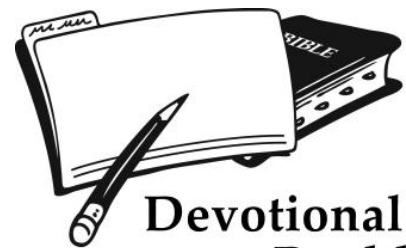
To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the pastors or call Angie Cockrell (419.522.0662) in the church office to be added to the list. Please call again when it is appropriate to have that prayer request deleted.

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.**

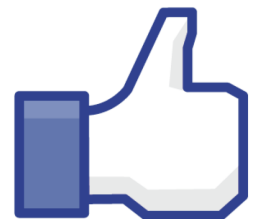


## Devotional Booklet

### DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Devotional booklets for OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 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!

Find us on Facebook: **First English Lutheran Church**  
**Podcasts of weekly sermons are on the website: felc-**  
**mansfield.org**



And please check out our new FELC mobile friendly website!

**[felc-mansfield.org](http://felc-mansfield.org)** where you can be directed to online worship via Facebook and YouTube.

*October 2020 Volunteers*

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

**ACOLYTES**

\*NONE

**ALTAR WORKERS**

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

**ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Chris Hoecker

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

\*NONE\*

**COMMUNION PREPARERS**

October 4:

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

October 4:

**GREETER**

NONE

**LAY READERS**

October 4: Chris Kaschube

October 11: Alicia Schulz

October 18: Chris Chichanowicz

October 25: Stacey Crall

**PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS**

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

**PEW PAD GLEANERS**

October 4: Stacey Crall

October 11: Brenda Eyerly

October 18: Liz Sprang

October 25: Lana Conry

**POWER POINT OPERATORS**

October 4: Teri Brenkus

October 11: Cindy Russell

October 18: Isaac McFadden

October 25: Suzanne Rippel

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

\*NONE\*

**SOUND BOARD OPERATORS**

October 4: Ed Farner

October 11: Ed Farner

October 18: Andy Kershaw

October 25: Ed Farner

**USHERS NAVE**

Larry and Becky Faith

Gregg Thatcher and Elizabeth Volz

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:



|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Stafford, Garnet  | 230 Valley Hi Dr<br>Lexington OH 44904-9792                           | 11/02/1927 |
| McKean, Rosemary  | 291 Redwood Rd.<br>Mansfield OH 44907                                 | 11/02/1928 |
| Scheiber, Lolita  | 66 N Home Rd #6<br>Mansfield OH 44906                                 | 11/05/1937 |
| Marchant, Jeremy  | 21 1/2 Granite St<br>Mansfield OH 44902                               | 11/11/1974 |
| Wirstrom, Joan    | 1301 Millsboro Rd.<br>Apt. 217<br>Mansfield OH 44906                  | 11/19/1927 |
| Skropits, Hannah  | 3399 Oakstone Dr<br>Ontario OH 44903                                  | 11/21/1999 |
| Farner, Edward    | 1360 W Circle Dr<br>Mansfield OH 44905                                | 11/22/1976 |
| Berry, Scott      | 8300 Aylsworth Rd<br>Shreve OH 44676                                  | 11/23/???? |
| Hannewald, James  | 271 Otterbein Dr<br>Lexington OH 44904-1031                           | 11/24/1947 |
| Murphy, Egypt     | 1120 Laver Rd<br>Mansfield OH 44905                                   | 11/24/1999 |
| Hoecker, Abigail  | 264 1/2 Fairlawn Ave.<br>Mansfield OH 44903                           | 11/26/???? |
| Larson, Kristi    | 1734 Hidden Oak Trl<br>Mansfield OH 44906-3559                        | 11/26/1952 |
| Pittman, Mitchell | 490 Rudy Rd<br>Mansfield OH 44903-8038                                | 11/26/2000 |
| Ellison, Ray      | The Waterford Apt 112<br>1296 S Trimble Rd<br>Mansfield OH 44906-2977 | 11/28/1927 |

## 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)

**November Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020.**  
**Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020.**

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: [newslettereditor53@yahoo.com](mailto: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      | <a href="mailto:Plarson001@neo.rr.com">Plarson001@neo.rr.com</a>               |
| Scott Berry        | <a href="mailto:saberry31@yahoo.com">saberry31@yahoo.com</a>                   |
| Becky Pittman      | <a href="mailto:beckypittman490@gmail.com">beckypittman490@gmail.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:newslettereditor53@yahoo.com">newslettereditor53@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

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**OCTOBER 2020 VISITOR**