

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"

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

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
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Andy Kershaw, Property Manager
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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

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Global Mission <i>Chris Cichanowicz</i>	

... *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 4th – April 1st) 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 th	ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes
March 4 th	THE UPPER ROOM
March 11 th	GETHSEMANE
March 18 th	THE TRIAL BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST
March 25 th	THE TRIAL BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE
April 1 st	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; Kathy Hoecker Gary Lane; Dan Obrynba; Cindy Russell; Tom Sarbach; Alicia Schulz; Mary Schwartz; Lowell Weeks; Pastor Paul Larson. Excused: Todd Heichel.

Meeting called to order by Lowell Weeks. Mike Anderson led in a devotions and prayer.

Roll was taken.

Motion (Jan/Tom) to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019, Council meeting. **Motion carried.**

Reports:

Visioning: Jan read an article she has prepared for the Visitor about the number of exciting developments that are coming together, hard work beginning to bear exciting fruit. – She shared a form she has prepared to seek updated contact information from FELC members and attenders.

Executive: Becky Pittman and Angie Murphy are proposing that our Fastnacht event this year repeat last year's successful event. Pancake meal from 5 – 7 followed by an informal talent show featuring daycare and FELC youth. We will be intentional about inviting our ELC families. Also proposed that Lenten Wednesday soup suppers run from 5 – 6 (so as to increase the likelihood that ELC families would participate) followed by a service of a type yet to be determined. Motion (Cindy/Chris) that Wednesday Lenten soup suppers will be at 5 followed by a service at 6 (except Ash Wednesday will be the usual service at 7) **Motion carried.** – Pastor Larson reported that he had met with Cindy Sprang (assistant ELC director) and Angie Murphy regarding the issues raised in a letter Cindy had directed to all member of the council. Angie and Cindy are working hard to qualify our ELC for a Star 5 rating and the letter and meeting addressed some of the identified needs. More competitive salaries are needed to attract more qualified staff; a reliable bus is needed; some toys and other supplies mandated by the State must be purchased; the playground is also an issue. Pastor reported that some of these issues had already been provided for by Angie in our current plans and budget. He plans to meet with Angie and Cindy weekly and Becky Pittman every other Monday. Motion (Cindy/Jan) that council authorize a special fund raising campaign for the purchase of a new transit bus (approximate \$30,000). **Motion carried.** - Motion (Dan/Tom) that FELC retain Attorney David Haring to compose a letter to Page Excavating demanding payment of \$9000 for the damages caused by them during their demolition of the Flippin Building. **Motion carried.** - Further discussion was had about the issue of perhaps consolidating some council positions. There was a clear consensus that we want to restructure our leadership model. There was also a consensus that it might facilitate that process if we suspended council term limits at some point. The matter was tabled for further discussion. A schedule of council terms and election years was distributed.

Senior Pastor: On Monday, December 9th, 2019, I attended the funeral visitation for Eugene Luedy. "Gene" died at the age of 95 on December 5. He was an active member of First English Lutheran Church, since 1949, serving on many committees, the Church Council, teaching 7th grade Sunday School, and singing in the choir. Gene also led the ministry of our Communion Deacons, serving communion for over 22 years at area nursing homes. - On January 3, I officiated at the Graveside Service for Susanne LeMunyon. Susie died at the age of 76 on December 31. Susie was a long-time member of FELC. - On January 8 officiated at the Graveside Service for Pat Leonard. "Patsy" died at the age of 92 on December 27. Patsy was a long-time member of FELC and served for a while on the church staff as the Coordinator of Volunteers. – Later on January 8 I officiated at the Graveside Service for Dorothy Giffin. Dorothy died at the age of 96 on January 3. Dorothy was also a long-time member of FELC. - We are looking forward to hosting an exciting Mission Conference for our Ohio Mission Region - NALC, here at FELC on **Saturday March 22, 2020.** Our Guest Speaker will be the fun and dynamic Pastor Greg Finke author of **"Joining Jesus On His Mission!"** The weekend is guaranteed to significantly advance the mission conversation in every participating congregation and among our leadership. Every congregation is being strongly encouraged to bring a large group from for the maximum impact on our mission outreach! Jan Fisher will be coordinating the ordering of the catered box lunches and "Break Time" refreshments. - We will be hosting **The Executive Committee of The Ohio Mission Region of The NALC** on January 17. - On February 12th, I will be traveling to Orlando, FL to participate in the Gathering of the Ministerium of our

NALC. This is that important annual meeting of all of the clergy of our NALC with our bishop, as he lays out his vision for our church in the coming year. This year will be especially historic, as we will be meeting with our newly called bishop, Bishop Dan Selbo. This year's gathering will be historic and significant in another major aspect. The Gathering of The NALC Ministerium will be followed immediately by a joint gathering of the pastors and leadership of both The NALC and The Anglican Church in North America. The theme of the conference will be **"Disciple Life 2020."** It will focus on working together as "Word & Sacrament" churches in North America that are both Biblically orthodox and confessional to develop congregational cultures which intentionally and authentically with accountability foster and support disciple-making. The conference ends at noon on Saturday, February 15th, and I will be returning later that day in time for services on Sunday morning. - We will be hosting **The Executive Committee of The North Central Ohio Mission District of The NALC** on February 28 - This coming Fall 2020, I will be using some of my annual 14 days continuing education time to lead a Holy Land Pilgrimage to Israel & Jordan. Informational Meetings will be offered this Spring 2020 for those who would like to learn more about this event-packed Holy Land Pilgrimage.

PERSONNEL: (Todd written report) The job posting for Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries has been posted through the NALC as well as the ministry section of [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com). The committee is also reviewing and evaluating Christian Ministry job sites (and pricing) for additional postings. - The Personnel Committee has been tasked with coordinating and implementing the results of a Safety Management Survey by Select Insurance Company of America. This includes written program elements, a formal training program and national background checks for our "Abuse or Molestation" policy. More information to come as work continues. - The Committee is reviewing and updating the FELC Employee Handbook. Specifically, we've been asked to focus on the vacation and sick time section.

Finance: Ted reviewed some changes to the previously proposed 2020 budget which had been distributed. Finance committee recommends that council approve the revised budget and recommend that the congregation approve it. **Recommendation approved.**

Property: (Mike) The Flippin building has been demolished. H & T hopes to have the concrete wall and rough grading done by 1-18-20. \$4,000 was paid in advance, \$12,000 will be paid at the completion of rough grading, and \$5,000 is to be held and paid after final grading and seeding is completed this spring. - The installation of the fire alarm should be completed by 1-11-20 and inspected and approved by the fire department. Then training will begin for our staff. - The purchase of janitorial supplies has been changed from Cintas to G & L Supply for cost savings. - The property committee recommends renaming the Black Fork Retreat Center to the William Schwartz Retreat Center. Motion (Tom/Ted) that the Black Fork Retreat Center be renamed the Bill Schwartz Retreat Center. **Motion carried.** - The committee is discussing what to do with the deteriorating middle set of steps on Mulberry Street.

ELC: (Tom) **Current Staffing Levels:** 3 Admins ; 12 Teachers. **Enrollment:** 56 Daycare; 20 school agers. - **We are actively searching for:** lead preschool teacher; lead infant/toddler teacher with a CDA or Associate's Degree; teacher for the after school program - Andy Kershaw is posting these positions on Indeed and if you know anyone that may be qualified for the above, please share that we are interviewing! - - Becky Pittman has started a new music class with school agers at 4 pm. **Things needed at ELC in the coming months:** New Bus (Deadline April 1st); Fence in the playground (Deadline May 1st); Update/purchase new playground equipment and shade structure. Angie is working with Andy and creating a layout (Deadline July 1st). **State informed us that we are required to have 1660 sq. ft. of indoor play space while the playground is under construction or we can be charged with a non-compliance on our state report.**

Youth: (Ted) All of our Junior and Senior high youth attended Quake the weekend of 1/10 thru 12. The youth and youth committee would like to thank the 18 individuals or couples that donated by selecting an apple or multiple apples to cover some of the Quake expenses. We thank the person who donated a substantial amount to cover the remaining costs and also the costs to attend Winter Jam later this year.

CONGO LIFE: (Lana) There will be an ice cream sundae bar in the undercroft for the Image Choir and our youth and their families on February 16.

Evangelism: (Jan) The new website will finally launch on Monday January 20, 2020, if all goes as planned! This will be a great Evangelism tool, as well as a great addition to the Early Learning Center publicity and contact information. We will all be able to use this to keep up to date! - We continue to be aware of members who are missing, sending out cards of love and encouragement. I'm thankful to Kathy Hoecker for her provision of the blank cards and the postage, all easily found on the "Greetings" table. More people need to jump into action here! - Please remember to be open and encouraging as you greet people at worship! We are all part of God's family. - **Possible combining of Social Ministry and Evangelism:** Recently Gary Lane, Cindy Russell and I met to discuss our options for combining Social Ministry and Evangelism, if that is to be done. We reviewed the best options from previous events. We came up with some new ideas, as well as revisiting some things that were done in the past. We think that our two committees could be successfully combined.

WORSHIP: (Cindy) Mansfield Christian's Image Choir will be at FELC February 16th for the 10:00 worship service.

Stewardship: (Mary) I have no actual report. However, a thought I would like to share is this: Has God blessed you richly during all the days or years of your life? He has certainly blessed me. As a response to those many blessings, I would encourage each you, on your birthdays, to make an additional contribution in response to our Heavenly Father for those years of your life.

Global Missions: (Chris) The Krafts report that the anniversary on January 4 went great. The construction was good enough that there were bathrooms and places to sleep but there is still a lot to be done to the facility. Everyone just left Saturday night. Monday we started to prepare for our 8 weeks of CORE. We have 12-15 students coming. Our leaders Favio and Angie will finish their term in May and will be going home. They came for one year but ended up staying two. We will be sorry to lose them. Please pray for us.

WFELC: (Jan) Women's Bible Study continues to meet, as well as the ladies of Sarah Circle. Prayer Shawl Ministry ladies continue to work at home if we miss a meeting night. Workday Ladies are continuing to put patchwork quilts and lap robes together. There is always a place willing to take those donations. In February we will be writing Valentines cards to our college and military young people. Along with the card of love and encouragement, we send each recipient a Subway gift card for their enjoyment.

New Business: Brief discussion of staff/council social gathering. Tabled.

February coffee fellowship/council devotions: Stewardship Committee.

Next meeting: February 11, 2020 @ 7 p.m.

Alicia Schulz, Council 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 3rd 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. 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

And please check out our new FELC mobile friendly website!
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.....

calendar here

calendar here

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.

“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

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

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!

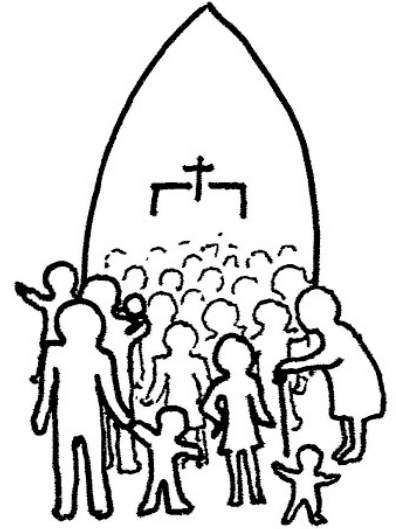
Congo Life

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 7th - Registration is \$20.00 per Person

Received After March 7th - 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 or phone the church office at 419.522.0662.

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

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

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

Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: 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	plarson@felc-mansfield.org
Scott Berry	saberry31@yahoo.com
Becky Pittman	beckypittman@yahoo.com
Angela Murphy	cgs@felc-mansfield.org
Nicole Goddard	ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org
Angie Cockrell	acockrell@felc-mansfield.org
Church Office	office@felc-mansfield.org
Jan Fisher, Editor	newsletereditor53@yahoo.com
Andy Kershaw	propman@felc-mansfield.org

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

Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.

Emergency cell phone number if the pastor cannot be

contacted at church or home:

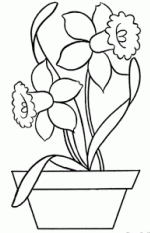
Pastor Paul Larson, 419-632-1875

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 22nd 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

Permit No. 714

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