

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

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**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**

## **Psalm 37:1-5** (ESV)

- <sup>1</sup> Fret not yourself because of evildoers;  
be not envious of wrongdoers!  
<sup>2</sup> For they will soon fade like the grass  
and wither like the green herb.  
<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.  
<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and He will give you the desires of your heart.  
<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in Him, and He will act.

### **Dear Friends in Christ,**

One of my favorite books in the Bible for inspirational and devotional reading is The Book of Psalms. Many of the psalms were written by King David. His life was filled with not only innumerable joys, but also long seasons of great loss, suffering and adversity.

It is interesting what will come to mind when you are reading God's Word. Because God's Word is His *LIVING* Word – inspired by the Holy Spirit – Always pray before you read. Ask God the Holy Spirit: “What do You want to teach me today? ... What do You want to Show me today?” **And as you read ...and Listen ... God will speak to you!**

We read in Psalm 37:1, **“Fret not yourself because of evil doers.”** Do you ever find yourself **“Fretting?”** I must confess that I often find myself “Fretting” after listening to the evening news. I also must confess that I love to listen to the news! But I am also aware that I often find myself **“Fretting”** after watching or listening to the news. Please understand that I try to use a filter when listening. It goes something like this: “What if ONLY 50% of what I have just heard is True?” Yes ... I still find myself **“Fretting!”**

After reading Psalm 37:1, I wrote in my Bible next to verse 1, this word to myself: “Listening to the evening news!” I needed God's Word to re-focus my heart and mind and feelings! I needed the Holy Spirit to speak God's Word of Hope and Promise and Peace and Sovereignty into my life.

It is not only GOD's Word that brings Peace back into my life. It is the powerful words of great hymns. This month I will share one of my favorite hymns with you. I know that God speaks to my heart as I meditate on its words. I pray that He will also speak His Word of Love and Peace and Assurance to yours as well. The hymn is no doubt familiar to many of you. It was written by Horatio Spafford.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

***Fret Not!***  
***Christ's Peace Be with You!***

**In His Love,**  
**Pastor Paul**

**“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,  
“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”**

Ecclesiastes 4:8

**Thoughts for Labor Day ...**

**Ecclesiastes 4:4-16** (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

<sup>5</sup> Fools fold their hands  
and ruin themselves.

<sup>6</sup> Better one handful with tranquility  
than two handfuls with toil  
and chasing after the wind.

<sup>7</sup> Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

<sup>8</sup> There was a man all alone;  
he had neither son nor brother.

There was no end to his toil,  
yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.

“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,  
“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”

This too is meaningless—  
a miserable business!

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:

<sup>10</sup> If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.

<sup>11</sup> Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
But how can one keep warm alone?

<sup>12</sup> Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

John worked 70 hours a week. He loved his job and brought home a sizeable paycheck to provide good things for his family. He always had plans to slow down but he never did. One evening he came home with great news—he had been promoted to the highest position in his company. But no one was home. Over the years, his children had grown up and moved out, his wife had found a career of her own, and now the house was empty. There was no one to share the good news with.

Wise King Solomon talked about the need to keep a balance in life with our work. He wrote, “Fools fold their hands and ruin themselves” (Eccl. 4:5). We don’t want to go to the extreme of being lazy, but neither do we want to fall into the trap of being a workaholic. “Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind” (v. 6). In other words, it is better to have less and enjoy it more. Sacrificing relationships at the altar of success is unwise. Achievement is fleeting, while relationships are what make our life meaningful, rewarding, and enjoyable (vv. 7-12).

The LORD can give us this wisdom as we seek Him and trust Him to be our Provider. We can learn to **work to live and not live to work** by choosing to apportion our time wisely. The Lord can give us this wisdom as we seek Him and trust Him to be our Provider.

**Listen and measure your life by this Word from your Lord Jesus:**

**Luke 9:23-26**

And Jesus said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

**Lord Jesus, show me if my priorities are skewed  
and where I need to make changes.**

**Thank You for the gift of family and friends.**

*To Spend Time Wisely,  
Invest It for Eternity.*

*In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Paul*

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

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

Meeting called to order and opened with prayer by Lowell Weeks.

**Reports:**

**Secretary:** Roll was taken. Motion (Chris/Dan) to approve the minutes of the June 14 Council meeting. **Motion carried.** Alicia reported on a “thank you” from New Hope for the Dickson Fund monies.

**Senior Pastor:** (none)(vacation)

**Vice President:** Dan suggested that, at the forthcoming, delayed annual meeting, we present something in the way of a “State of the Church” address. A list of presenters would review the status of our visioning process and progress and present brief updates of various developments such as the blended services, expanded role of Becky Pittman, the search for a youth leader, the ELC and attainment of 5 Star status, the bus, our website and technology team, the Dickson fund, interim pastor team, etc. The possible topics and presenters were discussed. – Nicole Goddard has become invaluable and it is proposed that we officially expand her responsibilities. Todd is aware of this need and it is suggested that he ask Nicole what she thinks she can or would be willing to do. May need to consider the issue of bonding and the office of treasurer. – We need Pastor Larson’s calendar for the remainder of the year. – We need Pastor Larson to compile a list of all records in his possession and at the church, especially those matters that are not well or commonly known and help us become familiar with what we need to know.

**Personnel:** (Todd written) Will have a report next month as meetings and projects are in the works.



- On a separate note: The new recording/streaming equipment has been incredibly helpful and useful. Even as we are “learning the ropes,” it has been drastically more efficient than our previous endeavors. We still have a few “kinks” to workout, especially on the audio side of things, but it is progressing. We’ve been able to capture audio via a line from the board, which has improved the overall quality. However, additional resources are needed to properly mic the drum kit as well as the organ. - We are currently streaming to Facebook live Sunday mornings and then uploading the recording to our YouTube channel following the service. Unfortunately, we do not have enough YouTube subscribers to stream live to our channel. - According to Facebook, **from June 16 to July 13, we have 11 new page likes, a post reach of 6110 people and post engagements of 1,678 people.** Our last two live worship services have reached **695 people (June 28) and 700 people (July 5).** Engagement of those posts was 107 and 92 people respectively. **Our page has been visited 313 times in the last 28 days with 13 new followers, and five click-throughs to our website.** - Speaking of our website, I’d like to research the possibility of live streaming there as well.

**Finance:** Ted reported that giving is up \$6700 over budget. The ELC opened in June on a limited basis, its revenue is coming up but we don’t expect to make money this year. Expenses are \$49,000 over budget.

**ELC: Staff and Enrollment:** Current Staff numbers stand at 3 Administrators and 15 teachers. There are 63 children currently enrolled and attending. - **Bus** - We have purchased a new bus From Creative Bus Sales. Total final cost was \$28,466.50. The new (to us) unit is currently undergoing a complete inspection and has had a few items Identified that needed repaired before delivery. Parts were ordered early the week of June 29<sup>th</sup> and the repairs are expected to be completed by the end of the week of July 15<sup>th</sup> (depending on delivery of parts). Once those repairs are complete the bus will be delivered to FELC from Chino, CA. Upon delivery, We will take the new bus for it’s ODOT inspection and have it licensed for use by the church. Title work, pre-delivery inspection, any repairs as a result of the inspection, and delivery of the bus were included in the purchase price. Nicole Goddard has reported to me that the monies have been distributed accordingly, and now we are just waiting for delivery. **Grant Monies** - Once again, we are grateful for the tenacity and resourcefulness of our director when it comes to finding sources of funding! Angie Murphy applied for, and received a grant totaling \$16,012.00 to aid in offsetting expenses incurred due to response to

the (insert your name of choice for the Covid-19 virus) response mandates. The money was put to good use on the following;

- 3 portable sinks (1 will go in the shed), gloves, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, art supplies, manipulatives for classrooms, past payroll, plates, cups, napkins, plastic silverware, signs for parking lot, new washer and dryer, pressure washer, 3 canopies, touchless trashcans

Summer Olympics - Summer Olympic Games the week of July 13<sup>th</sup>. The Luther Hall parking lot will be closed 8:30-11:30, Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a closing ceremony in the Mulberry Street lot, with parents staying in their cars. Jan Fisher got a Thrivent card for Veggie Tales video for each ELC family plus a take home meal for the night. - A special thank you to Becky Pittman for continuing to provide a solid music program for our students!

**Evangelism:** (Jan) At our drive-through produce distribution today we served 167 households, of that number 117 were seniors, 215 were adults (18 to 59), and 108 were children. This equates to 440 individuals in these households. According to the computer program there were 78 new families. I'm always surprised by that. The produce boxes were premium quality and if you had to a value on them I would guess \$35.00 to \$40.00 worth of produce. Equally great was the dairy: gallon chocolate milk, gallon of white milk, pound of butter, ricotta cheese in tubs, cottage cheese, large container of yogurt, and two bags of shredded cheese. Totally amazing, along with a frozen meat product which was pasta with pork and sauce. We ran out at 12:15 and I had to explain that to a number of people who came by around 12:30. - If you remember that we filled out yellow sheets with member contact information, Angie is working on a (non-picture) directory which should be ready soon. One frustration is the fact that we don't have Pew Pads to note names and addresses. We have consistently had two lovely ladies visiting for worship, and I know their first names but cannot send them a note, etc. because I don't have complete information. I'm looking forward to being able to track people better in the near future. - I tried to contact Lind Media to see when/where our billboard will be displayed next. As of Friday PM, no response.

**WORSHIP:** Cindy reported that we will have communion on July 26.

**Christian Ed:** (Kathy written)\_Sunday School hopes to begin, again , as usual but Amy is unsure at the moment what thus will look like due to Covid. Some classes may need to find new rooms as ELC has had to make some room changes. No news as to “new” SS sessions starting up. Also unsure regarding Confirmation and Communion Instruction. Hopefully more to come.

**Global Missions:** (Chris) Christophersons: The devastation from the fire they had last month left them filled with tears of grief and healing. Praise God they had insurance to cover the loss of their home and they were not hurt. Their daughter and her husband will be coming down to help them fill a huge dumpster with all the charred items. They were fortunate to find a place to stay until the renovations are complete.They hope to move there on July 20. It could be from 6 to 9 months before they can move back into their own home. Please continue to pray for them!

**Krafts:** No update yet, but I believe they are still in lockdown. Unable to leave the house after 4 in the afternoons and Sundays complete lockdown. All 12 are still there as far as I know. The Krafts are asking for special prayers for their board member Kjirsten who was supposed to go home last January, but is still with them. Pray also that the borders will soon open so Anne Valerie, a young nurse, will be able to go to Bolivia as planned to help there. 5 of her relatives there have Covid.

**Sorges:** After the wedding of their son Joshua and Caroline, their next trip is to go to Hammond, Indiana on July 14 to celebrate Brian's Mom's 90th birthday. They are not sure what comes after their time in Hammond, but are asking God for clarity as they seek HIS guidance about the rest of their time in the U.S. The borders of the Far Side are not open yet, and their visas must be re-validated before they go back.

**Malawi** The orphans are still in great need of funding for food and education. They continue to only receive one meal 2 -3 times each week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53. Next meeting: August 11, 2020, 7 p.m.

**Alicia Schulz, Council Secretary**

**ELC**

## **Little People BIG News**

### **SEPTEMBER**



#### **Flashback into August**

Our summer camp is officially over, and the kids had a great summer given the fact it was out of our norm. We have done a lot of learning over the summer as well as some unique crafts. Thank you to all our summer staff for their help this year! Good luck going back to college! We have been utilizing the parking lot as a play space until we can get the playground fenced in. We are looking forward to using the grass area!

#### **A Peek into September**



Our staff and children are ready to begin the new school year! The children will be learning about rules of the classroom, sharing about their families, making new friends, and of course Johnny Appleseed! We will be adapting to a new routine that will include school agers when they are on their hybrid schedules. We will be closed September 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Our first day of preschool will be September 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are planning on a trunk or treat event this year. Please look for a flyer to come!

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

## **Some valuable information from the Finance Committee**

Following the annual meeting, Lu Blankenship became the chairman of the Finance Committee.

Things the congregation might want to know:

- YTD expenses have been less than budgeted (Of course, some activities are limited due to the Corona Virus.
- The amount of money that can be drawn from the General Endowment Fund this year is \$135,000. We drew \$50,000 of that in March.
- The available funds for the year in the New Ministries & Missions Endowment Fund was \$15,400, of which \$4,800 was used to upgrade the system and produce a more quality worship for broadcasting and publishing it on the FELC web site.
- At the six-month mark, offerings were \$2,009 over the budget. However, in July, offerings were actually \$17,073 while the budgeted figure is \$25, 178; which meant that, at the end of July, we fell short a little over \$8,000. The good news is that offerings last July were \$14,912, so the July figure (\$17,073) is \$2,161 better than last year.

FELC is a very blessed congregation. Finance is confident that members will continue to step up with their offerings and continue the good work that is being done at and around our church.

As always, Finance welcomes your questions, concerns and suggestions. You can reach Lu at 419-564-1469.

**Lu Blankenship, Finance Chairperson**

## WITHIN THE FOLD



### Wednesday Noon Lunch Ministry

We are back to offering WNL on the first and third Wednesdays! It's a great mission to our community, as we invite people to join us in the East parking lot next to Luther Hall for a "take along" kind of lunch just to be safe in these continuing COVID19 days. On August 5th we had a yummy lunch of BBQ pork sandwiches, baked beans, cole slaw, bottled water and a cookie all packaged into a "to-go" box. What a treat!

On Wednesday, August 19th we held a kind of pizza party, packing pizza slices, chips, fruit cup and soda into "to-go" boxes. Everyone loves pizza, right?

We hope to one day offer the chapel service once again. In the meantime we plan to serve from 12:15 to 1:00 PM. We welcome the sharing of this information. Questions can be directed to Cindy Russell.

**Kroger Rewards:** May 1, 2020- July 31, 2020, served 48 Households, Total donations \$240.45.

Please keep your account registered at Krogers because these funds go to support feeding the orphans in Malawi! It's a great perk that costs us nothing.

A Thank You from Tammy Hillman:

Dear Prayer Shawl Ladies,

Thank you so much for your kindness and prayers in my time of need. (Broken foot/broken leg.) I hope one day to be able to learn how to make shawls to help others in need. Thanks again, **Tammy Hillman**

In response to this, we would be happy to help anyone learn to knit and we would welcome any new knitters or crocheters to join us. Sometimes we just do our work at home and skip gathering for a meeting. Often we have yarn available just for the taking.

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**Youth and Sunday School news:** Sunday School for all ages begins on **Sunday, September 13th!** We will all initially be meeting in the sanctuary at 9:00 to talk briefly about room changes and our Coronavirus approach as we move forward Covid style!

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. THANK YOU ahead of time!!

**JR. and SR. HIGH YOUTH!!** Our first fall event will be on Sunday, September 21st. The activity will be determined one week ahead of time so we can plan safely around - you know - say it all together - Covid. Thank you for your flexibility so we can keep everyone safe!

## **Seeking to hire Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries:**

**First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio** is seeking a part-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. This position will oversee and manage all aspects of student ministries grades six through young adult. Candidates must be a committed, confessing Christian with an active prayer and devotional life. Candidates should also have a passion for ministering to pre-teens, teens, and young adults and embrace Lutheran doctrine and theology of the NALC (North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) LCMC.

Submit your resume to [FELCMansfield53@gmail.com](mailto:FELCMansfield53@gmail.com)

OR mail to First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, OH 44902

Attention: Youth Director Search Committee

***REMINDER: LABOR DAY IS OBSERVED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2020. THE CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON LABOR DAY.***

## ***ALTAR FLOWERS***



## **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.

*September 13, 2020*

*September 20, 2020*

*September 27, 2020*

*October 4, 2020*

*October 11, 2020*

*October 18, 2020*

*October 25, 2020*

calendar here



calendar here

## **2020 NALC Convocation Report by Greg Hughes**

Since this is my first experience as a lay delegate to a national church function it seems strange and unusual that it be was done virtually. It started with two different virtual meetings to discuss how to use the software and the protocol for voting and structure of the Convocation meeting over the period of two weeks. This was not my first virtual meeting experience but it was the first with hundreds of people participating!

Prior to the Convocation Meeting several proposed changes to the NALC Constitution were made in the preliminary discussions. When the Convocation started many delegates voice opinions concerning whether to hold the convocations biannually. This motion passed by one vote.

After hours of discussions the proposed constitutional changes were postponed to next year when it hopefully will be held in-person in Corpus Christi, Texas. This was done because a majority of delegates felt is was important to be able to have face-to-face communication on the issues.

Bishop Selbo addressed the meeting and presented a new bold plan, entitled 2020 Vision, for the next four years. First he gave a brief update on the growth of the NALC. The North American Lutheran Church is now ten years old. Since its inception we have grown from 17 congregations to close to 450 in 36 Mission Districts! Now the challenge is to create 40 new congregations in the next four years.

The growth of the NALC has presented issues with the structure of the church leadership. Bishop Selbo has proposed the creation of regional bishops to handle the workload currently done by one person.

The emphasis of the 2020 Vision is to encourage one-on-one witnessing using the gifts of the Holy Spirit and adhering to the Great Commission.

The bishop also emphasized that all pastors be allowed to train every year. In the next few years 300 pastors are eligible for retirement. We currently are struggling to ordain enough new pastors each year to replace those who retire.

He proposes that we encourage middle school, high school, and young Christian adults that feel a calling to enter seminary. We need to involve the youth in all aspects of the church! They are the future of the church!

The bishop also appealed to the church to provide more funds to finance and support the seminary and global missions (including local startup congregations).

## **An opportunity to share our “bounty” .....**

This year CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2020. This year, much like last year's walk, Pastor Paul Lintern is heading up Mansfield Hunger Crop Walk. It will be done virtually this year, due to COVID19.

Teams and individuals are asked to do their own walking, wherever they choose to do it. They can schedule it during any time of the day. They then get their team members and other families and friends to donate online by going to the website: [www.crophunger.walk.org/MansfieldOH](http://www.crophunger.walk.org/MansfieldOH).

There are five Mansfield churches helping with this years' organizing. They are: First Christian Church, Grace Episcopal, MOSAIC, St. Luke's, and NECIC. Sandy Stout at First Christian Church and Rev. Tom Roepke at Linden Road Presbyterian Church have materials to hand out. You can donate online or if you prefer you can use an envelope (found on the poster table) designated for CROP WALK. I'm certain that most of us are aware of the food insecurity that exists these days.

Gary Lane is the contact for First English Lutheran Church and can be reached at 419.961.3158 (cell).

### **Gary Lane, Service Ministry Chairperson**

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Women's Ministry will continue the detergent collection for the month of September:

**Please help us with a collection of any size liquid laundry detergent bottles. These will be given to Crossroads City Center (on the square in downtown) where they offer free laundry facilities twice a week, and also to our Early Learning Center staff as they do extra laundry due to COVID 19 requirements.**

**ANY SIZE AND ANY BRAND THAT YOU PREFER, BUT WE ARE SUGGESTING LIQUID DETERGENT.**

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY** is holding off scheduling anything for September due to COVID19 restrictions.

**Funeral Squad for SEPTEMBER, Squad C: Sandie Volz and Kathy Hoecker**



## *Love Notes from Shirley*

This month's NOTES is a love story about Pastor Delmar Krueger and Doris Krueger. They met at Doris' home church in LaPort, Indiana where Del was serving his year of internship from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. It was love at first sight. The Kruegers celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in August.

During his 60 years of ministry, Pastor Del retired four times! Once a preacher, always a preacher! They served most of their ministry in Illinois. As part of their 50th year celebration in Danville, IL, the congregation surprised Del with a hot air balloon ride! Later a parishioner jokingly asked, "Pastor, did you supply the air for the balloon?"

The couple has traveled to several countries overseas including Israel. Doris brought home an actual piece of the Berlin Wall when in Germany!

Del and Doris' union produced four children. Daughter Kathy and her husband Chris Hoecker are very active at FELC. Granddaughters Abby Hoecker, Maggie Hoecker and Great Granddaughter Audrey are also part of our church family and worship here.

Doris' hobbies are reading, painting, and cooking with fresh herbs from their garden. When I asked Pastor Del about his hobbies, he pointed to his lovely bride and said, "her!" See, I told you this was a love story!

Story by Shirley Lane



**Sharing is caring .....We have known Henrik and Patty Christopherson for a long time and think that you might be interested in the update about their house fire where they experienced great loss. This comes from Patty.....**

It's been awhile since I last sent out an update. This one has been more challenging for me to write, for some reason. Should be getting easier, don't you think?

- We met with our general contractor, Rob. Now that demo is pretty much wrapped up, he will make an assessment of what it would cost to rebuild our house the way it was: hardwood floors, crown molding and french doors, window seats in the dining rooms, along with updates to bring electric, plumbing, etc up to code. Once ServePro and State Farm come to an agreement, we will find out how much money we have to work with. Then comes the fun part. We can let our contractor know what changes we might want to make and still stay in budget. At least we think this is how it works (and I hope it will be fun). We learn as we go!
- So how are we, really? The word that best describes how I feel right now is fatigued. Though I do like the idea of starting over, *off with the old and on with the new and all that*, I find that I am getting fatigued. It actually reminds me of the first time we came home from Peru. After living overseas for 4 years where your choice was between two brands of jam (both strawberry), three brands of yogurt (again, all strawberry) and you could buy ground beef in one grocery store one day a week, we got used to a pretty simple life. Our first trip to the grocery store after coming back to the US made our brains hurt! What kind of cereal? What kind of deodorant? What kind of bread? At some point, I remember thinking, "We have enough. This is enough! I can't make any more decisions today. I will pick out soup and paper towels another day." Now, we are slowing starting from scratch again. I find myself sighing a deep, heavy sigh as I shop which tells me, "Tomorrow is another day. You can pick up soup and paper towels later. Time to go home." I am fatigued emotionally.
- Fatigue has also set in because I don't always sleep well. Normally, I fall asleep quickly and sleep through almost anything. Just one of the reasons I think it was a miracle that I woke up the night of the fire. Lately, Henrik has been working a lot of overnights as a chaplain. One night when he was gone this week, I was having a hard time relaxing enough to fall asleep. I realized it is in part an unconscious concern that if I am home alone, deeply asleep and something happens, will I wake up? It was good to name and own my fear, and to know that the same God that protected us on Chicago Avenue is here with me on Knollwood Lane. Pray for nights of peaceful sleep.

- I have been reminded again that trauma is not linear. Instead of taking a straight path where it slowly fades into the sunset, the effects of the trauma come back and surprise me. I have felt like I've been keeping it together pretty well, all things considered. It seemed right that I would take the lead in communicating and following up with insurance, ServePro and others since I have been on summer break and Henrik has been at work. That is changing as I head back to school, and Henrik is more free during the week. I feel like I'm handing over the baton, and Henrik feels like he's been out of the loop. One day recently, as we talked, Henrik said, "If I were you I would..." and "You should call Donna (our State Farm adjuster) and ask her...." I felt like I was trying to pass the baton, had tripped and the baton was being fumbled. "Henrik, I have been trying to juggle all these conversations and decisions while you have been working. I need help! I need your help!" I may have also added that I was starting to feel a bit resentful that he went into work the day of the fire, and left me there alone to deal with the enormity of what had just happened. I was on a roll and it felt like I was back at the beginning. Fatigue again. I feel that an event like this can make you or break you. We have chosen to let God use this to make us stronger, more compassionate, and more grace-filled with ourselves and each other.
- This is a silly one. (Sorry!) I had thought that one of the few things I wanted in my "new" house was a refrigerator with an ice maker. We'd never had one. I'm re-thinking that as we have an ice maker where we currently live. They take a lot of freezer space, and can be a little persnickety. I think I may go for simple. What do you think?

I want to again thank all of you who have so selflessly given to try and help us rebuild. It has been a real encouragement to us. I was asked if I would include the links for a few people who haven't been able to give yet. Here they are:

- Amazon wish list: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2J17HZYBVQ4RY?fbclid=IwAR3oSc6ih1BPVSt2cHG2Y4zutDwGSMkfVTCB-LflyfmMfKojgdS9p-cLOs0>
- Go Fund Me: [https://gf.me/u/ycvv3n?fbclid=IwAR1u8dTJXZgwRG\\_kH5y0J1le-jvJPDG50dhyAR1szZONfy\\_n9HOY53yJpy2o](https://gf.me/u/ycvv3n?fbclid=IwAR1u8dTJXZgwRG_kH5y0J1le-jvJPDG50dhyAR1szZONfy_n9HOY53yJpy2o)

We love you all, and wouldn't want to go on this path without you. Feel free to write or come by (56 S. Knollwood Lane, Kankakee, IL 60901) or give us a call (HT: 815 585-1314 or Patty 815 416-8445). Thank you for all the prayers, support, love, encouragement, grace, kindness, etc.

**Patty (and Henrik)**

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



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

How wonderful to be making music regularly again with the FELC praise team! If you have not joined us yet this summer for "in person" worship on Sunday mornings, we would be happy to have you back in the sanctuary! Lifting up our voices in song to our Lord and Savior TOGETHER is such a blessing! We will also be offering Communion on Sunday, September 6th. (Covid style)

Have you checked out our worship via Facebook or on our YouTube page?? (FELcMansfield) Todd Heichel, Tom Sarbach, and Ed Farner continue to improve our presentation each week. New camera angles, different approaches to offer the best audio feed, and fancy FELC logos are certainly blessing our online community! Hours, folks. Hours of time have been put into this new way to worship. As my Dad always said, "Don't forget to say thank you!" ☺

I can't believe our outside summer ELC music time is coming to a close! The kids and I have had a great time praising the name of Jesus to the entire community from our Luther Hall parking lot. I am beginning to explore "virtual" ways for our church volunteers to interact with our daycare as a new school year begins.

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**

## Memorial Donations



### **Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Don Harruff*

*Given by: Frank & Lana Rauschenberger, Joan Wirstrom, Bill & Loretta McBride, James Crum, Dan & Debbie Crum, John & Connie Crum, Paul Crum, Deb Kuhn, Barb Wagner Smith, Jane & Elizabeth Sprang, Greg & Linda Hughes, William & Phyllis Martenet, Norm & Judy Day*

### **Renewing God's House**

*In memory of Don Harruff*

*Given by: Becky Pittman*

*With Sincerest Sympathy*

**We are pleased to report that there are no recently deceased members or friends in our FELC family.**

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 at the Memorial Funeral Service for Don Harruff, held on Saturday, July 25, 2020. The Committal Service followed in the FELC Columbarium. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Beth Harruff and her family.

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



## **A brief update from our Worship Committee**

Many of us are interested in knowing the number of our fellow members who are joining each Sunday for live worship in the sanctuary. You would especially like to know this if you haven't been back to worship at the church. The time frame of July and up to August 16, gives these stats: July 5, 54; July 12, 77; July 19, 78; July 26, 73; August 2, 64; August 9, 69; August 16, 80. There is something so enveloping about gathering with our fellow members for live worship. We gain strength in our faith walk by seeing each other and singing God's praises! We are all grateful for the availability of our Facebook live broadcasts and You Tube videos, but nothing replaces seeing each other in person, even with social distancing. We are all being careful as we proceed.

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**

As FELC Congregation Council Stewardship chairperson, I personally would like to thank each member of our congregation for their faithful contributions toward the furthering of God's kingdom. As we speak of stewardship, we understand it means the generous giving of our time, talents and treasures. During this upcoming fall season, we will once again be emphasizing our personal commitment of our financial resources to honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I ask each of you to prayerfully consider what you will be able to pledge for 2021. You will be hearing more about stewardship in the upcoming weeks and months. Thank you for your faithfulness to this loving congregation.

In Christ's service,

**Mary Schwartz, Stewardship Chairperson**



## Prayer Requests

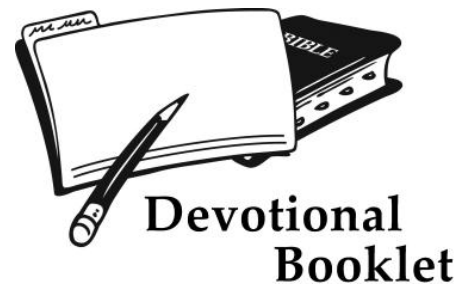
To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the pastors or call Angie Cockrell (419.522.0662) in the church office to be added to the list. Please call again when it is appropriate to have that prayer request deleted.

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.

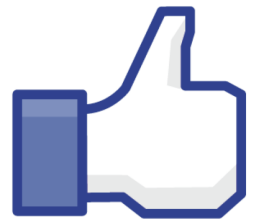
Her home # is: 419.589.2399 or cell# is: 419.632.4850.

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



## DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Devotional booklets for SEPTEMBER 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](http://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.**

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



## **Evangelism for Today's World**

***Another very successful produce distribution to report:  
“DRIVE THROUGH” free produce distribution on August 11, 2020.***

Free Produce was distributed on Tues. August 11, 2020. We served our highest number of guests in the nearly five years we have been doing this. 213 families received fresh produce on August 11th. It was gratifying to see so many cars lined up in our West parking lot. We received 6000# of bulk produce that needed to be bagged and prepared to deliver to our drive through guests. We also received 200 pre-packaged dairy boxes which were filled with a gallon of white milk, a gallon of chocolate milk, a pound of butter, a large container of cottage cheese, shredded cheese and some yogurt. We are blessed to be able to continue this missional endeavor, and I am thankful for the 39 volunteers who helped in August. It got a little crazy at times as we continue to tweak our process of moving people through the parking lots.

Note: Drive thru distribution and pre packaging is great for this project! We cannot always count on the pre-packaging being available, but we are blessed to be able to offer this to our community, and it is at NO FINANCIAL COST to us at FELC.

**Our next Produce Distribution will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020 11:00 to 1:00.**

This week, with the help of Angie Cockrell's design of a new post card, five of us gathered to hand address "We Miss You" postcards to folks that we haven't seen back at worship. It is simply an engagement, letting people know that we **truly do miss them**. Most of us are hoping these COVID19 days will soon be over. I suggest that we don't hold our breath!

***Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson***

## *September 2020 Volunteers*

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

#### **ACOLYTES**

\*NONE\*

#### **ALTAR WORKERS**

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

#### **ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Greg Hughes

#### **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

\*NONE\*

#### **COMMUNION PREPARERS**

September 6: Chris & Kathy Hoecker

#### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

September 6:

**NONE NEEDED**

#### **GREETER**

NONE

#### **LAY READERS**

September 6: Todd Heichel

September 13: Lu Blankenship

September 20: Myra Cordey

September 27: Shirley Lane

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

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

#### **PEW PAD GLEANERS**

September 6: Lana Conry

September 13: Stacey Crall

September 20: Rhonda Rehm

September 27: Jodi Mumaw

#### **POWER POINT OPERATORS**

September 6: Isaac McFadden

September 13: Teri Brenkus

September 20: Cindy Russell

September 27: Suzanne Rippel

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

\*NONE\* see request for pre-pkgd treats

#### **SOUND BOARD OPERATORS**

September 6: Ed Farner

September 13: Ed Farner

September 20: Ed Farner

September 27: Andy Kershaw

#### **USHERS NAVE**

Mary Schwartz & Kayla McFadden

Jodi Mumaw & Ed Corley



**Something new! We are going to post birthdates in case you would like to celebrate with a birthday card or note! Feel free to share this information.**

**Below find October birthdays:**

Pittman, Rebecca	490 Rudy Rd Mansfield OH 44903-8038	10/01/1973
Milligan, Melinda	1291 Bellview Dr Mansfield OH 44905-1613	10/02/1969
Shaffer, Mary	66 NORTH HOME RD #6 Mansfield OH 44906	10/03/1944
Rehm, Ronald	1090 Crestwood Dr Mansfield OH 44905-1623	10/03/1961
Doklovic, Alaina	3453 W 4th St Mansfield OH 44903-8033	10/04/2000
McCracken, Norman	61 McCullough Blvd Mansfield OH 44907-1784	10/05/1934
Grossenbacher, Taylor	47 Bridge St Lucas OH 44843	10/05/2001
Doklovic, Annette	3453 W 4th St Mansfield OH 44903-8033	10/06/1964
Volz, Sandie	1652 Graham Rd Mansfield OH 44903	10/07/1941
Esler, Wilbert	553 Bennington Dr Mansfield OH 44904-1693	10/08/1924
Conry, Lana	217 Redwood Rd Mansfield OH 44907-2462	10/08/1953
McFadden, Kayla	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	10/10/2003
Coon, Jerry	580 Meadowdale Dr Mansfield OH 44907-2871	10/12/1946
Murphy, Angela	1120 Laver Rd Mansfield OH 44905	10/12/1970
Hughes, Ruth	1091 Woodville Rd Mansfield OH 44907-2111	10/14/1928
Ludwig, Timothy	79 Gimbel Dr Mansfield OH 44903-9656	10/21/1966

## 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)

**OCTOBER Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020.**  
**Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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">cgs@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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**SEPTEMBER 2020 VISITOR**