

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
Angie Cockrell, Parish Secretary/Printer
Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance
Andy Kershaw, Property Manager
Michelle Couch, Early Learning Center Secretary

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

Go Missions International missionaries to Peru & Bolivia, South America:
Nick and Shannon Kraft, and children Madison, Tanyon, Moises and Tucker
World Mission Prayer League Missionaries Brian and Barbara
Shadreck and Yamikani Chikoti, Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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



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

CORE VALUES

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

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

In this my last newsletter article to our FELC congregation, I would like to share these words from the Apostle Paul:

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **Colossians 1:9-12 ESV**

My first day as your Senior Pastor was on January 1, 1999. It is hard to believe how quickly the time here has gone. That's almost 22 years ago. In the normal passages of congregational life, we have seen many baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. Through all of life's many changes and seasons, we have always known the steadfast Love and Faithfulness of our Lord Jesus. In these years, we have shared together many different challenges, joyful celebrations, trials and exciting victories. We have experienced many great days of work together for Christ's Mission. To borrow a phrase from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Kristi and I have been blessed to ***"Do Life Together"*** with you.

We thank and praise God for First English Evangelical Lutheran Church and the many opportunities that He has given to us in these almost 22 years. As of January 1, 2021, I will no longer be your pastor. But I am confident that God has already provided FELC with an excellent Interim Pastor in The Rev. Tim Hubert. God will continue to have so many new and exciting ministry challenges and opportunities for His people at FELC to ***"point people to Jesus through intentional relationships!"*** God is positioning FELC for its next great season of ministry!

I want to use this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the honor to serve as your Pastor. Because of our years together, the unity of our Faith, our mutual commitment to mission and ministry, and the bonds of love we share in Christ Jesus, I have been deeply blessed.

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

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday October 13, 2020

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

- Council president Lowell Weeks called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Chris led in prayer.

Reports:

Secretary: Motion (Jan/Gary) to approve the September 15, 2020, council meeting minutes as previously distributed via email. **Motion carried.**

Exec: (Lowell) Budget requests need to be turned in. Personnel and IT are still out. While still needing and trying to get an audit committee put together, we need to do an audit of the procedures and persons involved in receiving and processing money. Ted Ellis has arranged for 3 people to handle this “process audit” – Lu Blankenship, Jim Hannewald, Ted Ellis. – discussed ELC playground equipment report. No source of funds identified. Is finding used equipment realistic? The old equipment is at the retreat center. Lowell will meet with Angie to get a better handle on what is needed. – Recommendation: that the congregation split the bus operating and insurance expenses with the ELC on a 50/50 basis. We will review how usage is shared annually. Tom will get a log to be kept. **Recommendation approved.** – Finance committee recommends that council authorize Tom Sarbach to enter into a purchase agreement with SignPro imaging of Lima to create and install three printed vinyl logos on our new bus. Cost not to exceed \$650, 50% deposit. Costs split ELC/FELC. **Recommendation approved.** – We need a policy for who (volunteers) can drive the bus and what training is required. Perhaps insurance company will have some guidelines. – The elevator is working but Mike will follow up regarding a structural engineer coming to advise us about the cracks that are developing at the stairwall entrance doors and elevator landing. – Dickson Fund team needs to call a meeting.

Senior Pastor: On Sunday, October 4, a special Confirmation Orientation Meeting & Pizza Party was held for all of our confirmation students and their parents. Then on Sunday, October 11th, we celebrated the “Service of Dedication for Confirmands and Parents” in our worship service to mark the beginning of Confirmation Classes for the 20-21 school year. The focus for most of our confirmation classes this year will be on

The Lord's Prayer. This year's class: - Justin Crall; Peyton McFadden; Hayden Skropits; Max Weeks.

Working with our Stewardship Chairperson, Mary Schwartz and her 2020 Stewardship Task Force, a four-week Stewardship emphasis has been planned for this Fall. We are following the theme from our NALC: **"Stewards of God's Influence."**

| | |
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| October 11, 2020 | Time & Talents |
| October 18, 2020 | Treasures from God |
| October 25, 2020 | Treasures to God - |

Reformation Sunday

November 1, 2020 Testimony - All Saints & Commitment Sunday

Gretchen Albrecht died on October 2. I conducted her Funeral Services on October 6. We thank God for the faithful witness of her life, and pray for God's healing love and mercy to bring His Peace and Promise to those who grieve. - This Fall, I am offering a new Adult Sunday School course, called, **"The Big Ten!"** This **NEW ADULT Sunday School Class** also serves as our **New Members' Class**. Please Note that this is **ALSO** the Opportunity for anyone desiring to prepare themselves for Adult Membership at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mansfield, OH. - I will be taking vacation days on Saturday and Sunday, November 28 – 29th, 2020.

Finance: (Lu) Highlights from the General Operating Fund Report: YTD offering income: \$181,074; Budgeted: \$182,350, Under by only \$1,275. - The GOF Balance is \$25,196.53. Please note that, without the \$95,000 we received from the State, this GOF Balance would have been (\$69,803.50). - Recommendation from Finance that any and all monies remaining in the Prayer Seminar Fund (for seminars held here) and the Enrichment Fund (formerly the Anderson Lecture Series) be moved to The New Ministries & Missions Endowment Fund. This will mean that the monies in these two lesser funds will be invested in managed funds along with the funds in The New Ministries & Missions Endowment Fund. This will improve the return since they are currently invested in CDs. The purposes for the two lesser funds fall within the guidelines of the larger Ministries & Missions fund, so it seems like a good idea to improve the investment opportunities while simplifying the bookkeeping. The description of The New Ministries & Missions Endowment Fund specifically mentions prayer conferences and many of the other things listed would qualify as "enrichment". **Recommendation not approved.** Council approved of the rationale behind the recommendation but went a slightly different direction. Motion (Alicia/Dan) that all monies remaining in the Concert Series Fund, the Prayer Seminar Fund and the Enrichment Fund be moved to a "New Ministries and Missions Fund". This will accomplish the bookkeeping and investment purposes proposed but allow the funds to be available without the restrictions imposed on endowment

funds. **Motion carried.** - We will be taking the \$8,000 remaining funds available this year from Major Capital Improvement and using it to fund major capital improvements underway (i.e., Security Upgrade). - Andy Kershaw and the Property Committee will begin looking into having deteriorated stained glass windows restored. A definite “must”. - Finance will begin work on the 2021 Budget this Thursday.

Property: Mike offered thanks to Lu for connecting us with All Pro Elevator who fixed the elevator and billed us \$990. The other estimates we were considering were from \$7,000 to \$70,000. - Andy Kershaw's brought to our attention that Schmidt Security had missed including two doors in their quote. Securing these doors are mandatory to securing the church. Therefore the additional costs total \$3,689. Motion (Tom/Lu) that we increase the amount previously authorized to complete the 3 phases of the security system by no more than \$3,750 as needed to secure the two additional doors. Money to come from the Memorial Fund. **Motion carried.** – Have quotes for asphaltting the new playground. After discussion, this may come up for an e-vote. - Andy is comparing quotes on building insurance from Mennonite Mutual and Church Mutual.

ELC: (Tom) Current enrollment stands at 54. Staff is steady at 15. - Tune in to WMFD for a special segment on Ms. Becky and our very own singing cherubs on the front steps!

Youth: (Ted) 26 youth and guests along with a number of family members, attended the youth outing and pizza at the Infield. - Beginning on Oct. 12, radio station 106 will run ads for the FELC youth leader for several weeks. There will also be ads posted at various other locations.

EVANGELISM: (Jan) A few of us have continued to send out “notes of welcome” and “notes of encouragement” to our members and guests. As a congregation we need to continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus so that all know how important they are to us!- What a beautiful day for Produce! We received 6575# of fresh produce today. Beautiful tomatoes, sweet red peppers, onions, red delicious apples, cabbage, and Sunmaid Raisins. Twenty four volunteers worked our tails off bagging produce and putting it in cars. Angie Murphy does an amazing job of getting people registered before we let them drive through the parking area. So today we served 210 registrants which equates out to 577 food insecure folks. - I am very happy to share that our new billboard design has been accepted and will be posted by Lind Media very soon. This is free to us, being redesigned every two years, via an agreement with Lind Media because they have a double billboard erected on FELC property in our west parking lot. – Generally agreed that we should have new member sponsors.

WORSHIP: (Cindy) Becky, Scott, Tom, Todd and Ed continue to work on technology issues to improve live streaming. - Rachel Justice will be doing a liturgical painting Sunday, December 6th.

Attendance for September: 6th - 82 at worship, 325 views; 13th - 112 at worship, 297 views; 20th - 88 at worship, views NA; 27th - 88 at worship, 189 views.

Stewardship: (Mary) Lowell Weeks, as Council President will be sending out a letter to members of the congregation this week. Pastor Paul is preaching 4 stewardship sermons, the first one on Sunday, October 11. He will be sending out a letter on October 22. Included will be a pledge card and a stamped church addressed envelope. Commitment Sunday will be on November 1.

Global Missions: (Chris) Brian and Barb will be visiting our church on November 1. They take Pastor's Sunday school class hour to update us about what's happening in their lives. A Scripture app needed for the Islanders for their iPhones/iPads/iPods /iPod Touch devices has finally become available in the Apple store. iPhones make up about 25% of the smart phone market in their country. To see the apps and Scripture resources for Islanders, visit the website <https://kethaabulmuqaddhas.com//>. Those of you who use the iPhone app devices can join their effort and help these apps take off by giving them a 5 star review. There are 3 iPhone apps: 1) The Scripture app called "kithaabul Muqaddhas" (The Holy Spirit) 2) The book of proverbs called "Hikumathuge31days" (31 Days of Wisdom) 3) And "Easaa al-maseehu" (Jesus the Messiah) Please install these 3 free apps onto your iPhone/iOS device from the Apple App Store and give each a 5 star rating. It will serve as an IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION that we can make to help give the Islanders easy access to the Scripture. Please pray that the Islanders will find the apps, install them, read and interact with the Scriptures and experience new life in Christ. - **The Krafts:** The restrictions have lifted just a little in Peru. Now 5 people can meet but no private transportation is allowed yet. As of today (October 11) they have no electricity. They have asked for prayers for their son TJ. who soon faces the last two weeks of basic training in the Marines. It looks good that the Krafts will get a bank loan to purchase a car. Prayers needed for two of our board members whose mothers are in hospice.

Social Ministry: (Gary) Crop walk in progress. This Sunday and next. Then I will turn in the collections. Actually it is a virtual walk.

WFELC: (Jan) Women's Ministry is considering beginning Women's Bible Study once again. There seems to be enough interest, even in these

COVID19 days of some separation. We feel that we need to be fed. More details will be posted in the Visitor as plans are completed.

Ad hoc committee reports:

Interim Pastor Team Motion (Alicia/Tom) that we proceed to finalize the terms of a contract to engage Rev. Tim Hubert as our Interim Pastor. **Motion carried**. It was the consensus that we send out a letter expressing that intent while the details are being worked out.

Safety Committee: Lu stated that significant progress has been made on securing the building and is nearing completion. We need to do some training but not at this time.

Technology Team: Tom was made aware that our wifi does not reach far enough. – Tom said that all council members will soon have an email address and he asks that we use them for church business.

Announcements: Next meeting November 10, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:50 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Schulz, Secretary

Addendum: On October 16 Lowell requested an e-vote on the following recommendation from Finance Committee: Finance Committee is recommending that Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$10,600 from the New Ministries and Missions Endowment Fund and the expenditure of \$22,600 from the New Ministries and Missions Fund for the purpose of funding upgrades of the lighting, audio and video equipment needed for the live streaming and internet streaming of our worship services. On October 28, Lowell announced: **Recommendation approved**.

Respectfully submitted by

Alicia Schulz, Council Secretary

ELC DECEMBER

We are using this opportunity to give you an in-depth report.

- **ELC:** Current Enrollment stands at 42 preschoolers and 15 school-agers, with staff numbers unchanged from last month.
- We received our grant of \$15,000 from the state to cover staff wages to stay at low ratio.
- We will receive 2 more grants from the state toward the end of November. A \$13,352 for September and around \$5,000 for October. These grants are from the Cares act for maintaining low ratio. We project November income to be around \$ 21,000 and December near the same. With these grants, estimated income for the ELC should be right at \$305,000 for the year, which is more than any of us thought it was going to be. Solid work on the part of Angie Murphy and staff for searching out and securing these funds.
- These grants will be soon coming to an end. Unless new programs are put in place, beginning January 1st we will need to start filling classrooms as much as we can to make our monthly numbers. We are unsure at this point what that will look like with the current restrictions in place.
- Our trunk or treat was amazing. Spider-Man even came. Special thanks to staff who helped Plus, Jan Fisher, Becky Pittman, Karen and Ted Ellis, Mrs. Chris, Mary, Ed and April and Cindy Russell. There were around 55 kids in attendance, but the little buggers really move to fast to get an accurate count.
- In November we are planning a take home meal for thanksgiving in place of our in-person feast for families. This should be a lot of work, but our team is ready!
- We have started rehearsal for our Christmas program. This will be children, staff, Mrs. Becky and a special guest conductor! We are pre-recording for parents.
- Thank you to all for adhering to the “no fly zones” put in place due to the Covid restrictions. I know it has been a royal pain in the left cheek, but everyone has been wonderful about avoiding the CDS hallways in an effort to keep our students healthy.

Angie Murphy

ELC Director

NEWS FROM FINANCE

The Finance Committee is working on the 2021 budget which will be presented to the congregation on January 24.

Andy Kershaw spent countless hours researching insurance options for FELC. At a savings of \$5,000 over the old carrier, coverage will be purchased from Mennonite Mutual for an annual premium of \$20,555.

Monthly regular offerings are averaging \$19,823 while the budget is \$19,783.

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| General Op Fund (GOF) Recap End of October 2020: | 10 months |
| | |
| 2019 Carry-over | \$52,801 |
| General Endowment Fund to GOF | \$135,000 |
| Major Capital Improvement Endowment to GOF | \$8,000 |
| New Ministries & Missions Endowment Fund to GOF | \$4,800 |
| RGH II Campaign Funds to GOF for loan payment | \$8,041 |
| YTD Income | \$579,519 |
| YTD TOTAL INCOME | \$788,160 |
| YTD TOTAL EXPENSES | \$691,443 |
| GOF BALANCE | \$96,717 |

Lu Blankenship, Finance Chairman and Council Representative

luella616@gmail.com

419-564-1469



A little bit of Property Committee News.....

The Property Committee met on Nov. 2, 2020. Andy Kershaw reported that Schmidt Security will start installing the new system the week after Thanksgiving. It will take several weeks to install. Long's Fencing will start fencing the playground as soon as they obtain the permits. Andy received quotes for trimming the trees in the East Parking lot. Dolce's Tree Service came in with the lowest quote of \$ 600.00. The committee voted on and approved the expenditure. Tree trimming to be done the week of Thanksgiving.

Heads up to Thrivent Members!

If you haven't used your Thrivent Action Team Cards for 2020, there is still time if you hurry to submit a project. Each person who owns Thrivent products is awarded annually with two \$250.00 Action Team Cards that can be very helpful to others in many ways. It's a great way to support missional activities. Here are some ideas that could be offered yet this year: new pajamas and slippers for kids who get dressed via the New Store, food for Domestic Violence Shelter, pillows and linens for either Harmony House or Domestic Violence Shelter, winter coats for a coat drive, non-perishable food items for Catholic Charities food pantry, buddy bags for homeless people (bags filled with shaving cream, toothpaste, deodorant, skin cream lotion, winter gloves, a fleece blanket, etc.), fleece blankets donated to a homeless shelter, healthy snacks for an after-school program, the sky is the limit and Thrivent loves it when volunteers are involved in carrying out these projects.

Contact Jan Fisher at 419.589.2820 if you need help in applying.

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.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary or via Facebook through our livestream broadcast! A half hour of special music begins at 7:00, and many of our talented FELC musicians will be participating. Worship begins at 7:30pm. Oh come, let us adore Him! Christ the Lord.

[illegible]

Funeral meals, when necessary, will be provided. Below is the squad assignment :
DECEMBER: Squad B: Myra Cordrey, Jan Fisher, Beth Harruff



WITHIN THE FOLD



Wednesday Noon Lunch Ministry

In November, due to the continuing restrictions resulting from the Coronavirus, there was no Wednesday Chapel Service, and therefore there was no Wednesday Noon Lunch Fund donations. We are, however, offering a “carry-out” lunch on the first and third Wednesdays each month. It’s being served on the sidewalk beside the East doorway. We recently added two picnic tables for our guests to use and enjoy. Thank you, **Mary Schwartz**, for using your Thrivent Action Team card for this!

A Thank You from Will and Dolores Esler: Our Thank You to each of you for the huge plant of beautiful mums so thoughtfully given to us. And thanks also to Chris Cichanowicz for delivering them to us.

God’s love and ours,

Will and Dolores Esler

Card of Thanks from Jane R Mako:

During these uncertain times, our congregation has gone above and beyond the norm. The many phone calls, the cards with words of encouragement plus the huge mum plant that was delivered by our pastor and the Lanes, all showed the love of God. I am thankful to be part of the body of Christ here at First English Church.

Jane R Mako

THANKS FELC FOR ALL YOUR LOVE

Thank you all for the love and support you have shown our family during this very scary and stressful time in our lives. We appreciate everything so very much. There are still many unanswered questions, but hopefully through more testing and doctor appointments, we will find peace soon.

All our love,

The Goddard Family (Nicole, Logan, Allison, Mackenzie, and Jason)

This update from our Bookkeeper, Nicole Goddard: (Copied her Facebook post)

All the prayers have worked! We are so beyond excited to say the bleeding in Logan’s lungs has stopped! The CT was much better today!! They put him through some pretty intense breathing tests and have cleared him to return to school and sports! They asked our permission to publish his case in the medical journals. His doctors said this is one case they will never forget!! He will be having follow ups with the pulmonology team

here at Children's Hospital for some time now to keep an eye on him but our prayers have been answered and he is healthy and able to return to his normal activities! This is one very scary experience we will all never forget. Thank you all so much for the love and prayers



A MUM DELIVERY THANK YOU

Thank you to Pastor Paul and Karen Ellis for the lovely visit and mum in September.

Love, **Betty Trainor**



A HALLOWEEN THANK YOU

Thank you to the "youth group" and Becky, for the special bags of candy, and the outdoor serenade, give to us on Halloween.

Dolores & Will Esler

A Thank You from two of our "Free Produce" guests: "We appreciate very much your hard work and ministry. Thank you!" (I know these sister's last name but not going to use it.) Sharon and Barb

Kroger Rewards Aug 1, 2020- Oct 31, 2020

47 Households helped earn us \$251.61.

This supports the Malawi Orphan Care Project feeding program.

In October seven members of FELC contributed to the virtual **Crop Walk** held to support world hunger. Happily we report that we donated \$325.00 in support of food insecurity.

calendar here

calendar here



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.

December 6, 2020

December 13, 2020

December 27, 2020

January 10, 2020

January 17, 2020

January 24, 2020

January 31, 2020



Love Notes from Shirley

Once upon a time many years ago two young ladies were enjoying lunch at the Indiana Dunes south of Chicago on a cold windy day in June when a handsome gentleman came strolling by. He stopped to chat with the ladies and stayed — and stayed! That, dear reader, is how the lovely and charming Alicia Schulz and Henry Keultjes met. That little chat turned into a marriage of 35 years.

It is almost impossible for your humble writer to do justice to the path of their 35 year marriage, but I will give you a few highlights. Before they met, Alicia was in college and graduate school, majoring in French, at the University of Iowa. While in school she worked in a hospital school for severely handicapped children. She graduated from Northwestern University Law School in Chicago and then was an associate lawyer in a large law firm in downtown Chicago.

Henry is from Holland. He still wears wooden shoes. Many years ago he owned Microdyne Company here in Mansfield. Microdyne manufactured ergonomic chairs. When they met Henry was planning to move his company out of Mansfield, and Alicia was planning to look for a legal position closer to family. Together they had decided to move to North Carolina, but before they could move the company was awarded a large government contract so they decided to stay in Mansfield. Alicia worked with Henry in the company, handling personnel and government contracts.

Henry and Alicia are blessed to have two beautiful daughters. Claire is married to Luke Hobson and they have a young son, Grant. They live in Vienna, Virginia. Hannah is married to Jimmy Burns and they live in Louisville, Kentucky. Alicia homeschooled the girls, and that was back in the day when homeschooling in Ohio was in its infancy, making them seem like pioneers. Alicia mentioned that she really loved those years. She enjoys feeding people and also gardening, especially pulling weeds.

In 2000 she met Judge Ron Spon and he asked her if she would be interested in serving as magistrate in Juvenile Court. She went from one or two days work per week to eventually becoming Chief Magistrate, giving her the opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of children and families. Alicia said “Somehow my love for the job connects with my love for pulling weeds.”

Alicia is retiring at the end of this year and has no specific plans for retirement other than seeing more of family. Henry plans to move to southern Indiana and begin life all over again. (We at FELC hope that they never move away.)

FELC is so blessed to embrace this special couple. They have always been active, singing in choir, playing the organ as substitute organist, providing meals for Alpha, etc., helping with Wednesday Noon Lunch and soup suppers, mentoring behind the scenes, and serving on Congregational Council. What a blessing!

When Alicia was asked what brought her and Henry together, she thoughtfully responded sweetly saying “Fate.”

Story by Shirley Lane



Global Mission,

International Missions: Chris is sharing about the Sorge's visit which she hosted.

Brian and Barbara Sorge: the Islanders: Brian and Barb were here over the weekend. Thanks to all who attended their presentation on Sunday, November 3, to update us on their missionary work. They are focusing much of their energy on the Scripture App for iPhones for those who now use Apple products so more will have access to the Word in their own language.

They always ask for prayer. A special one is to "pray that the name of Jesus will be glorified through all the turmoil surrounding COVID-19 in The Islands, and that sisters and brothers there will shine as lights and not give way to fear". Having spent time with me at my home, relating many of the stories of their 30 years of mission work, I can assure you they are definitely "Jesus with skin on"! I was blessed to get to know them better.

Henrik and Patty Christopherson: I realize that these two are now retired from the mission field, but I got some information I want to share. Henrik is doing some chaplain work at a large hospital in Champaign-Urbana and enjoying it. Sad news, however, about Patty's mom. She was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection today and with COVID for the second time (the first time was 3 months ago.) The isolation of the nursing home has taken quite a toll on her emotions. Henrik and Patty have not been able to see her for months! Please keep all of them in your prayers!

Chris Cichanowicz

Global Mission Chairperson



Becky's Views.....

Christmas melodies can now be heard from the kids at the Early Learning Center! The angels are singing, we have learned to spell J-E-S-U-S and we will be wishing everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS via a livestream broadcast on Facebook! Watch for upcoming information regarding the December date and time. You will be filled with the love of Christ through the voices and faces of our amazing ELC kids.

Mark your calendar! Our FELC Sunday School children will be leading worship on Sunday, December 13th beginning at 10am. The message of Hope will be brought with compliments of a string ensemble, special music presentations, puppets, and boomwhackers! We have very talented youth who love sharing their gifts in creative ways.

I am so happy to have the FELC Bell Choir ringing again! We were blessed with their unique and beautiful music on Christ the King Sunday. Listen for this ensemble again at the Christmas Eve service! Have YOU ever thought of joining us? It's a super fun group. Please don't hesitate to ask if you are interested.

1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now YOU are the body of CHRIST, and each one of YOU is a PART of it!"

BE INTENTIONAL! BE LIKE JESUS!

Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and the Arts

YOUTH NEWS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHRISTIAN ED: Sunday school report from Amy Skropits: Good evening all. An update from Sunday school committee. We are still going strong with our classes. All classes are able to social distance and continue to learn about God. The K-2 are in the penthouse as are the 3-5 graders. Both classes are small so the setting is perfect. The high school middle school class is on the 3rd floor with lots of room to spread out and social distance for this large class. Pastor Larson's class has moved to the undercroft to allow more room for social distancing. The plan is to stay in class as long as we don't go to purple status.

The high school/middle school class is learning the importance of self-control when it comes to social media and have had a few challenges like being social media free (including video games) for an entire day. Another time they were challenged to spend just as much time with God (their bible) as they do with social media/video games. All involved have found these challenges to be very tough.

The 2-5 graders continue to have unique lessons. This week they studied Numbers chapter 33. We talked about being on a journey. Pilgrims on a journey searching freedom from religious persecution. Just like Israelites...our missionaries. Talked about journeys being hard and needing encouragement to ensure. We made "joy jars" with jokes for 2 people struggling on a journey.

The K-2 grader class is pulling lessons from multiple sources. One example they have talked about is turning to God like sunflowers turn to the sun and how that tiny seed grows big with God's love. This month will all be about giving thanks.

Send some LOVE to a college student!

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

Alaina Doklovic
Anya Doklovic
Taylor Grossenbacher
Josh Hamrick
Brianna McFadden
Mitchell Pittman

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



Memorial Donations

Memorial Fund

In memory of Gretchen Albright

Given by: Joy Hunt



With Sincerest Sympathy

There have been no recent deaths.

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

There will be no Nursing Home Communion for the rest of 2020.

Please hold our shut-ins close in your prayers.



Stewardship Message

I want to thank each member of First English Lutheran Church for submitting your pledge to further God's ministry during 2021. If you have not had the opportunity to submit your promise to our Lord and Savior, there is still time to do so. Please pray to determine how much you are able to commit to His ministry. We are all blessed with way more than we need or deserve. Making your pledge to the work of this ministry is an act of worship! We look forward to a rewarding and blessed year ahead.

In Christ's name,

Mary Schwartz, Stewardship Chairperson

Evangelism for Today's World

DRIVE THROUGH PRODUCE was offered on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 and what a beautiful day it was to bless people with the gift of fresh food! Thirteen volunteers greeted our guests. We served 185 individuals which equates out to 462 people in those families. What a blessing!

We won't serve again until next April, God willing.

Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson





Service/Social Ministry

*As we have done in the past, we will continue to gather donations of non-perishable food items to be given to our WNL guests mid-December, so that they can enjoy a bountiful holiday meal. Tammy Hillman graciously obtained a Thrivent Action Team card to help support this project. Please bring your donations to church and deposit them under the coat rack. **Deadline for donations will be Sunday, December 6th.** The suggested items list is below:*

We will be collecting items to donate to our needy friends in the community. Our plan is to get enough donations that we can provide a nice meal for at least 40 families. Please help our community by teaming with us. Items we are looking to collect are as follows:

- Canned Turkey
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Mac & Cheese
- Gravy
- Green Beans
- Corn
- Yams
- Stuffing
- Canned Fruit

Earlier in November Gary and Shirley Lane used one of their Thrivent Action Team cards to purchase non-perishable food items for Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Can you simply try to picture \$250.00 worth of canned goods, Hamburger Helper meals, Ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese meals and boxes of cereal? If you can picture that, then you know what a blessing it was to deliver all that to Catholic Charities. They allow their clients to visit them once every thirty days to help with food insecurity. What a blessing! If you need to know more, please call them. **If you have a Thrivent Action Team card still available to use for 2020, please contact Jan Fisher because she always has ideas for helping where help is needed.**

| | |
|---|--|
| 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 Lu Blankenship 419.564.1469 |
| Becky Pittman 419.989.8585 Sound Board/Audio | Amy Skropits 419.747.3076 Sunday School Superintendent |



Prayer Requests

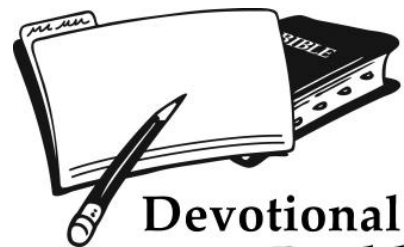
To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the pastors or call Angie Cockrell (419.522.0662) in the church office to be added to the list. Please call again when it is appropriate to have that prayer request deleted.

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

Call **Pat Shenberger** to activate the prayer chains.

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

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



Devotional Booklet

DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

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



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

Podcasts of weekly sermons are on the website: felc-mansfield.org

And please check out our new FELC mobile friendly website!

felc-mansfield.org where you can be directed to online worship via Facebook and YouTube.

December 2020 Volunteers

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

ACOLYTES

NONE

ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Alicia Schultz

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

NONE

COMMUNION PREPARERS

December 6: Beth Harruff & Lana Conry

December 24: Ted & Karen Ellis -

COMMUNION SERVERS

NONE

GREETER

TBA

LAY READERS

December 6: Angie Kaschube

December 13: Kristi Larson

December 20: Todd Heichel

December 24:

December 27: Lu Blankenship

PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

PEW PAD GLEANERS

NONE

POWER POINT OPERATORS

December 6: Isaac McFadden

December 13: Cindy Russell

December 20: Teri Brenkus

December 24: Cindy Russell

December 27: Suzanne Rippel

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

NONE

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

December 6: Andy Kershaw

December 13: Ed Farner

December 20: Ed Farner

December 24: Ed Farner

December 27: Ed Farner

USHERS NAVE

Ken & Debbie Suzuki

Jan Fisher & Lowell Weeks

BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER:

Amy Skropits
December 2
3399 Oakstone Dr.
Ontario, OH 44903

Becky Sarbach
December 2
527 Forest St.
Mansfield, OH 44903

Gary Shade
December 4
12 W Crest
Shelby, OH 44875

Jane Sprang
December 4
1817 Partridge Court
Mansfield, OH 44907

Cindy Russell
December 4
630 Oak St. Lot 174
Mansfield, OH 44907

Heather McFadden
December 5
1190 Timbercliff Dr.
Mansfield, OH 44907

Ashley Altman
December 6
1333 State Rout 42
Ashland, OH 44805

Julianne Wansitler
December 7
355 Richards Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214

Justin Reeder
December 7
145 Clare Road
Mansfield, OH 44906

Jane R. Mako
December 10
2702 Country Meadows Dr.
Shelby, OH 44875

Tom Sarbach
December 14
527 Forest St.
Mansfield, OH 44907

Lydia McFadden
December 20
1190 Timbercliff Dr.
Mansfield, OH 44907

John Fraifogl
December 21
1930 Banyon Ln.
Mansfield, OH 44907

Bradley Watts
December 23
114 Otterbein Dr.
Mansfield, OH 44904

Alicia Schulz
December 25
228 Bowland Rd.
Mansfield, OH 44907

Jean Gall
December 29
306 James Ave. Apt. B16
Mansfield, OH 44907



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

January Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020.
Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020.

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

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Pastor Larson | Plarson001@neo.rr.com |
| Scott Berry | sberry@felc-mansfield.org |
| Becky Pittman | bpittman@felc-mansfield.org |
| 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 | newslettereditor53@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

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DECEMBER 2020 VISITOR