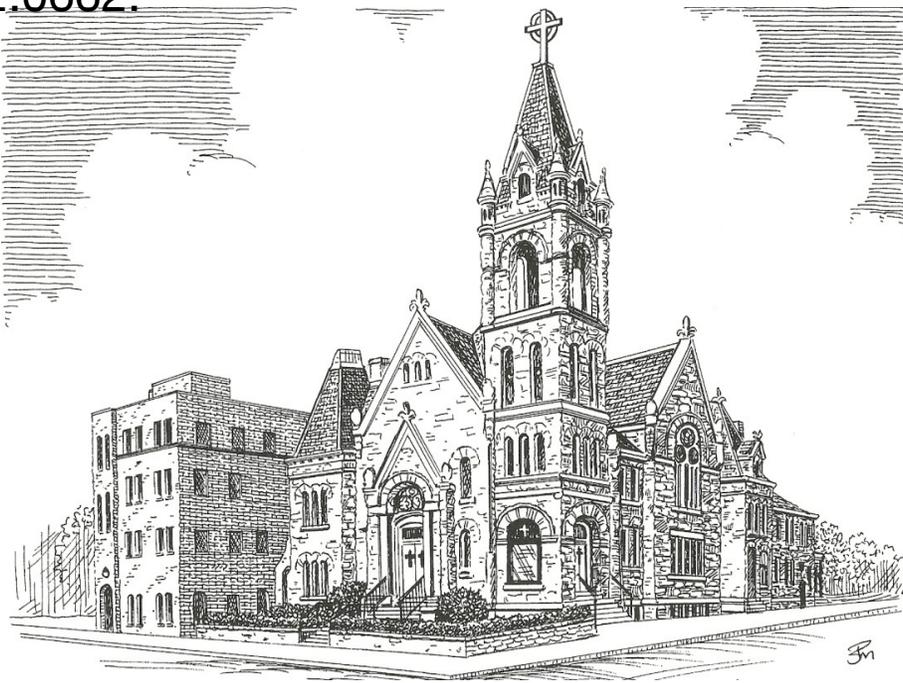


THE VISITOR

Dear Members, Once again we are updating the list of folks who want to receive the Visitor via US MAIL.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST
419.522.0662.



The First English Lutheran Church
53 Park Avenue West (at Mulberry Street)
Mansfield, Ohio

Volume 63

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Number 1

"Pointing People to Jesus Through Intentional Relationships"

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CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Hubert, Interim 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**

As Interim Pastor Team Leader, I felt it was important to share a “Pastor Tim Hubert” introduction letter from him to our congregation. Let’s all welcome Pastor Tim into our fold!

Grace and peace to everyone at FELC!

I’ve been asked to write a short introduction, telling you who I am and about my family. Well, to start, I am the son of Rev. Lloyd and Betty Hubert, now both of blessed memory. Lloyd brought the French/German blood line to the family. My mother brought the English/Scottish/ Irish/Scandinavian heritage. I’m a Heinz 57!

My wife, Royce, is a Shelby girl whom I met at Wittenberg University, Springfield when I was at Hamma School of Theology. This year we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary. Royce is a musician, knitter, Hospice Volunteer, and Stephen Minister.

We have three children. Sarah is our oldest. She and her husband, Jimmy, still live in Illinois. Both are handicapped. They’ve been married for 6 years, and live in a nursing facility there.

Our second child is Daniel. Dan is an Associate Professor for Instrumental Music at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WELS). He is married to Amy and they have two sets of twins (girls age 5 and boys age 3). Life is busy in their house!

Our youngest is Ben who moved to Ohio with Royce and me. He has a M.A. in Library Science and is looking for a job, which Covid has squelched pretty well. In the meantime, he works for Sherwin-Williams in Wooster.

I bring 40 years of pastoral experience and 13 years of Interim experience to First English. This will be my 8th Interim assignment. I have loved every congregation I’ve served!

How long will this Interim last? That’s a good question. Probably 12 – 18 months. That’s the average. While I’m with you I will do my very best to love you, help you, and prepare you for your new pastor. The pastoral search process is a prayer thing on top of all the hard work involved. Let’s enjoy this time, this search process. God is always good!

Blessings,

Pr Tim+



NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 24, 2021** following worship at 11:30 am in the nave.

We will have two items on the agenda:

- #1 Approval to amend our North American Lutheran Churches Constitution, *see rationale on page 6.* Simple majority vote by paper ballot.
- #2 Congregational approval of our FELC operating budget for 2021. Simple majority vote by paper ballot.

Note: Only the two items listed on our congregational agenda will be presented. No other business will come before the meeting.

Notification from FELC Executive Committee
Lowell Weeks, President
Dan Obrynba, Vice President
Alicia Schulz, Secretary

NALC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S REQUEST TO RATIFY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

At the August 7, 2020 Annual Mission Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church there was action taken to propose amending this denomination's constitution in that Convocations would move to being held every other year instead of annually. This proposal would help the denomination financially and free up staff for other tasks, as well as help the local church financially because of less travel, housing and meals. Not to mention that the larger church body puts forth financial support for every convocation.

The constitution states that amendments must be voted on within a six month time period from the conclusion of the convocation, and in this case that final date for registering votes is February 8, 2021. It is each congregation's right and responsibility to ratify this amendment, and it requires a two thirds majority of NALC congregations recording this vote. At least half of NALC congregations must vote on whether or not to ratify the amendments for the ratification vote to be valid.

The Executive Council of the NALC proposed this amendment to the constitution of the North American Lutheran Church: **churches would move from meeting annually for their convocations to meeting every other year. The proposed amendments also direct the Executive Council to provide quarterly updates to pastors and congregations.**

Proposed amendments also clarify the process by which the Executive Council apportions additional lay delegates to the convocation so that there is approximately an equal number of lay and clergy delegates.

This simple majority vote will be taken by paper ballot at the convening of our 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2021 following worship at 11:30 AM.

For further detailed information you may consult page three of the September/October NALC Newsletter and/or thenalc.org/ratificationprocess

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday November 12, 2020

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

- Council president Lowell Weeks called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Gary led in prayer.

Reports:

Secretary: Motion (Gary/Dan) to approve the October 13, 2020, council meeting minutes as previously distributed via email. **Motion carried.**

Exec: (Lowell) Becky Pittman is unable to take her remaining 2 vacation Sundays in 2020 due to circumstances beyond her control. Recommendation from Executive Committee that she be allowed to carry over these 2 Sundays into 2021. **Recommendation approved.** – Rev. Tim Hubert will be our supply pastor on 11/27/20. – Discussion about setting the date for a congregational meeting in January to pass a budget and to vote whether to ratify changes to the NALC constitution. Motion (Jan/Chris) that this meeting be held on January 24, 2021, immediately following the worship service to take action on these two matters. **Motion carried.** Notice of the meeting and the agenda will be given in the January Newsletter to be mailed December 30.

Senior Pastor: Our Confirmation instruction this year focuses on the themes of The Lord's Prayer and The Lord's Supper from Luther's Small Catechism. I have a great team of both parents and volunteers working with me as part of our ***Faith Inkubator's Confirmation*** style of instruction. This is important, because they will also be available to work with our new FELC Interim Pastor to create a smooth transition and continuity with our Confirmation Program starting in January 2021. Stacey Crall is our Small Group Leader. Ed Farner runs our PowerPoint. And the different parents take turns leading our Closing Prayer Time as we gather around the baptismal font. We have 4 of our youth in this year's class; plus one of the parents for each child also usually joins us. It is a great group to work with, and we have lots of fun together. Our students are - Justin Crall, Peyton McFadden, Hayden Skropits and Max Weeks. – The Adult Sunday School class is doing a 10 week study of the Lutheran Catechism. This class also serves as our **New Members' Class.** **We will be receiving NEW MEMBERS on Sunday, December 20th, 2020.** - I will be taking the last of my vacation days on December 26th, and December 28-31. My last Sunday at FELC will be Sunday, December 27th, 2020.

Personnel: (Todd) The Personnel Committee met in October and November. In our October meeting we discussed revisions to the call letter for our interim pastor.

During our meeting in November, the agenda included 2021 budget items: COLA, possible paid holidays for part-time employees (after discussion, decided these employees should have the opportunity to get their regular hours in when holidays interfere but the larger issue Tabled). Will be bringing recommendations to counsel regarding increased job responsibilities of our bookkeeper and organist.

Finance: (Lu) Andy Kershaw finished his review and evaluation of insurance proposals. His recommendation, which was approved by Finance, was to buy our coverage from Mennonite Mutual at a cost of \$20,555 annually, which is a savings of about \$5,000 per year. The change from the prior company will be made as soon as possible. Motion (Mary/Chris) to approve the contract with Mennonite Mutual.

Motion carried.

We have taken the following draws from the General Endowment Fund:

\$50,000 in March

\$85,000 in October

\$18,000 will be taken in November (decided at Oct. Finance meeting)

\$153,000 TOTAL

General Operating Fund YTD (thru Oct 2020)

\$453,749 Income (including the \$153,000 Gen End Fund Withdrawals)

\$379,522 Expenses

\$74,227 Difference (Without the \$90,000 grant, there would still be a shortage of \$15,773)

General Fund Income Budget YTD is \$206,251, or \$20,625 per month average

YTD Actual Income if \$300,749 or \$30,075 per month average

October income was \$17,645

Early Learning Center YTD (thru Oct 2020)

\$278,769 Income

\$311,921 Expenses

-\$33,152 Difference

Early Learning YTD Income Budget is \$347,000, or \$34,700 per month average

YTD Actual Income is \$278,769, or \$27,877 per month average

October income was \$17,645

Property: The Property Committee met on Nov. 2. 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. - The committee voted to accept a quote of \$600 from Dolce's Tree Ser-

vice to trim the trees in the east parking lot and approved the expenditure. - We voted to hire someone to give us recommendations for the structural problems on the 3rd floor. Andy is getting quotes from Richland Engineering and Select Structural Solutions. Andy updated us on the insurance quotes. We referred this to Finance Committee for their recommendation – There is serious deterioration of the stained glass windows on the East Side of the church. This will have to be addressed very soon. – Were informed by Executive Committee that the Property Committee is responsible for the new bus and determining insurance considerations and volunteer driver and training. Tom will put together a log to record its use.

ELC: (Tom) Current Enrolment 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 stude

Youth: (Ted). Sorry to report that we posted out Youth Director wanted on college sites and on radio. No responses.

EVANGELISM: (Jan) Finally here are the produce distribution stats for today's distribution: 185 people served, but adding in all family members that our clients have, we actually provided fresh produce for 462 individuals. We had 13 volunteers today and we gave away 6312# of great fresh produce! I am always amazed at the

numbers of new clients who come, and sometimes I wish we did this year round, however today I am so tired that I wouldn't even think of year round! But we are blessed to be a blessing. This was our final distribution for 2020. - I have contacted Apollo Printing for a quote on a new heavy duty Advent banner. Projected cost is \$144.00. I will appreciate your input on selecting the best design. -We continue to send notes of greeting and encouragement to folks who have been visiting live in-person worship on Sundays.

WORSHIP: (Cindy) Worship Committee Report

Attendance for October: 4th - 87 at worship, 135 views; 11th - 79 at worship, 327 views; 18th - 75 at worship, 243 views; 25th - 91 at worship, 107 views – Meeting tomorrow of Interchurch Council to decide about the candle exchange this year.

Stewardship: (Mary) pledges for 2021 are slow in coming into the church. As of 11/8, 46 giving units have pledged \$155, 980; at this point in 2019, 52 units had pledged \$153,980. We are blessed to have many more resources than we need and must remember ALL that we have is given to us from our Heavenly Father.

Christ Ed/Sunday School: (from Amy Skropits) Sunday School classes are going strong. 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 in 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.

Global Missions: (Chris) : Nick and Shannon Kraft: Peru: They just posted a slew of photos of their family and friends in Peru on Facebook. Check that out. No information given, though.

- 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!

Social Ministry: (Gary) The results of the virtual crop walk in October for world hunger were that first English Lutheran church gave \$325.- Utilized a Thrivent card to purchase food for Catholic Charities.

WFELC: (Jan) Mid October we collected various wrapped candy which was then "treat bagged" by our Youth. On October 31st the Youth that were available delivered the bags of candy to our non-digital members with a surprise visit. The response of those who were visited was quite positive, and of course we want them to know that they are not forgotten. In December we will be doing shut-in cookie packing a little differently. With COVID19 still a big concern, we will be purchasing wrapped candies and assembling them in containers that can be taken to our shut-ins. Myra Cordrey has secured a Thrivent Action Team card to be used in the purchase of the candy. We just didn't feel that at-home baking was a good idea this season.

Ad hoc committee reports:

Interim Pastor Team: Pastor Hubert is recovering from his illness and is ready to go for us.

Technology Team: Tom: Thought I'd throw in a quick update since we have recently committed a substantial chunk of funding toward upgrades and continuing to move new and exciting directions as we chase our vision.

- The new server install has been completed and we are now up and running on the new equipment. While the transition was not seamless, or flawless, it did happen and is now completed. We continue to make baby steps to reorganize the way we store and handle our information.
- Part of the new server upgrade was to upgrade the Wi-Fi in the church. Now that all of the hub-bub from the server upgrade has settled, we will begin looking at where we need better coverage and adding more access points to ensure that we are adequately covered thorough the building.
- Another part of the new server upgrade was moving our email off site and hosting @google. It is our hope to be able to streamline the information available to our council members and staff and provide an easy to use resource. Imagine meeting minutes all in one place, or a mailing list at a click of the mouse? More info to come as this develops.
- Council recently voted to upgrade the sound / video systems in the sanctuary. The purchase order and contract with Sound Fall Media (Caleb Burns) have been signed, check issued and new equipment has begun to be delivered! Once ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT is on site, the installation will begin. It is my understanding that the two 80" LCD screens to replace the current projector/screens in the sanctuary, two "comfort" monitors for the praise team and pastor and two of the three new cameras have already been purchased and delivered. Once installation begins, we should have a clear timeline for completion. Estimated time to start install is still 2-4 week out and installation is expected to take 1-2 weeks. Projected completion date, including final test, tuning, training and turnover is December 18th.
- Here is a link to the complete project summary should you care to see what we have planned;
- <https://proposals.soundfallmedia.com/index.php?ProposalID=ISnkbZS17IHXP25z7aZ-A0s5VRyvmpJEtQL4og9Mxc&ContactID=36ARrvUcmLw2kw02vrtbz-Ga5xgViDYEe07BFkznExJg>

Announcements: *Next meeting* December 15, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Schulz, Secretary

NEWS FROM FINANCE

A congregational meeting to approve the 2021 budget is scheduled for January 24, 2021, following worship.

Our first budget meeting took place during the stewardship campaign. We talked about how we ask our church family to give the first 10% and decided that we should put FELC's Benevolence first. This resulted in a significant increase.

We took the total income number, deducted the Early Learning Center income and the carry-over, which resulted in a total of \$417,090. Therefore, we put \$41,700 into the Benevolence category and divided it appropriately among all those listed under our Benevolence total.

Nicole and I have discussed the fact that, in the past, one-fourth of the total benevolence amounts were sent to each recipient every quarter. Since this increase is significant, we'll keep an eye on our income; so, if adjustments are necessary, those amounts could be adjusted.

For example, if I were earning \$4,000 per month, I would be contributing \$400 per month. If my income dropped to \$3,000 per month, I would contribute \$300 per month.

One other thing that I would like to point out is that we used the Gamber Trust Fund to fund Christian Ed for the year. That committee asked for \$1,890; we allotted them \$2,000 from that trust fund, which is designated for Christian education.

Personnel recommended increases of 1.3% for cost of living plus 2.5%, which means staff will receive increases of 3.8% for 2021. Scott's salary was increased an additional amount to compensate him for the extra time he spends on copyright work. This was a significantly large increase; so a meeting was held with Scott to arrive at a salary that was equitable for him and us.

Feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns.

Lu Blankenship, Finance Chairman and Council Representative

luella616@gmail.com

419-564-1469

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

Dolce's Tree Service has been here to trim all the trees along the tree line east of Luther Hall.

This will be great next spring when they decide to sprout lots of new branches and leaves!

Schmidt Security has been moved to January installation.



A Missional Outreach Project for January and February!

Service Ministry is spearheading a BLANKET DRIVE for the homeless and needy in our community. This collection of new (or gently used) blankets of **any size** will go on through at least the end of January and then the blankets will be given away in February. Service Ministry has partnered with Crossroads City Center on the square in downtown Mansfield, and City Center will be holding the distribution of these lovely warm blankets. In conjunction with that, several of our members have secured Thrivent Action Team cards which will help immensely with the shopping and purchasing of the blankets. If you care to donate a blanket, please bring it to the Narthex coat rack area.

We hope to have 200 NEW or NEARLY NEW BLANKETS.

Questions can be directed to Gary Lane or Jan Fisher.

If any of you members have an idea or suggestion for mission, please mention it to Gary Lane or Jan Fisher

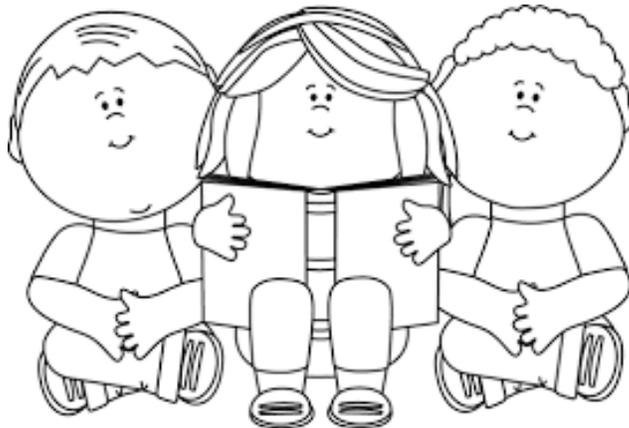
January update from our Worship Committee



We have come a long way with our Facebook and YouTube live stream and/or video viewing of Sunday worship services! Weekly we reach a very large number of members and friends of FELC. Would you believe we have anywhere from 162 views up to 570 views per week? And that really equates to reaching higher numbers of people than stated. What a wonderful thing! (I'm adding a note about December 13 Youth Sunday: copyright laws kept us from broadcasting the **audio** on several of the musical pieces that were offered by our young people.)

Cindy Russell
Worship Committee Chairperson

ELC



The Early Learning Center is still under very strict COVID 19 guidelines, serving the children who come to us daily. We have had a few activities that the children have been excited about. One being that The Grinch came to visit. Many pictures were taken with the Grinch!

Storytime with Miss Shirley will start back up soon.
Have a truly blessed New Year!

Angie Murphy

ELC Director

calendar here

calendar here

Women's Ministry and Thank Offering during Epiphany

During the season of Epiphany we would like to request monetary donations to be given with the intention of offering support to Catholic Charities Food Pantry. The collection would start and end with Epiphany (January 6, 2021 to February 16, 2021.) To enhance this project even more, it is planned to secure a Thrivent Action Team card which will give us \$250.00 to shop for non-perishable food items that will also be given to Catholic Charities Food Pantry. There is so much food insecurity in our community that we feel this is a worthy entity.

Some updates below.....

We continue to reach out in love to our shut-ins and non-digitals during this lengthy COVID 19 pandemic. In November we mailed color posters filled with pictures of our members receiving mums and fall visits with candy treats.

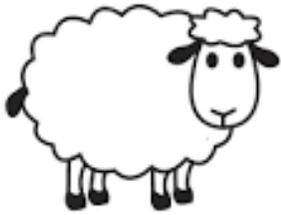
On Sunday, December 13, 2020 a group of our members took small candy gift bags to our shut-ins and non-digitals, social distancing of course, but at least making contact with them as much on a personal level as can be achieved. Myra Cordrey secured a Thrivent Action Team Card to make this purchase and put together these little gift bags with additional Christmas cards signed by FELC staff and by our Sunday School youth. (We made the decision to NOT have our Youth do this because they are not good at social distancing. I guess they love each other too much, which is a very good thing!) Our "elves" come back and tell us that these *little* efforts make a BIG difference to the recipients! Blessed to be a blessing in Christ's name.

Women's Ministry is currently not meeting regularly.

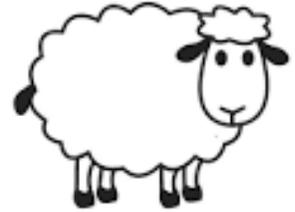
We have decided that with the extra spreading of COVID 19 we will not begin gathering for Bible Study or other groups in January. Updates will be posted as the year progresses.

Funeral meals, when necessary, will be provided. Below is the squad assignment :

JANUARY: Squad A: Karen Ellis, Barb Coon, Ila Kershaw



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.

What a surprise! On Halloween a group of our young people, along with Becky Pittman and Stacey Crall, came to visit me for trick or treat. Believe me I am the trick and they were the treat as they sang “Jesus Loves Me” and gave me a bag of candy. **Kids, you made my day!** Thank you for sharing your time and God’s Love.

Blessings from my heart, Garnet Stafford

Becky Pittman received a lovely Christmas card from Ruth Hughes stating: Thank you and the children for coming to sing to me (this would have been at Halloween). Wishing all of you a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Love, **Ruth Hughes**

This from Becky Kress: Dear Wonderful Members of FELC, Thank you for the beautiful yellow mum! Yellow is Dad’s favorite color, so I know that he smiled down from heaven. Thank you for all the prayers and physical and emotional support to Mom, Dad, and I for all these past years. Incredible love! It has meant so much to our family. My brother thanks you, too. (Many months later....) continuing) My thankful heart wants to explain that time has unraveled my personal plans, hopes and prayers for employment. I am grateful for the kindness of friends and I must say “God is Good all the time.” I know that all will come together in His time. **May Christ and all his Angels of Light and Love bless you and your families and keep you and protect you.**
In Christ’s love, Becky Kress

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

On December 20, 2020 as a congregation, we welcomed the following people into our membership. Let us all join together in welcoming them to the body of Christ here at FELC!

Our New Adult Sunday School Class on *Luther's Small Catechism* ended in December. This Sunday School Class functioned as a New Member's Class for those desiring to become members at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. Of those who have participated, the following twelve persons became members at FELC on Sunday, December 20th, 2020.

Bobby Mack - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)

Chad E. McFadden - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)

Heather McFadden - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)

Peyton Alan McFadden - (Joining as a Baptized Member)

Lydia Renee McFadden - (Joining as a Baptized Member)

Gabriel David McFadden - (Joining as a Baptized Member)

Malachi James McFadden - (Joining as a Baptized Member)

Julia Marie McFadden - (Joining as a Baptized Member)

PLEASE NOTE:

The 4 older McFadden Children Are Already Confirmed Members

Brianna Lynn McFadden - (Already a Confirmed Member)

Kayla Joy McFadden - (Already a Confirmed Member)

Elisa Grace McFadden - (Already a Confirmed Member)

Isaac Eugene McFadden - (Already a Confirmed Member)

Anita Maria Magdalena Nehrkorn - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)

Kenneth Alan Suzuki - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)

Deborah Lee Suzuki - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)

Kenneth Bradlee Wolfe - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)



Love Notes from Shirley

It is sometimes said about a gentleman who is very social and active that he is a “man about town.” In this column I want to introduce you to a man who is a “man about the church!” His name is **Dave Carew** and it is certainly true that he gets around and cares for our beautiful church. (He also sings in choir.)

Dave has been our very capable custodian since April, 2010. If the church paid him by the mile, he would be a very wealthy man! Dave is always willing to help out where needed. This includes helping with the Visitor, Wednesday Noon Lunch, moving tables and chairs, setting up for an event, helping bring in items from members’ cars, etc. Needless to say his help is always appreciated!

As a hobby Dave collects and is a dealer of sports cards as well as non-sports cards. He is a collector of Star Wars and Star Trek cards and memorabilia. He is also an avid sports fan following the Indians, Browns, Cavs and OSU on television.

Another of Dave’s interests is closely following politics; local, state and national news as well as election and COVID 19 updates. Dave also loves the Christmas season and puts up lots of decorations at his home.

The next time you see this “man about the church” be sure to tell him how much he is appreciated! **Dave Carew**, YOU are appreciated!

Story by Shirley Lane



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.

January 10, 2021

January 17, 2021

January 31, 2021

February 7, 2021

YOUTH NEWS

Youth group meets when possible, due to COVID 19 parameters.

Global Mission



The Sorges: Brian's mom's heart valve surgery went well. She is home recovering. Brian and Barb are now back in Souderton, Pennsylvania, near David and his family. As Barb tells it, they are in their "own quiet place" provided by a church about 35 miles north of their kids. Doing a lot of on-line work with Island believers is keeping them busy there. They plan to return to The Islands in January. Flights are now available and their visas are once again OK to reenter.

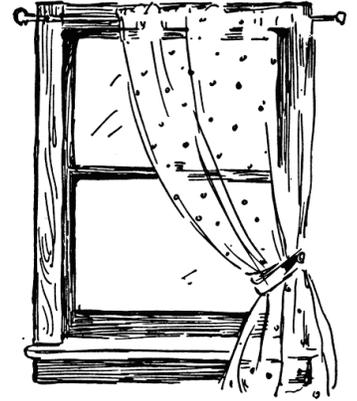
The Krafts: The political situation in Peru is not good! In November, Peru's president was impeached on corruption charges leading to uprisings and marches. 94 people were injured and 2 students died. Currently their president is the third in one week! The second one resigned after 5 days in office. Needless to say, many are terribly stressed and burdened to have this situation on top of the pandemic! The Krafts are working with several families struggling with marital stress. They have also had requests from families to rent a room for the weekend at their place. They feel their "spaces, retreats, classes and treatments are just what the doctor has ordered". They did have a setback themselves, though. After taking a much needed break for a quick family vacation, they found their "new" vehicle with one window smashed out! Please continue to pray for their protection.

Malawi: Just a reminder that our Advent Offering this year will go to providing food for the orphans there. As Pastor Paul wrote so well in his letter, "Truly, your generous giving to the orphans of Malawi will be more important than any Christmas shopping you will do or any Christmas cookies you will bake. Let us give far more than a 'token' offering. Let this be our opportunity to put Jesus first in our Hearts, by putting Him first in our Giving. May your Christmas Gift bring a smile to the face of Jesus and the orphans of Malawi."

Please reread Pastor Paul's entire letter. It sums up beautifully all the good that is happening with the Malawi Orphan Care Project because of the generosity of so many in our congregation and others.

Chris Cichanowicz

Global Mission Chairperson



Becky's Views.....

What a blessing it was to have our FELC youth lead us in a Christmas worship on December 13th! If you missed it, you can watch it on our Facebook page or on our YouTube page. Their talents were displayed in a variety of ways! A string ensemble, piano solos, a vocal duet, puppet show, a beautiful Gospel video and even Boomwhackers (compliments of the Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School class) filled our hearts with the love and joy of Jesus.

You can also watch the Christmas Eve worship on our social media platforms. It is a joy working closely with Scott Berry; combining so many different musical talents at FELC to glorify the newborn King.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our ELC Christmas program due to COVID. Because our county was on the level purple, we were unable to bring our daycare classes together to sing to families virtually. We DO have music via Zoom twice a week! Each class logs in with their own computer simultaneously so we can still sing about Jesus together. Thank God for technology!

As youth leaders, we felt it was best to postpone our Christmas caroling event until it would be safer to visit our elderly members. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" in February?!?! Why not. The kids love going and our folks love seeing their faces. We celebrate the birth of Jesus all year long!

Thank you for your patience as we begin using new equipment and technology during our worship services. These are exciting times! I can't thank **Ed Farner, Todd Heichel and Tom Sarbach** enough for their HOURS and HOURS of commitment, learning, leading and adjusting as we move forward not only in our sanctuary, but online as well.

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

None to record



With Sincerest Sympathy

Helen Anderson (Former FELC Music Director)	December 7, 2020
Patricia Goode	December 4, 2020
Tony Goad (ELC Substitute Bus Driver)	November 22, 2020
Nancy Long	October 28, 2020

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of those who have recently lost loved ones through death. We pray for Christ's gifts of healing and peace during this time of loss and sorrow that they may be comforted with the Promise of the Resurrection through faith in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior.

Pastoral Acts

none

Nursing Home Communion will hopefully begin sometime in 2021, presently visitors are not allowed. Please hold our shut-ins close in your prayers.



Evangelism for Today's World

Our new Advent vinyl (purchased from Apollo Printing) banner has been in place out in front of the church for December. It is a great addition to our community engagement! Also, if you haven't been by the church during the evening hours, we have clear lights on our shrubs this year, and we are hoping to add more beauty next year to go along with the upgraded downtown Mansfield lighting!

We are very happy to welcome all of our new members, which are listed earlier in the Visitor pages! We are blessed to have you among us, worshiping and serving our Lord!

Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson

Service/Social Ministry

What a wonderful response we had to the collection of non-perishable food items for our Wednesday, December 16th give-away! Thank you so much for your generous support! We gave away fifty (yes, 50) vinyl tote bags filled with Christmas dinner fixins! Actually each person received food for several meals plus peanut butter and a nice big German chocolate candy bar for a treat! It's always a blessing to BE a blessing!

Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Gary Lane, Chairperson

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



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 JANUARY, FEBRUARY, 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!



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.**

January 2021 Volunteers

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

ACOLYTES

NONE

ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Chris Kaschube

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

*NONE

COMMUNION PREPARERS

January 3: Mary Schwartz

-

COMMUNION SERVERS

January 3: Linda Hughes

GREETER

TBA

LAY READERS

January 3: Myra Cordrey
January 10: Shirley Lane
January 17: Chris Kaschube
January 24: Jan Fisher
January 31: Chris Cichanowicz

PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

PEW PAD GLEANERS

NONE

POWER POINT OPERATORS

January 3: Cindy Russell

January 10: Teri Brenkus

January 17: Isaac McFadden

January 24: Suzanne Rippel

January 31: Cindy Russell

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

NONE

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

January 3: Ed Farner

January 10: Ed Farner

January 17: Ed Farner

January 24: Ed Farner

January 31: Ed Farner

USHERS NAVE

Larry and Becky Faith

Gregg Thatcher and Elizabeth Volz

BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY

Charlene Goracke January 1	33 Morgan Dr. Lexington, OH 44904	Gail Elder January 16	1660 S Frederica Ave. Clearwater, FL 33756
Faith Kaschube January 3	186 Essex Rd. Lexington, OH 44904	Jennifer Shade January 16	12 W Crest Shelby, OH 44875
Jan Fisher January 4	1171 Crestwood Dr. Mansfield, OH 44905	Cynthia Hill January 19	965 Stewart Rd. N Mansfield, OH 44905
Jacob Caseman January 4	2355 Mount Zion Rd. Mansfield, OH 44903	Callie Kaschube January 25	186 Essex Rd. Lexington, OH 44904
Dawn Frayer January 12	47 Bridge St. Lucas, OH 44843	Chris Cichanowicz January 29	345 Avalon Dr. Mansfield, OH 44906
Mary Schwartz January 13	1844 W Longview Ontario, OH 44906	Todd Hunt January 29	3134 Grass Rd. Lexington, OH 44904
Eugene Calver January 14	360 Westgate Dr. Mansfield, OH 44906		



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

**February Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021.
Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021.**

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

Rev. Timothy Hubert	<u>thubert@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Scott Berry	<u>sberry@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Becky Pittman	<u>bpittman@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Angela Murphy	<u>cds@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Nicole Goddard	<u>ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Angie Cockrell	<u>acockrell@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Church Office	<u>office@felc-mansfield.org</u>
Jan Fisher, Editor	<u>newslettereditor53@yahoo.com</u>
Andy Kershaw	<u>propman@felc-mansfield.org</u>

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 Timothy Hubert 217-778-8017

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