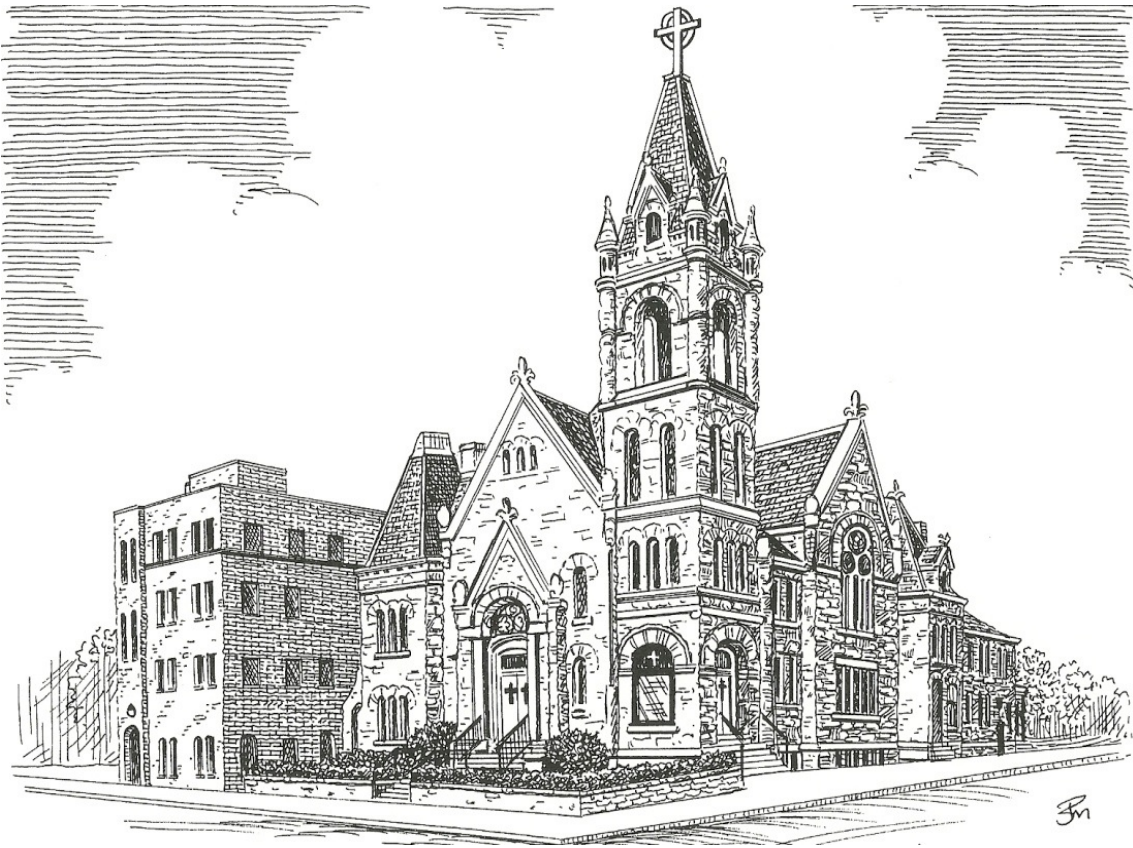


# THE VISITOR



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

**Volume 63**

**FEBRUARY 2021**

**Number 2**

*"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**

## **Grace and peace to my sisters and brothers at FELC!**

I am delighted to be able to help you during this time of transition. We give thanks for the ministries of Pr Paul and Pr Andy! But now, in a sense, we have closed that chapter of the book, turned the page and are starting a new chapter. My ministry, as your Interim Pastor, is the page turn.

Normally, an interim pastor will serve a congregation anywhere for 12 to 18 months. There is no rush. We need to let the dust settle, learn to work together with joy and anticipation. I will stay and work with you no matter how short or how long it takes.

There is a lot to learn coming to a new congregation. You have an excellent staff, both church staff and Early Learning staff. It is a pleasure to work with them. I have met and prayed with the Prayer Partners. This group is also learning more about prayer and how prayer intersects with our daily life. The Adult Sunday School class has just started reading, "The Christian Faith: Catechism for the Curious" by Pr Eric Riesen. This book and discussion will help us talk to those who aren't sure about Christianity or the Church, in particular. I have met our Youth Group! What a wonderful and lively bunch!!

First English was initially formed, I believe, in 1832. It isn't that long until you celebrate your bi-centennial! It's good to remember that we started small and grew over the years! Even now we are in the midst of a mission field. Much like those early times, we can invite our friends, neighbors and even family to come and worship with us, whether in person, or in front of the TV during this Covid-19 time.

Let me know how I can be of help to you!

Blessings,

**Pr Tim+**

# FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday December 15, 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 regular council meeting (via Zoom) to order at 7:04 p.m. Gary led in prayer.

### **Reports:**

**Secretary:** Motion (Mary/Gary) to approve the November 12, 2020, council meeting minutes as previously distributed via email. **Motion carried.**

**Exec:** Motion (Dan/Chris) that the chair of the Finance Committee shall be the person responsible for reviewing and approving expense reimbursement requests. **Motion carried.** Motion (Alicia/Dan) that Mary Schwartz be designated our Statutory Agent for 2021. **Motion carried.**

**Senior Pastor:** Our Adult Sunday School Class on *Luther's Small Catechism* has also functioned as a New Member's Class for those desiring to become members at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. The following twelve persons have expressed their desire to become members at FELC on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

- Bobby Mack - (Joining as a Confirmed Member);  
- Chad E. McFadden and Heather McFadden - (Joining as Confirmed Members);  
- Peyton Alan McFadden, Lydia Renee McFadden, Gabriel David McFadden, Malachi James McFadden, and

Julia Marie McFadden (Joining as Baptized Members); Note: The 4 older McFadden Children - Brianna Lynn McFadden, Kayla Joy McFadden, Elisa Grace McFadden, Isaac Eugene McFadden - are already confirmed members

- Anita Maria Magdalena Nehrkorn - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)  
- Kenneth Alan Suzuki and Deborah Lee Suzuki - (Joining as Confirmed Members)  
- Kenneth Bradlee Wolfe - (Joining as a Confirmed Member)

Motion (Pastor Larson/Mary) that these persons be accepted into membership at FELC. **Motion carried.**

**Personnel:** (Todd) The Personnel Committee met to discuss both Scott Berry's and Nicole Goddard's increasing job responsibilities. We then met with Scott to get a better idea of those responsibilities and the time needed to carry them out. As a result, we made a salary recommendation to the Finance Committee. In regards to Nicole, we were prepared to come to council with recommendations on compensation for her additional duties and responsibilities. However, the only additional compensation or benefit Nicole requested was permission to work from home ONE (1) day a week moving forward. She feels she is more productive and efficient at home and working from home ONE (1) day a week will allow her to better carry out her responsibilities. In the opinion of the Personnel Committee, she has already proven her ability to effectively and productively work remotely.

Additionally, and per Council's request from a previous meeting, attached is an Excel Worksheet totaling costs associated with providing part-time staff with four paid holidays. Council had tabled the discussion until these figures could be provided.

**Finance:** (Lu) The budget to be presented to the congregation was distributed and discussed. 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. – Discussion re Lutheran World Relief which focuses on disasters worldwide, and NALC Disaster Response which focuses on disasters on a local or national level. Motion (Jan/Gary) to approve the budget as presented except to split the benevolence on line 18(i) between LWR (\$2000) and NALC Disaster Response (\$1000). **Motion carried.** - 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. Personnel met with Scott to arrive at a salary that seemed fair to him and to FELC.

**Property:** (Mike) Per Andy Kershaw Long's Fencing has failed to live up to their obligations. Therefore Andy was forced to go with the next best bid from Seamans. In order to keep the project moving forward Andy awarded them with the contract. Motion (Lu/Gary) to approve contract with Seaman's Custom Fence for \$14,797 to replace the previous contract with Longs. **Motion carried.** Andy also signed a contract with the Structural Engineer that Dan Obrynba recommended for \$ 100.00/hour (regarding the crack on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.)

**EVANGELISM:** (Jan). Our new Advent vinyl (purchased from Apollo Printing) banner has been in place out in front of the church for about the last two weeks. It is a great addition to our community engagement! - We will be posting a Christmas Eve announcement on FB, probably boosting it for a small fee. We are also going to advertise with Tribune-Courier at a small cost of \$50.00. This is new to us. - We have added clear Christmas lights to the front lawn via the four cone-shaped evergreens. It looks very nice and adds special lighting to what the City of Mansfield has done in Christmas lighting. Glorifies our church presence, giving God the Glory.

**WORSHIP:** (Cindy) Views and Attendance: November 1 - 77 in attendance, 570 views/ 8th 76 in attendance, 370 views/ 15th 76 in attendance, 162 views\ 22nd 84 in attendance, 257 views/ 29th 78 in attendance, 267 views. - All of the new equipment for worship services is in and installed. Not only are our awesome volunteers, Tom Sarbach, Todd Heichel and Ed Farmer, along with Becky and Scott, learning how to use the new equipment, they are also learning the new technology that goes with that equipment!! Please be patient as they are learning and teaching others. A BIG THANK YOU to all of them!

**Stewardship:** (Mary) As of December 7, 2020, pledge totals for 2021 are \$182,220 by 66 pledgers with the average pledge of \$2,719.70. Pledges have been coming in slowly with some in late November and also December.

**Christ Ed/Sunday School:** Sunday school report from Amy Skropits: Kids have been working on the Christmas program so not much more than that to update on for this month. No Sunday School December 27 for the kids.

**Global Missions:** (Chris) : **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. 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.

**Social Ministry:** (Gary) (Jan for Gary) 2021 A number of projects are under consideration for service to local charities and organization every two months soliciting participations from members and using Thrivent Action Team Cards for support. Suggest partnering with Crossroads City-Center, Catholic Charities, Domestic Violence Shelter, Harmony House or other. Includes such things as blanket drive, collecting personal care items, take home food packs for kids, clothing for kids, detergent for City Center's laundry program, along with our free produce giveaway. Motion (Gary/Cindy) to approve a blanket drive in January/February 2021, partnering with Crossroads Church utilizing Thrivent cards to purchase blankets and inviting members to contribute money or blankets. **Motion carried.**

**WFELC:** (Jan) Women's Ministry Proposal for Epiphany Thank Offering donations. We used to do Thank Offering in November, but in recent years it has been moved to Epiphany. So our Team would like to submit the following proposal: 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 to February 16) 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. Motion (Jan/Ted) to approve soliciting offerings of money for a fund to buy food for Catholic Charities food pantry. **Motion carried.** This will be the Women's Epiphany Thank Offering. This will end on Ash Wednesday. -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 candy treats. - On Sunday, December 13, 2020 a group of our members will be taking 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.)

**New Business:** Lowell had distributed a page explaining the 2020 changes to the NALC constitution that NALC congregations are being asked to ratify and that FELC will be voting upon at the January meeting. Motion (Alicia/Mary) recommending that the congregation ratify the 2020 amendments to the NALC constitution. **Motion carried.**

**Technology Team:** (Tom) May have noticed that we recently used some new software to include words of songs and liturgy in our broadcast. The \$14,000 in the technology budget is for things such as maintenance and for annual software subscriptions. Previously technology expenses were included in the property budget.

**Announcements:** *Next meeting* January 12, 2021. Council devotions: Property

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

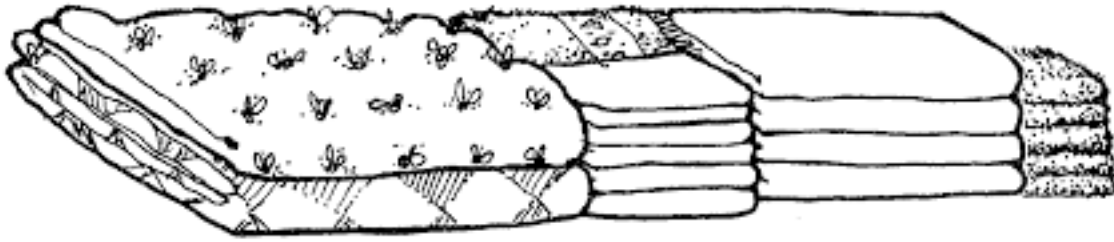
**Alicia Schulz, Secretary**



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

During this past week Schmidt Security has been installing the new security system within the church and Early Learning Center. Under the new system those who used to have keys will now have a fob that will give access to specific areas of the church. This is all necessary as we sit in downtown Mansfield.





### **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



## **February update from our Worship Committee**

We have come a long way with our Facebook and You Tube live stream and/or video viewing of Sunday worship services!

Weekly we reach a very large number of members and friends of FELC.

Below are some stats from December worship services:

Dec 6th - 77 in attendance, 344 views

Dec 13th - 75 in attendance, 760 views

    This was youth Sunday

Dec 20th - 85 in attendance, 63 views

    There was no wifi this Sunday, Todd posted service shortly after it ended.

Dec 24th - 87 in attendance, 302 views

    Christmas Eve Service

Dec 27th - 97 in attendance, 235 views

    Pastor Paul's last Sunday

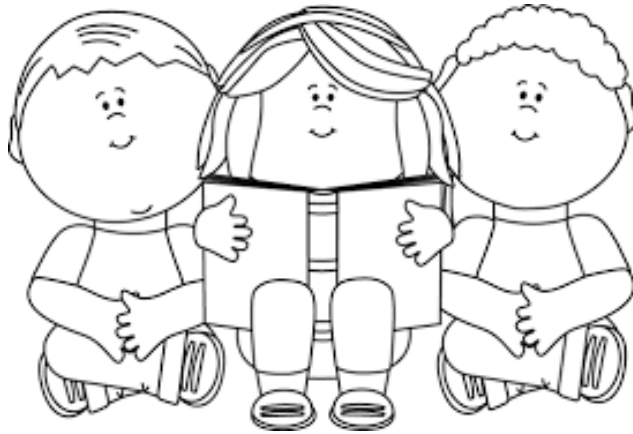
Would you believe that Lent is just around the corner? Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2021. Worship Committee is meeting Tuesday evening, January 26th so there will be some details posted in our bulletins. We may not be able to observe Fastnacht this year because of COVID19 and social distancing. But we cannot be stopped from observing the penitence of Lent!

**Cindy Russell**

**Worship Committee Chairperson**

**ELC**

## **Little People BIG News**



### **February**

#### **Flashback into January**



Our children are getting back into the swing of learning! January was off to a great start. We celebrated Martin Luther King Jr Day.

#### **A Peek into February**



This month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day by having small classroom parties. This is a fun way for kids to get creative and learn about giving to friends. The kids will also learn about our presidents as President's Day approaches.

We will begin reviewing the new rules of summer camp to see if we will be allowed to take trips this year.

Storytime with Miss Shirley will start back up soon.

**Angie Murphy**

**ELC Director**



## **Early Learning Center Support for Foster Children**

Sometimes it's amazing what the Holy Spirit puts in our paths. But why would we be surprised? He is with us all the time! So recently Angie Murphy has launched a "Caring for Foster Kids" program that we all can help support. The ELC often gets foster children enrolled. Sometimes those precious children have absolutely no belongings as they get moved about from home to home. We have created a room at one side of the Undercroft where we can organize and store essential items to be given to these kids. The list includes blankets or throws, pillows, hats and mittens, pillow cases made in kid friendly prints for them to enjoy, socks, and even a small stuffed animal. What a comforting thing for a child to get a bag filled with these items. They can take "their own" stuff to wherever they are staying.

Right now we have taken in donations of all these items to get this program sufficiently started. However, if you feel drawn to this project please feel free to check with Angie Murphy about what would be needed most. You can also refer to the listed items above and when you see a bargain, just pick it up and bring it in! This is part of our mission field right here in downtown Mansfield. Please watch the Visitor for updates! Blessed to be a blessing!

## **Wednesday Noon Lunch**

### **You just might find this interesting!**

Wednesday Noon Lunch is part of our missional outreach here in downtown Mansfield. Everyone may not be aware that we have been doing this for AT LEAST 20 years, however with COVID19 it has been slightly revised. Several different women have headed up WNL over the many years that we call history, but Mary Schwartz diligently handled it the longest, serving great meals weekly. And it was always a volunteer position for Mary! What a contribution to ministry. Along with Mary there were many faithful volunteers cooking, serving food and cleaning up every week. I hesitate to mention their names for fear of missing someone.

Roughly one and a half to two years ago we switched to only serving on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Cindy Russell has taken over heading this up and does some wonderful planning. Then COVID came along, so we held off for awhile and now we are preparing the meals and serving them outdoors on the east side of our building. We do it as a “take with” lunch serving delicious meals such as turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes; creamed chicken over mashed potatoes; hot dogs, baked beans and potato salad; green beans, kielbasa and potatoes; and most recently delicious hot meat loaf served with scalloped potatoes. All of these meals have fruit and a cookie added to the take-out box. Trying to serve a hot meal and keep it hot for our guests is quite a challenge! But Cindy has done a great job of orchestrating the assembly of the meals! We generally operate with six or seven volunteers, and we are all out in the parking lot meeting our guests.

We are hoping that when COVID is finally over we can once again begin our Wednesday Noon Lunch in the chapel with a brief worship service because we feel this may be the only chance for worship that these folks experience.

If you think that this is a mission that you would like to help with, please see Cindy Russell or Gary Lane.

## **NEWS FROM FINANCE**

At a meeting after worship service on January 24, the congregation approved the 2021 budget proposed by Finance and Council.

Some highlights:

- Modest raises were included for all our staff. Covid presented our staff with additional challenges in 2020, and they all served us with dedication and generous spirits. They certainly deserve our appreciation!
- The stewardship amount was increased for 2021 to reflect 10% of estimated offerings and endowment income. The Holy Spirit is alive and well at FELC. Everyone seems happy with the idea of our tithing as a church.
- It is exciting that we ended 2020 with more than \$127,000 to carry over into 2021.

If serving on the Finance Committee interests you, please call me. The committee could really use another member – or maybe two. The committee meets every month to review reports for the previous month.

Many thanks to Nicole Goddard for all her hard work, not only on the budget, but also all the reports and advice she provides every month.

The committee is also thankful to Gene Earick for his faithful service. He has resigned due to health concerns, and we will miss him.

As always, I would like an opportunity to address any questions or concerns you might have.

**Lu Blankenship, Finance Chairman and Council Representative**

[luella616@gmail.com](mailto:luella616@gmail.com)

419-564-1469

## **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, we have secured 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.

### ***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 :  
**FEBRUARY: Squad A: Karen Ellis, Barb Coon, Ila Kershaw**

### **A new program offered by Women's Ministry**

#### **Check this out!**

Look on the **poster table** to find a basket filled with **gently used devotional and spiritual books**. The idea is to take a book to enjoy and when you are satisfied that you want to move on to something else, just pass that book on to someone in your family or on to a friend. These books will be “there for the taking and sharing” — no cost and no obligation to return. Let's just make this one more step in our

*SPIRITUAL WALK WITH GOD!*

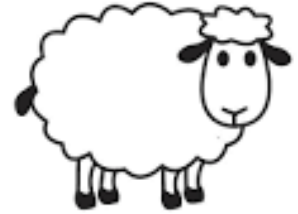


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## **WITHIN THE FOLD**



### **Wednesday Noon Lunch Ministry**

In January, due to the continuing restrictions resulting from the Coronavirus, there was no Wednesday Chapel Service, and therefore there were no Wednesday Noon Lunch Fund donations.

### **Outreach to our shut-ins and non-digitals.....**

Gene and Marilyn Calver sent a very lovely Christmas card of thanks for the visit and little gift bag of wrapped candy that they received in December. Marilyn wrote: Our thanks to you and to all our friends at First Lutheran for the very nice bag of Christmas goodies. Stay safe, stay well. Love,  
**Marilyn and Gene Calver**

### **To the Prayer Shawl Women,**

Thank you so much for the prayer shawls given to me and to my daughter. It was such a kind gesture, and we both appreciated them very much! It always feels good to feel so much love from others. Thank you and God Bless,  
**Angie and Faith Cockrell**

A big “thank you” to my “FELC friends” for the candy and pretty card. You know what makes an old lady happy! Your kindness and thoughtfulness never cease to amaze me.

In Christian love,  
**Jo Wirstrom**

**This was received from Bishop Selbo, North American Lutheran Church:**

Dear Malawi Orphan Care Project, In this year of COVID-19, separation and isolation, as we celebrate the birth of “Emmanuel —God with us,” may you receive strength, courage and peace in life from the presence of Jesus Christ, born at Bethlehem, crucified and risen — to be with us always, even to the end of the age! Have a blessed Christmas! **Bishop Dan Selbo and the NALC Staff**

**This from Malawi Orphan Care Project:**

We at MOCP are so very very grateful for the financial support given to us by the loving members of FELC! The fourth quarter distribution, which covered the donations made during Advent, has been lovingly received. As we continue to feed 850 to 1,000 orphans, the funding is vital! You have been steadfast in changing the lives of these orphan children. The joy we see on their faces tells it all!

**Jan Fisher, MOCP Treasurer**

## ***THANK YOU!***

Dear Friends at First English Lutheran Church,

Kristi and I want to thank everyone for the many beautiful retirement cards, your words of love and encouragement, and your generous gifts. Through all of life’s changes and seasons during our 22 years of ministry at FELC, we have always known the steadfast Love and Faithfulness of our Lord Jesus. May you always be faithful to the Word of our Lord! God’s Blessings to you in these coming days of transition, transformation, and new beginnings.

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Paul & Kristi

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (RSV)

A big Thank You from Paula Blevins and her family, whom we helped with donations of clothing, kitchen items, bedding and more! She is very grateful for our giving hearts!

## *Love Notes from Shirley*



We all know the story of the “Three Wise Men” who brought priceless gifts to our Savior. In this NOTES I will introduce you to the “Three Wise Techs” in our congregation. They bring us a priceless gift using their knowledge and expertise to provide us with livestream video of Sunday worship on Facebook and You Tube.

Ed Farner is the “Sound Guy” and has worked the soundboard for us for over ten years. He has spent hours and hours learning the new digital equipment, and can often be seen walking around carrying an iPad which helps him make sound adjustments for Pastor Tim and the musicians. He can work his magic anywhere in the sanctuary! If you like what you hear be sure to thank Ed Farner!

Todd Heichel is the “Wise Man” to thank for all the new camera angles and text scrolling at the bottom of the screen. He has put in countless hours getting things up and running with significant weekly improvements. Becky Pittman informed me that Todd can zoom in on us during worship. Kind of scary. A word to the wise: If by chance you will be singing or reading up front some Sunday and are suddenly stressed to see a wart on the tip of your nose, see Todd first! I’m sure he will be gentle with the zooming!!

Tom Sarbach is the “Turn to Guy” for helping with amateur cameras, iPhones, new angles, text, and “live” time via Facebook. According to Becky Pittman, Tom surprised us by showing up the very first virtual Sunday morning in March and made us all feel so much better with his smiling face and confident nature while bringing us sanity and laughter. (Tom and Gracie are the ones who put out the “puppet audience” last March-April, in case you didn’t know.) He continued to help with all upgrades during the summer and has teamed up with Todd in using the “fancy” camera equipment.

“Notes” wouldn’t be complete without a “Wise Woman!” That would be Becky Pittman, and she deserves an entire page, being the lovely young woman that she is. She is a wonderful help to the “Three Wise Techs.” And any time we are presented a skit, most likely Becky has written that script. There’s no way to mention how valuable her leadership is in planning worship and leading the Praise Team! Words cannot describe the way she enriches the lives of the shut-ins that she works with, singing to them via FaceTime and lifting their spirits in these covid-19 times. Of course part of her position with FELC is engagement with the kiddos at our Early Learning Center, offering music programs and teaching songs and music during weekly chapel. All is done with a sweet smile. Of course I haven’t checked this comment with her husband Zac, who, by the way is also sweet! Of course that is just this writer’s personal opinion.

NOTE: Our congregation is so blessed to have these “Wise People” here serving Our Lord, especially when you consider that they have families and are all working full time jobs when they are away from FELC! What a gift of Stewardship! Be sure to say “Thank You”!

**Story by Shirley Lane**

## **Adult Sunday School Class**

Pastor Tim Hubert is offering an interesting adult Sunday School class at 9:00 AM in the Emmaus Room. We are studying “The Christian Faith, A Catechism for the Curious” written by Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen, President of the North American Lutheran Seminary. Rev. Dr. Riesen was formerly the Senior Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, OH. Each attendee is given a copy of the book. We encourage you to set aside an additional hour for the Lord on Sunday morning and join us!



## 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.

*April 11, 2021*

*April 18, 2021*

*May 23, 2021*

*May 30, 2021*



## Global Mission

**The Krafts:** The Krafts were able to help distribute 140 Boxes of Love at Christmas to the village of Pamape, home of The Potter's House. The International Ministry, Samaritan's Purse, made this possible. The Potter's House is a place where people come to connect with God - a place to find direction, acceptance and unconditional love. This is accomplished in several ways: gardening, Christ Centered Yoga, a healthy therapeutic massage room and The Quiet Hour every day where the participants go off alone to sit alone and bathe in the Word of God and soak in His Promises

Although God blessed the Krafts with a much-needed "new" car, problems didn't cease: their shower broke, their washer broke, their kitchen faucet broke, they were robbed and a window of their new car was smashed. Despite all this, the Krafts still have faith that God has promised them, "I got you." They won't quit doing His work no matter what happens! Please keep them in your prayers!

**Malawi:** I have a Zoom meeting coming up on January 26 and will update you on what's happening at our next Council meeting. I did receive a financial balance sheet from Ken Ekegren yesterday. It amazes me how widespread our mission in Malawi has grown. Not only has the feeding program increased, but with the help of other churches, we also help in these areas: Local High School, Boarding School, Malawi blankets, Farm Project, Farm Equipment, Skills Center, Shoes for Malawi, Solar Lanterns, Metal Roof Project, Bibles for Malawi, Days for Girls and Joy Jones' Trip Funds. Isn't it amazing what God can do for people in need through us! May we never stop serving those less fortunate than we are.

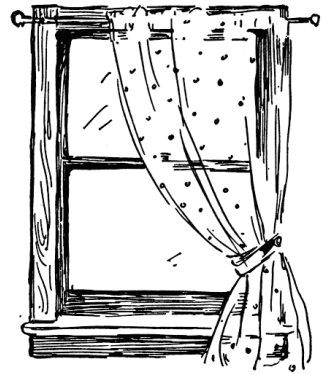
**The Far Side:** Am waiting for the information from the Sorges. Will send it as soon as I hear from them.

**Chris Cichanowicz**

**Global Mission Chairperson**

## Becky's Views.....

Thank you to those who participated in the surprise choral piece Scott Berry put together for Pastor Paul and Kristi at the conclusion of their last service with us. Our worship team certainly misses the beautiful vocal harmony Kristi Larson provided for so many years. (Approximately 16 years!) We pray she and Pastor Paul enjoy their retirement together in the months and years ahead!



It has been a pleasure to welcome Pastor Tim Hubert to First English. His good sense of humor has been a blessing as we transition into worshipping together!

We are moving into 2021 with all of our new technology in place! If you go back and watch our livestream services over the last 6 months, you will definitely see and hear improvements along the way! Did you say "THANK YOU" to Ed Farner, Todd Heichel or Tom Sarbach yet? They are instrumental in making all of this "techie stuff" happen both in the sanctuary and online!!

Richland County is no longer on purple! That means our ELC classes are able to be back together and singing in the sanctuary (socially distanced) with Ms. Becky! Yay! I sure have missed these kiddos. We sing about Jesus every Wednesday morning at 9:30.

*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

Our Jr. and Sr. High youth had a great time playing Minute It to Win It Games in our sanctuary last month! They were so happy to have fellowship and FUN together. Despite COVID, it is still crucial that we continue building intentional relationships with one another. The annual QUAKE weekend trip will be virtual this year, but the kids are still looking forward to this event. It's a favorite! It is being held the last weekend of February. We have great kids!!

Back in November and December our youth made fringe fleece blankets to be given to Newhope. If you were in worship on Sunday January 24, 2021 you would have experienced the blessing of a very large number of fleece blankets that were spread out across the communion rails. What a wonderful outreach — our youth learning to be very giving to others in our community! It couldn't be any better!





## **Memorial Donations**

### **ELC Playground Fund**

*In memory of Wes Volz  
Given by: Zac & Becky Pittman*

*With Sincerest Sympathy*

**John Ness**  
(Pat Fraifogl's brother)

**January 12, 2021**

**Ruth Novak**

**January 1, 2021**

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, when visitors are allowed, Pastor Tim is very anxious to offer communion to our friends who reside in nursing homes. Please hold our shut-ins close in your prayers.

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

Pastor Tim's January 24th sermon had some great statistics in it about "why we choose a church" and become disciples for Jesus. Here they are:

Special need, 2 percent;  
Walk-in, 3 percent;  
**Pastor, 6 percent;**  
Visitation, 1 percent;  
Sunday school, 5 percent;  
Evangelistic crusade, 5 percent;  
Program, 3 percent;  
**Friend/relative, 79 percent.**

You can't miss the highest number — US!  
We all need to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

***Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson***

### ***Service/Social Ministry***

During January we have experienced an amazing collection of blanket donations! These will be taken to Crossroads City Center on the square on February 2nd and given out to the community on February 3rd from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Thank you, everyone, who participated in making these donations!

We are also very thankful for all of the slightly used items you, as members, brought in for the family of Paula Blevins, friend of Karin Utt. Paula's family lost their entire home to a furnace explosion!

On January 21st Pastor Tim received a call from Richland Correctional Institution asking for Lutheran "confessional" materials to be shared with their inmates. We sent them 50 "Luther's Small Catechisms" with our church name stamped on them so that they know that we do care about them. We may also be sending them some of the "Good News" Bibles that we have available. At this writing Pastor Tim is checking on that with their chaplains. This is exciting because it is another outreach!

***Gary Lane, Chairperson***



<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>Worship Committee Chmn.</b> <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



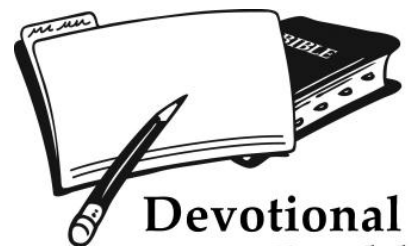
## Prayer Requests

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.

**Mary Schwartz** is now heading up the prayer chain. Please call **Mary** to activate the prayer chain.

**Her home # is: 419.747.2600 or cell # is: 419.566.3113.**  
**Prayer is very powerful!**



## Devotional Booklet

### DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Devotional booklets for FEBRUARY and 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 no longer on the website:**

**felc-mansfield.org. Please refer to Facebook or YouTube to view past sermons.**

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.**

## *February 2021 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**

February 7: Charles & Myra Cordrey

-

#### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

February 7: Gregg Thatcher

#### **GREETER**

Shirley Shupp

#### **LAY READERS**

February 7: Stacey Crall  
February 14: Chris Hoecker  
February 21: Amy Skropits  
February 28: Kathy Hoecker

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

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

#### **PEW PAD GLEANERS**

\*NONE\*

#### **PROPRESENTER**

February 7: Cindy Russell

February 14: Isaac McFadden

February 21: Teri Brenkus

February 28: Suzanne Rippel

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

\*NONE\*

#### **SOUND BOARD OPERATORS**

February 7: Ed Farner

February 14: Ed Farner

February 21: Ed Farner

February 28: Ed Farner

#### **USHERS NAVE**

Paul Theaker and Mike Anderson

Quentin Skropits and Tyler Crall

## 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)

**MARCH Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021.**  
**Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021.**

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**

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

Visit our web site at: [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)

Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.

***Emergency cell phone number if the pastor cannot be***

***contacted at church or home:***

Pastor Timothy Hubert 217-778-8017

## BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY:



Davis, Barbara		3975 Hunter Rd Perrysville OH 44864-9629		Feb. 1
Altman, Julie		1333 State Route 42 Ashland OH 44805		Feb. 1
Smith, Pat		19 S Linden Rd Mansfield OH 44906		Feb. 3
Faith, Larry		2279 Fleming Falls Rd Mansfield OH 44903-8701		Feb. 5
Rogers, Joe		1731 Lucia Lane Mansfield, OH 44907		Feb. 7
Shenberger, Janet		1010 Reed Rd Mansfield OH 44903-6924		Feb. 10
Rutledge, John		160 Redwood Rd Mansfield OH 44907		Feb. 10
Kershaw, Ila		1972 Chelsea Dr Mansfield OH 44904		Feb. 14
Crall, Stacey		222 Marlow Rd Mansfield OH 44906		Feb. 14
Sarbach, Grace		527 Forest St Mansfield OH 44903		Feb. 16
Heichel, Todd		4222 State Route 42 S Lexington OH 44904		Feb. 22
McFadden, Brianna		1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907		Feb. 22
Stegall, Shirley		143 Otterbein Dr Lexington OH 44904-9341		Feb. 23
Rippel, Zachary		770 Woodhill Rd Mansfield OH 44907-1542		Feb. 23
Kinton, Adele		544 Lexington Ave Mansfield OH 44907-1505		Feb. 25
Skropits, Quentin		3399 Oakstone Dr Ontario OH 44903		Feb. 25
Krueger, Doris		612 B S. Trimble Mansfield OH 44906		Feb. 28

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