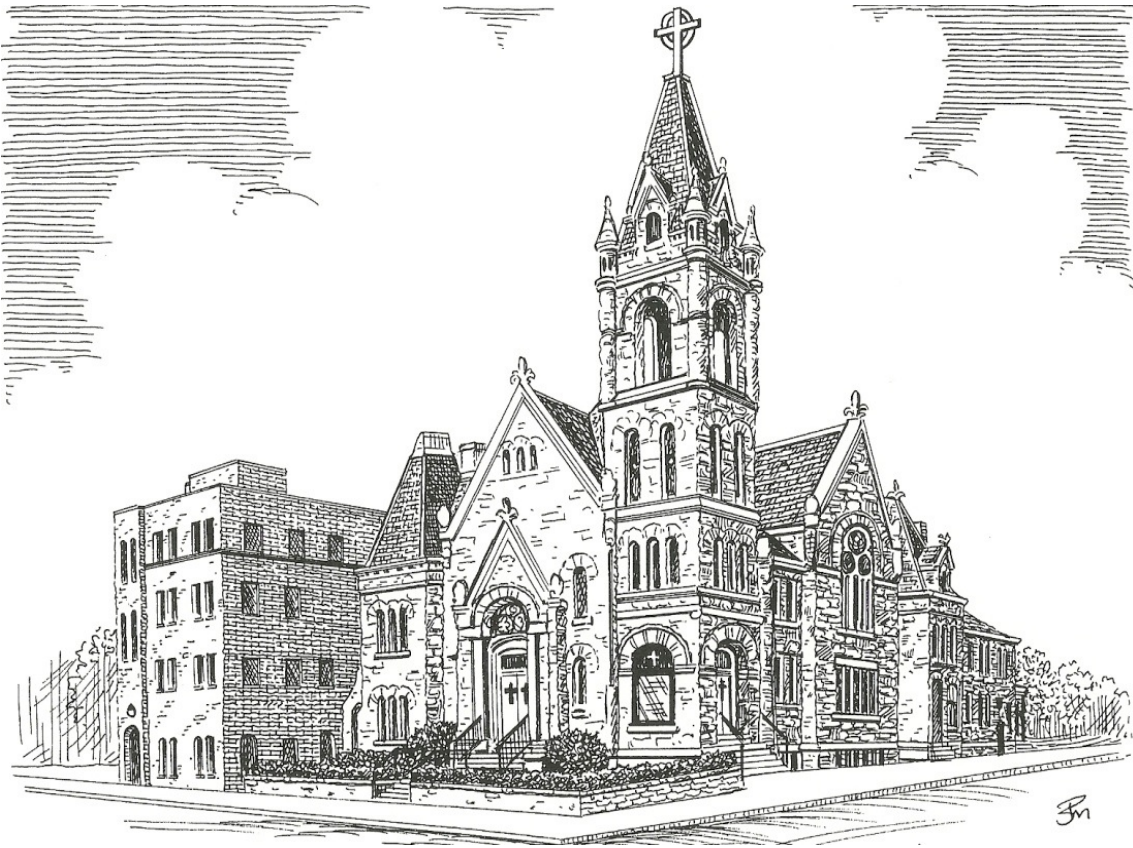


# THE VISITOR



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

**Volume 63**

**MARCH 2021**

**Number 3**

*"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

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Vice President <i>Dan Obrynba</i>	Property <i>Mike Anderson</i>
Secretary <i>Alicia Schulz Keultjes</i>	Social Ministry <i>Gary Lane</i>
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Christian Education <i>open</i>	
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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**

## Pastor Tim's message to our congregation

Grace and peace to my sisters and brothers at FELC!

"In the bleak midwinter"...my, what a winter we're having. Covid keeping us in. Winter keeping us in. Afraid of falling. Afraid of sickness. Is there any good news that I can give you??

Well, the month of March is the season of Lent. Is that good news? Isn't Lent all about confessing our sins and realizing how unworthy we are? Is that good news? Well, to my way of thinking, it's really a season of healing!

Healing? How can that be? Actually, it begins with an analogy. I'm told many people suffer from Covid-19 without ever knowing it. Following that line of thinking, could we be sinning without ever knowing it?

Frankly, that's the wrong question. That we sin is a given, whether we realize it or not. What's special about Lent is that we learn again to lean on our Lord for help, knowing we can't do anything about it all by ourselves.

Lent is 40 days long, also known as a quarantine, and a quarantine is a time to heal and gain back our strength. Lent is a quarantine time to learn again how beautiful is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to learn again the joy of leaning on Jesus, resting in His arms, trusting His overwhelming desire to forgive us.

In the midst of winter weather, slippery roads and cautious driving, we are greeted this Lent by our Lord; renewed, refreshed and prepared for the joy of His resurrection on Easter morning.

Someone recently asked me about driving from Wooster to Mansfield every day. 73 miles, one and one half hours each day. Why do I do this? First of all, because I love my Savior! Secondly, because I love all of you. For this reason, I invite all of you to love our Savior and each other this Lent, coming to our midweek soup and Bible study and our Sunday services as you are able. **Come for the healing of forgiveness, preparing for joy!**

Blessings,

Pr Tim+

## **Once again, TAG!**

Most of us will remember the TAG Visioning process that we began back in 2017. It is now time for Kurt Andre to return and review our hard work. **Kurt will be with us here at FELC on Friday evening, March 19, beginning with a quick supper, Saturday, March 20 all day, and he will join us for worship on Sunday, March 21.** After Sunday worship we plan to have a time of congregational sharing, so please mark your calendars and set aside a little extra time for that. (We estimate about one hour.)

We are inviting what Lowell always called “the group of 21” to join with our congregational council in meeting with Kurt. Please note, if you were part of the group of 21, you are invited and encouraged to set aside these dates and join us for a positive experience talking about our future at FELC.

If you have questions, please contact Dan Obrynba, Vice President of Council.

## **Rev Dr Eric Riesen, President of North American Lutheran Seminary**

At the request of the Adult Sunday School class, I have invited the Rev Dr Eric Riesen to visit First English in the near future, when he is available. The Adult Class is currently reading his book, “The Christian Faith, A Catechism for the Curious.” This is a book that helps us explain our faith to those who are less sure, even skeptical.

Dr Riesen is the president of the North American Lutheran Seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. He is new to that position, having recently been the Senior Pastor at Trinity Lutheran (NALC), Ashland, Ohio.

We are facing a shortage of well trained pastors! We have an excellent seminary in the NALC, but while our student numbers are growing significantly, we still don’t have enough to supply our need.

When Dr Riesen is available to come, we are asking him to speak to the Adult Sunday School Class and also preach during worship. Along with that we will also observe Seminary Sunday, and we ask that you prayerfully consider offering financial support to NALS with a special offering. For many years Lutheran churches have supported their seminaries and seminarians, and this will offer a means to do  
**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday January 12, 2021

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

- The regular monthly council meeting (via Zoom) was called to order at 7:04 and adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

### **Reports:**

**Secretary:** Motion (Jan/Cindy) to approve the December 15, 2020, council meeting minutes as previously distributed via email with minor corrections. **Motion carried.**

**Exec:** (Lowell) There are 2 items on the agenda for the Congregational meeting on January 24: Ratification of the NALC constitutional Amendment (Pastor Tim will present); Approval of the FELC 2021 Budget (Lowell will present). Note: We will need 45 voters present to establish a quorum and conduct business. (Voters: confirmed members with a record of having communed and contributed in the prior 52 weeks). - Employment Payroll Maintenance Form: This is an internal document completed and signed when employees experience an adjustment in their rate of pay. Recommendation from Executive Committee that Todd Heichel, Personnel Committee chair, be the person authorized to sign this form. **Recommendation approved.** - Will schedule the Dickson Fund Distribution Committee to meet soon. Lu and Cindy have agreed to serve again (in addition to officers and pastor). - I will prompt the Nominating Committee to convene again soon, elect a chair and start working on nominees for council positions and other elected positions. I would like to have our domestic nominations worked out before we start the process of assembling a Call Committee. We received a Worker's Compensation refund. Discussions are ongoing about the best way to use that money.

**Vice President:** Dan reported on communications with Kurt Andre, the facilitator of our visioning project, about a return visit which was part of the original arrangement. Kurt expresses great enthusiasm for coming back. We think that we might need to pay only for his expenses, that his services were already paid for (although he subsequently left TAG and TAG subsequently disbanded). We will ask Nicole to research this. In any case, he is willing to "make it work". Upon discussion, the opinion of council members was generally very favorable. The optimal timing for such a review and revival of our vision, and the selection of participants and a final decision will await further discussion.

**Interim Pastor:** (Reverend Tim Hubert) I am delighted to be serving First English Lutheran Church. This is my 8<sup>th</sup> Interim Assignment, 13<sup>th</sup> congregation overall. - You have an excellent staff and I am pleased to work with them.- We are currently working through a number of technological transformations that require a little patience from all of us. - The role of the Interim pastor to assist the congregation in its healing and to prepare the congregation for the next pastor. Part of that responsibility is protecting the new pastor from misplaced or unrealistic expectations or fears. - I have picked up the Adult Sunday School Class, the Pastor's Prayer Partners and the Tuesday morning ELC Chapel time, along with the weekly staff meeting. - The weekly "Pastor's Prayer Partner" group is being expanded and will include a study of prayer utilizing a book I have written. - As I learn more about the FELC program, no doubt other connections will be made. - I will be making suggestions over time to improve our life and worship together. These will be suggestions only. - After 1 week at FELC, I still thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ and you!

**Personnel:** (Todd) Committee will meet in February to refocus on the Youth Director position and to take up again the employee handbook. Waiting for council's decision regarding paid holidays for staff. Motion (Lu/Tom) that we offer to church staff, and to any current ELC staff not already so offered, one (extra) week (as that individual's work week is defined) of vacation as a "thank you" for their continued service to us in these difficult times. This is a one time benefit. **Motion carried.**

**Finance:** (Lu) General Operating Fund (GOF): (includes ELC)

December 2020 Income was \$78,111.

December 2020 Expenses were \$88,078, which were \$9,967 more than income.

Total Income for 2020 was \$712,418, which was \$50,128 more than budget.

Total Expenses for 2020 were \$836,584, which were \$2,083 less than budget.

Total Expenses for 2020 exceeded Income by \$124,166.

**Early Learning Center (ELC):**

December 2020 Income was \$35,840 (does not include \$45,459.22 PPP funds)

December 2020 Expenses were \$35,147, which is \$693 less than the Income.

YTD Income was \$390,317, which was \$15,683 less than Budget of \$406,000.

YTD Expenses were \$371,267, which were \$302 more than Budget of \$370,965.

YTD Income exceeded Expenses by \$19,049.

**GENERAL OPERATING FUND (GOF)RE-  
CAP - YEAR-END**

2019 Carryover	\$52,801
Gen Endow Fund to Gen Operating Fund	\$153,000
Maj Cap Imp Endowment Fund to GOF	\$8,000
New Min & Miss Endowment Fund to GOF	\$27,500
Closeout of Pastor Discretionary Checking Acct	-\$261

RGH II Campaign Fund to GOF for loan payments	\$10,721
YTD Income	\$712,418
<b>TOTAL CARRYOVER &amp; INCOME</b>	<b>\$964,179</b>
YTD Expenses	\$836,584
<b>GENERAL OPERATING FUND YEAR-END BALANCE</b>	<b>\$127,594</b>
Total “abnormal” income (covid/BWC)	\$166,222

Finance Committee recommends that the regular monthly council meeting be changed to the third Tuesday of the month (rather than the second Tuesday) so that it is not the day after Finance meets. The reports aren’t ready earlier in the month, and the Finance Chairperson and the Financial Secretary would like some time following the Finance Meeting to make any needed corrections and prepare any narrative that would be helpful for Council. **Recommendation approved.**

**Property:** (Mike) On Monday, January 11, the Engineer was to meet with Andy for recommendations for issues on the third floor. - The new fence company is trying to obtain permits for the new fence and will proceed when that happens. – Also on the 11<sup>th</sup>, the new security system will start to be installed, alleviating existing problems.

**ELC:** (Tom) At the beginning of January, we received our grant of \$5,543 from the state to cover wages to stay at low ratio for October. We also received \$7,500 from the county grant. - We currently have a total of 71 kids. At this time, we still have school aged kids here full time. They are projected to go back on January 11. - In 2020 a total of \$137,475.50 was procured through grants on behalf of The ELC. Hats off to Angie and staff for all of their hard work. We actually have a \$19,000 roll over for the year. - The following is a note from Angie regarding the ELC areas : On Sundays anyone can walk through our halls. If you need to use bathrooms in my areas please use the spray that is in each bathroom after use. I ask that you not use our rooms and play with the toys. We will not be in the undercroft unless we go to purple and schools go virtual. If we are in the undercroft you may use that space at any time, just spray with disinfectant when done. PLEASE CALL ME if there is any confusion.

**YOUTH:** (Ted) Quake has been cancelled for 2021 except there will be a virtual online version. We are looking for a COVID friendly getaway location that we can use for our youth. Not sure yet of the date.

**EVANGELISM:** (Jan). I’m so happy to report the reception of new members to the life of our congregation! Welcome to Ken and Debbi Suzuki, Chad and Heather McFadden and all their children, Anita Nehrkorn, and Brad Wolfe. (Bobby Mack



was supposed to join, but did not attend on December 20, and the following week he told me he was returning to Florida.) - This past week Becky Pittman and I reviewed our church website. Pastor Tim's picture has been added to "staff" and replaces Pastor Larson's picture. There will be some new Youth pictures posted soon, as well as some new ELC pictures. Becky did some verbiage editing while she and I were on the phone reviewing. Working hard to keep everything as current as possible. - Our new billboard continues to be out and about in the community. Recently it was put up out in Ontario on Park Avenue West at Lewis Road. It will be there until Feb. 14, 2021. (It also has still been up on Ashland Rd. hill, so I'm guessing they don't have a client that needs that space. It's a score for us until they move it.)

**WORSHIP:** (Cindy) Attendance and views for December:

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

**Stewardship:** (Mary) Going to suggest that members make a special contribution in their birthday month based upon the member's age. This has been a blessing to me.

**Christ Ed/Sunday School:** Sunday school report from Amy Skropits: A short report on one of the most creative (in my opinion) lessons taught last weekend by a Sunday school teacher. I was speaking with Stacey before church about the lesson she and Suzanne would be teaching to our youngest class and here is phase one of the lesson in her words: This past Sunday, January 10th we discussed with our class a lesson of words and how they can affect others and how to control them. It is not always our actions but our words. We are trying an experiment to see how words may affect things. I sent home three jars of cooked rice with the kids. Every day they are to talk nice to one jar, mean to one and ignore the third. We will see if there are changes to rice over the week and if our words can change things. – Questions raised about what Sunday School program do the youth use? Are we taking offerings from the children? Pastor Tim will follow up on these questions.

**Global Missions:** (Chris) **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 wide-spread 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.

**Social Ministry**: (Jan) One of our members has made us aware of a family who lost everything when their furnace exploded and the house burned down. Motion (Jan/Chris) that we make their needs known via the bulletin and emails and designate a collection site in the narthex to receive donations. We do this only for the next two weeks. **Motion carried**.

**WFELC**: (Jan) Women's Ministry has just launched the Epiphany Thank Offering request for donations to help support the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Donations can be sent in to Nicole, clearly marked for the Epiphany Thank Offering drive. We are augmenting that with a Thrivent Action Team card in the amount of \$250 which will be used to shop for non-perishable food for Catholic Charities. - We diligently continue to send cards of greeting and love to our list of shut-ins and non-digitals. This is done monthly. The little gift bags of candy given out in December were joyfully received!

**Ad Hoc Committee reports**: Technology: Tom reports that the balance of our new equipment has been installed. Safety: Lu sent out a lot of information but most members had not seen it. It will be reviewed and discussed at later meeting. But Lu indicates that she cannot serve as chair of this group.

**Announcements**: *Next meeting*, February 16, 2021.  
Council devotions: Stewardship

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Schulz, Secretary



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

Recently Schmidt Security has been installing the new security system within the church and Early Learning Center. Under the new system we will use our codes and we will have limited access around the building. If entering on Luther Hall side you will be admitted by one of the office staff if you do not have a code. This security is for everyone's benefit and is especially important in keeping the ELC secure for the protection of the children.

**For Sale: Our old bus which has been used for years by Early Learning Center. Contact Andy Kershaw if you know of a client.**



## **March update from our Worship Committee**

During our January meeting, guidelines for the coronavirus were revisited. Changes happening are as follows:

- We will be using hymnals

- We will be using bulletins

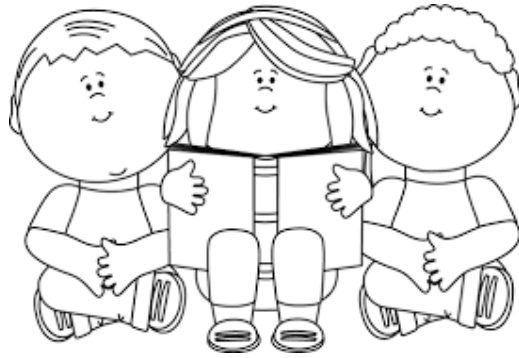
- We will be going back to continuous communion in March

- We are having the Children's Sermon

We will be having the Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers and Bible Study.

We will be having Holy Week and Easter Services. Along with this, we will be hosting the March of Prayer during our Saturday Easter Vigil.

**Cindy Russell**  
**Worship Committee Chairperson**



**ELC**

## **Little People BIG News**

### **March**



#### **Flashback into February**

Our children loved celebrating Valentine's Day with passing out cards and having class parties. We did a mini-Mardi Gras celebration within the classrooms to mark the start of Lent.



#### **A Peek into March**

This month we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with "Wacky Week". We will also have some Dr. Seuss snacks to share with our children. We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Assessments on children will be completed this month. This will help us know what areas we need to work on with the children.

April 11<sup>th</sup> will be ELC Sunday! Please plan to attend. There will be some special things offered on that day, plus a ton of cuteness from the ELC kids.

**Angie Murphy**

**ELC Director**

## **An exciting and fun opportunity for Evangelism and Outreach!**

First English Lutheran Church and the Early Learning Center are joining with a number of other local entities to offer a pre-Easter drive-through event to be held at South Park on Brinkerhoff Avenue on Saturday, March 27, 2021. This is being coordinated by the City of Mansfield Parks Department and will be a great “social distancing” way to offer some springtime fun to our local children.

Families will drive through the park, stopping at each station offered by various churches, businesses, clubs, fraternal organizations, etc. We have begun our planning and we anticipate a crowd of around 500 kids will drive through in their families’ vehicles stopping at each station to be given a small goodie bag with our church name and worship information attached. We will also be giving out small water bottles banded with our church name and logo attached. Our gal, Angie Cockrell, is making a two sided flier telling of some of our ministries. It will be given out with the goodie bags, inviting people to Holy Week and Easter worship.

We are asking you, our faithful congregation, for any financial support that you can donate to this project. We also have many volunteer opportunities to help prepare for the event. Examples: put bands on 500 water bottles, put FELC stamp on 500 white paper goodie bags, donate the 4 oz size water bottles, donate bags of wrapped Easter candy or mini candy bars, help fill the goodie bags the week prior to the event.

If you have questions, here’s the team to contact: Angie Murphy, Becky Pittman, Jan Fisher, Nicole Goddard, Angie Cockrell

It is great to be doing this as God’s Team!



## GOOD NEWS FROM FINANCE

There are a number of retired folks in the congregation who take their required minimum distribution in January and give their annual pledged amount at that time. This drives income up for January.

General Operating Fund Recap (Included Early Learning Center):

2020 Carryover	\$127,594
RGHII Campaign Funds to Gen Op Fund to pay loan	\$ 893
2021 YTD Income (\$21,919 more than budget)	\$ 70,746
2021 YTD Expenses (\$5,461 less than budget)	\$ 60,643
Gen Operating Fund Balance	\$138,590

Council voted to pay church staff members for four holidays per year (Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas). This is a small way to show our employees that we appreciate their dedication.

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.

As always, I would appreciate the 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 is currently not meeting regularly.***

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

**MARCH: Squad D: Mary Schwartz and Pat Heichel**

**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

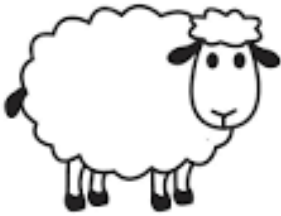
***SPIRITUAL WALK WITH GOD!***



*CALENDAR HERE*

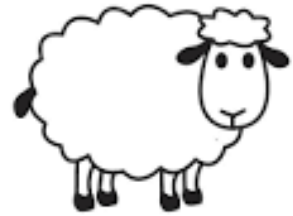


*CALENDAR HERE*



## **WITHIN THE FOLD**

**Wednesday Noon Lunch  
Ministry  
Donations \$20.00 January  
and February.**



**Kroger Rewards from Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 2020-Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 46 Households \$240.52**

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the January blanket drive which was delivered to Crossroads City Center! Eight of us delivered 232 nice cozy blankets on Feb. 2nd and they were distributed on February 3rd. Due to the cold snowy day, the distribution continued on Thursday Feb. 4. Certainly the people receiving the blankets were very grateful. Each blanket had a 4 x 6 card attached saying that it came from the congregation of First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, OH 44902. A big thank you to **Shirley Lane, Karen Pullins** (Shirley Shupp's daughter), **Tammy Hillman**, and **Larry Lantz** for supporting this project with Thrivent Action Team cards!

Dearest Friends at First English Lutheran,  
Thank you and God Bless you for all your kindness. The cards, the gifts, your prayers have meant so much to me, especially after dad's passing. Please forgive me for not yet writing the obituary or planning his memorial service. We continue to trust in God and rely on His mercy. My left foot and ankle are slowly healing, thank God, and we look forward to the future.

In Christian love,

**Becky Kress**

Dear Church Friends, I want to thank you for the wonderful prayer shawl. It feels good around my shoulders. My surgery has been postponed indefinitely due to COVID19. Hoping things get better soon. I also want to thank Jane and Liz Sprang for the lovely get well cards. You are very thoughtful and caring. **Mary Shaffer** (As of this typing, Mary was to have her back surgery today, February 18, 2021.)

**Outreach to our shut-ins and non-digitals.....**We continue to make phone calls and send cards and mini packages because we don't want anyone to be forgotten in these COVID 19 days.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS: a suggestion from Mary Schwartz

Have you considered how the Lord has blessed you during the years of your life? He has blessed me every day of my life and for that I am thankful to our Lord and Savior. Quite a number of years ago, a lady who was on the Congregational Council, suggested that in thankfulness for the years of our life, we might want to honor our Lord by making a contribution to His ministry at First English Lutheran Church. From time to time, I remembered this challenge and I would ask you to prayerfully consider joining me as I once again thank our Lord for the years of life He has given me.

We recently received a thank you post card from **“Stamps For The Wounded”** where we send our “saved” used postage stamps to help Veterans. Please continue to save the postage off envelopes of mail that you receive. There’s a box on the poster table where you can deposit your used stamps.

This from Phil Mitchell, Mansfield City Schools SAFE Homeless Coordinator:

**Dear Mary Schwartz and the congregation of First English Lutheran Church,**

The SAFE Homeless Program thanks you for all you do for our children and families in need. In the last school year we aided and supported over 400 students. These children are identified as “homeless” because they have been displaced due to various family situations. (Mary Schwartz recently obtained a Thrivent Action Team grant to provide personal care items that the SAFE program uses to help these kids in this vulnerable situation.) This gives these children and families a measure of hope.

### **Lenten Soup Suppers and Bible Study**

We will be having soup suppers at 6 before our Bible studies on Wednesday nights. Anyone interested in preparing a soup meal contact Heather McFadden. We are blest to be able to go forward at this time.

## *Love Notes from Shirley*



This NOTES column should be entitled “Can You Top This?” I’m writing about Jane Sprang and her daughter Elizabeth (Liz). Jane has been attending First English Lutheran Church for 84 years! Can anyone top this?

Jane has been reaching out to FELC friends in many ways. She sends out lovely Get Well and Birthday cards. She is also on the Prayer Chain and collects attendance records at Sunday services. A very precious way she serves the Lord is by crocheting Warm Up America afghan squares together, making a lovely and warm covering for any recipient. Aside from church activities, Jane and Liz enjoy line dancing at the Senior Center in Lexington.

Liz is employed at the Meier Store in Ontario. She helps Jane with greeting cards and attendance records. Both mother and daughter enjoyed playing in the hand bell choir several years ago. They are especially fashionable wearing clothes honoring the seasons: Valentines Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Christmas, etc. It’s always fun to check out their seasonal apparel. Liz’s hobby is collecting elephants and bears. I think mother and daughter really make a great team!

**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!

**Our next study will be entitled “Mama Bear Apologetics”** hmm, sounds interesting.



## 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. We do not display flowers during the season of Lent.

*April 11, 2021*

*April 18, 2021*

*May 23, 2021*

*June 06, 2021*

*June 20, 2021*



## Global Mission

**MALAWI:** Ken Ekegren sent us a wonderful update about what's happening in Malawi. Here are some of the highlights: 1) The average number of children fed = 800 2) They estimate that they have 3 weeks before the food runs out. 3) The number of high school students = 73. 4) The number of boarding school students = 7 (6 in high school & 1 in college).

Precious, our college student, just finished his semester. 5) Status of the soap business: Six people have been trained who will in turn train four more. 6) Land has been purchased to continue the chicken business. They hope to start the building after the rainy season. 7) Kanyenyeva Wala has gotten recognition from the First Lady of the country for training and materials for the Days for Girls. 8) The status of the farm is good. They hope to have a good yield. 9) In need of balls, toys, and other things for the children at the project. 10) The skills center is complete and usable.

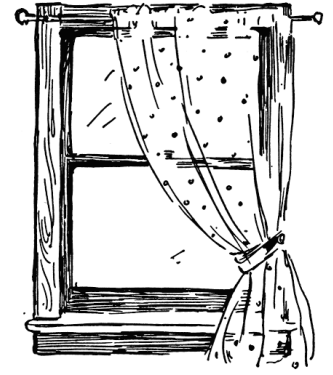
Jan and I are developing a joint prayer support group for the women at MOCP. Yami sent us a list of these special ladies' names and Jan is contacting the other churches involved with Malawi to be a part of our prayer team.

**THE FAR SIDE:** Brian and Barb are now hoping to return to the Far Side on March 8. They are asking for lots of prayers that everything goes smoothly for their return. Brian's Mom is doing well with her new heart valve. She has written a devotional book entitled SEND ME. In it she shares her experiences in Nigeria to inspire those who stay as well as those who go. Five hundred Islanders have the Proverbs App on their phones. Brian and Barb are praying God will make a way for Proverbs to be distributed as a booklet too. They want us to ask God to help them wrap up well on this side and prepare their hearts for what's ahead.

**Chris Cichanowicz**

**Global Mission Chairperson**

## Becky's Views.....



It has been a pleasure to work closely with Pastor Tim over the last several months! He displays wonderful guidance for our FELC and ELC staff, insightful wisdom regarding worship, and is helping us heal as a congregation.

Check out the new camera angles Todd Heichel is using on our livestream! He is doing a great job putting FELC "out there" on social media. Todd's camera expertise combined with Ed Farner's audio knowledge makes our live production one of the best.

Have you checked out our website lately?? ([www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)) We have changed many homepage pictures, and we are always adding updated information to the bulletin board. The photo gallery grows monthly.

The bell choir is BACK! These "ding-a-lings" (An affectionate term, of course!) will be blessing everyone with their music on Palm Sunday. Don't miss it!

Save the Date - - Sunday, April 11th! Our 10:00 service will be led by our talented youth, and our ELC children will be singing with our FELC kids. Great fun!

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

**BE INTENTIONAL! BE LIKE JESUS!**

**Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and the Arts**

## Memorial Donations

### **Memorial Fund**

*In memory of John Ness  
Given by: Marilyn Dinges*

*In memory of Harold & Pat Simmons  
Given by: William Simmons*



### **ELC Playground Fund**

*In memory of John Ness  
Given by: Lynn LaFene*

### **ELC Memorial Fund**

*In memory of John Ness  
Given by: Harry Frietchen, Irene Schultz, Marie Wappner, Gerold & Jane Nieman,  
Nancy Clemmons*

### **Wednesday Noon Lunch Fund**

*In memory of John Ness  
Given by: Larry & Cheryl Lantz*

### **Building Maintenance Fund**

*In memory of John Ness  
Given by: Sandra Volz*



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

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

## **Pastoral Acts**

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**



Angie Cockrell has written an announcement regarding Lenten Ash Wednesday Service as well as Holy Week/Easter forthcoming. That will be submitted to the NewsJournal "community" editor. I will also be posting that announcement on Facebook, inviting folks to join us for live worship or online streaming. Of course in the middle of Lent we will be having our soup suppers followed by Bible Study: 6 to 7 PM.

Recently discussion has come up regarding getting the bus put in use within our community as we have some folks who would welcome a ride to church. Details forthcoming as we need to secure a driver or two.

In caring for our shut-ins and non-digitals during this continuing COVID 19 time, we have sent Valentines packages to them in February, and will continue to greet them with personal note cards that will hopefully brighten their days.

***Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson***

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

Thank you to everyone who helped Paula Blevins after their house fire. She said they are very grateful for our congregation's support of the many donations brought in for them. They lost everything, so the donations of dishes, pots and pans, silverware, blankets, sheets, clothing, kitchen items, towels, etc. are such a blessing.

We would like to start using our bus to offer rides to church. Do you have the gift of being able to drive a 28 passenger vehicle? If so, please contact Andy Kershaw. We need a bus driver for Sundays and other days.

***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

## YOUTH NEWS

We will await the exciting news of how our Youth enjoyed their virtual Quake.

### Stewardship Update

Stewardship report: The Lenten mailing was sent Friday, February 12. Enclosed in the mailing was a letter about the Nick and Shannon Kraft family, missionaries to Peru, a Lenten schedule and an envelope with opportunity to support the Kraft family's mission work during Lent. With mail being what it is at present, please look for this mailing.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Brenkus, Teri	273 Greenbriar Dr Bellville OH 44813-1159	March 01		
Doklovic, Anya	3453 W 4th St Mansfield OH 44903-8033	March 01		
McFadden, Elisa	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	March 01		
Earick, Eugene	545 Stewart Ln Apt 103 Mansfield OH 44907	March 02		
Garn, Katie	85 Harding Heights Blvd Mansfield OH 44906	March 04		
Harruff, Beth	455 Logan Rd. Apt. 3 Mansfield OH 44907	March 11		
Pittman, Haley	490 Rudy Rd Mansfield OH 44903-8038	March 13		
Lauthers, Ronald	250 Delaware Ave Apt 177B Lexington OH 44904	March 14		
Obrynba, Daniel	979 Sheirer Rd Mansfield OH 44903	March 15		
Ringold, Lynda	41 Glenwood Blvd Mansfield OH 44906-3737	March 18		
Rehm, Ashley	1090 Crestwood Dr Mansfield OH 44905-1623	March 18		
Miller, Casey	64 Broadway Shelby OH 44875	March 20		
Rettig, Robert	1301 Millsboro Road Primrose Apt 211 Mansfield OH 44906	March 23		
Sprang, Elizabeth	1817 Partridge Court Mansfield OH 44907	March 24		
Garn, Cory	85 Harding Heights Blvd Mansfield OH 44906	March 25		
McFadden, Peyton	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	March 25		
Weeks, Lowell	730 Westview Blvd Mansfield OH 44907-2236	March 31		
Shupp, Renee	744 Pulver List Rd Mansfield OH 44905-2547	March 31		
Crall, Justin	222 Marlow Rd Mansfield OH 44906	March 31		

## 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!**



## DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Devotional booklets for MARCH are in the tract racks, so please help yourselves to these booklets. Make daily devotions a necessary part of your "routine." There are also many good apps available for your iPhone or Android. In today's busy world, apps are a wonderful digital tool! [NALC.org](http://NALC.org) offers a great devotional option. Check it out!



**Devotional  
Booklet**



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

**Podcasts of weekly sermons are no longer on the website:**

**[felc-mansfield.org](http://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.**

## *March 2021 Volunteers*

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

#### **ACOLYTES**

\*NONE\*

#### **ALTAR WORKERS**

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

#### **ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Chris Hoecker

#### **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

\*NONE\*

#### **COMMUNION PREPARERS**

March        7:        Lana Conry

-

#### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

March        7:        Pat Smith

#### **GREETER**

Shirley Shupp

#### **LAY READERS**

March        7:        Sandie Volz  
March        14:       Jan Fisher  
March        21:       Angie Kaschube  
March        28:       Todd Heichel

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

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

#### **PEW PAD GLEANERS**

\*NONE\*

#### **PROPRESENTER**

March        7:        Cindy Russell  
March        14:       Teri Brenkus  
March        21:       Isaac McFadden  
March        28:       Suzanne Rippel

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

\*NONE\*

#### **SOUND BOARD OPERATORS**

March        7:        Ed Farner  
March        14:       Ed Farner  
March        21:       Ed Farner  
March        28:       Ed Farner

#### **USHERS    NAVE**

Jeff Davis & Annette Doklovic

Brad Wolfe & Tim Ludwig

## 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)

**APRIL Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021.**  
**Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, MARCH 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">cgs@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Nicole Goddard	<a href="mailto:ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org">ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Angie Cockrell	<a href="mailto:acockrell@felc-mansfield.org">acockrell@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Church Office	<a href="mailto:office@felc-mansfield.org">office@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Jan Fisher, Editor	<a href="mailto:newslettereditor53@yahoo.com">newslettereditor53@yahoo.com</a>
Andy Kershaw	<a href="mailto:propman@felc-mansfield.org">propman@felc-mansfield.org</a>

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

Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.

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

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

Pastor Timothy Hubert 217-778-8017

Please use this form if you would like to give an Easter lily or daffodil plant,  
in honor of or in memory of a loved one on Easter Sunday.

The deadline for ordering is **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021\***

(\*No orders will be accepted after March 17th because our order  
must be submitted to the greenhouse soon after.)

You can turn your order and money in  
to the Church Office either in person or by mail, or you can put it in the offering box on Sunday. **If you put  
the order in the offering box, Please put check & order form in  
a separate envelope marked for flower order.**

The lilies, hydrangeas, and daffodils will decorate the Church on Easter morning, April 4th.

The plants may be removed by the donor after the **worship service** that morning.

**INSTEAD OF RECEIVING A PLANT**, you may make a donation to one of the listed funds.



cut here

**2021**

**Lily Order:**

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00 per plant) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Daffodil Order:**

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00 per plant) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**Donation (no plant):**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing God's House II

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ CDS Endowment Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Major Capital Improvement Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund

Please make checks payable to FELC

**"In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_"**

**"In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_"**

**"Given by \_\_\_\_\_" (Person ordering \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_)**



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**MARCH 2021 VISITOR**