Grace and peace to my brothers and sisters here at FELC! Can I say it out loud? Promise you won’t get a big head?? I’m so proud of this congregation!! You are working so hard to be healed, whole and faithful! We saw signs of this healing at our annual meeting on May 23rd. Calm, respectful conversations accompanied thoughtful consideration. Our great East and West sanctuary windows are in terrible condition. While it was tempting to opt for the band aid solution, we chose the longer view, the 100 year view. That is a wonderful sign! Thank you!!! And thank you to Pat Heichel and her Nominating Committee for a job well done. We will be well served by our new council members, NALC lay delegate and new Nominating Committee. You know the old saying that it takes a village to raise a child. Well, a congregation can only be a mission center when we have good people willing to work on our mission! The Holy Spirit is working hard to raise up our members, gift us with spiritual gifts, and send us out into this community. When the Holy Spirit wins, we win! Already we are said to house the #1 Preschool and Day Care in Mansfield. Thank you ELC!!! We keep looking for ways to be a blessing to you and you keep finding ways to bless us. Just wait until you see what’s going on in the playground across Mulberry Street! It is normal for congregations, looking for a new pastor, to be somewhat anxious about the process of looking. Remember, our Lord has already picked out our new pastor. We need to be faithful on our end, doing the work that needs to be done in preparation. In September we will do our first survey, looking at what we are currently doing and asking how well we are doing as well as how well we should be doing. With that information, we will, in October, do our second survey asking what are the skills and abilities we are looking for in our new pastor? Do you want, for instance, a change-agent pastor? A young pastor with a young family? A pastor who will train you to go out into the highways and byways? The old joke is that every congregation wants a 30 year old pastor with twenty years of experience, married with young children and teenage children, who will work for not much money. Well, before we get that far, let’s get FELC up and running at full speed. Let’s return safely to worship. Let’s bring our children to church and Sunday School. Let’s greet each other will love and joy. Let’s be the best FELC in Mansfield, in Richland County, in Ohio and around the world.

Blessings all!

Pastor Tim