

THE VISITOR



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

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Number 10

"Pointing People to Jesus Through Intentional Relationships"

THE VISITOR is published monthly by First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1698. Church office hours: 8:30-4:30 Tuesday-Friday; closed Monday. Church phone: 419/522-0662. FAX: 419/522-0075. Website: www.felc-mansfield.org, Early Learning Center phone: 419/522-7500.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Miguel Acosta
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
Faith Williams, Parish Secretary/Printer
Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance
Andy Kershaw, Property Manager
Michelle Couch, Assistant Director Early Learning Center

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>Rob Skropits</i>	Personnel <i>Teri Brenkus</i>
Vice President <i>Chad McFadden</i>	Property <i>Mike Anderson</i>
Secretary <i>Christopher Kaschube</i>	Social Ministry <i>Gary Lane</i>
Early Learning Center <i>Misty Grove</i>	Stewardship <i>Sandra Volz</i>
Christian Education <i>open</i>	
Worship <i>Cindy Russell</i>	
Congregational Life <i>Cindy Hill</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>	

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office hours are changing! The new hours will be as follows:

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you any questions about these changes, please contact Faith Williams at the church office. (419)-522-0662 or at parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org



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

A Message from Pastor Miguel.....

I bring you words from Scripture that are on this little postcard that I found around the office: “Our God is a consuming fire” (Heb 12:29). He is, but the question is, do we let ourselves be consumed? I think that we fight with all the ‘fire equipment’ that we have in our heart and soul. We just don’t want to be consumed by God’s fire because to be consumed with God’s fire means to forget the word ‘I,’ and that’s a word that we live by.

In ancient times pagan gods were worshiped, and for the domestic worship of those gods, people made little clay figurines of them and prostrated themselves before them. Well, we prostrate ourselves before the word ‘I’. “I want to do what I want to do, when I want to do it, as long as I want to do it.” “I will not allow myself to be manipulated.” “I don’t want to be in anything structured.” “I want to have freedom”— and you can go down the line, applied to any area in life, religion, and everything in between. You will see that the word ‘I’ is a very commonly used word.

However, our God is a consuming fire; he wants to absorb that ‘I’; he wants to give us himself. He wants to teach us to say “he”; ‘she’; they, we, for that fits in with his commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you” (Jn 15:12). Now, he loved us until crucifixion. Do we love the other until crucifixion? Today we have no crosses to be crucified on with nails. But we have the cross of love, for love is a strange thing; it is both a pain and a joy—as was his crucifixion, suffered for love of us.

When I surrender the ‘I’ in me for somebody else, I feel pain, which can feel like my skin is being torn away. But at the same time, after it’s all over and I have given up my ‘I’ for the other, I feel a joy incapable of being expressed in words. I enter that consuming fire by surrendering my ‘I’ for the other. “Our God is a consuming fire.” What does it mean? As we approach it, we are already afraid.

God said to Moses: “Take off your shoes, the place is holy” (Ex 3:5). But when we reflect that ‘Our God is a consuming fire’, in our mind this fire is like a bonfire and it throws out an immense heat, and, although we know that the place is holy, we tie our shoes and run away from it. Our life can be spent in fighting that fire. Why? When deep down in our heart we know that our true happiness, our true delight, our true fulfilment, lies not in doing what we want, when we want, as we want, but in the will of God. And the will of God is very simple: he wants us to do unto others as we do unto ourselves. He told us: “Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me” (Mt 25:45). It’s as simple as that, but fearsome for us. We think we lose our liberty when we love others to the point of self-sacrifice, as he told us to. We’re afraid that we’re going to lose everything that we hold dear, not realizing that when we give up everything for God’s sake, we come to possess everything, in a different way. What you give, you receive. I am praying with my whole heart that soon there will be nothing in me that I haven’t given to God.

Yours in Christ , **Pastor Miguel**

Pastor Miguel's Bible Study

Adventuring Through the Bible

This is a study that will take us through the Bible in one year. (It is not the same as the Daily Walk Bible.) It will teach us more about our relationships with God. It will teach us about human relationships. It will teach us about family relationships by relating biblical stories to today's world. It will help us build our spiritual relationships with Our Lord. It is about a life pattern that is as old as ancient times and as new as our lives today!

Please consider extending your Christian education by setting aside this time for study. It will be well worth your dedication. Come and join the rest of us on Tuesdays from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM in the Emmaus Room.

We continue on Tuesdays, please join us, there's plenty of room for YOU!
Material will be provided.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 20, 2022- 7:00 PM

DRAFT COPY- Updated September 20, 10:00 PM

Present: Rob Skropits, Christopher Kaschube, Pastor Miguel Acosta, Misty Grove, Sandie Volz, Lu Blankenship, Jan Fisher, Mike Anderson, Chris Cichanowicz, Cindy Russell, Nicole Goddard

Absent: Ted Ellis, Chad McFadden, Gary Lane, Teri Brenkus

The meeting was called to order by Rob Skropits at 7:00 PM.

Devotion and prayer by Jan Fisher.

Secretary, Christopher Kaschube:

Presented the FELC Church Council minutes from August 2022 for approval. Included is an e-vote from August 22. **MOTION** (Sandie/Cindy) to approve the minutes. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Executive Committee:

President Rob Skropits addressed the Council about two items:

- Worship- suggestions for Worship functions and/or about the Pastor should be brought to the appropriate committee (Worship, Call, or Executive) or the Church Council for consideration.
- Donations- People looking to make large undesignated donations to the church should be directed to the Finance Committee or Church Council for options as to where the donation could be designated.

Pastor Miguel Acosta:

Proposals/Observations:

- Staff members attend a leadership conference or team building workshop once a year.
- Improve communication overall between Church Council and staff. One way to do this could be to have staff members attend the Council meetings. Angie for ELC, Andy for property, Nicole for finance, and Becky for worship. The hours could be adjusted for that week, so we are not asking more than normal weekly hours of the staff.
- Make sure all staff members are working during normal business hours, not doing so much volunteer work that takes them away from their normal duties. If they feel all their work is caught up for the day of course we should all help out where we can.
- Suggest a picnic at the retreat center with staff and their families in the summer and a Christmas dinner with gift exchange in early December. Anything to help our staff all come together outside of work stress and get to know each other on a personal level.
- Narrow our focus by trying to cut out some of the organizations we send benevolence to. Larger amounts to fewer places seems like it might be more beneficial in the long run.
- We need to consider cutting down on asking so much from our congregation all at one time. There are times in the year where we are asking for donations for several special offerings all at once, this becomes overwhelming for our members. There have been complaints about this.
- Get the youth involved downtown with volunteer cleanup days or fundraisers like a car wash or bake sale. This would be money they could put in the youth fund for their outing expenses rather than asking for money from the congregation for these events.
- Take an in depth look at all the expenses and be sure the daycare is taking care of all they would if they were a separate business.
- Consider allowing the daycare to roll over a percentage or all the profit at the end of each year rather than it being absorbed into the general fund of the church.

- Within the next 3 months, continue implementing community outreach strategies where our presence is more visible. Using scheduled activities outside of the regular Sunday service. Example: A praise band concert for the youth and young adults in our sanctuary. Fall Festival, Promote a spiritual retreat at the Retreat Center for our members and others interested in Spiritual Growth.
- During the month of November we will celebrate a daily Office using the lectionary readings, as we approach Thanksgiving. It will be streamed live and will allow us to "Give Thanks" the whole month.
- Pastor will meet with different Committees to create a relevant meaningful Advent season.
- Had a productive phone conversation with Pastor Amy Little from the NALC national office regarding getting a hispanic ministry started here in Mansfield. This would be funded completely through the NALC, not FELC.
- Explore the potential of having staff meetings every other week.

Stewardship Committee, Sandie Volz:

The accountant who performed a Financial Review for FELC suggested that we cut back on the use of the pass-through line item and the overlapping of collecting for a variety of purposes.

Finance and Stewardship had already agreed that we need to narrow our focus somewhat and cut down on the number of fundraisers. As it is, people are giving to a myriad of organizations and fundraisers through the church which actually causes an influx of many small checks being processed by the church office for many different entities.

On August 24, 2022, Sandra Volz (Stewardship), Mary Schwartz (Stewardship), Jan Fisher (Social Ministry), Nicole Godard (Bookkeeper), and (Lu Blankenship, Finance) met to discuss and streamline the envelope schedule and minimize the number of fundraisers being conducted each year.

We are proposing a special envelope once per quarter, plus special envelopes mailed from the church office for Lent and Advent. At the same time, we deleted the quarterly recipients from the budget. This will allow the 10% benevolence amount to be divided among fewer entities and to be focused on the NALC and the missions we support.

The Stewardship Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Proposed Giving Envelopes & Benevolence for 2023

1st Quarter

January - Initial \$10 offering to cover envelope expense

February - Love Inc.

March - no special envelope

2nd Quarter

April – no special envelope

May – Malawi Orphan Care Project – Education
June – no special envelope

3rd Quarter

July – no special envelope
August – Richland Pregnancy
September – no special envelope

4th Quarter

October – no special envelope
November – Women's Ministry Thank Offering
December – Christmas Eve Offering

Lent – office sends letters and special envelope (has been for Kraft Family in the past)
Advent – office sends letters and special envelope (has been for Malawi in the past)

Benevolence

First English sends 10% of offering income each quarter to the following organizations:

- NALC
- North Central Ohio Mission District
- North American Lutheran Seminary
- Missionary - Kraft's
- Missionary – Sorge's
- Malawi Orphan Care – food
- NALC Disaster Relief

This plan does not preclude folks from giving to existing funds, such as Youth, Missions & Ministries, Memorial, etc.

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED

Finance Committee, Lu Blankenship:

General Operating Fund (GOF): includes ELC

August 2022 Income was \$58,878.01
August 2022 Expenses were \$96,440.01
August Income is less than expenses by \$37,562.00

YTD Income is \$437,481.49 which is less than budget by \$2,473.49
YTD Expenses are \$535,392.83 which is less than budget by \$85,320.63
YTD Income is less than YTD Expenses by \$97,911.34

Early Learning Center (ELC):

August 2022 Income was \$41,435.43
August 2022 Expenses were \$27,328.71
August Income is more than expense by \$14,106.72

YTD Income was \$247,736.62 which is less than budget by \$12,363.38

YTD Expense are \$209,925.15 which is less than budget by \$48,746.85
YTD Income is more than expenses by \$37,811.47

GOF Recap:	2021 Carryover					\$113,321.20
Gen Op Fund to Women of FELC Fund						(\$1,000.00)
ELC Grant Fund to GOF						\$4,600.00
FELC Memorial Fund to GOF						\$7,000.00
WFELC Fund to GOF (Easter Flowers)						\$20.00
Gen Endow Fund to Gen Op Fund (\$141,454 + \$80,000)						\$0.00
Maj Cap Imp Endowment Fund to GOF						\$0.00
New Min & Miss Endowment Fund to GOF						\$0.00
RGH II Campaign Funds to Gen Op Fund for loan pymt						\$5,360.52
2022 YTD Income						\$437,481.49
2022 YTD Expenses						\$535,392.83
GOF Balance as of 7-31-2022						\$31,390.38
GOF Balance as of 9-8-2022						\$23,970.71

- Justin Grove has agreed to serve on the Finance Committee. Finance will now meet at 5:00 on the Second Monday of each month.
- The Grant Funds were received, and the initial payment on the elevator contract was mailed to get the elevator work started. The ELC employees will receive their bonus checks on the next payroll run on September 22.
- On September 8, a withdrawal was requested from the General Endowment Fund in the amount of \$50,000.00 this is the first withdrawal for the year. Our total approved draw for 2022 is \$141,454.00 plus an additional \$80,000.00 if needed. The \$50,000 goes into the GOF.
- The budget process will be starting before the end of September. The Finance Chair and Bookkeeper will meet with each committee chair to go over budgets and plans for 2023 in detail.

Finance **RECOMMENDS** that the Congregational Meeting for the 2023 Budget approval be held, as usual, on the third Sunday of January, January 15, 2023. **RECOMMENDATION APPROVED.**

Youth Committee, Ted Ellis:

The Youth Committee met on August 28 to develop a plan for the programming for the remainder of 2022 and through 2023. When doing the 2023 budget we will also be sure that the cost of a part time youth director will be included. This position was approved by the congregation a couple of years ago but was removed from the 2022 budget because we felt it would not be filled until we had a new full time pastor.

Evangelism Committee, Jan Fisher:

On September 13, 2022 we had 14 great volunteers who helped distribute over 6000# of very nice produce to our 193 guests. That means that 498 people in those households received some very healthy food, and with prices increasing they all tell us how grateful they are to be able to come to our distribution. We had 44 new families register on that day as well. We gave out 57 Senior Boxes on the fourth Tuesday in August. This program continues to grow!

I am very excited about the number of people who are joining us for worship on Sundays. There is something very exciting and affirming about fellowship in the Holy Spirit! Such a blessing!

I continue with Facebook posts showing the life of our congregation. You might be surprised to see how many “likes” and “views” we get. Pretty neat and it gets our church “brand” out there!

I have recently begun submitting short articles to the Mansfield News Journal regarding our Sunday worship services and anything that would be a special announcement. This goes on a special section of the “church news” area of the paper. These articles have to be submitted by Tuesday of the week that they post.

WFELC Committee, Jan Fisher:

How exciting to share with you that 17 women have begun a Bible Study called “Seamless” written by Angie Smith! We are beginning with a study of the Old Testament, and we share the teaching and the hosting as we meet in each other’s homes. The first session was taught by Kay Williams and we met in the home of Myra and Charlie Cordrey.

We are planning Thankoffering for Sunday, November 13. At present we are taking time to determine the best focus for the Thankoffering offering funds.

Luther Fellowship met Monday, Sept. 19 at Karen and Ted Ellis’ home for a potluck and cook out. Fifteen of our members were present for this enjoyable gathering. Thank you, Karen and Ted for your gracious hosting. What a great time we had!

Worship Committee, Cindy Russell:

The Safety Team will be doing fire safety drills twice a year. The drill would be held at the end of the Worship service. The Fire Department will be invited to evaluate the best exit routes prior to any drills being held.

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. Worship that day will be a Service of Carols and Readings.

The cut off date regarding the donation for the antiphonal organ is fast approaching. Moving the antiphonal organ has been approved by the Music and Worship Committee and Property Committee. We are waiting for a decision so Scott knows how to proceed.

Attendance and Facebook Views for August:

	Attendance	Facebook Views
8/7	104	86
8/14	90	140
8/21	110	153
8/28.	108	121

Thank you to Congregational Life for the reception following the Installation of Pastor Miguel.

Property Committee, Mike Anderson:

The Property Committee met on Tuesday September 6, 2020.

Andy Kershaw reported to us that there are now 4 trees in the Playground that were provided by City of Mansfield and Lind Advertising. Lind Advertising has replaced the tall trees in the parking lot with short Hydrangea Trees, making all parties concerned in the matter happy.

A new sidewalk will be going in the playground. Andy has the money to pay for this project on money already allocated for the playground.

Thompson Asphalt, (contractor for the new parking lot) will be sealing and striping the parking lots after the sidewalk is put in.

The Pastor's new Office on the first floor is functional and he has moved in.

The Property Committee voted on and passed a motion to replace all air-conditioners on the 3 rd. floor, at the same time even when a couple of them are currently working. The rationale for this decision was ; it made no sense having to pay a crane big money to come back and replace a couple more units after the fact. We are asking the council to vote on and to approve this motion also. The elevator portion of this project is already in motion.

The last item to mention is gravel that has been ordered to be spread in a 20' x 20' area at the Retreat Center.

Call Committee, Christopher Kaschube:

Thanks be to God that He has joined FELC and Pastor Miguel in ministry together here in Mansfield. We are blessed to have our new shepherd Called and Installed to do ministry with us.

However, the Call Committee's work is not done! By instruction of the NALC's Call Process Manual, the Call Committee will continue to meet with Pastor Miguel over the next 12 months. The purpose of these meetings is to continue a dialogue with the Pastor about how we can help him implement his ministry goals, and work through challenges he may be experiencing. Conversely, the Call Committee will be able to discuss things that are going well through the transition period, and challenges that we may see and make to make Pastor aware of.

We invite congregation members to share ideas/opinions/concerns with a Call Committee member, and then the Committee will work through these ideas/opinions/concerns in our meeting. The goal is to provide a POSITIVE transition for both the Pastor and the congregation in a healthy manner, rather than everyone giving their personal opinions. The Call Committee considers all opinions, but is looking out for the best interest of the congregation as a whole.

ELC Committee, Misty Grove:

From Angie Murphy:

The ELC would like to report that there are 42 children plus 13 school-aged children currently enrolled at the ELC.

We have welcomed one new staff member, Micah Fisher, who joined the team on August 31st. Micah is working out wonderfully!

The staff was able to enjoy breakfast with Pastor Miguel on Monday, September 19th. This was made possible by Becky and Mrs. Chris helping Angie and Michelle look after the kids. Thank you to everyone who helped so the staff could enjoy this fellowship time.

The preschool classes will plan to walk to the Mansfield Public Library on the 1st Monday of each month starting in October.

From Becky Pittman:

Angie and I took the ELC teachers out for a Mexican dinner on 8/25/22 for a night of fellowship together.

Chris Cichanowicz continues to provide coffee and donuts/snacks for our ELC families on Monday mornings as they enter and exit the building from 7AM until 9:15. More importantly, she is building intentional relationships with the families.

Now that the fall schedule is in place, Stories with Shirley (Lane) will begin again more regularly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month in the late morning.

Small group music will begin again on the 3rd floor on a weekly basis. Large group music will be outside on the front steps of the church for as long as possible!

Angie Murphy provided a beautiful (and delicious) breakfast for her staff and Pastor Miguel on 9/19/22. The teachers enjoyed the fellowship and break while Angie, myself and Chris C. watched the kids in the undercroft.

Global Missions Committee, Chris Cichanowicz:

Malawi: The Malawi fundraiser that Jan Fisher suggested having during the Mansfield car show was truly a success - so successful that we plan to make it a yearly event. We collected \$1620 in donations selling hot dogs, coneys, walking tacos, pop, and water. Amazing! Many thanks to the 25 volunteers who made the 9 hour event possible!

The chicken building in Malawi is now completed and operational.

The Far Side: No update from Brian and Barb. Just continue praying that their needed Visas will be made available and that God will continue to provide "native" translators to continue translating the New Testament books into their native language.

Peru: No update.

Social Ministry Committee, Gary Lane:

- The Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 9 from 1:00-3:00. We will need volunteers!
- A portion of the local CROP walk proceeds will be donated to the FELC Wednesday Noon Lunch program.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Notes:

October Coffee Fellowship and Council Devotion: Global Missions Committee

October Council Meeting is Tuesday, October 18th, 7:00 PM

MOTION (Rob/Chris C.) to adjourn at 8:39 PM. **MOTION APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Miguel.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Kaschube

FELC Church Council Secretary

From Finance and Stewardship.....

2 Corinthians 8:11-12. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

We're a hard working church and there is always much to do. Committees have begun planning for 2023. They have been asked to try to reduce their budgets since money continues to be tight due to increased expenses (utilities, repairs, etc.), reduced value of investments, and lower offering income.

Beginning with their committee meeting on October 10, Finance will start to pull all the committee budgets together and develop the total FELC budget.

Something that is a huge blessing to FELC in its work is the fact that a number of our members have funds invested with Thrivent. This gives them access to two Thrivent Action Cards per year. These are prepaid credit cards in the amount of \$250 each. These cards allow FELC to do a lot of ministry at minimal expense to the church. Some of the things these cards have been used for are: meat given to families who come for free produce, toilet paper for folks who attend free lunches, funding for Fall Festival, First Responder support signs (last summer), Buddy Bags containing personal care items for homeless people, etc. If you haven't used your two cards for this year, please consider formulating a missional project to help others. Perhaps we can bless some folks at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Time is short for using 2022 Action Cards.

On the first Sunday in November members will be asked to make an offering commitment for the coming year. When making this commitment, we must also remember that, although the church needs tithes to meet expenses and perform ministry, we also need workers. *When planning your giving for the coming year, please consider giving time as well as money for the Lord's work here at FELC!*

Blessings,

Sandra Volz, Stewardship
Lu Blankenship, Finance



 Come join us for a day of  Food  Games  Fun  Friends

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OCTOBER 9TH

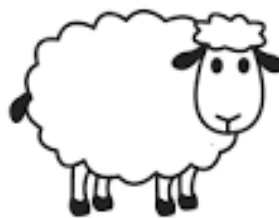
 1 PM – 3 PM 

First English Lutheran Church
53 Park Ave West (Mulberry Side)

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POPCORN **FOOD** **TREATS** **PUMPKIN PAINTING**

Within the Fold



A FRIENDLY REMINDER THAT IF YOU HAVEN'T REGISTERED WITH KROGERS FOR THEIR REWARDS PROGRAM, PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPTION. IT CERTAINLY HELPS US SUPPORT THE FEEDING PROGRAM FOR MALAWI. YOU CAN GET INSTRUCTIONS ON KROGER'S WEBSITE.

Daily devotions, sent by Pastor Miguel, are now being posted on Facebook. Just go to the First English Lutheran Church Facebook page to view them.

Pastor's Weekly Bible Study is held on Tuesday, 1:00 to 2:00 PM, meeting in the Emmaus Room.

You might like to know that Pastor Miguel has been calling on some of our "home-bound" members. What a comforting thought!

SAVE THE DATE, PLEASE!

We will decorate the church for Advent and Christmas on Tuesday, November 22, 2:00 to 4:00 PM following Pastor Miguel's Bible Study. Details about "sign-up" are forthcoming. We need your help!

Elijah's House Update

We are sharing this information provided by Pastor Paul Lintern:

I asked Dustin Powers to give an update on Elijah's House:

"The goal of Elijah's house is to introduce Jesus Christ to the men who live there and then to disciple them for an intimate and vibrant relationship with their Lord and Savior.

Since our opening last November we have been privileged to serve 34 men. Some have come to us from treatment facilities, the prison system (via the VDA), or just homeless situations.

"Once they become residents we help them obtain birth certificates, social security cards, ID's, Driver's Permit, counseling or mental health services, job, transporting them to medical appointments or the pharmacy to pick up medication, or just to the store to get groceries. We have also given the men a ride to and from work when needed. Of the 34 men we have served, 24 have required this help at some time in their stay here." (Thanks, Dustin.)

As part of the process, the men do not stay long (as the number 34 is three times the most who stay at the house at any one time). This is because of transitioning to their next living step, mostly by choice, but also if rules infractions force a resident to leave.

Ministry is messy, and people can be planned for collectively but must be related to individually. As all of us in ministry know, the place of grace and the Holy Spirit is major. The men attend worship by their choice on Sundays, and attending the ARC together on Thursday, daily devotions each morning, and a discipling class on Tuesday.

Please keep Elijah's House in your prayers and make your Grace Space today, somewhere you may not expect! (written by Pastor Paul Lintern)

Do you have a group that would willingly prepare a nice home cooked meal for these men? Check with Cindy Russell or Becky Pittman for particulars on making the delivery.

As we mentioned in January, we are challenging other groups to take a meal once a month. The designated day we have chosen is THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH at 5:00 PM.

Worship and Music Committee

All Saints Day, Celebration on November 6

Worship Committee is planning a special recognition on All Saints Day. Details will be forthcoming so please watch for that announcement and response.

COMBINED THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We will join with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Kingdom Grace Fellowship Church in hosting a Thanksgiving service OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY on Monday evening, November 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Details to follow. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR.

Cindy Russell
Worship Committee Chairperson

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Our team is planning the **Fall Festival** that will occur on Sunday, October 9, 2022. This is a safe and fun event somewhat to take the place of Trick or Treat. We will have games, music, hot dogs, cocoa, cotton candy, popcorn, and other treats. We will be seeking volunteers to help with food and games

Gary Lane, Social Ministry Chairperson

Congo Life

October 30, 2022 will be a fifth Sunday, and also Reformation Day Celebration. We will be hosting a pot luck, kind of a chili cook-off, which should be fun. There has been a sign up sheet on the poster tables. Please check there to see if any “blanks” still need filling in.

Cindy Hill
Congregational Life Chairperson

Women's Ministry



Women's Thank Offering will be celebrated on Sunday, November 13, 2022

It's always great to celebrate women's ministry, and we are very active here at First English. We will hold a Thank Offering service on Sunday, November 13 as well as holding a bake sale in the Narthex on that date. It has always been a tradition to designate the special offering for that day to a worthy cause. (You may remember that last year we supported Shruti Kulkarni with our offering.) This year we will support Zoe's Learning Center after school program (Kingdom Grace Fellowship, Reba Ave, Mansfield.) They have approximately 20 to 25 elementary school students who come there after school for tutoring, reading, TLC, a hot meal, and a take home snack. These children need a little extra attention which they get at Zoe's Learning Center from Pastor Renea Collins and the other faithful volunteers who assist there. We have been building an intentional relationship with Kingdom Grace Fellowship over the past five years, most recently having them join us for Vacation Bible School in August. They are right here in our City of Mansfield mission field! Please prayerfully consider giving whatever you are able in financial support of this offering. Questions can be directed to Jan Fisher, Women's Team Leader.

In September seventeen women began the study of "Seamless" written by Angie Smith. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 in member's homes. For October 10 we will be meeting at the home of Barbara Justice, and the study will be led by Kay Williams. Alicia Schulz and Kay Williams will serve as hostesses. It's not too late to join us! See Jan Fisher or Myra Cordrey if you are interested.

Funeral meals, when necessary, will be provided.

OCTOBER: Squad C: Anita Nehrkorn, Erna Clark, Alicia Schulz, Sandie Volz

LUTHER FELLOWSHIP

A big Thank You to **Karen and Ted Ellis** for hosting Luther Fellowship at their home on Monday, September 19! We had a great turn out for a pot luck and enjoyed the beauty of Karen and Ted's lovely deck and outdoor scenery. Tentatively in October we plan a little bus trip to enjoy the "hopefully" fall colors of our beautiful countryside. We have a new bus driver and will announce some "solid" plans very soon.

PUB THEOLOGY

*We will meet on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Old Bag of Nails on Lexington Avenue near Cook Rd. We will all enjoy each other's fellowship as we relax and share thoughts. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend or two!
(Topic to be announced.)*

The September topic at Old Bag of Nails was a bit deep. Thanks to Pastor Miguel for leading the discussion. Nineteen were present.

Generally we should be done by 8:00 PM or before. Please bring friends. If you have suggestions for topics please let Andy Kershaw, Ted Ellis or Pastor Miguel know.

It will be a fun evening so please come. You will meet and talk to people outside of the church setting and get to know them better. No, you don't have to be a great Theologian to attend but may be enlightened by other's perspectives on the topics. Give it a try!

Ted Ellis and Andy Kershaw



Global Mission

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NEXT MISSION TEAM GOING TO MALAWI IN 2013? PLEASE LET ONE OF THE TRUSTEES KNOW OR CONTACT PASTOR ANDY JONES.

Malawi Orphan Care Project: Thank you for your generous support!

Dear Congregation,

You have been so faithful in supporting our precious orphans in Malawi. Since I am the Treasurer I am anxious to share with you the news of sending all those young people on to school this season!

I sent a wire transfer on September 1 in the amount of \$56,750 which covered 75 for high school, 2 for National High School, 8 for boarding school and THREE to college. Leonard being the third one, newly admitted to college studies.

The above amount also includes \$22,000 for feeding and general fund. So all of us on the MOCP Trustees Board are giving God the Glory for the phenomenal support that we receive from our partner congregations.

That being said, I want to share the names of many of the partner congregations: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crosby, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Monroeville, OH; Journey of Faith Lutheran Church, North Ridgeville, OH; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, St. Joseph, IL; Westwood Community Church, Excelsior, MN; Millersport United Methodist Church, Millersport, OH; Groveport United Methodist Church, Groveport, OH; Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield, OH; St Peter Lutheran Church, Monroeville, OH; Trinity Lutheran Church, Ashland, OH; NALC and many more smaller churches in various states. What a blessing they all are!

We are changing the lives of these orphans as we continue to feed nearly 1000 children six days a week. This meal may well be the only meal they have for that day.

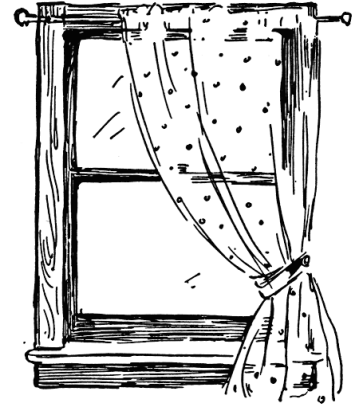
Two mission teams were very successful in giving further education there this summer as well as offering VBS, taking sports equipment such as soccer balls and jump ropes, and T-shirts and some clothing. Pastor Andy and Joy Jones led the first team and a group from Westwood Community Church in Minnesota lead the second team.

Thank you so much, once again!
Your local MOCP trustees,
Jan Fisher, Chris Cichanowicz, and Lowell Weeks

Chris Cichanowicz

Global Mission Chairperson

Becky's Views.....



The worship team is back to rehearsing again on Thursday evenings at 5:30 after enjoying a long summer break! Our church is blessed to have such a dedicated and loving team.

The bell choir will be ringing again soon! Would you like to participate with us?? Just let me know! We will rehearse on Wednesday, October 19th and 26th and November 2nd from 5:30 to 6:15. We will play during the November 6th worship.

Please don't hesitate to let Scott or myself know if you would like to provide special music on a Sunday morning. We would love to have you!

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

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

Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and the Arts



COMMUNION AT WEDGEWOOD ESTATES AND ARBORS AT MIFFLIN

Wedgewood Estates at 2:00 PM and Arbors at Mifflin at 3:30 PM.

This important offering of worship and communion will continue on the third Wednesday of each month and YOU are invited to join in with your support and attendance. If you have questions see Pastor Miguel. The residents are always anxious to see their fellow FELC members.

In October we will offer communion on Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

If you know of a member who cannot attend church services and would like to have a communion deacon bring communion to him or her at home, please contact Larry Lantz @ 419-756-5506 or call the church office at 419-522-0662.

MEMORIALS

Memorial Donations

Memorial Fund

In memory of Janet Shenberger

Given by: Marilyn Dinges, Beth Harruff

In memory of Robert Rettig

Given by: Beth Harruff

In memory of Anita Miller

Given by: Mary Jeanne Christoff

Major Capital Improvements

In memory of Janet Shenberger

Given by: Ted & Karen Ellis

Wednesday Noon Lunch Fund

In memory of Robert Rettig

Given by: Gail Elder



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



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 Faith Williams 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.

October 16, 2022

October 23, 2022

October 30, 2022

November 6, 2022

November 20, 2022

November 27, 2022

December 11, 2022

December 18, 2022

December 25, 2022

Evangelism for Today's World



Our Produce Distribution on Tuesday, September 13 was a huge success as we helped people with food insecurity. We gave away over 6000# of fresh produce to 193 guests.

There are always new families in need of this produce, and this month we had 44 new families. According to the statistics that I report that means we gave produce out to help sustain 498 people this month. That is a wonderful thing. I'm very grateful to those 15 volunteers who so willingly serve together! Thank you to them. Our next produce distribution will be second Tuesday in October, October 11, 2022.

Please see Jan's council report for further evangelism details.

SENIOR BOXES OF NON-PERISHABLES. DRIVE THROUGH EVENT.

We distributed Senior Boxes on Tuesday, September 27 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM on the east side of our building. The stats for August were great at 57 people coming to get a prepackaged box plus a 2# box of cheese. There is a low income qualifier and many people qualify for this non-perishable food. Please pass the word that it's easy to get registered: bring ID and proof of income. This is important in these days of food insecurity. And many thanks to Larry Faith, Gary Lane, and Larry Lantz for being the guys back in the garage, meeting the people and giving them this non-perishable food! If you can volunteer to join them please talk to Gary Lane.

Note: Senior Boxes will be available year round, once every month on the fourth Tuesday. Spread the word, 60+ can apply with low income guidelines! You must be a resident of Richland County and low income is a qualifier.

October Senior Boxes will be available on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

Be intentional any time you see a face that you don't know — just introduce yourself! We are all part of the same family of God! And have you noticed how we love to fellowship in the Narthex after worship? Wonderful!

Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson

October 2022 Volunteers

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

ACOLYTES

October	2:	TBD
October	9:	TBD
October	16:	TBD
October	23:	TBD
October	30:	TBD

ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Greg Hughes

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Global Mission Committee

COMMUNION PREPARERS

October	2:	Lana Conry & Mary Schwartz
October	30:	Lana Conry & Beth Harruff

COMMUNION SERVERS

October	2:	
Wine West:		Kathy Hoecker
Wine East:		Gary Simmons
Intinction:		Pat Smith
October	30:	
Wine East:		Gary Lane
Wine West:		Jodi Mumaw
Intinction:		Mary Schwartz

GREETER

Sandie Volz

LAY READERS

October	2:	Chris Hoecker
October	9:	Amy Skropits
October	16:	Todd Heichel
October	23:	Kathy Hoecker
October	30:	Sandie Volz

PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz
Mary Schwartz
Lowell Weeks
Jan Fisher

PEW PAD GLEANERS

October	2:	Lana Conry
October	9:	Linda Hughes
October	16:	Jodi Mumaw
October	23:	Brenda Eyerly
October	30:	Stacey Crall

PROPRESENTER

October	2:	Teri Brenkus
October	9:	Isaac McFadden
October	16:	Peyton McFadden
October	23:	Allison Weeks
October	30:	Cindy Russel

SLING STUDIO

October	2:	Suzanne Rippel
October	9:	Tom Sarbach
October	16:	Todd Heichel
October	23:	Suzanne Rippel
October	30:	Todd Heichel

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

October	2:	Ashley Berry
October	9:	Suzanne Rippel
October	16:	Becky Sarbach
October	23:	Sandie Volz
October	30:	Mary Schwartz

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

October	2:	Ed Farner
October	9:	Ed Farner
October	16:	Ed Farner
October	23:	Ed Farner
October	30:	Ed Farner

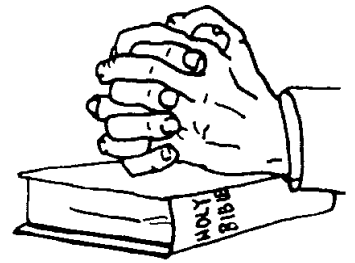
USHERS NAVE

Larry & Becky Faith
Gregg & Sarah Thatcher

Prayer Requests

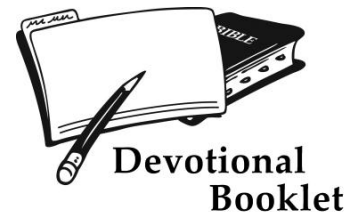
To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the pastors or call Faith Williams (419.522.0662) in the church office to be added to the list. Please call again when it is appropriate to have that prayer request deleted.

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 **OCTOBER** 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! And don’t forget to check our FELC Facebook page for the daily devotions that Pastor Miguel posts.

NALC.org offers a great devotional option. “TheNALC.org” Check it out!



Find us on Facebook: First English Lutheran Church
Podcasts of weekly sermons are no longer on the website:
felc-mansfield.org.



Please refer to **YouTube** to view past sermons.

And please check out our new FELC mobile friendly website!

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

BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE!

Need to get information in the bulletin for a meeting or an announcement?
Send details to Faith Williams at parishsecretary@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

NOVEMBER Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, October 18, 2022
Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, October 27, 2022.

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

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Rev. Miguel Acosta	pastor@felc-mansfield.org
Scott Berry	sberry@felc-mansfield.org
Becky Pittman	bpittman@felc-mansfield.org
Angela Murphy	cds@felc-mansfield.org
Nicole Goddard	ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org
Faith Williams	parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org
Jan Fisher, Editor	newslettereditor53@yahoo.com
Andy Kershaw	propman@felc-mansfield.org

Visit our web site at: www.felc-mansfield.org

Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.

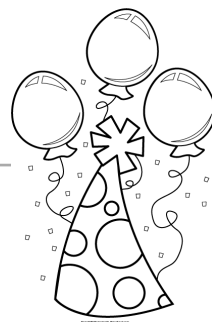
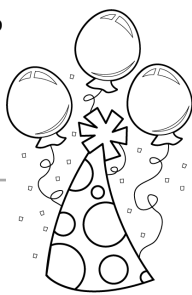
Emergency cell phone number if the pastor cannot be contacted at church:

Pastor Miguel Acosta

330-265-7329

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Becky Pittman	490 Rudy Rd Mansfield OH 44903-8038	October 1
Melinda Milligan	1291 Bellview Dr Mansfield OH 44905-1613	October 2
Mary Shaffer	66 NORTH HOME RD #6 Mansfield OH 44906	October 3
Ronald Rehm	1090 Crestwood Dr Mansfield OH 44905-1623	October 3
Norman McCracken	61 McCullough Blvd Mansfield OH 44907-1784	October 5
Annette Doklovic	3453 W 4th St Mansfield OH 44903-8033	October 6
Scott Mumaw	88 Hickey St Greenwich OH 44837	October 6
Sandie Volz	1652 Graham Rd Mansfield OH 44903	October 7
Wilbert Esler	2351 W Farragut Ave. Chicago IL 60625-1823	October 8
Lana Conry	217 Redwood Rd Mansfield OH 44907-2462	October 8
Kayla McCFadden	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	October 10
Lily Weeks	795 Andover Rd Mansfield OH 44907	October 11
Jerry Coon	580 Meadowdale Dr Mansfield OH 44907-2871	October 12
Angela Murphy	1120 Laver Rd Mansfield OH 44905	October 12
Carol Williams	805 Hoover Rd Mansfield OH 44905-1309	October 13
Ruth Hughes	1091 Woodville Rd Mansfield OH 44907-2111	October 14
Marilyn Miller	Lexington Court Care Ctr A-20 250 Delaware St Lexington OH 44904	October 18
Timothy Ludwig	79 Gimbel Dr Mansfield OH 44902	October 21
Allison Carroll	2779 Mansfield-Lucas Rd Lucas OH 44843	October 24
Sarah Thatcher	1628 Royal Oak Dr Mansfield OH 44906	October 25
Katherine Hoecker	1036 Linwood Pl Mansfield OH 44906	October 26
Brenda Eyerly	3773 Snodgrass Rd Mansfield OH 44903-8934	October 26
John Weeks	795 Andover Rd Mansfield OH 44907	October 27
Robert Skropits	3399 Oakstone Dr Ontario OH 44903	October 29
Luella Blankenship	616 Cline Ave - #105 Mansfield OH 44907	October 30



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Pastor Miguel Acosta
pastor@felc-mansfield.org

President: Robert Skropits
president@felc-mansfield.org

Vice President: Chad McFadden
vicepresident@felc-mansfield.org

Secretary: Chris Kaschube
secretary@felc-mansfield.org

Early Learning Center: Misty Grove
elc@felc-mansfield.org

Global Mission & Stephen Ministry:
Chris Cichanowicz
globalmissions@felc-mansfield.org

Finance:
Lu Blankenship
finance@felc-mansfield.org

Evangelism/Witness & Women of FELC: Jan Fisher
evangelism@felc-mansfield.org

Visitor Editor:
newslettereditor53@yahoo.com

Personnel: Teri Brenkus
Personnel@felc-mansfield.org

Worship & Music: Cynthia Russell
musicworship@felc-mansfield.org

Property: Mike Anderson
property@felc-mansfield.org

Social Ministry: Gary Lane
social@felc-mansfield.org

Youth: Ted Ellis
youth@felc-mansfield.org

Stewardship: Sandie Volz
stewardship@felc-mansfield.org

Christian Education:
Christianed@felc-mansfield.org

(Revised July 2022)

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