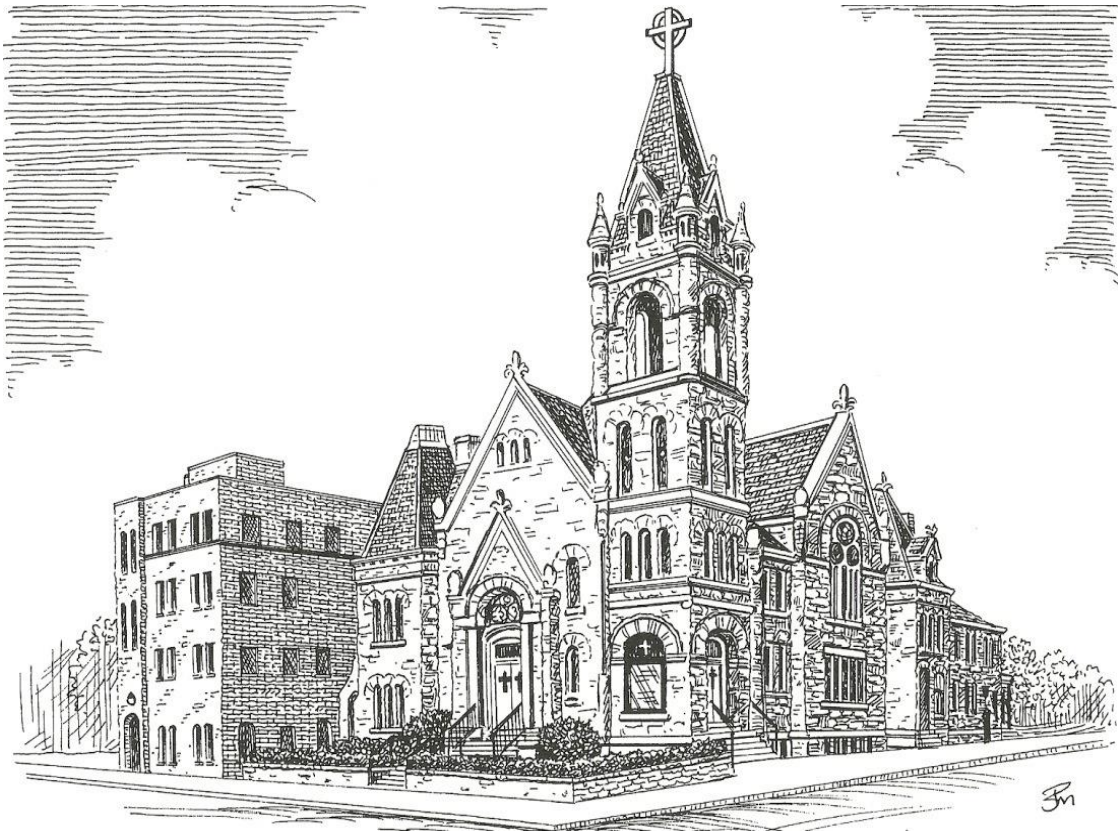


THE VISITOR



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

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Number 12

"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

From the Pastor's desk

Wait, it s Advent!

"I can t wait!" my daughter says it all the time. She can t wait for her birthday, for dessert, for it to snow, and then for the snow to melt But we adults say it too: I can t wait to get this cast off; to get the test results; for the weekend to come etc. Waiting is hard, and it s not the great American pastime.

We *spend* time, we *lose* time. We *waste* time. And when we suddenly *have* time, we don t know what to do with it.

Advent comes and gently invites us Christians into a period of waiting. It actually teaches us the art of waiting — and the joy of preparation and anticipation. Advent invites us to be spiritually pregnant with all the hopes for which we long. In Advent we learn that everything of value needs time to come to fullness. We learn to *take* time. And in taking time, we anticipate the reward and relish with joy the fruits of our waiting. Waiting helps us enjoy what finally arrives and that which we otherwise might take for granted.

The cake in the oven needs time to be fully baked. Then it will taste good. The poem, after a period of mulling, incubation and corrections, finally emerges on the paper in full bloom. Over time, the grapes are transformed into fine wine.

A big chunk of one s spiritual life is learning to have confidence in the darkness of winter, in times when things look bleak, to know that there is something out of our sight that is coming into being. Advent is one time in the year when the church says, "Waiting may be difficult, but we have to wait, so let s wait together."

And so, in the darkest time of the year, we wait with longing for the slow return of light. As the culture rushes Christmas, the Christian is invited to be counter cultural. The outer world is whipping itself into a buying frenzy, decoration overload, and a season of budget strain, parties and anxiety in what society now calls the "holiday season" (that began, somehow, in October) It s hard work swimming against that cultural tide. But if we don t, we are cheated of a season we need: Advent. And without patience, we lose Christmas as well. Sadly to say in our culture and society, families gets really stressed out planning and preparing, when

the season is over, we can tell that people is "relieved" from all the stress we created around the season., even though, when is a season of stillness, repentance and meditation.

Dear friends, If we prepare and hear the Gospels for the four weeks of Advent, certainly our Christmas time is not a single day. The 12 days of Christmas” aren’t *before* Christmas, but they *are* the Christmas season that now, fully prepared and ready, we celebrate, clear that Jesus Christ is born in our own flesh and blood.

What a burst of joy when we gather around the tree, which is fresh, green and fragrant (which it can’t be, if we set it up at Thanksgiving).

Out of the darkness, and in the glow of only four candles from our Advent wreath, we are finally greeted by the blaze of lights on this tree of life.

On Christmas Eve the waiting really does lead us into promise. Here this tree of life and promise is the tree of knowledge, the tree of our fall, the “happy fault” that brings us onward through Christ’s tree of the cross, the tree of our salvation. We sing our first carols, the table dances with our favorite traditional breads and foods. The hearth breathes warmth and lights. Let’s add love, patience and kindness, acts of service and patience.

Bring on the gatherings and visits, with gift exchanges and feasting, with outings and carol singing, with the full-on cheer that Christ is indeed among us. Behold, these are the tidings of great joy that we have longed for. This is a taste of heaven. The darkness is behind us.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Miguel.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES & REPORTS
Tuesday, November 15, 2022- 7:00 PM
DRAFT COPY- Updated November 17, 12:40 PM

Present: Rob Skropits, Chris Cichanowicz, Gary Lane, Mike Anderson, Cindy Russell, Chad McFadden, Lu Blankenship, Misty Grove, Sandie Volz, Jan Fisher, Christopher Kaschube, Nicole Goddard, Amy Skropits, Teri Brenkus

Absent: Ted Ellis, Pastor Miguel Acosta

The meeting was called to order by Rob Skropits at 7:00 PM.
Devotion and prayer by Gary Lane.

Secretary, Christopher Kaschube:

Presented the FELC Church Council minutes from October 2022 for approval. MOTION (Lu/Sandie) to approve the minutes. MOTION APPROVED.

Executive Committee:

Pastor Miguel Acosta:

Thanks, and Appreciation

I appreciate all our church members who participate in the life of our congregation through their worship attendance, participation (in Sunday School, worship and praise, Our produce distribution, Senior Box distribution, Women's Ministries, volunteers feeding our neighbors through our Community Lunch, etc.) for the hours & hours and financial support of our congregation.

We are blessed at First English Lutheran Church with an incredible support staff. I am so grateful (as our congregation should be as well) for the many hours that Becky, Scott, Nicole, Andy Dave, Angie, Michelle, and Faith, give to our congregation in their respective roles. We have many volunteers who give of their time and talent in positions that in many congregations are paid positions.

Please know that as a part of my call I welcome the opportunity to visit with families in their homes or meet them out and about for coffee, lunch, etc. as I've done this month, many opportunities have come through visiting people and good conversations. If you desire a pastoral visit at any point in time, please feel free to contact me.

When I look at the future of First English Lutheran Church, I am very encouraged. While the struggles we are facing are like many of our NALC congregations in the area, we are a

healthy congregation. A few years ago, our National Church defined eight characteristics of a healthy congregation. They are the following:

Relationships (with Christ personally and corporately), Mission, Growth, Leadership, Worship, Cooperation, Ministry, & Stewardship.

In all these areas, we have seen progress. How can we effectively minister and meet the needs of our membership while recognizing our own financial limitations? Our Finance Committee and leadership is committed to continue exploring and finding ways we can continue to be good stewards and help reduce our costs in ministry.

Please know that each of us can HELP by continuing to pray for our church and leaders, get involved with our ministry and support our congregation with our time and resources. We have been busy during the month of November preparing for the seasons ahead, Thanksgiving, Advent (where we will begin a new Sermon Series) and Christmas.

Together let us follow our mission statement as a congregation: "Pointing people to Christ through intentional relationships" That's how we will continue moving forward preparing to receive the new year, with many resolutions, learning from previous experiences and listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Music & Worship Committee, Cindy Russell:

Just a reminder we will be hosting a Community Thanksgiving Service along with Holy Trinity Lutheran and Kingdom Grace on Monday, November 21st at 7:00 pm. This is part of a week-long series of Community "Thanksgiving" services promoted by Inter Church Council. The schedule for these services is as follows:

November 16th - The MAC 6:00pm

November 17th - The Arc 6:00pm

November 18th - Elijah's House 6:00pm

November 19th - Church Requel 6:00pm

November 20th - Open Bible 6:00pm

November 21st - FELC, Holy Trinity Lutheran and Kingdom Grace (at FELC) 7:00pm

November 22nd - Ontario United Methodist 6:00pm

November 23rd - Linden Road Presbyterian

We will be ordering Poinsettias for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$10.00 and the order deadline is Sunday, November 27th.

All Safety Team members have completed the four hour training requirement for re-qualification of firearms.

I am sad to report Cindy Hill is resigning as Congo Life Chairperson effective January 1st, 2023.

Attendance and Facebook Views for October:

	Date	Attendance	Views
2nd	107	110	
9th	100	174	
16th	86	109	
23rd	112	99	
30th	108	104	

Evangelism Committee, Jan Fisher:

This is a copy of the email I sent to all my volunteers after the Nov. 8 Free Produce Distribution: Thank you all for the work you have so lovingly and diligently put in this year for our community! We served 214 families yesterday and had 50 new families! The numbers indicate that 555 people received some beautiful fresh food! Give God the Glory that we just completed year six! I'm very grateful that we have been able to keep this rolling and keep it growing each year! Such a blessing to those who come to produce, and many of which we recognize easily as regulars. We have had a number of visitors in recent weeks and be assured that if they leave a name and address, I quickly send them a personal card giving them a welcome. (Personal is always best, way better than form letters!) And I also know of several people who want to be in the next "new members" class. Hallelujah!

Senior Boxes is another area where we meet and greet many people on a once-a-month basis. In October we served 89 people and ran out. For November I have ordered 120 boxes plus the food bank will be adding a 15# box of prepackaged produce to each "food gift", including the 2# box of cheese. I'm very grateful to the volunteers who faithfully show up for this distribution. It runs quite smoothly! A reminder that none of this costs FELC a penny unless you consider the big salaries that we all collect as volunteers! Blessed to be a blessing!

Women's Ministry, Jan Fisher:

Having just had Women's Thank Offering Sunday today, I'm excited about the day. We made \$500.00 on our bake sale which is mighty! We also made \$158.25 on Chris Mayglothling's donated hand painted ornaments. That money specifically goes to Zoe's Learning Center. Our envelope collection is yet to be counted and determined, but Zoe's is the recipient of that offering so I am praying that it is generous. To be quite honest, I am disappointed that Pastor Miguel didn't put a little more emphasis on the importance of this Sunday. A suggestion would have been to put something about Thank Offering on the bulletin cover and to verbally make mention of its importance. I am appreciative of the bulletin insert that I provided with the various Women's programs listed. A lot of ministry happens here at FELC because of the wonderful dedicated women who are involved here. Praise God!

We continue to have a Prayer Shawl Ministry here even though we are no longer holding evening meetings. Recently a number of fleece prayer blankets and also prayer shawls have been given away. It is a blessing to be able to do this! If anyone has a request for a shawl or fleece blanket please mention it to Jan Fisher, Myra Cordrey, Karen Ellis, or Mary Schwartz.

A group of eleven ladies met at the home of Alicia Schulz on Monday, November 14 to continue their study on the Old Testament. We are using the book entitled Seamless written by Angie Smith. Barbara Justice led the study and we had a great discussion. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 12 in the Emmaus Room. Debbi Suzuki will be hostess.

Property Committee, Mike Anderson:

Andy Kershaw informed us that in the front parking lot the Red Maple trees have been replaced with Hydrangea trees and the Red Maples have been moved to the playground.

Therefore making all parties concerned happy.

The main parking lot has been re-sealed and striped. The small parking lot beside the playground needs to be repaved. Thompson Asphalt has given an estimate of between \$22,000 to \$24,000. This project will be looked at next year if funds are available.

All Pro Elevator is still receiving back ordered parts for the elevator and expects to start the project after the first of the year. As was reported before we are going to replace all the air conditioners on the 3rd. floor. Andy is still waiting to get the final quote from Calvary Mechanical.

The stained glass windows have been disassembled and cleaned. They are 55 % finished.

Andy has applied for 2 Security Grants from the Ohio EMA.

1) New Security doors for the church and the ELC \$ 81,000.00

2) Security system and fence for the retreat center.

Security System \$9,198.00

Fence for retreat center \$41,495.00

Andy has filled out all the paperwork for the grants and is awaiting word back from the Ohio EMA. If these amounts or anything else becomes available, it will definitely be put to good use for the good of the church in the way of (free money).

The Property Committee thanked Andy for all his hard work in applying for these grants.

Global Mission Committee, Chris Cichanowicz:

Malawi:

Average number of children fed: 850

Average number of feeding days per week: 6 days a week. Feeding is going on very well.

Number of high school students: 77

Number of boarding school students: 8

Status of High School attendees: Students are still in school. 7 students are waiting for MSCE Examinations. Final exams that determine whether they qualify for college or not. Pray for favorable results by the end of November.

University students: Blessings, Precious and Leonard are doing well in School. We received good progress reports for Precious and Blessings.

Status of soap business: The beneficiaries are doing their business after giving them seed money. The idea is that when they have made some profits the initial seed money will be given to a new team of beneficiaries who will at this point be trained by our first beneficiaries. This is to ensure that there is responsibility and giving back to the project by imparting the knowledge they have gained to others. We also continue to distribute tablets of soap to the children and volunteers.

Status of chicken/egg business: More local chickens have been stocked. Egg laying chickens have been purchased.

Status of Kanyenyeva Wala: The team continues to make kit components with the materials we have in stock.

Status of the farm: We have planted 1500 Blue Gum trees on our forest reserve strip at the farm. The tree seedlings have been transplanted into tubes in readiness for the rainy season for us to plant more trees. We have also applied pesticides on the blue gum trees that we planted last rainy season. Research was done on the irrigation system and the team has concluded that the best way to irrigate the bananas as of now is by using a windmill. We have part of the seed money for the first windmill which will help water at least 2-3 hectares.

Other:

Sports equipment and gym: We are very grateful for the balls, and jump ropes that the team brought. Our children were and are very happy for this wonderful gift. They now have a chance to play, have fun and just be kids. Many thanks to each and every one who donated and helped mobilize the resources.

The Well: The well project is complete, the pump and solar system put in place. To God be all the glory.

Women volunteers and the committee: The women and the committee still remain strong and continue to serve the children with passion.

YAMI Chikoti is now with Amy Little, Bishop Selbo and their team from the NALC at Addis Ababa. The group is on a trip to Ethiopia, Tanzania and Dubai to meet with church leaders and missionaries. Please pray for Yami's time with the delegation, that the conversations will be fruitful for the future of MOCP and KM.

Peru:

The VIVE 5-day women's retreat was "FABULOUS" according to Shannon Kraft. The women (many involved in abusive relationships) learned everything from the importance of

good exercise and good food to effective healing ways to make new life choices. Most of all they learned all about Jesus and His LOVE for them.

Shannon would like us to pray for the Potter's House in Peru to continue to finish what's left of the construction and for up-coming events.

Pray for the IMMERSE CAMP on January 2-8 and CORE on January 15 to March 11, 2023.
The Far Side:

After being in Sri Lanka for a month, Brian and Barb are now in Thailand gathering with others who work as they do on The Far Side. Unfortunately, most are scattered in different cities. Many no longer work in their area. There are still 2 billion people in their part of the world who have not once heard the Good News. Brian and Barb are asking "for grace to travel well together, good health, and the ability to bring the Good News into their many conversations.

Social Ministry Committee, Gary Lane:

We are continuing to deliver a meal to the Elijah House. This month Karen and Ted Ellis delivered a hot dish and cookies. Next month we are planning to deliver stockings filled with goodies.

The Social Ministry Committee RECOMMENDS we hold a "stuff the bus" event in January 2023 to benefit NALC Disaster Response. It amounts to people donating Home Depot, Lowe's etc gift cards to help with disaster clean-ups. Cash would be acceptable as well, but we will be mailing everything to Caldwell, OH. RECOMMENDATION APPROVED.

Finance Committee, Lu Blankenship:

General Operating Fund (GOF)

(includes ELC):

Oct 22			over/ under
YTD	Income	\$530,314	Budget \$543,610 - \$13,296
YTD	Expenses	\$682,041	Budget \$769,638 - \$87,597
	Difference	-\$151,727	

Early Learning Center (ELC):

Oct 22				over/under
YTD	Income	\$301,488	Budget \$325,000	-\$23,512
YTD	Expenses	\$263,921	Budget \$323,340	-\$59,419
	Difference	\$37,567		

Church (excluding ELC):

Oct 22				over/under
YTD	Income	\$228,826	Budget \$218,610	\$10,216
YTD	Expenses	\$418,120	Budget \$446,298	-\$28,178
	Difference	-\$189,294		

GENERAL OPERATING FUND RECAP

2021 Carryover	\$113,321
GOF to Women of FELC Fund	-\$1,000
ELC Grant Fund to GOF	\$21,600
FELC Memorial Fund to GOF	\$7,000
WFELC Fund to GOF (Easter Flowers)	\$60

Gen Endow Fund to GOF	\$50,000
Maj Cap Imp Endowment Fund to GOF	\$0
New Min & Miss Endow Fund to GOF	\$0
RGH II Campaign Funds to GOF for loan payment	\$8,934
2022 YTD TOTAL INCOME	\$530,314
2022 YTD TOTAL EXPENSES	\$682,041
GOF Balance	\$48,188

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Endowment Funds Total Value 12/31/2021	\$4,059,210
Endowment Funds Total Value 03/31/2022	\$3,236,359
TOTAL LOSS ON ALL INVESTMENTS IN JANUARY 2022	-\$822,851

PLEDGES 2023

Totals	Average Pledge
\$160,968.00	\$3,832.57
28	Individual Pledges
14	Couples
0	Families
0	Zero/No Amt Individ

0	Zero/No Amt Couples
42	pledgers

RECOMMENDATIONS

Finance **RECOMMENDS** that council approve the budget as presented and then recommend it to the congregation at the meeting on January 15, 2022. Click on the link to view the 2023 proposed budget:

2023 Full Budget Sheet.xlsx **RECOMMENDATION APPROVED.**

Early Learning Center Committee, Misty Grove:

(report written by Angie Murphy & Becky Pittman)

We are happy to report that the Early Learning Center currently has 55 kids and has had no recent staff changes.

The ELC committee is meeting on Tuesday, November 15th at 5:30 to continue planning upcoming events and next year's agenda.

The ELC classes have been practicing many songs for the Thanksgiving feast on Thursday, November 17th. We are excited to sing! A big thank you to several church members for their willingness to volunteer at this popular event for our daycare families.

A big thank you to Misty for her awesome engagement with our ELC families during their open house several weeks ago! She had the opportunity to speak with many people while serving snacks and drinks as they entered and exited the building.

Rehearsals for the December 5th Christmas program are in full swing! It begins at 6:15 in the sanctuary. It would be wonderful if church members would attend and be intentional with the ELC families!

Stewardship Committee, Sandie Volz:

On Consecration Sunday 2022, we received 25 pledge cards, pledging \$113,908. On Sunday November 13, 2022, we received 17 pledge cards with \$47,060 pledged. The total number of pledges so far is 42, \$160,968 pledged. In 2021 at this time, we had a total of 49 pledge cards and \$160,450.

We also sent out Time and Ability sheets to members with the pledge card, separately, with a letter from the chairman of the Stewardship committee. We have received 32 responses.

These are still being processed and the results will be sent to the various committee chairs. A Thank You letter/reminder from the Stewardship Chair will be sent to the Congregation in November shortly.

Personnel Committee, Teri Brenkus:

The Committee will meet the first Thursday of each month to begin/continue working on job descriptions and a new handbook completed.

Old Business:

New Business: Council discussed a concern about panhandling at the church. After discussion, the President of the Council will speak with the Safety Team and the congregation about this concern and ways to help such people.

Notes:

December Coffee Fellowship (Ushers) and Council Devotion: Jan Fisher

December Council Meeting is Tuesday, December 20th, 7:00 PM

Christmas Party- December 7. 5:30-7:30 PM. For all Council members, Church Staff, and ELC Staff. RSVP to Jan Fisher.

MOTION (Cindy/Gary) to adjourn. MOTION APPROVED.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:11PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Kaschube

FELC Church Council Secretary

NALC Disaster Response

Here's an easy opportunity to assist with NALC Disaster Response which does so much GOOD for people in "disaster situations" caused by extreme weather conditions, etc. During January Church Council has approved a collection of Home Depot, Lowes, and/or Menards home improvement stores gift cards. The NALC Disaster Response volunteers find these quite valuable when they go to a site to help rebuild a storm damaged home or other project. We will provide a secure box where you can deposit your gift card if you desire to be involved in this project. At the end of January the collected cards will be sent to Caldwell, OH where the main warehouse is located. Please be assured that there is no obligation here, it is simply one of our outreach projects for the new year.

Questions contact to Gary Lane, Angie Murphy, Becky Pittman or Jan Fisher.

Blessed to be a blessing!

Finance

Fellow Disciples.....

On November 15, Finance met with Louis Navellier of Navellier Calculated Investing and Rob Hogsette of Hogsette Financial. They updated the committee on FELC's investments.

Navellier works with our stock investments with Schwab. The church invested \$1,805,140 with them in 2016. The good news here is that we have used \$1,412,904 from these funds over the past six years, and we still have \$1,970,717. FELC is very blessed by the money given to endowment funds over the years.

These funds, of course did not perform well in 2022. Here's the breakdown:

Total Year-End 2021	Balance Oct 2022	Total Loss
\$2,798,318	\$1,951,277	-\$847,041

FELC has bond investments in Cetera through Hogsette Financial. This is overview of those funds for 2022:

Total Year-End 2021	Balance Oct 2022	Total Loss
\$1,412,081	\$1,400,808	-\$11,273

The combined totals for 2022 are:

Total Year-End 2021	Balance Oct 2022	Total Loss
\$4,210,399	\$3,352,085	-\$858,314

As you know, we will be voting on our budget on January 15 at a congregational meeting after church. Hopefully, investments will begin to show returns in the coming year. We still need to be prudent in our spending while we look forward to an upturn in the markets.

You should have received the 2023 Budget by now. Please note:

The budget is showing projected total Income of \$614,200. We are hoping for a carry-over of \$30,000. The endowment calculation to determine what we can spend from those results in \$127,035 in income. We plan to use \$2,500 from the Gamber Trust to fund Christian Education. All this totals \$773,735.

Expenses of \$898,211 and the listed income results in a deficit bottom line of \$124,476.

Council is generally willing to spend an additional amount from the endowments if necessary.

At the end of October this year, expenses totaled \$682,041 while total income was \$530,314. At the end of October, we had only withdrawn \$50,000 from endowments, but we have since taken another \$50,000 draw to cover a payment on the stained glass windows.

Heading into 2023, we still have the balance of the windows to pay (around \$100,000) as well as the elevator and air conditioning projects (\$48,750 from the Major Capital Improvements Endowment fund).

We will have year-end number at the January meeting and will be prepared to answer any questions you may have.

Blessings,

Lu Blankenship, Finance Chairperson

Stewardship

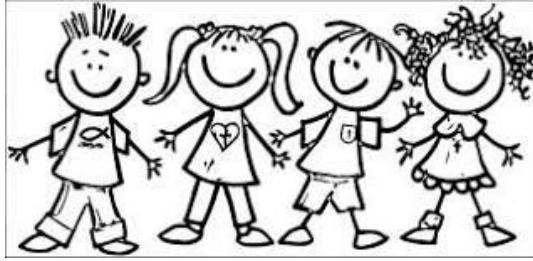
What is Advent ?

Advent is the season of the year leading up to Christmas. It lasts for four Sundays, beginning the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and ends on Christmas Eve. We can use Advent Wreaths to celebrate, which are made of evergreen circles which represent the eternal life that Jesus brings. These evergreen circles are surrounded with four candles either blue or purple in color with a white candle in the center as the “Christ Candle”, a reminder that Jesus, the “light of the world” has come. One candle is lit on each successive Sunday prior to Christmas.

We here at First English Lutheran Church have used the Advent Season to share our monetary blessings with MOCP- Malawi Orphan Care Project. We started in 2005 by having 125 orphans in Malawi, Africa be fed 3 days a week. In 2022 it was expanded to the Kanenyeva Orphan Care Ministry. MOCP currently serves up to 1,000 orphans and their caregivers in a number of different villages in Malawi. They feed them 6 days a week and it may be the only meal they receive on those days. We as a congregation have been using our Advent offerings to help feed these orphans for 16 years. We are again asking you to share the many blessings we have received from God throughout the year in this Advent Offering. We are asking you to remember that one of our Core Values is “Giving our Best to God” and we can all do this by sharing it in the Advent Giving envelope this month.

Please consider being a lighted “Advent Candle” for God’s Children in Malawi by giving generously. Candle Light represents Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is also known as the Light of the World who takes us from the path of darkness and leads us to true light.

Sandie Volz
Stewardship Chairperson



ELC

Little People BIG News December



Flashback into November

In November, our Pre-K students created artwork for our veterans. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast with our families. We had around 130 in attendance. We want to thank all of those who volunteered their time to help with serving, conversing, and clean up! It did not go unnoticed! We are coming back from the Thanksgiving holiday to prep for the upcoming Christmas season!



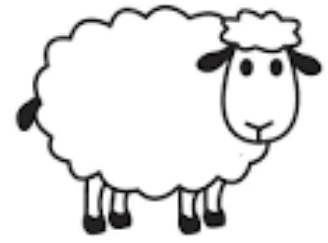
A Peek into December

Our kids and Mrs. Becky are prepping for our annual Christmas program! We are so excited and we invite you to join us on Monday, December 5 at 6:15 pm. We are decorating throughout our rooms, so be sure to check them out! We will be closed on December 23, 26, and January 2. This allows time for our staff and children to spend time with their families.

Angie Murphy, Director

Michelle Couch, Assistant Director

Within the Fold



There were no financial donations made during November for Wednesday Noon Lunch support.

90th Birthday Celebration

Please join us as we celebrate the 90th birthday of Jane Sprang on Sunday, December 4, 2022. There will be an open house from 2:00 to 5:00 PM for Jane here at church in the Emmaus Room. Your presence is the only gift needed. Please enter on the east side of the church, via Luther Hall. If you have questions please contact Liz Sprang.

Elijah's House Update

For December we will be delivering "Santa hats" filled with goodies including candy canes. Just a little snack hat to enjoy for the holidays!

Social Ministry is evaluating the Elijah's House involvement. More details to follow in 2023.

Worship and Music Committee

Please see Cindy's extensive report to council.

**Cindy Russell
Worship Committee Chairperson**

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Recent Thrivent Action Team Card Projects

Recently the **Social Ministry Team** as well as **Evangelism** and **Women's Ministry** have created some wonderful projects to reach out and help those less fortunate folks in our community. We are focusing on new bed pillows, pillow cases, knit caps, and insulated gloves all of which will be shared with the children at Zoe's Learning Center (Kingdom Grace Fellowship Church on Reba Ave.) and also with our Wednesday Noon Lunch guests. What a great Christmas present these become! These donations don't ALL come from the use of the Thrivent Action Team cards because individuals in small groups and others also contribute to the projects in goods as well as volunteer hours. For instance ladies involved in Women's Ministry have been donating fabric and sewing the kid friendly pillow cases. And by the way, it's been said that the kids really love getting their own special pillow! We have a nice supply of knit stocking caps in the Bare Necessities room, so we are adding knit gloves to what we already have on hand.

As we share this, if you have Thrivent products you might want to consider creating a missional project in 2023 to find a use for your two Thrivent Action Team cards. Those cards are a huge outreach blessing, and it's above and beyond your church tithe!

Gary Lane, Social Ministry Chairperson

Women's Ministry

Thanks to all who supported the bake sale by either baking or buying! Such a blessing! We made \$500.00 plus another \$173.25 on the donations from Chris Mayclothling's Christmas ornaments. What a great response we had. Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the bake sale.

Women's Bible Study

PLEASE WATCH THE BULLETIN/PEW PADS FOR HOME BOUND SHUT-IN COOKIES REQUEST FOR PRE-CHRISTMAS DELIVERY.



A group of eleven ladies met at the home of Alicia Schulz on Monday, November 14 to continue their study on the Old Testament. We are using the book entitled Seamless written by Angie Smith. Barbara Justice lead the study and we had great discussion. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 12 in the Emmaus Room. Debbi Suzuki will be hostess.

Funeral meals, when necessary, will be provided.

DECEMBER: Squad B: Myra Cordrey, Jan Fisher, Chris Cichanowicz, Beth Harruff

LUTHER FELLOWSHIP

Twelve of us gathered in the Emmaus Room at 5:30 pm on Monday, November 21 to enjoy a meal of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Everyone contributed to the cost of the meal. Then at 7:00 pm we went to the sanctuary to be part of the Combined Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. FELC combined with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Kingdom Grace Fellowship for this worship service. Give thanks to God for His richest blessings! We are blessed to share this fellowship with one another!

In December we will enjoy a light lunch after hearing the ELC kids sing Christmas songs for us. Details forthcoming.

PUB THEOLOGY

Pub Theology is on hold for a month or two.

We will announce our locations in the new year.

Ted Ellis and Andy Kershaw

Global Mission

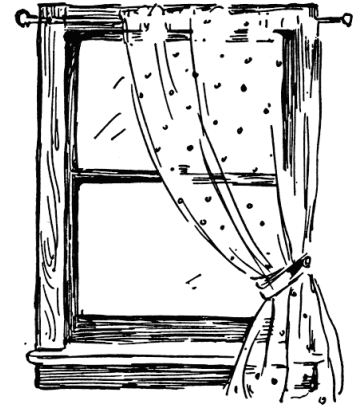
Please see Chris' extensive report to council.

Chris Cichanowicz

Global Mission Chairperson

Becky's Views.....

The ELC kids did a fantastic job singing their Thanksgiving melodies during their family feast on Thursday, November 17th! It was our "warm-up" for our Christmas program on Monday, December 5th at 6:15. Please join us for a very "Mixed Up Christmas." The kids will be teaching me - Mrs. Becky - the REAL story of Jesus' birth!



You don't want to miss a single Sunday during the season of Advent! Instead of having one youth Christmas program, we will be sprinkling our talent throughout each Sunday.

The youth bells will be ringing on Sunday, December 11th and our adult bells will play during the December 18th 10:00 worship. (And Christmas Eve, too!)

All are welcome to go Christmas caroling after church on Sunday, December 11th! (Time to be determined) Let's load up the FELC bus and spread the love of Jesus to our homebound members.

Christmas is on a Sunday this year! Join Pastor Miguel and myself for lessons and carols at our usual 10am start time. Christ the Savior is born!

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 DECEMBER we will offer communion at Wedgewood Estates and Arbors at Mifflin on Wednesday, December 21, 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.

Memorial Donations

Women's Thank Offering collection for Zoe's Learning Center

*In loving memory of
Janet Shenberger
Given by Clancy and Jeanette Lauthers*



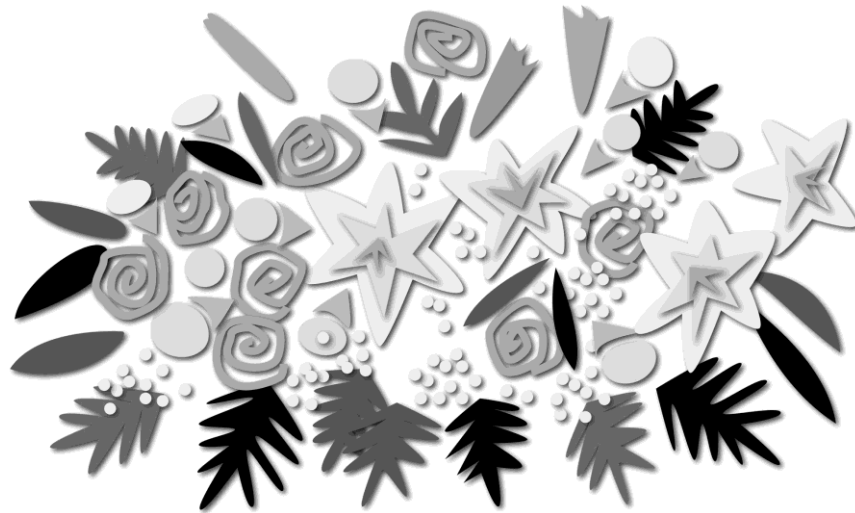
Margaret Farrell
Ritsuko Suzuki
Linda Arnold

October 21, 2022
October 29, 2022
November 7, 2022

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.

December 18, 2022

December 25, 2022

January 1, 2023

January 8, 2023

January 15, 2023

January 22, 2023

January 29, 2023

Evangelism for Today's World



**A THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PRODUCE VOLUNTEERS -
A HUGE MISSIONAL OFFERING TO OUR MANSFIELD
COMMUNITY!**

On Wednesday, November 9, I shared this with our volunteers from November 8: Thank you all for the work you have so lovingly and diligently put in this year for our community! We served 214 families yesterday and had 50 new families! The numbers indicate that 555 people received some beautiful fresh food! Give God the Glory that we just completed year six!

November stats not available at the time of this printing.

**NOVEMBER SENIOR BOXES OF NON-PERISHABLES/15# OF PREPACK-
AGED PRODUCE WILL BE ADDED**

This mission just continues to grow because of the inflation-related need within our community. As stated above, the November distribution will have produce added and this is wonderful news. It is difficult for us to accurately estimate how many boxes we need, but we use former figures to estimate future figures!

Senior Boxes distributed 89 boxes on October 25, 2022. That's a huge growth record and we actually ran out before we served everyone. There were many new people registering as well. Many thanks to Jane Anderson for being our "traffic" gal! She keeps people cleanly and clearly parked in our east parking lot.

We are excited to be able to serve our community in this manner and our guests are so very thankful. The boxes contain canned vegetables, canned fruit, pasta or rice, dehydrated milk and much more. In addition the people coming get a prepackaged box plus a 2# box of cheese, and in November the 15# box of produce gets added. 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, Mike Anderson 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.

- **DECEMBER Senior Boxes will be available on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.**

Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson

December 2022 Volunteers

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

ACOLYTES

December	4:	TBD
December	11:	TBD
December	18:	TBD
December	25:	TBD

ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Todd Heichel

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Parish Ushers

COMMUNION PREPARERS

December	4:	Chris & Kathy Hoecker
December	24:	Tom & Stacey Crall

COMMUNION SERVERS

December	4:	
Wine West:		Anita Nehrkorn
Wine East:		Pat Smith
Intinction:		Jane Mako
December	24:	
Wine West:		Sandie Volz
Wine East:		Jan Fisher
Intinction:		Lu Blankenship

GREETER

TBA

LAY READERS

December	4:	Myra Cordrey
December	11:	Shirley Lane
December	18:	Chris Kaschube
December	25:	Alicia Schulz

PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz
Mary Schwartz
Lowell Weeks
Jan Fisher

PEW PAD GLEANERS

December	4:	Liz Sprang
December	11:	Jodi Mumaw
December	18:	Ronda Rehm
December	24:	Jane Sprang
December	25:	Lana Conry

PROPRESENTER

December	4:	Allison Weeks
December	11:	Teri Brenkus
December	18:	Isaac McFadden
December	24:	Cindy Russell
December	25:	(none scheduled)

SLING STUDIO

December	4:	Todd Heichel
December	11:	Suzanne Rippel
December	18:	Tom Sarbach
December	24:	Ashley Berry
December	25:	(no livestream)

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

December	4:	Tom Sarbach
December	11:	Teri Brenkus
December	18:	Cindy Russell
December	25:	(no Sunday School)

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

December	4:	Ed Farner
December	11:	Ed Farner
December	18:	Ed Farner
December	25:	Ed Farner

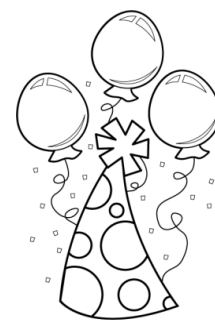
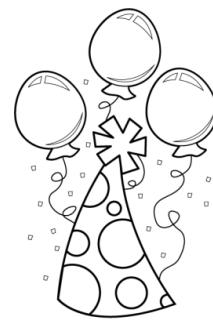
USHERS NAVE

Ken & Debbi Suzuki
Jan Fisher & Lowell Weeks

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:



Becky Sarbach	527 Forest St Mansfield OH 44903	12/02
Amy Skropits	3399 Oakstone Dr Ontario OH 44903	12/02
Cynthia Russell	630 Oak St Lot 174 Mansfield OH 44907-1478	12/04
Jane Sprang	1817 Partridge Court Mansfield OH 44907	12/04
Heather McFadden	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	12/05
Justin Reeder	145 Clare Road Mansfield OH 44906	12/07
Julianne Wansitler	355 Richards Rd Columbus OH 43214	12/07
Jane R Mako	2702 Country Meadows Drive Shelby OH 44875	12/10
Tom Sarbach	527 Forest St Mansfield OH 44903	12/14
Lydia McFadden	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	12/20
John Fraifogl	1930 Banyon Ln Mansfield OH 44907-3003	12/21
Bradley Watts	114 Otterbein Dr Mansfield OH 44904	12/23
Alicia Schulz	228 Bowland Rd Mansfield OH 44907-1157	12/25
Jean Gall	306 James Ave Apt B16 Mansfield OH 44907-1981	12/29



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.

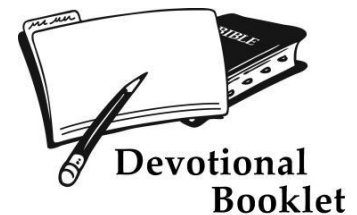
Mary Schwartz is now heading up the prayer chain. Please call Mary to activate the prayer chain.

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



DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

- **A HEADS UP THAT BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2023 WE WILL NOT BE OFFERING THE DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS. THIS IS BECAUSE SO FEW GET TAKEN AND THERE HAS BEEN A PRICE INCREASE. (Stewardship of our resources.) There are many devotionals available online.**



Devotional booklets for **DECEMBER** 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**

**JANUARY 2023 Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, December 20,
2022**

Assembled and mailed: WEDNESDAY, December 28, 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

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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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES:

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pastor@felc-mansfield.org

evangelism@felc-mansfield.org

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Christian Education:
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Evangelism/Witness & Women of FELC: Jan Fisher

(Revised July 2022)

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