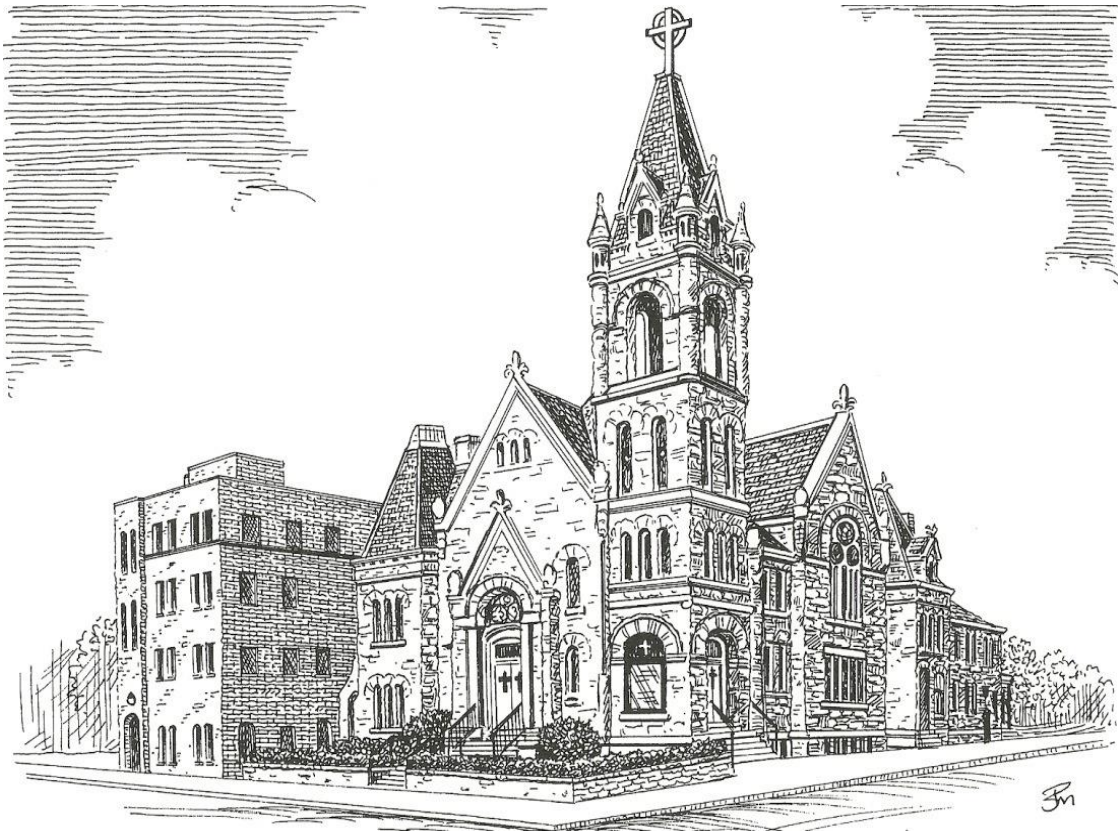


# THE VISITOR



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

Volume 65

JANUARY 2023

Number 1

## *"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](http://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, Finance Director 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

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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](mailto: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**

Dear Church Family and friends,

For making worship a priority for you and your family as you prepare to celebrate the coming of the new year, 2023. When we take a look back and a look ahead at the year that was and the year that is to come.

Looking back, we see a world of sin, despair and a struggle in our lives to do what is right, to love God and our neighbor. But we also see the grace of God in our lives and in the world, bringing comfort in the middle of the storms of life, and strength to press on when the going gets rough. We see God at work in our lives and the world to make things look more like they should, undoing the Curse and bringing the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Looking back we see God at work in a world that is desperate for redemption, forgiveness and peace.

But looking ahead. Looking ahead, what do you see? The book of James is careful to warn us that we should be careful in estimating our ability to predict the future. Truth be told, we do not know what lies ahead for us in 2023, or even with what remains of 2022 as I'm writing to you. But does it matter? If what we believe about God is true, does it matter that the future remains a hazy enigma of possibilities and the fearful unknown? It does not. We know how it ends: Christ returns, raises the dead and gives everlasting life to those who are his. And we know that he has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that we might walk in faith and not according to the flesh all the days of our pilgrimage as we wait for his return.

And so we rejoice for another year of faith, service and praise God for his promised presence and forgiveness in the year to come!

**Yours in Christ, Pastor Miguel**



**First, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Blessed and Happy New Year.**

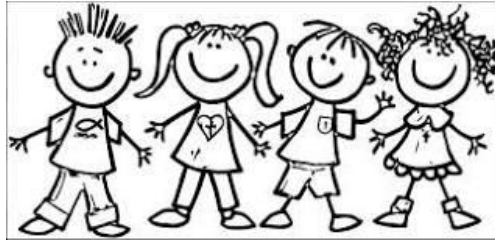
I am Charlie the church mouse. I recently came from another small church, and I have been around the corners and galleries of your building, mostly everywhere! This one is a big, beautiful Church! You have a very special place here and lots of good stuff going on!

I have been to another church with my mother and my siblings, but this one is tremendously big! There are so many places to see and go! There is so much to do, and I have found delicious things out there too! Anyway, I just wanted to tell you that I plan to stay here for a while, and I want to help you to continue to be a very special church.

The best way I can help is to tell you things that I see, and we can improve and have space to continue growing. Since I'm a little mouse, I can be everywhere and see almost everything. So, I'll be watching to help! Don't worry about looking for me, I can hide very well. Sometimes even from Dave! He works a lot and is very efficient, but I also ran away from him. I don't know if he sees me, he wants to be my friend or take me outside and let me go. Meanwhile I keep hidden and quiet, Again Blessings to you! How good it feels to be here! Thank you for your hospitality, see you later!

**Charlie the Church Mouse.**

**Generally this page begins FELC Council Reports. We did not hold a December council meeting. Updates and reports will begin again in January!**



**ELC**

## **Little People BIG News January**



### **Flashback into December**

In December, we had a tremendous turnout for our Christmas Program. The kids did a wonderful job! We would like to thank Becky Pittman for putting on a great show! Our Kids' Night Out was a lot of fun! We hosted 24 children as we went and looked at Christmas lights. Thank you to our volunteers that made a pancake dinner and also to Justin and Misty for helping with Santa and the gifts. The children made a lot of Christmas crafts this month and had fun with their classroom parties.



### **A Peek into January**

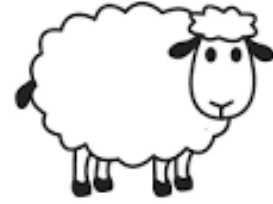
We would like to welcome everyone back from Christmas vacation! Our children will jump right back into learning! We are looking forward to a great 2023 and are hoping for a great year!

**Angie Murphy, Director**

**Michelle Couch, Assistant Director**



## Within the Fold



***Kroger Rewards 50 households from  
8/1/2022-10/31/2022 \$217.00***

The Women's Ministry Team received this lovely Thank You note from George and Rachel Klippel: Dear First English, Thank you for providing our family with the luncheon following my Mom's funeral services. We are grateful and well fed! Please accept this donation as a token of our gratitude.  
Sincerely, **George and Rachel Klippel**

Thank you! Thank you for the nice prayers and the lovely prayer shawl. It is my favorite color, too. I am really using it as I have been cold since my surgery. It was such a kind and thoughtful thing for you ladies to do. May God Bless all of you and have a wonderful holiday! A friend in Christ, **Joyce Strohminger** (Beth Harruff's sister)

To the Christmas Carolers,  
I thank you so much. I enjoyed listening to you and singing along! Thank you for the box of goodies you gave me, they are wonderful, We have some great people at our church. You really brightened my day!  
In Christ's Love,  
**Marilyn Dinges**

To the Christmas Carolers,  
Thank you for sharing your time with me and singing songs of the season! And to the women of the church, thank you for the cookies and candy.  
You all made me happy and brightened my day!  
God Bless you,  
**Garnet Stafford**

Thank you, Ron Eyerly!! When Brenda was putting the nativity out in the Narthex, she noticed a few broken figures. She took them home where Ron glued them all back together. So appreciated, Brenda & Ron! Have a blessed New Year!

Each year we receive a lovely Christmas card from Top Jump Marketing, our amazing computer-techie website managers. They are a huge blessing to us.

**Pub Theology is on hold for a month or two.**

**We will announce our locations in the new year.**

## **Elijah's House Update**

Our December outreach to the men of Elijah's House was a Santa hat filled with sweet treats and other goodies. We took 15 of them to them early in December.

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

## **Worship and Music Committee**

We did not meet in December, so will have Lenten news next month. However it is encouraging to know how far and wide our Facebook live streaming goes. On Christmas day I received this text from Laurie Hamrick "Hi Jan! Josh was feeling really down last night when he got off work from Lowe's. He saw my post about FELC live Christmas Eve service so he watched it after he got home. Sometimes technology is a good thing....connecting church family even from Albuquerque! I enjoyed the live stream as well. Please let Pastor and the praise team that they really do make a difference!" 🎄❤️🙏 Of course I sent it on to the Praise Team and to Pastor Miguel and Scott Berry!

Ash Wednesday and Lent will soon be upon us. Our worship plans are forthcoming.

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



## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

### **Update on recent Christmas outreach projects.**

As stated in December, 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. On December 15 we gave the kids at Zoe's Learning Center their new pillows with kid friendly pillowcases AND we gave them special order knit caps with "Mansfield Tygers" on the cuff of the cap, along with insulated water -proof gloves. The kids were very excited to receive these gifts.

On Wednesday, December 21 we gave 42 guests a new pillow with printed pillowcase (made by our Women's Ministry Team ladies.) Angie also had a variety of non-perishable food items that she shared with our guests. They were quite grateful for these unexpected gifts. Thank you to those who provided pillows, pillowcases, knit hats and gloves and non-perishable food items! Blessed to be a blessing to those less fortunate.

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**



## **Stewardship**

The New Year has arrived and I would like to give you an update on our 2023 Stewardship Campaign. We are all anxious to see what 2023 and God have in store for us as a congregation. A lot of positive things have happened at First English Lutheran Church. We have a "Great Dynamic" New Pastor, the Reverend Dr. Miguel Acosta, leading us in God's direction weekly as we hear his word. Many of us look forward to Sunday and the message he has to share.

We had our Consecration Sunday in November and had a total of 50 pledges. These pledges brought in \$178,008.00 for 2023. We, as a committee, were happy for so many responses from you our Congregation. Stewardship along with the Finance Committee will work diligently to see that this funding goes towards doing God's work here in Mansfield and around the world. Blessings to you all in 2023 with God's Loving Guidance!

**Sandie Volz**  
**Council Representative**



## ***Women's Ministry***

### **Women's Bible Study**

Once again Barbara Justice taught our Bible Study from the book "Seamless". Eight of us were present, and Myra Cordrey was hostess, blessing us with many goodies and also giving us little Christmas stockings which she had lovingly crafted for us. It is not too late to join us and step in to this study of the old testament.

Funeral meals, when necessary, will be provided.

**JANUARY: Squad A: Karen Ellis, Ila Kershaw, Barb Coon, Lu Blankenship**

### **LUTHER FELLOWSHIP**

Our very steadfast group of seniors met on December 19 in the Emmaus Room for a homemade lunch. Before enjoying lunch we gathered in the sanctuary where Mrs. Becky led the Early Learning Center kids in sharing many Christmas songs as well as a Christmas skit. It was best described as "cuteness overload." Thank you, precious little ones! It was great! After lunch we shared "white elephant" gift exchange, most of us saying that we shopped for things in our closets or storage areas. Good for a few laughs! On Monday January 16, 2023 we will gather at 2:00 PM in the Emmaus Room for Bingo and snacks.

### **Arts and Crafts Night in January**

Women of the Church, why not join each other in fellowship by coming to a newly planned craft night? On Tuesday, January 17 we will begin with a soup supper at 5:30 PM and then do a "Valentine's craft" that we can send out to our home-bound members in February. Please jot this on your calendar and plan to attend!



## **Global Mission**

I am excited to share this message from Joy Jones, Vice President of Malawi Orphan Care Project! Perhaps in January I can share with you the actual amount of the Christmas Eve offering from our partner church Westwood Community Church up in Minnesota:

*Hello MOCP board,*

*I am asking for your prayers. Westwood Community Church is giving a large portion of their Christmas offering to MOCP for the irrigation system for the farm. We were told that from their offering they usually give away about \$25,000 - \$30,000 for their main donation. MOCP is the main recipient of their offering this year. Please pray for God's will to be done through their offering. Andy and I were able to see a preview of the video they will use to promote MOCP and the offering. We are not able to share it until after Christmas but I believe it will make an impact. I believe it may also attract people to donate to MOCP throughout the year.*

*We thank God for the work being done at Westwood Community Church and pray for their Christmas offering and continued relationship with MOCP.*

*I pray that you have a blessed Christmas and New Year.*

*Thanks for your prayers!*

*Joy*

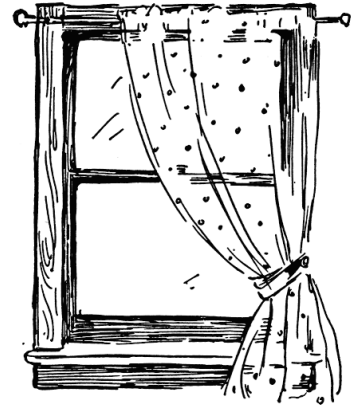
**Chris Cichanowicz**

**Global Mission Chairperson**

## Becky's Views.....

Becky's Views:

The ELC kiddos did an AMAZING job presenting their "Mixed Up Christmas" program at the church for their families and many of you, again at Wedgewood Estates, and AGAIN for our Luther Fellowship group! Thank you, ELC teachers, for your help in putting together our very special story of Jesus' birth.



We were blessed by many youth and young adults during the Advent season sharing their gifts and talents! Brianna McFadden (piano), Faith and Callie Kaschube (violins), the Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School bell choir, and a wonderful puppet presentation by our 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class enhanced our worship while we anticipated the arrival of Jesus!

"Thank you" to the 33 Christmas carolers that went out on December 11th to spread the love and joy of the season! We also distributed the many cookies that were baked and donated by many of you for our homebound members.

I am looking forward to working with our Early Learning staff and FELC staff in 2023. We will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and we seek out His plan for our church, daycare and community.

*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 JANUARY we will offer communion at Wedgewood Estates and Arbors at Mifflin on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

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**

**As editor I want to make a huge apology to the members of Clancy and Jeanette Lauthers' small group. The memorial listed below (in December Visitor) came from the members of this small group. Please forgive the error!**

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

## **Memorial Fund**

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

*In memory of Shawn Volz  
Given by: Phyllis Nicholson*

*We received an anonymous donation in Memory of:  
Dwight Hassinger  
Velma Hassinger  
Beverly Hassinger  
Leonard and Betty Claypool  
And  
Susan (Claypool) Fife*





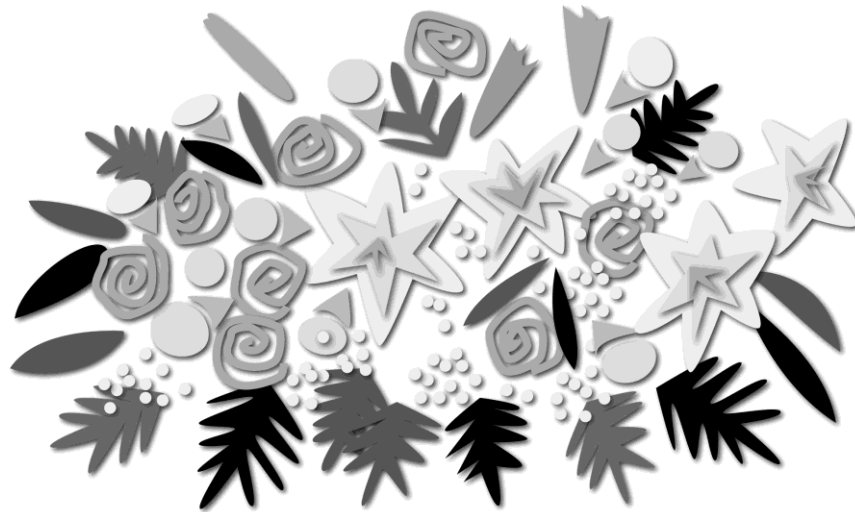
Shirley Stegall  
Henry Keultjes

November 28, 2022  
December 12, 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**

Pastor Miguel Acosta officiated at a memorial service for Shirley Stegall, mother of Melody Kencson, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at FELC. We offer our sincere condolences to Shirley's daughter, Melody.



# 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.

*January 15, 2023*

*January 22, 2023*

*January 29, 2023*

*February 5, 2023*

*February 12, 2023*

*February 19, 2023*



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

**In November we continued to increase our service to the seniors in our community. We served 89 60+ low income lovely people who simply need some food assistance in these highly inflation fighting times!**

This mission just continues to grow because of the inflation-related need within our community. The November distribution had 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!

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, plus a 15# box of produce. 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. If you register at FELC then you MUST pick up your goods at OUR location.*

- **JANUARY Senior Boxes will be available on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.**

***Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson***

## January 2023 Volunteers

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

#### **ACOLYTES**

January	1:	TBD
January	8:	TBD
January	15:	TBD
January	22:	TBD
January	29:	TBD

#### **ALTAR WORKERS**

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

#### **ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Alicia Schulz

#### **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

Property Committee

#### **COMMUNION PREPARERS**

January	1:	Ted & Karen Ellis
January	8:	Ken & Debbi Suzuki

#### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

January	1:	
Wine West:		Pat Heichel
Wine East:		Rachelle Zehe
Intinction:		Greg Hughes
January	8:	
Wine West:		Chris Cichanowicz
Wine East:		Anita Nehrkorn
Intinction:		Jane Sprang

#### **GREETER**

Ted & Karen Ellis

#### **LAY READERS**

January	1:	Chris Cichanowicz
January	8:	Stacey Crall
January	15:	Chris Hoecker
January	22:	Amy Skropits
January	29:	Anita Nehrkorn

## **PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS**

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

#### **PEW PAD GLEANERS**

January	1:	Jodi Mumaw
January	8:	Lana Conry
January	15:	Brenda Eyerly
January	22:	Stacey Crall
January	29:	Ronda Rehm

#### **PROPRESENTER**

January	1:	Isaac McFadden
January	8:	Teri Brenkus
January	15:	Peyton McFadden
January	22:	Cindy Russell
January	29:	Allison Weeks

#### **SLING STUDIO**

January	1:	Todd Heichel
January	8:	Suzanne Rippel
January	15:	Tom Sarbach
January	22:	Todd Heichel
January	29:	Suzanne Rippel

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

January	1:	<i>(no Sunday School)</i>
January	8:	<i>(no class; youth at Quake)</i>
January	15:	Elizabeth Volz
January	22:	Karen Ellis
January	29:	Curtis Freeman

#### **SOUND BOARD OPERATORS**

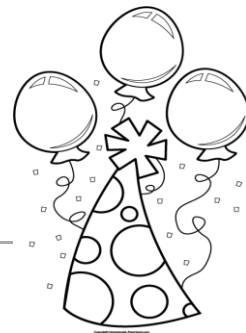
January	1:	Ed Farner
January	8:	Ed Farner
January	15:	Ed Farner
January	22:	Ed Farner
January	29:	Ed Farner

#### **USHERS NAVE**

Larry & Becky Faith

Gregg & Sarah Thatcher

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:**



<b>Name (First Last)</b>	<b>Address Block (current as of today)</b>	<b>Birth Date</b>
Faith Kaschube	186 Essex Rd Lexington OH 44904	January 3
Jacob Caseman	2355 Mount Zion Rd Mansfield OH 44903-8761	January 4
Janice Fisher	1171 Crestwood Dr Mansfield OH 44905-1624	January 4
Mary Schwartz	1844 W Longview Ave Ontario OH 44906-1406	January 13
Gail Elder	1660 S Frederica Ave Clearwater FL 33756-7203	January 16
Marilyn Kochheiser	698 Hollywood Ln Mansfield OH 44907-1610	January 17
Cynthia Hill	965 Stewart Road N. Mansfield OH 44905-1549	January 19
Callie Kaschube	186 Essex Rd Lexington OH 44904	January 25
Christine Cichanowicz	345 Avalon Dr Mansfield OH 44906-2727	January 29
Kerria Shears	1575 Sassafras Dr, Mansfield OH 44905	January 29

## Prayer Requests

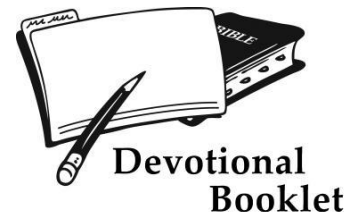
To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the pastors or call Faith Williams (419.522.0662) in the church office to be added to the list. Please call again when it is appropriate to have that prayer request deleted.

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.**

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](http://felc-mansfield.org).



Please refer to **YouTube** to view past sermons.  
And please check out our new FELC mobile friendly website!  
[felc-mansfield.org](http://felc-mansfield.org) where you can be directed to online worship via Facebook and YouTube

## **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](mailto: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, Finance Director, may be reached by calling the church office  
at 419-522-0662 or email her at [NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org)**

**FEBRUARY 2023 Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, January 17,  
2023**

**Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023.**

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

### FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

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

**Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.**

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

**Pastor Miguel Acosta**

**330-265-7329**



## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

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**[evangelism@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:evangelism@felc-mansfield.org)**

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