

THE VISITOR



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

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Number 3

"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

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

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>Judy Santoro</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

As we begin our Lenten Journey, I decided to share a writing from a few years ago written by Pastor Paul Larson. I think it speaks very well to us as a congregation. I pray that you all are blessed as you read this!Jan

Focused on the Goal

Philippians 3:12-16 *The Message (MSG)*

12-14 I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

15-16 So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.

Dear Friends in Christ:

I have always enjoyed the character of little Reepicheep, in C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia Series*. We used to read the books to our children when we would travel together in the car or we would read them as a special family time just before bed. They are a set of fanciful novels – filled with Biblical imagery and Christian symbols.

Reepicheep is a tough little talking mouse. He is determined to reach the “utter East” and join the great lion Aslan [symbolic of Christ]. Reepicheep declares his resolve: “While I may, I sail East in *Dawn Treader*. When she fails me, I row East in my coracle [small boat]. When that sinks, I shall paddle East with my four paws. Then, when I can swim no longer, if I have not yet reached Aslan's Country, there shall I sink with my nose to the sunrise.” In the novels, Aslan's Country is symbolic of our Heavenly Home.

The Apostle Paul put it another way: “I press on toward the goal” (Phil. 3:14). His goal was to be like Jesus. Nothing else mattered. He admitted that he had much ground to cover but he would not give up until he attained that to which Jesus had called him.

None of us are what we should be, but we can, like the Apostle, press and pray toward that goal. Like Paul we will always say, “I have not yet arrived.” Nevertheless,

despite weakness, failure, and weariness we must press on (v. 12). But let us never forget --- that everything depends on God. Without Him we can do nothing!

God is with you, calling you onward. Keep paddling!

Lord, help us learn that we do not press on toward our goal by our own effort, but through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Apart from You, we can do nothing. Work in us today, we pray. AMEN!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Paul

God provides the power we need. He calls us to persevere.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES & REPORTS

Thursday, February 23, 2023- 7:00 PM
DRAFT COPY- Updated February 24 at 8:09 AM

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

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

Secretary, Christopher Kaschube:

Electronically presented the FELC Church Council minutes from January 19, 2023 regular meeting and special meeting for approval. MOTION made by Cindy Russell, seconded by Chris Cichanowicz to approve the minutes of both meetings.. MOTION APPROVED.

Executive Committee:

Rob read a letter of resignation from Pastor Miguel Acosta. MOTION to accept the resignation made by Teri Brenkus and seconded by Gary Lane. (PCAT team conversation followed..) Three month's severance was suggested by Pastor Paul Gruetter, head of PCAT team. The first month of severance has been paid during February. The severance package will go from February 20 to April 20, 2023. Discussion held. MOTION APPROVED unanimously.

Evangelism Committee, Jan Fisher:

We continue to have weekly visitors. I am also very pleased that our members are faithfully attending live worship each Sunday. I have every hope of being able to take in new members, possibly Rev. Lisa Peterson will assist with this. We have sent Valentine's greetings out to our home-bound members. It's important to keep in touch with all in our "flock." Senior Boxes for January went very well, serving 83 guests. Our next distribution of Senior Boxes plus 15 pound box of produce is Tuesday, February 28, 11:30-1:30 on the east side of our building. Please continue to pray for our congregation, our council, and Pastor Miguel. Pastor Lisa Peterson has agreed to hold "new member" classes for our congregation. They will commence very soon. I would like to add this notation concerning the 2024 NALC National Youth Gathering: July 1st to July 4th 2024 – the NALC National Youth Gathering. The theme will be "We Belong." The gathering will be held in Boerne, TX. It's not too early to start planning for our youth to attend!

Women's Committee, Jan Fisher:

Women's Bible Study met on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023. Great group walking our way through Genesis with the teaching of Barbara Justice! We welcome any ladies to join us! It's never too late. We meet the second Monday of each month at 1:00. Location TBA.

Luther Fellowship did not meet in January because of the funeral of Ruth Hughes being held at the same time. On Monday, February 18, 2023 we will be playing bingo and enjoying snacks beginning at 2:00 PM in the Emmaus Room. All 80+ members are encouraged to join us for this fellowship.

We are planning to host another Arts & Crafts gathering in March. Details to be announced.

Stewardship Committee, Sandie Volz:

The Stewardship Committee mailed out the tri fold Lenten Calendar for Holy Week 2023, enclosing a letter telling about our missionary family and an envelope for our Lenten Offering supporting our missionary family the Krafts on February 14th.

Global Mission Committee, Chris Cichanowicz:

Malawi:

Three additional university students are waiting for sponsorships.

The "seed" money is now given by the original beneficiaries to ensure that there is responsibility and giving back to the project by imparting the knowledge they have gained to others.

Days for Girls International received a grant to continue the work that was started by the "First Lady". DFGI is engaging Kanyenyeva Wala to do the work and paying the women for their labor. They have been tasked to provide 570 supreme kits.

The well project is complete!

The Far Side:

Continuous prayers for the Islanders to be committed comprehension test readers to help with the translation of 1 & 2 Corinthians. These are the last two New Testament books to be tested for the Islander language.

Peru and Bolivia:

Just a reminder that our Lenten offerings will be sent to the Krafts.

Nick and Shannon are celebrating 25 years as missionaries! They have been through good times and troubled times, but the Lord has always provided, and they continue to be a blessing to others.

The Krafts would like you to join them in a fun adventure by volunteering for their next Immersive English Camp which runs from July 30 - August 5. Call Dan Caesar at 1-360-969-0378 for details.

Worship Committee, Cindy Russell:

Scott continues to move forward on the antiphonal organ. He is working on finding a structural engineer.

We will be having Lenten Soup Suppers beginning March 1st and continuing each Wednesday through March. They will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 with "The Chosen" being shown.

Becky and Scott continue to plan our Worship Services and scheduling supply pastors. Several pastors have offered to help cover our Worship Services.

We will be hosting the Community Good Friday Service which is held at 12:00. With this being sponsored by Inter-Church Council, Pastor Paul Lintern will step in as the presiding pastor.

Attendance and Facebook Views for January:

	Attendance	Views
1st	87	160
8th	102	184
15th	118	189
22nd	89	No live stream
29th	102	198

Upcoming Supply Pastor Schedule:

March 12th - none scheduled; video addressing the Gospel

March 19th - Pastor Michael Koch

March 26th - Pastor Kim Maurer

April 2nd - Pastor Lisa Peterson (Palm Sunday/Communion)

April 6th - Pastor Amy Little (Maundy Thursday/Communion)

April 7th - none scheduled (Good Friday; readings; assisting ministers)

April 8th - Pastor Paul Lintern (Saturday Vigil/Communion + March of Prayer service)

April 9th - Pastor Amy Little (Easter/Communion)

April 16h - none scheduled (YOUTH SUNDAY)

April 23rd - Pastor Nate Meiers

April 30th - Pastor Kim Maurer

Social Ministry Committee, Gary Lane:

Wednesday Noon Lunch continues to serve about 30-35 people. We partnered with Kingdom Grace in January by giving gift-cards and 40 pillow cases.

Senior Boxes had about 70 people receiving boxes. Cheese and produce bags. This Ministry continues to increase as it becomes more well known in the community.

We are collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes and mouthwash for February.

We are anticipating The Lenten season in March and "The March of Prayer".

Finance Committee, Lu Blankenship:

FINANCE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

Jan-23	Actual	Budget	Difference
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General Operating Fund (GOF) (including ELC):			
Income	\$58,944	\$51,309	\$7,635
Expenses	\$58,869	\$147,612	-\$88,743
Early Learning Center (ELC):			
Income	\$29,665	\$28,700	\$965
Expenses	\$24,251	\$28,164	-\$3,913
General Operating Fund (GOF) (excluding ELC):			
Income	\$29,278	\$22,609	\$6,669
Expenses	\$34,618	\$119,448	-\$84,830
General Operating Fund Recap (Includes ELC):			
2022 Carryover			\$55,482
Gen Op Fund to Women of FELC Fund			\$0
GOF to Pastor Discretionary			\$0
Pass-thru to GOF			\$0
ELC Grant Fund to GOF			\$0
Memorial Fund to GOF (for major projects)			\$0
WFELC Fund to GOF (Easter/Altar Flowers)			\$0
Gen Endow Fund to GOF (\$103,940)			\$0
Maj Cap Imp Endowment Fund to GOF (\$8,945)			\$0
New Min & Miss Endow Fund to GOF (\$14,150)			\$0
Gamber Trust Fund to GOF (Christian Ed) (\$2,500)			\$0
RGH II Campaign Funds to GOF for loan payment			\$893
2022 YTD Income			\$58,944
2022 YTD Expenses			\$58,869
GOF Balance			\$56,450

ELC Committee, Misty Grove:

Submitted by Angie Murphy:

We have 3 grants for our summer program.

The 1st grant is through Altrusa and is \$800.00. We were awarded this grant last summer for all the children to receive 1 new book for the months of June, July, August and September. We have received the grant again this year. I will purchase the books and send Altrusa the receipts and they will reimburse the ELC. Nicole is aware of this grant and how it works. The 2nd grant is through Richland County Foundations. We have received this grant for several years. It can be up to \$2500.00, we are waiting on a supply list to see how much we will apply for. This year we are applying for a grant to enhance our summer art program "ART IN ACTION." We have asked Rachel Justice to head up this program. Rachel is

Barbra Justice's daughter. Rachel is an art teacher at Mansfield Christian school and has her own business. You can view her business at Racheljusticeart.com. Her and Becky have worked out the bible scriptures the church will cover over the summer months and Rachel will create art to go along with those scriptures. Then every 2 weeks we will hang art in Narthex for an "ART SHOW". We then will invite parents to come to the art show. On July 13th we have our annual Patriotic Program with Becky. This year it will include "ART IN ACTION" and music. How exciting!!

The 3rd grant is the Wildlife Grant through ODNR. This grant is \$500.00. Easter and I will go to Findley on February 10th to be trained in Project Wild and Aquatic Wild. This is free. After this, we can apply for the grant. The grant can cover planting trees, flowers, putting up nesting boxes, adding pollinator gardens or bird feeders on playground. This may also include adding nature trail signs, and supplies to enhance nature life learning such as binoculars, spotting scopes, cameras and scientific equipment (under200) at the retreat center.

With the hiring of new staff, we can split our pre-k room into 2 rooms. This will help the kids going to kindergarten get more one on one learning and add up to 5 new kids. We currently have 12 teachers and 57 kids enrolled. Our annual cookie and pastry fundraiser will start on February 27- March 13th. The money raised will help with end-of-the-year activities.

Submitted by Becky Pittman:

I have integrated Wednesday morning music and chapel into one session for the ELC kids for the time being. We learned the Bible story "Jesus Loves the Little Children" during the month of February. They absolutely love the involvement of puppets while singing and learning the story! Thank you to Misty for leading the chapel while I was on vacation on February 8th. We will learn about "Daniel in the Lion's Den" in March.

We had a fantastic ELC family turnout for Fastnacht! We had more from the daycare than we from the church. The 5:00 start time works perfectly. The "snowball" fight, Nerf guns, puppet and skit were very well received by all. Thank you to our FELC cooking/kitchen staff for a delicious meal for our attendees!!

We have an Early Learning Center committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st at 4:30.

I participated in our FELC staff CPR and First Aid training on February 16th.

Our annual Spring Sing will be on Sunday, April 16th during the 10:00 worship service. I plan on involving our FELC youth as much as possible and have it be a dedicated Youth Sunday.

Rob asked Misty to report the names of all ELC new hires as has been done in the past. She will bring those names to the March meeting. Misty will also ask Angie what degree of testing is done for pre-employment.

Property Committee, Mike Anderson:

Andy Kershaw informed us that Standard Plumbing & Heating has started work on replacing the Air Conditioners. The window units on the 3rd floor have already been replaced and work on the big units on the roof will be done in the next couple of weeks.

Andy had to repair and replace the cable to the rear chandelier in the sanctuary. After regular maintenance, it was discovered the cable holding the fixture was down to about 3-5 strains of the cable holding the fixture. Andy had the fixture fixed at a cost of \$ 2884.79. Andy told us he has money in the budget to cover this expense.

Andy received a letter from All Pro Elevator, Perrysburg, Ohio apologizing that work on our elevator won't start until the end of April as they are waiting for back ordered parts. They conveyed that was pretty fast as compared to the supply chain issues of other elevator companies.

Andy received a quote from Richland Renovation to update the main office, bathroom and print room. They will remove wallpaper, prep, seal, and paint the walls for \$ 3,076.86. Andy gave them the go ahead to do the work.

Andy also requested a quote from Richland Renovation to paint all exterior doors and trim including all galvanized metal and gutters.

Andy had an electrician look at the circuit boxes controlling the lighting in the sanctuary to fix the Sanctuary light flickers. He found that there was a glitch in the boxes being interconnected when they shouldn't have been. So far the fix seems to be working.

Youth Committee, Ted Ellis: No Report

Personnel Committee, Teri Brenkus:

Teri Brenkus reported that the committee is working on the handbook. Janitor's description is being worked on at present.

Old Business: None

New Business:

We were reminded about the March of Prayer. It's good to attend some of the worship gatherings.

Rob mentioned that the annual meeting will be held on May 7. MOTION made by Ted Ellis, seconded by Sandie Volz to set the date of May 7. MOTION APPROVED.

The Nominating Committee has been meeting. Rob asked if Congo Life was to go back on the Council agenda. Cindy said not necessary. Same question came up about Christian Education. Nominating committee will be asked to put that back on the ballot.

Who would the officiating minister be if we didn't have a permanent pastor? Discussion held.

Also the existing fee schedule needs to be updated to today's standards. We suggest that Nicole Goddard handle that.

Notes:

March Coffee Fellowship and Council Devotion: Youth Committee

March Council Meeting is Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 PM

MOTION by Gary Lane, seconded by Teri Brenkus to adjourn. MOTION carried.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Fisher, Acting Secretary

March Of Prayer 2023

Come and Pray! 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted

For Information: Paul LIntern, 419-571-9920, linternpau@AOL.com.

Follow on Godsfield Community Facebook Page

Wednesday, March 1 — The MAC, 291 W. Cook Rd.

Thursday, March 2 — Journey Life Center, 2578 Springmill Rd. Friday, March 3 — First Baptist Church, 4534 St. Rte. 13, Bellville Saturday, March 4 — Southside Christian, 2055 Middle-Bellville Sunday, March 5 — Church Requel, 2 Marion Ave.

Monday, March 6 — Recovery Road, 378 Park Ave. West (ARC) Tuesday, March 7 — Linden Road Presbyterian, 124 S Linden Rd.

Wednesday, March 8 — Holy Trinity Lutheran, 525 W. Cook Rd. Thursday, March 9 — First United Methodist, 12 N. Diamond St., **7 p.m.** Friday, March 10 — Fusion Lexington, 2200 Industrial Parkway

Saturday, March 11 — St. Luke's Point of Grace, 2 Marion Ave.

Sunday, March 12 — Potter's House, 374 Willowood Dr. East

Monday, March 13 — Grace Fellowship, 365 Straub Road East

Tuesday, March 14 — Fusion Madison. 2170 Park Ave. East

Wednesday, March 15 — Freedom Ridge, 2200 Bedford Blvd, Ontario Thursday, March 16 — ARC Empowerment Center, 378 Park Ave. West Friday, March 17 — Really Recovered, at

MAC, 291 W. Cook Rd.

Saturday, March 18 — Faith United Methodist, Rte 96 across from Crestview Sunday, March 19 — Open Bible, 1150 Rayfield Dr.

Monday, March 20 — Ontario United Methodist, 3540 PAW Tuesday, March 21 — Kingdom Grace Fellowship, 105 Reba Ave.

Wednesday, March 22 — Abundant Life, 1085 Bedford Blvd, Ontario Thursday, March 23 — Salvation Army, 47 S. Main St.

Friday, March 24 — Christian Life, 961 Springmill St.

Saturday, March 25 — Sar Shalom, 2510 W. Fourth St., **10:30 a.m.** Sunday, March 26 — Oakland Lutheran, 2045 Olivesburg Rd.

Monday, March 27 — Lexington Church of the Cross, 236 Otterbein Tuesday, March 28 — Clay Memorial Lutheran, Bowman and Amoy East

Wednesday, March 29 — Paradise, 87 Illinois Ave N.

Thursday, March 30 — Belmont Community — 1119 Belmont Ave. Friday, March 31 — Mansfield South Park Pavilion, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave. Saturday, April 1 — Come Together in One Accord, 525 W. Cook Rd. Sunday, April 2 — MIMA, Oasis of Love, 190 Chester Ave., **4 p.m.**

Monday, April 3 — First Christian, 200 W. Third St., at Jericho Wall Tuesday, April 4 — Providence Baptist, 112 W. Sixth St.

Wednesday, April 5 — GracePoint Lexington, 1887 W. Cook Rd.

Thursday, April 6 — Main Street United Methodist, 230 S. Main St., **7 p.m.** Friday, April 7 — Grace Episcopal Church, 41 Bowman St., **7 p.m.** Saturday, April 8 — First English Lutheran, 53 PAW, vigil, **8:30 p.m.** Sunday, April 9 — Kingwood Center — **7 A.M.**

MANSFIELD IS GODSFIELD

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

JOIN US AT 6:00 PM ON WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT TO SHARE IN SOUP SUPPER AND JOIN IN WATCHING THE POPULAR BIBLICAL “CHOSEN” VIDEOS. WE WILL FOLLOW EACH EPISODE WITH A TIME OF DISCUSSION. GREAT FELLOWSHIP OPEN TO ALL! ENTER ON MULBERRY ST AT THE RED DOOR.

ELC

Little People BIG News March



Flashback into February

Our children loved celebrating Valentine's Day with passing out cards and having a Sweetheart Swirl dance party in the Undercroft. Some of our children enjoyed coming to Mardi Gras Mania as well! We have applied for a Summertime Kids Grant again this year through Richland Foundation. The plan this year is to utilize Rachel Justice and her artistic ability through our kids. We will know in the near future if we have been accepted to receive the grant.



A Peek into March

This month we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with "Wacky Week". We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Assessments on children will be completed this month. We are running our fundraiser of braided bread pasteries and cookie dough. Earnings will be used for a summer celebration that we typically have at the end of May.

April 16th will be ELC Sunday with an egg hunt!

A special thank you to Kay Williams for all of her donations to the Early Learning Center.

Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities for upcoming events!

Angie Murphy, Director

Michelle Couch, Assistant Director

Early Learning Center Fund Raiser:

ELC is taking orders for the yummy BUTTER BRAID PASTRIES beginning February 26 up to March 13. The sale of these items helps provide a really nice “end of year” party for parents and the kids. The sales earn a 35% to 40% profit for the ELC. Order forms will be on one of the Pub tables in the Narthex. Payment is expected at time of ordering, making checks payable to FELC. PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE. Check with Angie Murphy if you have questions. Delivery will be in time for Easter.

Within the Fold

Kroger Rewards for MOCP from Nov 1, 2022 -Jan 31, 2023

49 households \$227.98

WNL Visitor Donations \$20.00

Fastnacht Donations \$152.00

Many thanks to all of you who made my 80th birthday so special --- so many cards, so many hugs, so many kind words, so many balloons, and so many flowers from our youth! I am truly blessed to have all of you in my life. Thanks for making this birthday unforgettable. Love you! -- Chris Cichanowicz

Women's Ministry received a lovely Thank you note from Jen and Joe Rogers, Alexandria, and Shelby saying “thank you” for the Christmas Chick-fil-A gift cards and the Starbucks Valentines Day cards. Women's Ministry is always happy to “gift” our young people with these remembrances.

*To our Women's Ministry,
Thank you so much for thinking of me on Valentine's Day. With everything going on right now at the church, coffee will help! I do appreciate your kindness, and I am blessed to do His work alongside all of you. In Christ's love, Becky Pittman*

A great and user friendly way to receive DAILY DEVOTIONS written and supplied by NALC is to text: ReadingTheWord to 24251. They will respond back with a link and devotions will come to your phone every morning. They can be read and/or audible. You can also get devotions from our felc-mansfield.org website by selecting the NALC logo button.



Worship and Music Committee

Our committee is happy to report that we have visiting ministers scheduled throughout March and April, and we will celebrate communion as usual during Holy Week as well as on the first Sunday of each month with Lutheran celebrants. Praise God for His faithfulness!

Cindy Russell
Worship Committee Chairperson

Congregational Life

Thank you to everyone who has joined in providing meals for Fastnacht and also for Lenten Soup Suppers. You are awesome in the Lord!

Social Ministry

Please see Gary's report. Plans are being made for Spring.

Voluntary support of NALC Disaster Response

NALC Disaster Response is one of the missional areas that we at FELC support via our benevolence. We do need to offer additional support and suggest that if your heart leads you in that manner, please consider sending them a "home improvements" store gift card. This will be considered a February/March 2023 social/service project.

A secure mailing address is:

NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave., Caldwell, OH 43724

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

YOUTH

- **Save the Date: July 1st to July 4th 2024** – the NALC National Youth Gathering. The theme will be “We Belong.” The gathering will be held in Boerne, TX. It’s not too early to start planning for our youth to attend!

Women’s Ministry



Women’s Bible Study

Once again Barbara Justice taught our Bible Study from the book “Seamless”. Eight ladies were present for the study. We met at the church in the Emmaus Room on February 13 to further our study on Seamless. We are learning more about Abraham, Sarah, Esau, Jacob, etc. We meet again in March on the second Monday, March 13 at 1:00 PM in the Emmaus Room. Lana, Jan, and Chris M will be hostesses. All ladies are encouraged and welcome to join us!

On Saturday, February 18 we were pleased to host a funeral meal in honor of Henry Keultjes following his wonderful memorial service. It is an honor for our church women to offer this to the family in their time of bereavement.

MARCH Funeral Squad D: Pat Heichel, Linda Hughes, Lana Conry, Mary Schwartz

LUTHER FELLOWSHIP

Twelve of us “oldsters” who are truly young at heart, met on Monday, February 20 to play bingo and enjoy many snacks. Thank you to Anita Nehrkorn for calling the bingo numbers out to us! It was a fun afternoon. If you are on Facebook, check out the pictures that are shared from this lovely afternoon fellowship. Plans were discussed for some spring gatherings. More details to follow.

Arts and Crafts Night in March

Tuesday, March 14 at 5:45, finger foods and snacks provided.
We will make small Easter boxes, some to be given to shut-ins.



Global Mission

MALAWI:

- 1) Three additional university students are waiting for sponsorships.
- 2) The "seed" money is now given by the original beneficiaries to ensure that there is responsibility and giving back to the project by imparting the knowledge they have gained to others.
- 3) DAYS for GIRLS INTERNATIONAL received a grant to continue the work that was started by the "First Lady". DFGI is engaging Kanyenyeva Wala to do the work and paying the women for their labor. They have been tasked to provide 570 supreme kits.
- 4) The well project is complete!

THE FAR SIDE

- 1) Continuous prayers for the Islanders to be committed comprehension test readers to help with the translation of 1 & 2 Corinthians. These are the last two New Testament books to be tested for the Islander language.

PERU AND BOLIVIA

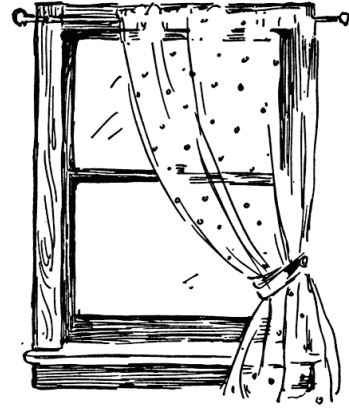
- 1) Just a reminder that our Lenten offerings will be sent to the Krafts.
- 2) Nick and Shannon are celebrating 25 years as missionaries! They have been through good times and troubled time, but the Lord has always provided, and they continue to be a blessing to others.
- 3) The Krafts would like you to join them in a fun adventure by volunteering for their next IMMERSE ENGLISH CAMP which runs from July 30 - August 5. Call Dan Caesar at 1-360-969-0378 for details.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Cichanowicz

Global Mission Chairperson

Becky's Views.....



God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good. We have an amazing family here at FELC. Our church is going through a very difficult time right now, but I am so thankful for our Council, our church staff and the MANY volunteers who have stepped up to make sure our worship, our ministries and our daily tasks continue to happen despite our situation. God is in control. Please pray for our congregation and Pastor Miguel and his family.

The hand bell choir will be ringing again in March! Would you like to join us??? We will rehearse at 5:30 on Wednesday, March 1st, 8th and 15th, and we will play during the worship service on Sunday, March 19th. We would love to have you!

I am thankful for our Children's Church volunteers who are willing to minister to our kids during worship! Would you like to become part of this rotation? The prep work will be done for you. The kids LOVE it, and so do Mom and Dad!! Chris Mayclothling does an amazing job preparing the crafts every other month. We are looking for another volunteer to do the prep those opposite months. Is this a gift you would like to share? Please talk to me if you are interested.

If we have just 4 more volunteers sign up to provide a breakfast during Sunday School for our Jr. and Sr. High youth, we will be able to fill up the rest of the school year! Would YOU be willing to feed our kids? They are so appreciative, and they are always hungry. Please let me know if your answer is YES!

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 check with the church office. The residents are always anxious to see their fellow FELC members.

In MARCH we will offer communion at Wedgewood Estates and Arbors at Mifflin on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. We are grateful to Gary Lane and Larry Lantz for their dedication to this ministry!

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.

The **men's group** will gather again on Saturday, March 25. Men, please put this on your calendars for the **last Saturday** of each month. Gather at 9:00 AM in the Emmaus Room to further your fellowship plans. Donuts and coffee will be provided.

Memorial Donations

Memorial Fund

In memory of Henry Keultjes

Given by: Ted & Karen Ellis, Greg and Linda Hughes

In memory of Ruth Hughes

Given by: Ted & Karen Ellis

Malawi

In memory of Henry Keultjes

Given by: Jan Fisher

Stained Glass Window Fund

In memory of Henry Keultjes

Given by: Sandra Volz



Pastoral Acts

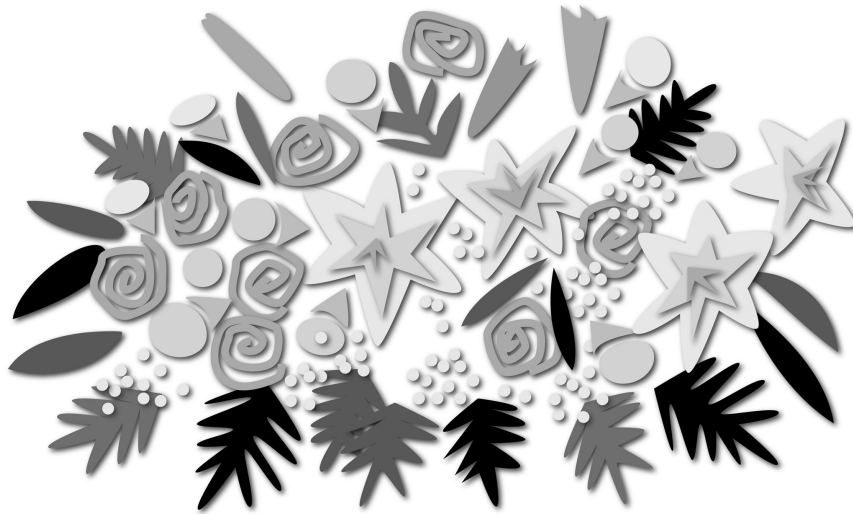
Pastor Paul Lintern presided Henry Keultjes' memorial service here at FELC on February 18th, 2023.



Dr. Tim Guenther

February 15, 2023

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.



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.

ALTAR FLOWERS DURING LENT

Lent is a season of spiritual renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. We reflect the austerity of the season by omitting the use of Altar Flowers on February 22 through March 26, thus providing a visual contrast with the abundance of flowers used at Easter.



Evangelism for Today's World

In January our numbers were good. We served eighty-three 60+ low income lovely people who simply need some food assistance in these highly inflation fighting times! February statistics are not available at the time of Visitor printing.

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

- **March Senior Boxes will be available on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.**

Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson

March 2023 Volunteers

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

ACOLYTES

March	5:	TBD
March	12:	TBD
March	19:	TBD
March	22:	TBD
March	26:	TBD

ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Greg Hughes

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Youth

COMMUNION PREPARERS

March	5:	Mike & Jane Anderson
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COMMUNION SERVERS

March 5:

Wine West:	Ed Corley
Wine East:	Gary Simmons
Intinction:	Pat Smith

GREETER

Erna Clark

LAY READERS

March	5:	Angie Kaschube
March	12:	Lu Blankenship
March	19:	Myra Cordrey
March	26:	Shirley Lane

PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

PEW PAD GLEANERS

March	5:	Brenda Eyerly
March	12:	Cindy Hill
March	19:	Lana Conry
March	26:	Stacey Crall

PROPRESENTER

March 5:	Isaac McFadden
March 12:	Peyton McFadden
March 19:	Teri Brenkus
March 26:	Allison Weeks

SLING STUDIO

March 5:	Suzanne Rippel
March 12:	Tom Sarbach
March 19:	Todd Heichel
March 26:	Todd Heichel

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

March 5:	Angie Kaschube
March 12:	Becky Faith
March 19:	Linda Hughes
March 26:	Katie Garn

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

March	5:	Ed Farner
March	12:	Ed Farner
March	19:	Ed Farner
March	22:	Ed Farner
March	26:	Ed Farner

USHERS NAVE

Jeff Davis & Annette Doklovic

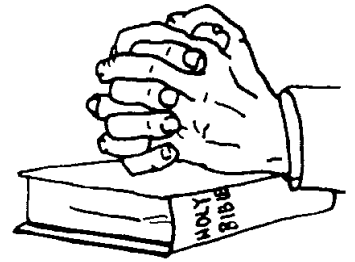
Chris & Kathy Hoecker

Alternate: Tricia Volz

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!

A great and user friendly way to receive DAILY DEVOTIONS written and supplied by NALC is to text: Reading The Word to 24251. They will respond back with a link and devotions will come to your phone every morning. They can be read and/or audible.

You can also get devotions from our felc-mansfield.org website by selecting the NALC logo button.

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, Finance Director, may be reached by calling the church office
at 419-522-0662 or email her at NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org**

**APRIL 2023 Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023
Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023.**

**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.**

<u>FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH</u>	<u>E-MAIL AND WEB SITE</u>
--------------------------------------	----------------------------

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.

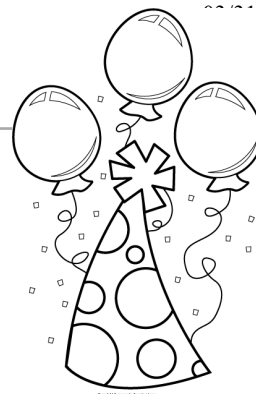
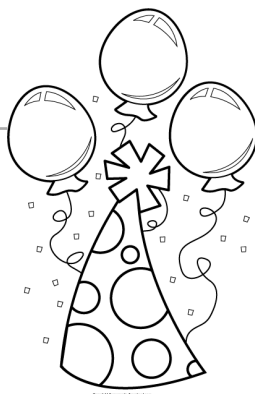
Emergency cell phone number if the pastor cannot be contacted at church:

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

First English Lutheran Church

02/17/2023

Name (First Last)	Address Block (current as of today)	Birth Date
Elisa McFadden	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	03/01
Teri Brenkus	273 Greenbriar Dr Bellville OH 44813-1159	03/01
Eugene Earick		03/02
Katie Garn	85 Harding Heights Blvd Mansfield OH 44906	03/04
Max Weeks	795 Andover Rd Mansfield OH 44907	03/05
Steve Santoro	1246 Bellview Dr Mansfield OH 44905	03/06
Misty Grove	861 Andover Rd. Mansfield OH 44907	03/07
Peyton McFadden	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	03/25
Beth Harruff	455 Logan Rd. Apt. 3 Mansfield OH 44907	03/11
Madeline Heichel	4222 State Route 42 S Lexington OH 44904	03/14
Daniel Obrynba	979 Sheirer Rd Mansfield OH 44903	03/15
Ashley Rehm	1090 Crestwood Dr Mansfield OH 44905-1623	03/18
Lynda Ringold	41 Glenwood Blvd Mansfield OH 44906-3737	03/18
Gabrielle Shears	1575 Sassafras Dr, Mansfield OH 44905	03/19
Casey Miller		03/20
Larry Lantz	1163 Belmar Dr Mansfield OH 44907-3010	03/20
Elizabeth Sprang	1817 Partridge Court Mansfield OH 44907	03/24
Cory Garn	85 Harding Heights Blvd Mansfield OH 44906	03/25
Justin Crall	222 Marlow Rd Mansfield OH 44906	03/31
Lowell Weeks	730 Westview Blvd Mansfield OH 44907-2236	03/31
Renee Shupp	744 Pulver List Rd Mansfield OH 44905-2547	03/31



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES:

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

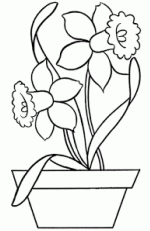
Christian Education:
Christianed@felc-mansfield.org

(Revised Feb 24, 2023 jf)

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

The deadline for ordering is **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2023***

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



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

The lilies, hyacinths, and daffodils will decorate the Church on Easter morning, April 17

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

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



cut here

2023

Lily Order:

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

Daffodil Order:

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

Hyacinths Order:

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

Donation (no plant):

\$ _____ Major Capital Improvement Fund

\$ _____ ELC Memorial Fund

\$ _____ Stained Glass Window Fund

\$ _____ FELC Memorial Fund

\$ _____ General Fund



PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO FELC

"In Memory of _____"

"In Honor of _____"

"Given by _____" (Person ordering _____ Envelope # _____)

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

PAID

Permit No. 714
Mansfield, OH
44902

affix label here

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DO NOT DELAY - DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED

MARCH 2023 VISITOR