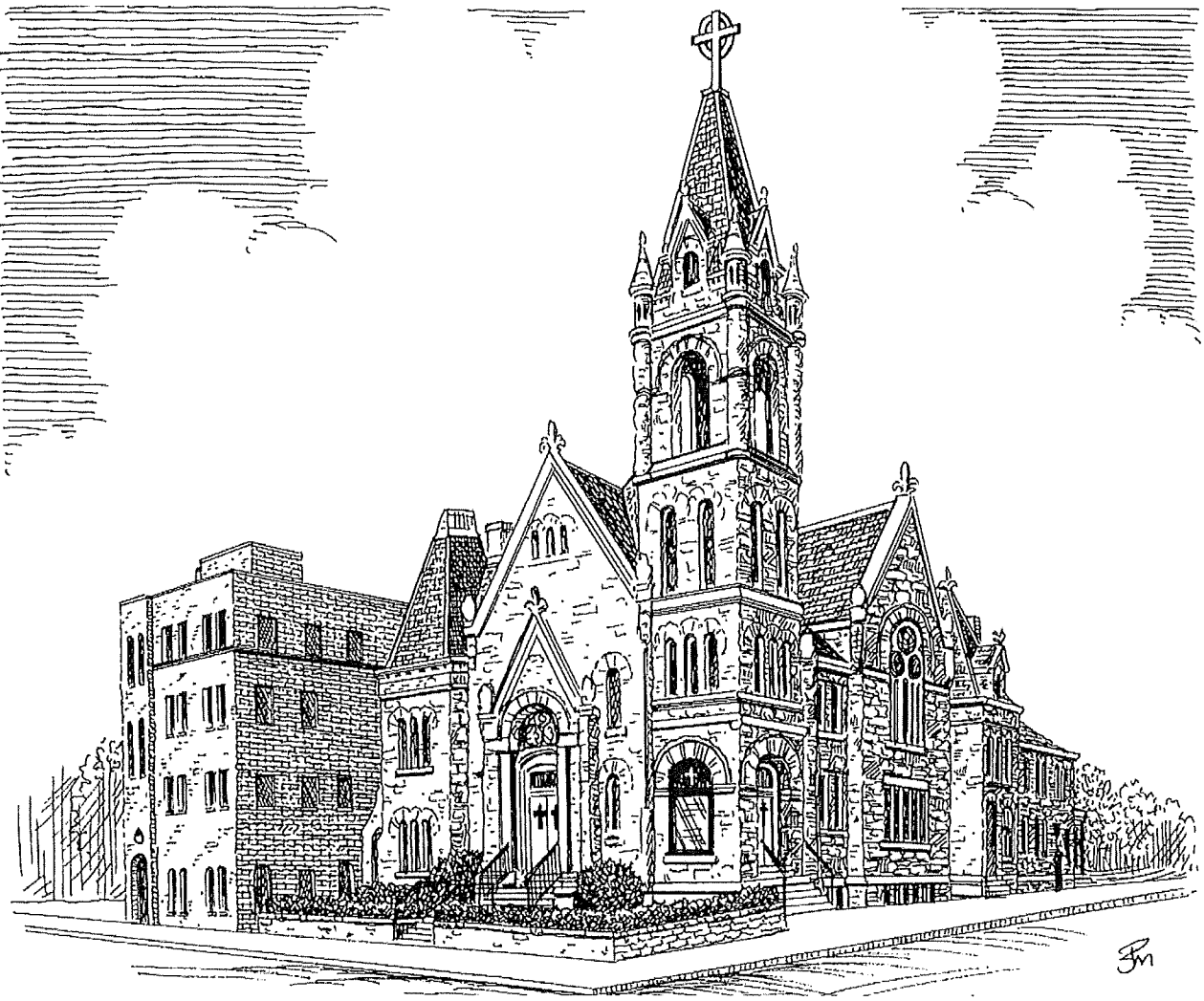


THE VISITOR



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

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Number 9

"Pointing People to Jesus Through Intentional Relationships"

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lisa Peterson, Interim Pastor
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
Angie Mullins, Parish Secretary/Newsletter Editor
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

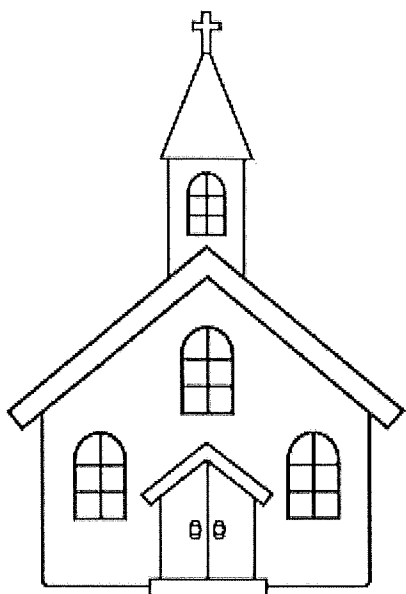
CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President, <i>Cindy Russell</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>James Murphy</i>	Youth Ministry, <i>Ted Ellis</i>
Worship, <i>Jan Fisher</i>	Congregational Life
Evangelism, <i>Alicia Schulz</i>	Sunday School Superintendent
Finance, <i>Lu Blankenship</i>	
Global Mission, <i>Chris Cichanowicz</i>	

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

If you have any questions please contact Angie Mullins at the church office at (419)-522-0662 or parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org



We have made a commitment to focus on
the following values and objectives:

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Early Learning Center (ELC)
2. Align Ministries to Strategic Focus
3. Engaging Youth
4. Repurpose Staff Including Accountabilities
5. Create a Culture of Engagement

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

Pastor's Pieces

For September

First, let me give a loud shout-out to everyone for all the prayers, cards, and well-wishes during my recent illness. I'm like everyone else I know: I hate being sick! It happens, and God has at least three things in mind for letting illness occur: 1) taking away our pride, fostering humility; 2) providing the care and love and encouragement we need, and 3) drawing us ever more closely to His side as the true source of all strength. So, thank you, First English family, and praise to God for healing.

When I attended the NALC Convocation, I picked up a few books from the Concordia display (no surprise there!), including 2 volumes entitled, "*Eternal Anthems*". I have always loved hearing the stories behind the writing of our hymns, and these volumes are a delight I want to share with you from time to time. The first, one of most Lutherans' all-time favorites: "*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*". Below is an early English translation to the first 2 stanzas:

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trust shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Most likely written between 1527 and 1529, history records an epidemic that hit Wittenberg during that time, and during which time Martin Luther suffered a serious illness. Also, Turkish forces were threatening the German borders as well as Catholic armies. The faithful band of "Lutherans" were under attack theologically from both Catholics and more radical Protestants. Nevertheless, when this hymn was published, it was under the designation: "A Hymn of Comfort". Perhaps you will enjoy comparing the above words with the translation in our current hymnals.

Praise God for all our rich musical heritage, and for the faithful men and women who have shared these gifts with us. Let them encourage and inspire you.

Serving with joy,

Pastor Lisa

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES & REPORTS

Tuesday, August 15, 2023- 7:00 PM

DRAFT COPY- Updated August 18 2:43 PM

Present: Chris Cichanowicz, Misty Grove, Lu Blankenship, Mike Anderson, Cindy Russell, Gary Lane, Sandie Volz, Jan Fisher James Murphy, Alicia Schulz, and Pastor Lisa Peterson

Absent: Christopher Kaschube, Ted Ellis, Chad McFadden, Teri Brenkus

The meeting was called to order by Council President Cindy Russell at 7:00 PM

Devotion and prayer led by Lu Blankenship.

Secretary, Christopher Kaschube:

- Electronically presented the FELC Church Council minutes from the July 18 meeting for approval. **MOTION** (Alicia/Sandie) to approve the minutes of the meeting. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Executive Committee: Cindy Russell asked that we set a date for the congregational meeting to address the antiphonal organ request for repair. That date will be Sunday, September 24, 2023 following worship.

MOTION (Jan/Chris C.) **MOTION APPROVED.**

Evangelism Committee, Alicia Schultz:

- Committee members continue to correspond with shut-ins, correspond with guests, as appropriate, and be attentive to regular members and attendees who have been missing multiple Sundays. Jan will be reporting on the Produce Distribution and senior boxes. I can't help but be proud to be part of a congregation with so many hard working and faithful volunteers as these events require. Myself, I continue to ponder what is expected of me and of FELC members regarding evangelism responsibilities. Our bylaws' description of the responsibilities of the evangelism committee begin (after which there is more) this way: "(a) equip members to witness to their faith in daily life; (b) equip members to invite others into the fellowship of the church." This notion of witnessing to our faith seems to harmonize perfectly with our mission of "Pointing People to Jesus Through Intentional Relationships", which all harmonizes perfectly with the NALC focus on discipleship. But though we engage in many worthwhile activities in this congregation, it seems there could be more pointing to Jesus, more building of intentional relationships, more discipling in and through these many activities. Working on that. Please share ideas.
- Report on August 8, 2023 Free Produce distribution: We served 253 guests, our second highest day in the past nine years. There were 54 new families served. The need for food is huge.

Global Missions Committee, Chris Cichanowicz:

Malawi:

- Pastor Andy and Joy attended the NALC Convocation to help keep the momentum for MOCP going.
- The Kanyenyeva Wala is maintaining high standard quality products in their kits for women.
- The well project is complete. They will soon dig the septic tank and install the plumbing system for the guest toilet in the Skills Building.
- They plan to install the maize mill by the end of August.
- The visit of the Westwood Community Mission team was very successful! It included a VBS for the kids, a business training for 60 participants, and a "Pop-up" clinic. They managed to see over 400 men and women and over 700 of the MOCP registered children. A huge success and much needed!

Peru:

- The IMMERSE CAMP went very well. See their video on Facebook.

The Far Side:

- No update, but continue prayers that more Islanders will be willing to do comprehension test reading of translated Scripture drafts.

Early Learning Center Committee, Misty Grove:

- Submitted by Becky Pittman:
 - The ELC campers sang for our Wednesday lunch group 3 times this summer. It was very well received by both the campers and the visitors. We would like to continue this ministry next summer. The campers also were very involved in chapel all summer long. They were in charge of the puppets during music time, they acted out Bible skits and assisted with the felt board while learning a story.
 - Rachel Justice led a wonderful art program with the ELC this summer. They completed 4 projects related to the Gospel under her direction, and all of the art was displayed in the narthex for our congregation to enjoy. The kids even got to visit Mosaic and see how a kiln works!
 - The campers finished up their summer music time at the ELC by going to Wedgewood Estates and singing all of the songs they had learned for the residents on Tuesday, August 8th.
- Submitted by Angie Murphy:
 - We have had one teacher, Sam Smith, leave this month. Two teachers went back to teaching at their schools and will continue to work several nights a week for us, and one additional teacher will be going back to high school.
 - We will be closed Sept 1st for a teacher workday.
 - I would like to thank Becky Pittman and Rachel Justice for creating a wonderful Christian summer art program. The children really loved this and have made some beautiful projects!

Youth Committee, Ted Ellis:

- Future youth activities
 - Sunday, September 10th: Family Night at The Infield @ 5pm (1st day of SS)
 - Sunday, October 1st: Make A Difference Moment! Crop Walk (lunch out; walk at 2pm)
 - Saturday, November 11th: Lock-In at the church at 7pm
 - Sunday, December 10th: Youth Christmas Program @ 10:00 AM followed by a 'Make a Difference Moment'! (Lunch out and then Christmas caroling)

Stewardship Committee, Sandie Volz: Nothing to report

Worship Committee, Jan Fisher:

- The main focus of our July meeting was to further discuss the antiphonal organ and the presentation to the congregation. We also are aware that a date needs to be set for the special congregation meeting.
- We also discussed the suggestion of providing communion cards in the pews to get a better number of persons attending communion and worship. After discussion we decided that establishing a QR code for that purpose might be the best option. Becky will pursue this with Nicole. We also discussed the meaning of the word "catholic in lower case" in the Apostles Creed. Some do not realize that catholic means "universal", and Beth Harruff mentioned that a visitor thought that it meant that we are part of the Catholic church. We need to ask Martin Luther how he feels about that! Just kidding! Becky will pursue adding an asterisk notation that refers to "universal." We plan to continue with plans for the "Framed Cross" project, thinking that September will be a good time to launch that initiative.

- We seem to be very consistent in our Sunday worship numbers throughout the summer. The average seems to be 85 to 100, depending on the Sunday. I feel that this is very promising and we should be proud of this consistency. We are blessed to have Pastor Lisa with us on three out of four Sundays. We continue to have visitors and Alicia's team makes every effort to make connections.
- In September we will have Pastor Kim Mauer preaching on Sunday September 10, 2023.
- We have plans to "surprise" the congregation with WWJD bracelets on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023. Pastor Lisa will be preaching that day and this will fit with her sermon topic.

Women's Ministry, Jan Fisher:

- Newly formed Book Club begins on Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 PM in Emmaus Room. We will be reading "This Tender Land" written by William Kent Krueger. Open to all.
- As reported last month, Bible Study begins on Monday, September 11 at 1:00 PM, all women are encouraged to join with us and increase their spiritual growth.
- The Women's Ministry served a very nice funeral meal to the family and friends of Pastor Tim Storms. I am thankful for all those volunteers who supplied food and/or helped to serve the guests.

Social Ministry Committee, Gary Lane:

- We continue to give out Senior Boxes, Produce and Cheese. This month was 94.
- Wednesday Noon Lunch surged to 80 grilled burgers given outdoors.
- Vacation Bible School was held on July 17, 18, & 19. It was a joint venture with FELC, Kingdom Grace, and Holy Trinity. The average attendance was 55.
- We are anticipating a good turnout for the Auto Show in August.

Property Committee, Mike Anderson:

- Worner Roofing is coming to do replacement of shingles. They will be bringing a man-lift. Terry Brown, Richland Renovating Co. has given us a bid of \$24,000 to paint the exterior trim around the church. Andy is working diligently to coordinate the use of the man-lift among the vendors who will be working on exterior paint, roofing issues, and stained glass window replacement. Thus we will not be paying twice for that piece of equipment. **MOTION** (Mike/Gary) to accept this bid. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Finance Committee, Lu Blankenship:

FELC General Operating Fund (excluding the ELC)

July 2023 Income was \$24,371

July 2023 Expenses were \$41,575

July Income was less than expenses by \$17,204

YTD Income is \$161,180 which is more than budget by \$2,917

YTD Expenses are \$319,818 which is more than budget by \$14,695

YTD Income is less than YTD Expenses by \$158,638

Early Learning Center (ELC):

July 2023 Income was \$50,257

July 2023 Expenses were \$29,965

July Income was more than expense by \$20,292

YTD Income was \$225,539.75 which is more than budget by \$24,640

YTD Expense were \$203,528.18 which is more than budget by \$6,380

YTD Income is more than YTD Expenses by \$22,012

*Please note the ELC is also using the ELC Fund for expenses (see fund activity report for balance)

General Operating Fund Combined FELC & ELC

July 2023 Income was \$74,628

July 2023 Expenses were \$71,540.19

July Income is more than expenses by \$3,088

YTD Income is \$386,719.89 which is more than budget by \$27,557
YTD Expenses are \$523,602.25 which is more than budget by \$17,460
YTD Income is less than YTD Expenses by \$136,882

GOF Recap:	
2022 Carryover	\$55,481.94
Gen Op Fund to Women of FELC Fund	\$0.00
Pass Through Fund to GOF	\$0.00
Gamber Fund to GOF	\$2,500.00
ELC Fund to GOF	\$3,520.00
WFELC Fund to GOF (Easter/Altar Flowers)	\$0.00
Gen Endow Fund to GOF \$103,940+100,000	\$50,000.00
Maj Cap Imp Endow Fund to GOF \$8,945	\$0.00
Maj Cap Imp Endow Fund for A/C & Elev	\$38,750.00
New Min & Miss Endow Fund to GOF \$14,150	\$0.00
RGH II Campaign Funds to GOF for loan pymt	\$6,073.94
2023 YTD Income	\$386,719.89
2023 YTD Expenses	\$523,602.25
GOF Balance	\$19,443.52

- The Finance Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Kroger Rewards be earmarked for the Wednesday Lunch instead of the Malawi Orphan Care Project. **RECOMMENDATION APPROVED**
 - Note: The reward is usually around \$200 per quarter. We only have 44 families signed up to give their Kroger Rewards to FELC. Finance/Stewardship will promote more families to sign up and let them know where the money goes.

Christian Education Committee, James Murphy:

- Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, September 10.
 - The adult Sunday School class will begin a study entitled "Caleb's Lamb" and the books are a very reasonable \$5.00 each. Each participant will be asked to pay for the book.
 - When this study is completed Christopher Kaschube will lead a study on Lutheranism, reviewing our Lutheran practices.
 - We will then take December off and Alicia Schulz will lead a study in January focusing on Greg Finke's book "Joining Jesus on His Mission." (Some of us have done this study a few years ago with Pastor Paul.)
- Sunday School teachers are as follows:
 - HS/JH, Elizabeth Volz and Curtis Freeman;
 - Preschool and kindergarten, Suzanne Rippel and Stacey Crall

Pastor Lisa Peterson:

- Pastoral Acts: Leading worship (2)
 - Celebrating Holy Communion (1)
 - Sacrament of Holy Baptism (1)
 - Worship w/Holy Communion at Nursing Homes (2)
 - Home visit to member (2)
- Other:
 - Prayer at free lunch (2)
 - Attended Vacation Bible School (2), incl performing in skit (1)
 - Attended "Grease" w/Luther Fellowship
 - Made Scripture slips for Sr. Boxes and Produce Distribution.
 - Provided Devotions for Staff Meetings
 - Attended Lutheran Week events in Oklahoma City (5 days)

Notes:

September Coffee Fellowship and Council Devotion: Evangelism Committee
September Council Meeting is Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00 PM

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Teri Brenkus, Personnel Committee:

- Earlier in the month a Church Council e-vote was held to approve a **RECOMMENDATION** to approve Faith Williams' resignation, and to hire Angie Cockrell Mullins as our Parish Secretary. **RECOMMENDATION APPROVED.**

A brief report about the events of the NALC convocation:

August 8 to 11, 2023, attended by Lu Blankenship and Jan Fisher. Early in the week there were over 600 attendees because some were there for the Women's Annual Meeting, etc.. By the time we got to the voting portion, we were down to around 450 to 475. At present the NALC has 490 congregations, soon to become 500 as a number of churches are moving away from ELCA and coming to a more conservative denomination. The NALC is alive and well! It's exciting to hear of our growth.

Each morning we began with Bible Study led by Dr. David Luy, Associate Professor at NALS. He was dynamic! The overall focus of the convocation was mission (local and international) and discipleship. We heard missional messages from Rev. Dr. Gemechis Bubba, Rev. David Wendel, and others. We were allowed to choose two "workshop" sessions led by ordained specialists in those chosen areas.

One that Lu and Jan both attended spoke of various ways to enhance our church's visibility in a digital world and offered strategies for renewal and growth in our congregations. We will be sharing this with the appropriate staff and council members.

We heard about the 2024 National Youth Gathering.

We heard from Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen, President of NALS about the wonderful successes happening in seminary. We heard about the exciting growth of the NALS seminary and some of the options provided to those who might feel a call to serve Jesus. There are 130 individuals in the pipeline who are seeking to become Pastors, Worship Leaders, Youth workers, and even though our Lutheran standards are high, there is financial assistance available. And there are many online courses. We met a number of Pastors who have recently been ordained in the NALC, following their call to ministry in Christ Jesus.

We were encouraged to get our congregations and individuals to contribute financially to the "2020 Vision; Today, Tomorrow, and Forever." The goal is to raise \$5M and presently over \$2M has been raised or pledged. This initiative is in place to further the growth of the NALC.

The election of Bishop became a re-election of Bishop Dan Selbo, passing on the first and only vote for that position. Other voting covered the Court of Adjudication, and Executive Council.

It's so exciting to see how God is moving among our congregations and our denomination! One of the last things addressed before the wonderful closing worship and Holy Communion was to learn of the establishment of the NALC Foundation. Lu and I both brought home some explanation booklets in case anyone is interested in establishing a legacy.

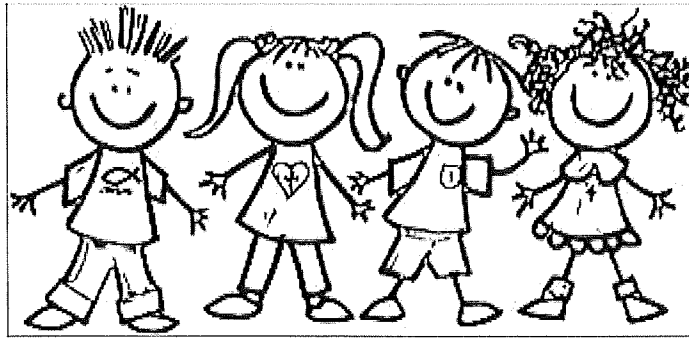
There is no doubt that as Lutherans we can be proud of "today" and equally proud of our future in sharing the word of Christ. Those who serve us are on FIRE and we should be on FIRE with them!

MOTION by(Chris C./James) to adjourn. **MOTION APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Fisher, Acting Secretary & Christopher J. Kaschube, FELC Church Council Secretary



ELC

Little People BIG News SEPTEMBER

Flashback into August



Our summer camp is officially over, and the kids had a great summer. Thank you to all our summer staff for their help this year! All age groups put the bus to good use by going on multiple trips this year. We thank Teddy for all his hard work and flexibility.

A Peek into September



Our staff and children are ready to begin the new school year! The children will be learning about the rules of their new classrooms, sharing about their families, and welcoming new friends. We will be closed September 1st and 4th. Our first day of preschool will be September 5th. Grandparents breakfast will be held on September 11th at 9:00 am.

We are planning on a trunk or treat event again this year. Please look for a flyer to come!

Within the Fold

Dear Friends at FELC,

Thank you so much for your cards, phone calls, and prayers after the death of my sister and brother-in-law. Your support means a lot!

Thank you, too, for your cards, prayers, and texts of support in my cancer journey. I cannot express how much all of this means to me.

Thank you!

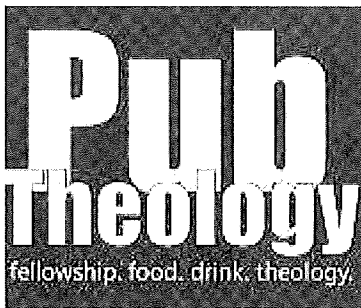
Joy Jones



Malawi Orphan Care Project

MOCP wants to say thank you to all of you who volunteered for the Malawi Concessions on August 26. What a great group! And a special Thank You to Shirley Shupp, Jane Mako, and Judy Santoro for sharing their home baked goodies that were so delicious and brought in lots of donations!

PUB THEOLOGY



Our August discussion was on *Why does God allow evil to happen?* And it was very engaging!

You won't want to miss our next Pub Theology discussion on Tuesday, September 12th at 6:00 PM. Our new location spot is Pizza Hut on Lexington-Springmill Road! Please refer to the weekly bulletin should any details change. We hope to see you there. Everyone is welcome to join in this fun evening of fellowship!





2023 Convocation Information

Lu Blankenship and Jan Fisher, FELC Delegates are happy to share “Lutheran Week 2023 Convocation” information: (copied from the NALC website)

Oklahoma City, OK: In a significant show of unity and trust, delegates of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) have re-elected the Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo as their bishop during the NALC Mission Convocation in Oklahoma City, OK. Receiving 77% of votes on the first ballot, Bishop Selbo’s re-election stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment, strong leadership, and vision for the church’s future. The announcement of his re-election was made by NALC General Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Amy Little on Thursday, August 10, 2023.

Bishop Selbo has been a pivotal figure in the NALC, previously serving as the pastor of St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church in San Jose, California and holding the position of dean of the Central Pacific Mission District. His continued leadership as bishop reaffirms the trust and confidence of the congregations and mission districts across North America.

The Mission Convocation was graced by a plethora of over 600 global delegates and visitors. This broad spectrum of attendees included representatives from various global Lutheran bodies and renowned ecumenical partners. Notably present were the Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu Dibisa (Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus), the Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer (Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), the Most Rev. Dr. Ray Sutton of the Reformed Episcopal Church (Anglican Church in North America), and the Rev. Dr. Walter F. Kedjierski (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). Through the NALC’s participation in the Global Confessional and Missional Lutheran Forum, other church leaders and representatives were present from Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Laos, Mongolia, Norway, and Tanzania.

Adding to the sentiment of unity and global outreach, a video greeting was shared with attendees from the Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, a bishop of the emerging Global Methodist Church, which resonated with warmth and camaraderie.

Especially touching was the contextual background of Bishop Selbo’s early ministry. Having served as a vicar in South Africa, his roots in global mission made the global participation and musical segments of the Mission Convocation even more poignant, symbolizing the intertwining of cultures, faith, and the universal message of Jesus Christ.

Upon addressing the congregation, Bishop Selbo’s words resonated with gratitude, vision, and a roadmap for the years ahead. He extensively spotlighted the North American Lutheran Seminary, underlining its crucial role in raising the next generation of pastoral candidates. He called for a renewed, invigorated focus on mission, discipleship, and spiritual renewal, emphasizing the continuation and evolution of the NALC’s 20/20 Vision.

Bishop Selbo stated, “The North American Lutheran Church, over the years, has become a beacon of hope, faith, and spiritual resilience. As we move forward into the future together, our

mission remains firmly anchored in the teachings and love of Christ, and our enduring commitment to discipleship, both locally and globally. I am profoundly honored by this re-election and the immense trust placed in me. My earnest prayer is that together, as one unified body, we will continue to participate in the mission and work of God by lifting up Jesus as Lord and Savior of all, that the world might be drawn by the Holy Spirit to Him.”

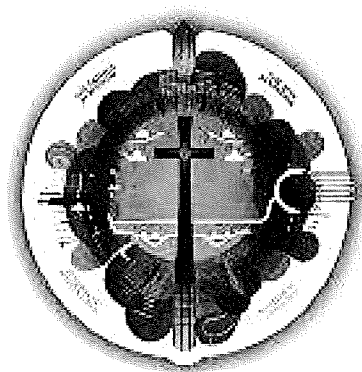
The North American Lutheran Church, through its rich history and tradition, has cemented its role as a pivotal pillar in the global Lutheran tradition. With congregations spread across North America, the NALC stands as a testament to the strength, unity, and faith of the Lutheran tradition. Centered around the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ, the church remains steadfast in its commitment to discipleship, evangelism, and the good news of Jesus Christ.

Also adding to the global character of the Mission Convocation was the commissioning of six new global workers dedicated to the cause of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. Among these newly commissioned workers was Randy Stubbs, who, in addition to his service commitment, plays a vital role at Tumaini University in Makumira, Tanzania. Randy, along with his two talented daughters, graced the Convocation with an assortment of hymns and songs from various corners of the globe. Their musical leadership and performance served as a rich tapestry of global faith and culture, beautifully weaving into the fabric of the NALC’s commitment to worldwide evangelism and discipleship.

Underpinning the NALC’s ethos are its four foundational Core Values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregation-ally Focused. These values serve as the bedrock upon which the church operates, guiding its decisions and spiritual direction.

In a world fraught with challenges, the NALC continues to shine as a beacon of faith and hope. It is a dynamic and renewed Lutheran community, fervently moving forward in faith, focused on living out Christ’s Great Commission to evangelize and make disciples both in North America and around the globe.

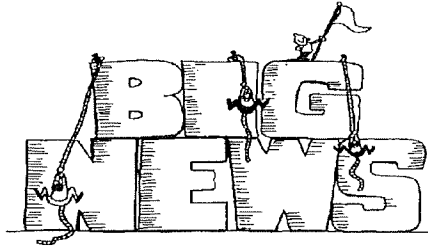
Lu and I have more information that we plan to share individually with our membership. Thank you so much for electing us as your delegates! Jan Fisher and Lu Blankenship



MISSIO DEI
THE WORK &
MISSION OF GOD
Lutheran Week 2023
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 24th immediately following the worship service to discuss moving the antiphonal organ. Please plan to attend!!



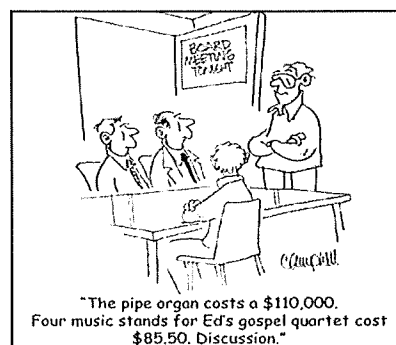
Antiphonal Organ Relocation to 3rd Floor Balcony Area

In the coming months, there will be discussion about the possible project of relocating the Antiphonal Organ from its current space in the attic, to the 3rd floor balcony area. We are already blessed with an extremely generous donation of \$25,000, that has already been given towards the project! The primary reason for pursuing this project, is for improved longevity of the Antiphonal Division of the organ. It is currently located in a small room up in the attic that sees extremely high temperatures. The high temperatures, over time, will cause accelerated deterioration of critical components in the organ, mainly any and all things leather. Wood can be affected too though, and failure in wood parts could also be a problem. The high temperatures in the Antiphonal Organ will, at some point, cause it to become unplayable. The leather components will over time become brittle, and eventually fail.

Tuning, though it has nothing to do with longevity of the organ, is also a constant battle. This again, is due to the high temperatures in the division. The Antiphonal Division is out of tune more than it is in tune. This issue would be largely resolved with relocation to the 3rd floor. It would then be at the same footing that the main organ is, which would be wonderfully advantageous.

While these are the largest issues that the Antiphonal Organ faces, there are also numerous other musical improvements that would be realized with this project as well. In the coming weeks, there will be a document made available in the narthex that will in more detail outline the issues already mentioned here, but it will also speak to the numerous additional musical benefits that this project would achieve.

Written by Scott Berry, FELC Organist





FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATES

It will soon be time to develop the budget for 2024. We, of course, review the church finances every month. In **July, the church income was \$24,371; while expenses were \$41,575.** This is pretty typical. In general, we **spend approximately \$20,000 per month more than we receive.** As of July, the church (excluding the ELC) was averaging \$23,026 in monthly receipts and \$45,688 in expenses. This is why we use funds every year from the General Endowment Fund just to meet budget. For 2023, the amount allowed by the rules of the endowment fund was \$103,940; however, we (Council and Congregation) allowed an additional withdrawal of \$100,000 if needed. Due to major repairs required to maintain our church building (stained glass windows, elevator, roof, exterior trim, air conditioning for third floor, etc.), these funds will be needed. The other thing we need to keep in mind is that we are not currently paying a full-time pastor, and hopefully we will have a regular pastor in the coming year.

Back in 2018, we borrowed from the General Endowment Fund for Renewing God's House. We still **owe \$200,000 on that loan**, which we have been paying at a rate of about \$900 per month. The good news is that the General Endowment Fund was \$2,286,840 at the end of 2022. As of July 31, it was up to \$2,348,310, a **gain of over \$61,000.** As of the end of July, we had withdrawn \$50,000; and we are taking another draw in August.

Also of good news is that the congregation approved a withdrawal of up to \$200,000 if needed for the stained glass windows. To date, we have managed to pay the invoices for these without taking that draw. **The windows are being reinstalled, the elevator project has begun, and the roof repairs and exterior trim painting will be done soon.** Hopefully, all this will come in under \$200,000, but this is all beyond normal budgeted property expenses.

Huge kudos to Andy Kershaw!!! He has managed to save the church significant money by coordinating projects so that the same lifts and scaffolding can be used for multiple projects.

As always, please let me know of any questions or concerns regarding the church finances.

Kroger Community Rewards and Wednesday Community Lunch

During the Covid restrictions, the Wednesday lunches were served in "to go" containers, which significantly increased expenses. Now, the number of folks attending is increasing. Nicole, our Finance Director, recommended that we begin adding to the Lunch Fund, which is about \$4,755, by directing the Kroger Rewards to that fund rather than the Malawi Orphan Care Project. Since we give significantly to the MOCF from our benevolence and a special offering, Council agreed to this change. In the second quarter, this income was about \$200. Currently, the lunch costs about \$200 per occurrence. We currently have 44 families enrolled in Kroger Community Rewards. You can go on line and search for Kroger Community Rewards and check to see if you are enrolled. Then you can make sure your rewards are linked to First English Lutheran Church (FY153). If you are not enrolled, you should be able to enroll on this site. If you need help, ask someone at church to help you. Most young people should be able to help. Thank you!



Finance & Stewardship Committees
Lu Blankenship (419-564-1469)

FLOOD BUCKET BUILD EVENT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

9am—12pm



**Where: Trinity Lutheran Church
410 N Thoman St
Crestline, OH 44827**

**What: Build 500 flood buckets for
NALC Disaster Response**

9am Brief Worship begins, followed by “building buckets” & loading the truck. A light lunch will be provided.

**Why: NALC Disaster Response Needs Help!!!
After 200+ tornadoes struck central
& Midwest states in April 2023, our
national warehouse in Caldwell, OH
is empty!**



**For more information, please contact Mary Bates at 740-509-1132 or
Pastor Diana Seaman at 419-683-3972.**

Christian Education update for Fall

James Murphy reported that Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, September 10. The adult Sunday School class will begin a study entitled "Caleb's Lamb" and the books are a very reasonable \$5.00 each. Each participant will be asked to pay for the book. Chad McFadden & Todd Heichel are leading the class.



When this study is completed Christopher Kaschube will lead a study on Lutheranism, reviewing our Lutheran practices. We will then take December off and Alicia Schulz will lead a study in January focusing on Greg Finke's book "Joining Jesus on His Mission." (Some of us have done this study a few years ago with Pastor Paul.)

Sunday School teachers are as follows: High School and Jr. High, Elizabeth Volz and Curtis Freeman; Elementary age, Trish Volz and Chris Cichanowicz; Pre-school and kindergarten, Suzanne Rippel and Stacey Crall. Let's all get back to "school"!

Social Ministry

Flood Bucket Build Event: September 30, 2023:

Trinity Lutheran Church Crestline, Ohio

From Pastor Diana Seaman, Ohio Mission Region

Greetings in the name of Christ!

Following is information on our first Annual Flood Bucket Build, so please mark your calendars for September 30, 2023 Fall Mission Event at Trinity Crestline. NALC Disaster Response needs our help in preparing for the next disaster in Ohio or near our sister congregations in other mission districts. We hope that in some way each congregation in the mission region will be a part of this amazing work of the Holy Spirit.

The link to sign up for donations of items to go in the flood buckets is below. Please forward it as needed to increase and facilitate participation. For ease of use, we have added headings throughout the document, so you do not have to scroll back up to the top each time you sign up for an item. You may also prefer to use the zoom feature (a dropdown menu under the "View" and "Insert" tabs) on google docs to shrink the document size to fifty percent, so you can see more of the spreadsheet at one time. Cleaning rags can be home made: cut to approximate 10"x10". **We have spaces available on the spreadsheet for 500 flood buckets. How close to that goal can we get?** Sign up and let's find out!

Sign-up link:

Details of the event:

When: September 30, 2023 from 9am to 12noon.

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, 410 North Thoman St., Crestline, Ohio 44827

What: Build 500 flood buckets for NALC Disaster Response – the brief worship service will begin at 9am, then we will "build the buckets" and load the truck, and then a light lunch will be provided.

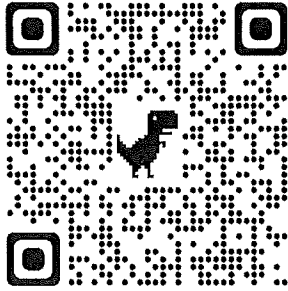
Why: After 200+ tornadoes struck the central and Midwest states in April 2023, our national warehouse in Caldwell Ohio is empty – NALC Disaster Response needs help!

For more information, please contact Mary Bates at 740-509-1132 or Pastor Diana Seaman at 419-683-3972.

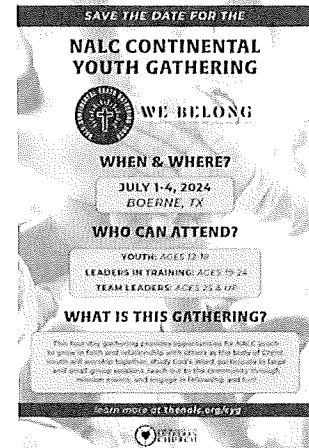
Youth

Referring to the NALC Youth Gathering information below, there are many options for adults to volunteer as teachers, chaperones and other helpers. Check the NALC website for more information. You have a year to plan.

- **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!



Please scan the QR code for a clearer view of this flyer.



Global Missions

Malawi:

- Pastor Andy and Joy attended the NALC Convocation to help keep the momentum for MOCP going.
- The Kanyenyeva Wala is maintaining high standard quality products in their kits for women.
- The well project is complete. They will soon dig the septic tank and install the plumbing system for the guest toilet in the Skills Building.
- They plan to install the maize mill by the end of August.
- The visit of the Westwood Community Mission team was very successful! It included a VBS for the kids, a business training for 60 participants, and a “Pop-up” clinic. They managed to see over 400 men and women and over 700 of the MOCP registered children. A huge success and much needed!

Peru:

- The IMMERSE CAMP went very well. See their video on Facebook.

The Far Side:

- No update, but continue prayers that more Islanders will be willing to do comprehension test reading of translated Scripture drafts.

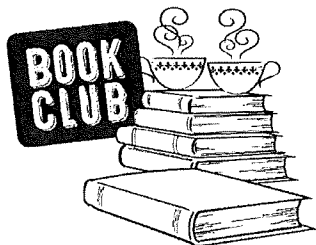
Women's Bible Study

We will gather for continued study on the Bible Study entitled "Seamless" written by Angie Smith. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 PM, generally in the Emmaus Room so that we have DVD availability. We welcome you to join us!



Women's Book Club

It's not too late to join the newly formed Book Club. Please see Judy Santoro to get the title of the next book that we will read. We meet on Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 PM for our first session.



Arts & Crafts Night

Arts and Crafts night will be Monday, September 18 in the Emmaus Room. Join us at 5:45 to make some really cute note cards for our shut-ins. They will have a "Fall Theme." There will be a sign-up sheet on the poster table.



Luther Fellowship

Twenty-six people met on Monday, August 21 to hear Sue Montgomery from District 5 Area Agency on Aging explain about a very large number of their programs that are available to anyone 60 and older. Voters recently passed a levy that has made many new programs available. Sue passed out bags full of information. A good suggestion to keep in mind would be to place a call to them and inquire, especially if you have a specific need. And everyone, please share this with your friends and family. In today's high inflation and food insecurity it is wonderful to know that there is assistance available.

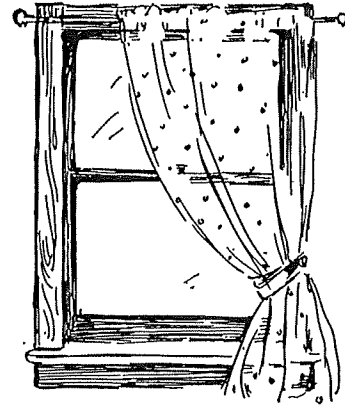
Our September gathering is not yet planned.

Free Produce Distribution has begun!

This is our ninth year of offering free produce to the community! Open to all, and we have revised the hours: 10:30am to 12:30pm, always on the second Tuesday of each month, April through November. Come to our West parking lot at S. Mulberry and Park Avenue West! Our volunteers are there to load your car! Please share this notice with your family and friends!

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West will be offering Senior Boxes on the fourth Tuesday of the month, year around.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank has a program called "Senior Boxes" whereby anyone 60+ who falls in the "low income" guidelines can register and then pick up a 30# box of non-perishables including 2# of cheese, and a 15# box of pre-packaged produce. This is a year-round distribution, next date for distribution is **Tuesday, September 26, 2023.** Age is a qualification, so please bring your current identification card complete with date of birth and proof of income. Please come to the east side of our building at 53 Park Avenue West, 44902, between 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM to get registered and pick up your Senior Box of non-perishable food. There is NO COST to you for this food.



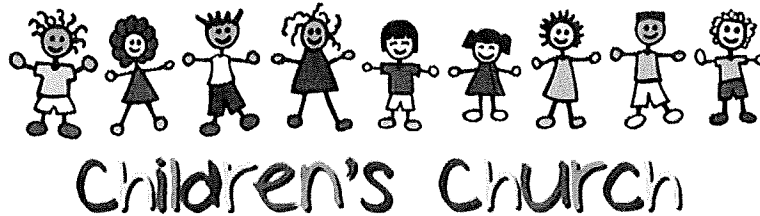
Becky's Views.....

Becky's Views:

Would you like to be in the bell choir this fall?? We would love to have you join this fun group! We will rehearse on Wednesday, October 4th, 11th and 18th at 5:30, and we will play during the worship service on Sunday, October 22nd.



I am looking forward to having small group music again with our ELC classes! We will continue to learn a monthly scripture and Bible story. I plan on teaching the same scripture and songs to our youngest Sunday School class each week.



Children's Church will be offered consistently during worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Would you like to be a part of this rotation? Please let me know.

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 &
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.

In September we will offer communion at Wedgewood Estates and Arbors at Mifflin on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. We are grateful to Gary Lane and Larry Lantz for their dedication to this ministry, along with Beth Harruff's dedication to assisting with this ministry via her piano accompaniment as well as her vocal accompaniment!

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.

Intentional Prayer for our Call Committee and for our future Pastor.



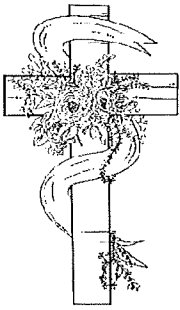
Take it to the Lord first!

As a member of this FELC congregation we want to ask you to be VERY INTENTIONAL in your prayers concerning covering our Call Committee with God's grace, love, and provision as they work toward the call of our future pastor. Further, seek the Holy Spirit's guiding as He puts his hands on the person who will become our pastor. Hold these things in your daily prayers and talks with God. Prayer is very powerful!

Pastor's Prayer Partners, who meet every Thursday at 9:30 AM in the Narthex lounge, invite you to join them weekly for a time of intentional prayer. Another option would be to gather at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings in the Narthex Lounge for a time of prayer before worship. We all know that we can pray at home, but corporate prayer is powerful! Please join us as a congregation in offering some powerful prayer to Our Lord. God is gracious and merciful and He hears our prayers!

Thank you from Music and Worship Committee





Pastoral Acts

Jim Hannewald

Committal Service

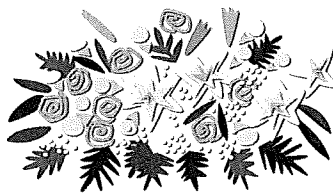
August 19, 2023



Sarah Kuhn **August 12, 2023**

(friend of Greg & Linda Hughes & Lana Conry)

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



Altar Flowers

Jesus our Risen Savior.

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.

September 24, 2023

October 15, 2023

October 29, 2023

November 19, 2023

November 26, 2023

FELC Music Ensemble

Do you enjoy singing in an ensemble? Would you enjoy singing in a vocal group or a choral setting? Would you like to participate in, and enhance the church's music ministry? We would like to know, because we would like to build a group to do these things! We would like to gauge the congregations interest in this endeavor in the weeks ahead. If you would be interested in participating in an ensemble such as this, please let Scott know!



Service Ministry



Malawi Orphan Care Project is very thankful for the 25 volunteers who helped with the "concessions" on Saturday, August 26 that will benefit the feeding program for our precious orphans. It is great to work in fellowship for this wonderful cause. \$2,000 was raised by the donations our guests gave us.

SENIOR BOXES will be distributed on Tues. September 26, 11:30 to 1:30 in the East parking lot. This program has grown each month that we serve. We are now 18 months into this missional program to serve our community! God is good all the time!



Our August Free Produce distribution was a huge success, as food insecurity continues to grow! We served 8000# of produce to 253 guests. Of that number 54 were new families. We can all be grateful and proud of our ability to continue this missional outreach! Thank you to all those 34 volunteers who helped on that day. Wonderful! OUR NEXT PRODUCE DATE WILL BE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12.

Please pass the word!



September 2023 Volunteers

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

ACOLYTES

September 3: TBD
September 10: TBD
September 27: TBD
September 24: TBD

ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

ASSISTING MINISTER

Alicia Schulz

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Evangelism Committee

GREETER

Erna Clark

COMMUNION PREPARERS

September 3: Ted & Karen Ellis

COMMUNION SERVERS

September 3:
Wine West: Chris Mayglothling
Wine East: Lana Conry
Intinction: Pat Smith

LAY READERS

September 3: Todd Heichel
September 10: Amy Skropits
September 27: Sandie Volz
September 24: Tricia Volz

PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz
Mary Schwartz
Lowell Weeks
Jan Fisher

PEW PAD GLEANERS

September 3: Brenda Eyerly
September 10: Lana Conry
September 27: Linda Hughes
September 24: Gary Andrews

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

September 3: NONE
September 10: Kay Williams
September 27: Becky Pittman
September 24: Ashley Berry

SLIDES

September 3: Isaac McFadden
September 10: Allison Weeks
September 27: Teri Brenkus
September 24: Cindy Russell

LIVESTREAM

September 3: Todd Heichel
September 10: Suzanne Rippel
September 27: Suzanne Rippel
September 24: Todd Heichel

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

September 3: Ed Farner
September 10: Ed Farner
September 17: Ed Farner
September 24: Ed Farner

USHERS NAVE

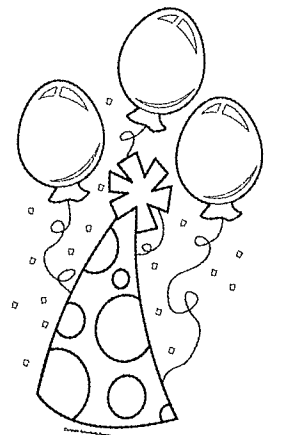
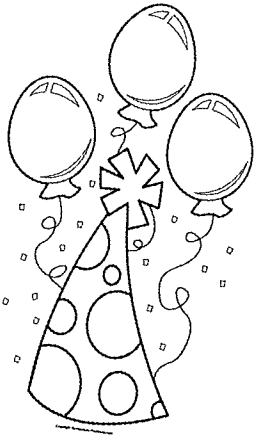
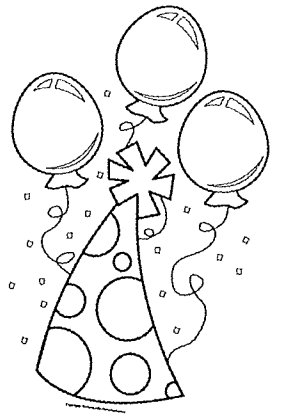
Mary Schwartz & Tammy Hillman
Jodi Mumaw & Ed Corley

FUNERAL MEALS:

Anita Nehrkorn & Erna Clark
Alicia Schulz & Sandie Volz

September Birthdays:

Lane, Gary	2274 Saratoga Ct Mansfield OH 44904	September 1
Volz, Tricia	1550 Graham Rd Mansfield OH 44903-7764	September 5
Krueger, Rev. Delmar O	612 B S. Trimble Mansfield OH 44906	September 5
Crall, Tyler	222 Marlow Rd Mansfield OH 44906	September 9
Kershaw, Andy	1972 Chelsea Dr Mansfield OH 44904	September 12
Anderson, Jane	1110 Sheirer Rd Mansfield OH 44903-8644	September 15
Little, Amy	13 Liberty St Norwalk OH 44857-1988	September 16
Cordrey, Charles	7459 Renie Rd Bellville OH 44813	September 20
Garn, Lily	85 Harding Heights Blvd Mansfield OH 44906	September 22
Keener, April	7904 County Road 26 West Mansfield OH 43358	September 23
Heichel, Patricia	4242 St Rte 42 S Lexington OH 44904	September 25
Skropits, Hayden	3399 Oakstone Dr Ontario OH 44903	September 27
Rader, Sandra	408 Chapman Ln Lexington, OH 44904	September 28
Hunt, Joy	422 Chapman Way Lexington OH 44904	September 29



Prayer Requests

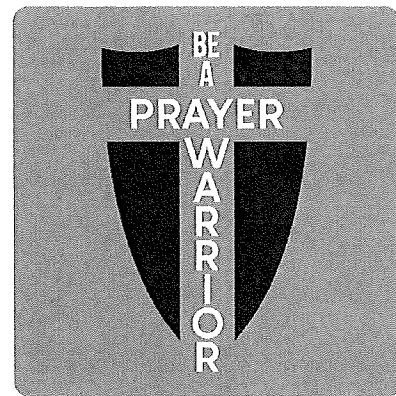
To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the pastor or call Angie Mullins (419.522.0662) in the church office to be added to the list. Please call again when it is appropriate to have that prayer request deleted.

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!



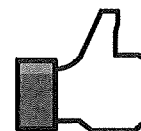
A great and user friendly way to receive DAILY DEVOTIONS written and supplied by NALC is to text: ReadingTheWord to 24251. They will respond back with a link and devotions will come to your phone every morning. They can be read and/or audible.

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

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.



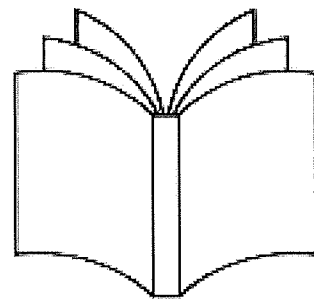
Please refer to **YouTube** to view past sermons.

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 Angie Mullins 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 are assembled at 8:30 A.M. 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

**AUGUST 2023 Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, August 22, 2023
Assembled and mailed: TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023**

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org or leave in the mail slot marked Visitor Editor. You may also contact the church office at (419) 522-0662

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Interim Pastor Lisa Peterson

pastor@felc-mansfield.org

Scott Berry

sberry@felc-mansfield.org

Becky Pittman

bpittman@felc-mansfield.org

Angela Murphy

cds@felc-mansfield.org

Nicole Goddard

ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org

Faith Williams

parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org

Andy Kershaw

propman@felc-mansfield.org

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

Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.

During this interim time if you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office: 419.522.0662

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES:

President: Cynthia Russell
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
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Evangelism: Alicia Schulz
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Personnel: Teri Brenkus
Personnel@felc-mansfield.org

Worship & Music: Jan Fisher
musicworship@felc-mansfield.org

Property: Mike Anderson
property@felc-mansfield.org

Social Ministry: Gary Lane
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Youth: Ted Ellis
youth@felc-mansfield.org

Stewardship: Sandie Volz
stewardship@felc-mansfield.org

Christian Education: James Murphy
Christianed@felc-mansfield.org

(Revised July 2023)
Non-Profit Org.