

THE VISITOR



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

Volume 66

JANUARY 2024

Number 1

"Pointing People to Jesus Through Intentional Relationships"

THE VISITOR is published monthly by First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1698. Church office hours: 8:30-2:30 Monday-Friday. Church phone: 419/522-0662. FAX: 419/522-0075.

Website: www.felc-mansfield.org, Early Learning Center phone: 419/522-7500.

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, *Cindy Russell*

Vice President, *Chad McFadden*

Secretary, *Christopher Kaschube*

Early Learning Center, *Misty Grove*

Christian Education, *James Murphy*

Worship, *Jan Fisher*

Evangelism, *Alicia Schulz*

Finance, *Lu Blankenship*

Global Mission, *Chris Cichanowicz*

Personnel, *Teri Brenkus*

Property, *Mike Anderson*

Social Ministry, *Gary Lane*

Stewardship, *Sandra Volz*

Youth Ministry, *Ted Ellis*

Congregational Life

Sunday School Superintendent

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



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



QR CODE FOR
TITHES AND OFFERING

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

January, 2024

*"Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."
- Philippians 4:5,6*

The New Year is upon us. 2024. And in this new year, we get an extra day: Leap Year Day, February 29. (It happens on a Thursday.) Will having 366 days to get our "to-do-list" done have any impact on us? I wonder. It's a tradition for many to make "New Year's Resolutions" and perhaps you do. Are they the same resolutions you made last year? Or are they different?

As a help in framing my own New Year's Resolutions, I've used the "Want to have – want to do – want to be" outline. It's not necessarily a comprehensive outline, but it does make goal-setting a bit more focused for me. I'd like to have a better organization to my paperwork (translate: organize the clutter in my office at home)! "To Do" goals should be specific: "Exercise more" should really be, "Begin walking one-quarter mile a day, and then increase." "To Be" can be the toughest: "Be more patient" could better be written, "Lift others up in love whenever I am tempted to be impatient."

And so, it seems helpful to take St. Paul's words to heart. Turn the New Year's Resolutions over to Him Who is able to help. Let God know what is in your heart, on your mind. Ask The Lord's guidance as you think about plans, and rely on it. Thank Him for all He has done for you. Thank Him for sending Jesus to conquer our sin, take away the sting of death, and banish the devil from our lives. Thanks be to God for His immeasurable gift!

Thank you, people of First English, for letting me serve you!

Peace and joy be yours,

Pastor Lisa +

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES & REPORTS

Due to the holiday season, Council did not meet in the month of December!

There is a congregational meeting to vote on the 2024 Budget, following the morning service on January 21, 2024! Please make plans to attend!

Finance Committee

SOME INFO ABOUT THE BUDGET.....

Last year, when the **2023 Budget** was drawn up, the rules of the General Endowment Fund allowed us a withdrawal of \$103,940. To meet the budget, we voted to withdraw an additional \$100,000 if needed. This has been the case for the last several years, and we have always needed the additional withdrawal.

At the end of November, our 2023 expenses totaled \$932,526, which is more than budget by \$138,285, which is mostly due to major projects (windows, air conditioning, exterior painting, etc.)

2023 Total Income, at the end of November, was \$595,920 which is less than budget by \$31,521. This includes the Endowment withdrawals and grants acquired by the ELC.

Looking at the **2024 Budget** recommended by Finance and the Council, Expenses total \$881,738. This includes the budgets submitted by all committees and a 3% increase in salaries for staff. Income is estimated at \$613,087. The Endowment withdrawal allowed by the rules is \$171,500, which brings the income to \$784,587. A small carry-over and a withdrawal from the Gamber Trust Fund for Sunday School will bring total income to \$808,087. This leaves a shortfall of \$73,651. Finance and Council have recommended allowing an additional withdrawal from the General Endowment Fund of \$100,000 if needed.

With regard to Benevolence, at the end of each quarter, we always give 10% of our income to NALC; NALC Seminary; NCO Mission District; NALC Disaster Relief; Missionaries (Krafts & Sorges); Love, Inc.; Richland Pregnancy Services and MOCP Feeding Program.

As always, please let me know of any questions or concerns regarding the church finances. I am happy to hear from you.

Blessings,
Lu (419-564-1469)

Worship and Music Committee

A very big thank you to all who shared their gifts and talents with the congregation during this wonderful Advent season! God was certainly glorified at every worship service and there were too many to mention sharing their gifts to God's glory! We have the best staff and the best leadership! Again, thank you, First English members and friends, for glorifying God at each and every worship service as well as every other event that we sponsor!

Jan Fisher, Worship and Music Chairperson

Social Ministry



The Bare Necessities Room wants to thank everyone who donated this year! We have been so fortunate to be able to help so many people. We've also been blessed to hand out food baskets to those in need who have come to our door during our open business hours!

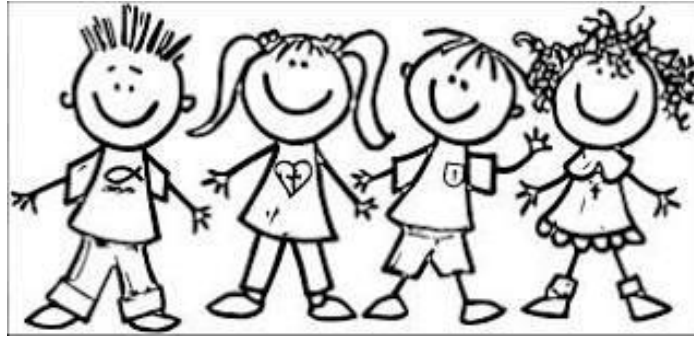


Youth

July 1-4, 2024 NALC Continental Youth Gathering, St. John's Lutheran Church, Boerne, TX (near San Antonio). We Belong: "I know my own and my own know me." Registration now open. See updates and information at <https://thenalc.org/cyg>. This four day gathering provides opportunities for NALC youth to grow in faith and relationship with others as the body of Christ. Youth will worship together, study God's Word, participate in large and small group sessions, reach out to the community through mission events, and engage in fellowship and fun!



WE BELONG
"I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME"



ELC

Little People BIG News January

Flashback into December



Thank you to all who joined us for our Christmas Program! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We would like to thank Becky Pittman for all of her hard work put into it. The children made a lot of Christmas crafts this month and had fun with their classroom parties. We hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas!

A Peek into January



We would like to welcome everyone back from Christmas vacation! Our children will jump right back into learning! We are looking forward to a great year! We are hosting our first ever Family Game Night on Thursday, January 11th from 5:00-6:30. We will be closed on January 15th for Martin Luther King Day. As always, thank you for all of your support!



I would like to thank each one of you for your continued support and prayers for Kenzie and myself. I know that God has control and is showing His love through each of you. We are blessed by the response of the congregation and we welcome continued prayers for healing.

Michelle Couch

Dear friends at FELC,

Thank you so very much for all your kindness, cards, and gifts through the Christmas season. You lifted my spirits, which I needed very much after my brief bout with shingles. You have been a blessing to me and Dan.

Accept our best wishes for your joy, health, and fulfillment in the New Year.

In Christian love,

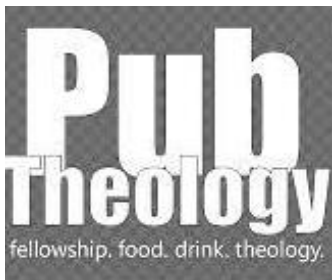
Pastor Lisa+ and Dan

Dear musicians, techs, Altar Guild, security, custodians, and all who helped with arrangements for the Christmas Eve Worship:

Please know how very much your efforts are recognized and appreciated. Without you, the worship experience would have been less than it was. Sometimes people notice the folks “up front” but don’t realize the support team and those preparing, behind the scene. You all deserve a big “THANK YOU” for your dedication and hard work. We who are “up front” know we can’t do what we do to the glory of God without you and your gifts. FELC is blessed to have you.

Thanks be to God for each of you!

Pastor Lisa+



PUB THEOLOGY

There will be no Pub Theology this month (January). We look forward to getting together again in February at the Pizza Hut on Lexington-Springmill Rd!

Men's **Bible Study**



Men's Bible Study

ALL men are invited to a men's Bible Study starting soon: Saturday, January 27th at 9:00AM.

We will plan to meet in the Emmaus Room, and the convener will be using the Lutheran Study Bible as a basis for

study. Please plan to bring your own Bible and this will allow us to compare translations.

We will plan to meet every Saturday.

Please sign up in the Narthex.

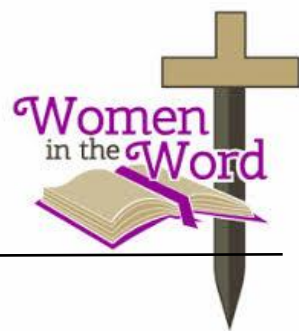
I look forward to joining you in this study.

Dan Peterson

Women's Bible Study

We will meet for Bible Study on Monday, January 8, 2024. Gather in the Emmaus Room at 1:00 PM to continue the study in the book "Seamless".

All women are welcome, it's easy to step in at any time. Barbara Justice is leading the study and Linda Hughes will be hostess.



Service Ministry



The Senior Box distribution grows every month which just tells us that in these inflationary times the need is great! On December 19 (one week earlier than usual because of Christmas) we served 103 guests and had 29 new applications! The new applications are just amazing since we have been offering Senior Boxes for well over one year now! We are blessed to be able to offer this service to our community, and we seem to be well known in our community for this mission. This is all provided by the Greater Cleveland Food

Bank at no cost to FELC. Again we say how grateful we can all be for the dedicated volunteers who so willingly support this project! It is better to give than to receive.

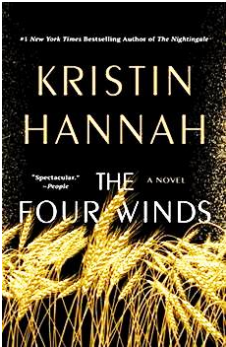
Jan Fisher and Angie Murphy, coordinators

Gary Lane, Service Ministry chairperson



Women's Book Club

This month the book club will be reading:
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah



The Four Winds is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

Texas, 1921. A time of abundance. The Great War is over, the bounty of the land is plentiful, and America is on the brink of a new and optimistic era. But for Elsa Wolcott, deemed too old to marry in a time when marriage is a woman's only option, the future seems bleak. Until the night she meets Rafe Martinelli and decides to change the direction of her life. With her reputation in ruin, there is only one respectable choice: marriage to a man she barely knows.

By 1934, the world has changed; millions are out of work and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as crops fail and water dries up and the earth cracks open. Dust storms roll relentlessly across the plains. Everything on the Martinelli farm is dying, including Elsa's tenuous marriage; each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive.

In this uncertain and perilous time, Elsa—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west, to California, in search of a better life for her family.

****We will meet on January 21, 2024 at 2:00 PM in the Emmaus Room. Open to everyone.**

Luther Fellowship

A great group of us enjoyed a light lunch following worship on Sunday, December 19 followed by an enjoyable trip up Park Ave West to the Renaissance to enjoy the Mansfield Youth Symphony concert. What a wonderful concert presented by so many High School musicians from all across our Richland County area!

Our plans for January are incomplete.

Golden Circle





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 January we will offer communion at Wedgewood Estates and Arbors at Mifflin on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. 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!

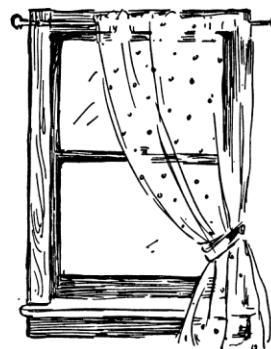
As a member of this FELC congregation we want to ask you to be VERY INTENTIONAL in your prayers concerning covering our Call Committee with God's grace, love, and provision as they work toward the call of our future pastor. Further, seek the Holy Spirit's guiding as He puts his hands on the person who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

Becky's Views.....



Sounds of the Season

So many of you shared your musical gifts and talents throughout the season of Advent and during the Christmas Eve worship service. THANK YOU!!

- 20 youth participated in the Children's Christmas program on December 10th.
- 41 people went Christmas caroling to 6 homebound FELC members.
- 10 ladies participated in the hand bell choir on 2 different occasions.
- The worship team consists of 5 "year round" volunteers.
(Scott and I are so appreciative of their commitment!)
We are excited to have Damian Boyd now joining us on his trombone.
- 5 individuals (Lydia McFadden, Brianna McFadden, Kayla McFadden, Matt Wentz and Jason Radel) provided special music on Christmas Eve night and Chris Kaschube blessed us with his trumpet playing.

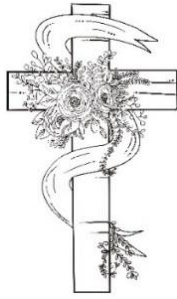


God has blessed us richly with a talented and dedicated musical family!!



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



Pastoral Acts

NONE



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

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 Angie Mullins at the Church Office (419-522-0662) to reserve one of the dates listed below or to check the availability of other upcoming dates. *OR* you can sign up to sponsor flowers by filling out the Altar flower Sign Up Form on the table in the Narthex. Flowers are \$40.

January 7, 2024

January 14, 2024

January 21, 2024

January 28, 2024

February 4, 2024

February 11, 2024

January 2024 Volunteers

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

ACOLYTES

January	7:	TBD
January	14:	TBD
January	21:	TBD
January	28:	TBD

ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

ASSISTING MINISTER

Chris Kaschube

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Property Committee

GREETER

Larry Lantz

COMMUNION PREPARERS

January	7:	Mike & Jane Anderson
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COMMUNION SERVERS

January	7:	
Wine West:		Dan Peterson
Wine East:		Lu Blankenship
Intinction :		Linda Hughes

LAY READERS

January	7:	TBD
January	14:	TBD
January	21:	TBD
January	28:	TBD

PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz
Mary Schwartz
Lowell Weeks
Jan Fisher

ATTENDANCE SHEETS

January	7:	Brenda Eyerly
January	14:	Lana Conry
January	21:	Chris Mayglothling
January	28:	Stacey Crall

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

January	7:	No Breakfast: Quake
January	14:	Allison Weeks
January	21:	Angie Murphy
January	28:	Amy Skropits

SLIDES

January	7:	Cindy Russell
January	14:	Isaac McFadden
January	21:	Teri Brenkus
January	28:	Allison Weeks

LIVESTREAM

January	7:	Suzanne Rippel
January	14:	Todd Heichel
January	21:	Todd Heichel
January	28:	Tom Sarbach

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

January	7:	Angie Murphy
January	14:	Lu Blankenship
January	21:	Tricia Volz
January	28:	Tyler Crall

USHERS NAVE

Larry & Becky Faith
Gregg & Sarah Thatcher
Alternate: Misty Grove

FUNERAL MEALS:

Karen Ellis, Barb Cook,
Lu Blankenship, and Ila Kershaw



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January Birthdays:



Faith Kaschube	186 Essex Rd. Lexington, OH 44904	January 3
Jacob Caseman	2355 Mount Zion Rd. Mansfield, OH 44903	January 4
Jan Fisher	1171 Crestwood Dr. Mansfield, OH 44905	January 4
Mary Schwartz	1844 Longview Ave. Ontario, OH 44906	January 13
Jennifer Shade	12 W Crest Shelby, OH 44875	January 16
Gail Elder	1660 S Frederica Ave. Clearwater, FL 33756	January 16
Marilyn Kochheiser	698 Hollywood Ln. Mansfield, OH 44907	January 17
Callie Kaschube	186 Essex Rd. Lexington, OH 44904	January 25
Chris Cichanowicz	345 Avalon Dr. Mansfield, OH 44906	January 29



Prayer Requests

To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the 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



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

February 2024 Visitor Newsletter Deadline:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024.

Assembled and mailed: MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024.

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

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Becky Pittman

bpittman@felc-mansfield.org

Angela Murphy

cds@felc-mansfield.org

Nicole Goddard

ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org

Angie Mullins

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**

<p>Volunteer Scheduling Contacts</p> <p>The monthly volunteers are published in the Visitor and posted on bulletin boards.</p>	<p>Funeral Meals Sandie Volz 419-688-1787</p>
<p>Acolytes Heather McFadden 419.295.6467</p>	<p>Attendance Sheets</p>
<p>Altar Workers and Safety Team Scott and Jodi Mumaw Scott -419.564.2358 Jodi -419.564.2391</p>	<p>Ushers and Safety Team Charles and Myra Cordrey Charles – 419.632.4477 Myra -419.632.4121</p>
<p>Greeters Alicia Schulz (419) 564-2819</p>	<p>Power Point, Sound Board, Sunday School Breakfast, Children's Church, Livestream Becky Pittman 419.989.8585</p>
<p>Assistant Ministers & Lay Readers Cindy Russell (419) 544-0878</p>	<p>Communion Lana Conry 419.512.9913</p>

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES:

President: Cynthia Russell
president@felc-mansfield.org

Personnel: Teri Brenkus
Personnel@felc-mansfield.org

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

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

Secretary: Chris Kaschube
secretary@felc-mansfield.org

Property: Mike Anderson
property@felc-mansfield.org

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

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

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

Youth: Ted Ellis
youth@felc-mansfield.org

Finance: Lu Blankenship
finance@felc-mansfield.org

Stewardship: Sandie Volz
stewardship@felc-mansfield.org

Evangelism: Alicia Schulz
evangelism@felc-mansfield.org

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

(Revised July 2023)
Non-Profit Org.

The new year begins, let us pray,
It will be a year with a new peace,
New happiness, & the abundance of friends,
God bless you through out the new year

happy
New Year

