

THE VISITOR

**The First English Lutheran Church**

*53 Park Avenue West (at Mulberry Street)*

*Mansfield, Ohio*

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“Pointing People to Jesus Through **Intentional Relationships”**

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Website: [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org), Early Learning Center phone: 419/522-7500.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior 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, Bookkeeper Jan Fisher, The Visitor Editor

Angie Cockrell, Parish Secretary/Printer

Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance

Andy Kershaw, Property Manager

Michelle Couch, Early Learning Center Secretary

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 *Lowell Weeks* Personnel *Todd Heichel*

Vice President *Dan Obrynba*  Property *Mike Anderson*

Secretary *Alicia Schulz Keultjes*  Social Ministry *Gary Lane*

Early Learning Center *Tom Sarbach* Stewardship *Mary Schwartz*

Christian Education *open*

Worship *Cindy Russell*

Congregational Life *open* Youth Ministry *Ted Ellis*

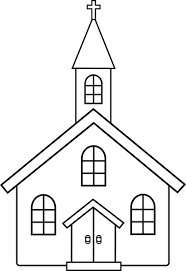
Evangelism *Jan Fisher*

SCS Superintendent *Amy Skropits*

Finance *Lu Blankenship*

Women of FELC *Jan Fisher*

Global Mission *Chris Cichanowicz*

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**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**

**Now thank we all our God, With hearts and hands and voices,**

**Who wondrous things has done, In Whom His world rejoices;**

**Who from our mothers’ arms, Has blessed us on our way**

**With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.**

*Martin Rinkhart* *1586-1649*

**Dear Friends In Christ :**

No doubt, ALL of us are by now feeling a little ***“Covid-Weary.”*** We are tired of masks, shutdowns, hand sanitizer and social-distancing. In this month in which our hearts naturally turn to Thanksgiving, it would be so easy to focus on what we have lost because of this terrible disease. But, then as I reflect more deeply, I realize that so many of the things that I miss … Are ALL Blessings that in the past I have just taken for granted. We are already making great progress against this virus. And I am totally confident that in the next few months, we will beat this virus and we will come out on the other side to a “Post-Covid World” that will be a lot smarter and a lot wiser.

For me, part of being smarter and wiser, needs to be a deeper appreciation, and a greater Thankfulness for God’s Daily Blessings that I have just taken for granted. They are things like: the joy of a strong embrace from a friend; a warm handshake with a stranger; breathing freely without a mask; church potlucks and family reunions; the roar and enthusiasm of a packed crowd at a football or baseball game; and finally visiting family and friends from whom we have been self-isolating. In many ways, I have so many MORE things to give Thanks to God for this Thanksgiving 2020, simply because --- I now see them for the wonderful Blessings that they are.

With the month of November, we see again the turning of the seasons, the gorgeous fall colors, and the gathering-in of the harvest. As Christians, our hearts naturally turn in thankfulness and praise to GOD our Creator and Redeemer. I am always reminded of these beautiful words of promise from GOD’s Word:

Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shadow due to change. James 1:17

Truly, GOD is the giver of every good and perfect gift. The seasons of our lives may be filled with many changes, but His goodness and His steadfast love for us never change. For every breath, for every heartbeat, for the opportunity of each new day to love and to serve Him, we give GOD our praise and thanksgiving.

Part of who we are as Christians - is that GOD gives to us a Spirit of Joy and Gratitude. We express this in our daily prayers, in our songs of praise & worship, in our weekly tithes & offerings, and in the way we receive one another in all love & mercy.

I believe that an important way that GOD calls us to live in this “Spirit of Thanksgiving” is for us to express our appreciation for one another. I would invite and challenge you in this Season of Thanksgiving to honor GOD by honoring one another; to express your thankfulness to GOD by intentionally appreciating one another. Today, look for something to affirm in those whom GOD has placed in your life: the store clerk, your spouse, your children, a coworker. Speak to them your word of appreciation & encouragement. Intentionally cultivate this habit of always looking for that opportunity to encourage others while giving thanks to God. Let us bless GOD by blessing one another.

***Always Giving THANKS to GOD for YOU!***

**In Christ’s Love,**

**Pastor Paul**

What Kind of Giving Is Worship?

***By Pastor Rick Warren***

***”Honor the LORD by giving him the first part of all your income”***

**(Proverbs 3:9 TLB).**

When I was a little kid I used to buy or make all these little cheesy gifts for my parents. When I look back, the gifts were really lame. But every time I gave my parents a present, they were overjoyed. It wasn’t like they needed anything from me, because they didn’t. They just enjoyed the fact that I thought of them.

One time when I was 8 years old, I went into a thrift store and bought my mother a dress for 25 cents. I thought it was a really cool dress. It was about a size four, and my mom was a size 12. The clerk said, “Ricky, your mom couldn’t get her big toe in that dress.” I was so offended and went home crying. When I gave the dress to my mom, she was so thrilled. After she died, I found that dress in one of her dressers. She’d kept it all those years.

There’s nothing you can give God that he needs. But when you give him an offering, you’re saying, “God, I love you. I’m thinking of you. I want you first in my life.”

The Bible says, *“Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income”*(Proverbs 3:9 TLB). That’s called tithing. Tithing actually means 10 percent, and it’s the first part of your income.

Tithing doesn’t just honor God. It is also an act of worship. But the Bible says that not every kind of giving is an act of worship. So what kind of giving is worship?

*“On every Lord’s Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn”*(1 Corinthians 16:2 TLB).

**Worship giving is undesignated.** That means you don’t control it, you don’t direct it, you don’t tell God what to do with it.

**Worship giving is given when and where you worship.**You give the first part of your money on the first day of the week and say, “God, you’re first in my life.”

**Worship giving is planned.**You don’t just give spontaneously. You think it through.

**Worship giving is proportional.**If you didn’t earn anything this week, you don’t give anything. If you earn a little, you give a little. If you earn a lot, you give a lot.

God wants your heart more than anything else. He doesn’t want your money; he wants what it represents. The most sensitive nerve in the body is the one that goes from the heart to the wallet.

**Talk About It**

* How does your current attitude compare to the kind of attitude you think God wants you to have when you give?
* What do you find most challenging about viewing giving as an act of worship?
* What’s your response to Pastor Rick’s statement that “the most sensitive nerve in the body is the one that goes from the heart to the wallet”?

**King David’s Prayer to God for the Building of the Temple**

**14**“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand. … … **16**Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building You a temple for Your Holy Name comes from Your hand, and all of it belongs to You. **17**I know, my God, that You test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly Your people who are here have given to You. … ” 1 Chronicles 29:14-19 (NIV)

***Everything Belongs To God.***

A Personal Story by Keila Ochoa

I was 18 years old when I got my first full time job, and I learned an important lesson about the discipline of saving money. I worked and saved until I had enough money for a year of school. Then my mom had emergency surgery, and I realized I had the money in the bank to pay for her operation.

My love for my mother suddenly took precedence over my plans for the future. These words in the book ***Passion and Purity*** by Elisabeth Elliot took on new meaning:

“If we hold tightly to anything given to us, unwilling to let it go when the time comes to let it go or unwilling to allow it to be used as the Giver means it to be used, we stunt the growth of the soul. It is easy to make a mistake here, ‘If God gave it to me,’ we say, ‘it's mine. I can do what I want with it.’ No. The truth is that it is ours to thank Him for and ours to offer back to Him, . . . ours to let go of.”

I realized that the job I had received and the discipline of saving were gifts from God! I could give generously to my family because I was sure God was capable of seeing me through school another way, and He did.

Today, how might God want us to apply David's prayer from 1 Chronicles 29:14, “Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us”? (NLT).

***Lord, we know there is nothing that we have that we obtained on our own.***

***It’s all Yours. Help us to have open hands for You***

***to give and take as You please.***

***Increase our faith.***

**Everything Belongs to God.**

GOD’S COMMANDS ARE NECESSARY

By Martin Luther

*Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and*

*Gomorrah – from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus, He overthrew*

*those cities and the entire plain, including all those living*

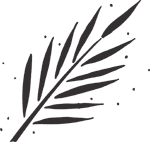
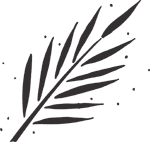
*in the cities – and also the vegetation of the land.*

*Genesis 19:24-25*

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah shows God’s fierce anger being poured out on sinful people. Reflecting and meditating on this story is an unsettling experience. That’s why I am deeply moved whenever I read or speak about it. Even though I am often furious at wicked people who refuse to change their ways, the terrible suffering and agony that took place at Sodom upsets me. I also feel the mental anguish that Abraham suffered when he interceded with God. Though the wicked people of Sodom refused to change, Abraham sincerely hoped that disaster wouldn’t fall on them.

Today, some people want to de-emphasize God’s commands. They think that people should be treated only with love and tolerance and shouldn’t be frightened by examples of God’s anger. Paul says quite the opposite. In the letter to the Corinthians, he tells many stories about God’s anger against sinners. Then he states, “Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did” (I Cor. 10:6).

Arrogant and stubborn people despise the Word of God and laugh at well-intentioned words of caution. They feel so good about themselves that whenever anyone tells them about the extent of God’s mercy and grace, it only leaves them worse off than they were before. This is what happens when people try to get rid of God’s commands. We must guard against this false teaching. It’s not enough for these people to bring destruction on themselves. They intend to drag us down with them. Like the people of Sodom, they don’t realize that their sins will soon be punished. From: **“Faith Alone”** - Edited by James C. Galvin



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday September 15, 2020

PRESENT: Mike Anderson; Lu Blankenship; Chris Cichanowicz; Ted Ellis; Jan Fisher; Gary Lane; Dan Obrynba; Cindy Russell; Tom Sarbach; Mary Schwartz; Pastor Paul Larson. EXCUSED: Todd Heichel, Lowell Weeks, Alicia Schulz

Council vice-president Dan Obrynba called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

***Reports*:**

**Executive:** Lowell noted that he has been trying for some years to put together a financial audit team. Without success thus far but hoping to get one done in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, Finance is working on a process review. – Spoke to Nicole and Angie C about whether they need to ask Pastor Paul for printed information that he may have in his home office that was not available in the church office. Neither of them thought this was the case.

**Secretary:** Motion (Jan/Tom) to approve the August 11, 2020, council meeting minutes as previously distributed via email. **Motion carried**.

**Senior Pastor:**  September 13 was confirmation Sunday for Callie Kaschube, Isaac McFadden, Sarah Thatcher and Brady Zehe. - Together with Becky Pittman and the Youth Committee, a comprehensive Youth Activities & Confirmation Schedule for this 2020-2021 School Year has now been put together. The plan that we have in place will allow us to hold our Confirmation Classes either in person or remotely, whatever the changing guidelines allow.  – Mary and her Stewardship Task Force have planned a four week stewardship emphasis following the NALC theme “Stewards of God’s Influence” beginning on October 11. Since our last Council Meeting in August, we have experienced the sad loss of 4 of our members: Sherry Winbigler  (August 31); Eva Pahl  (September 7); Beverly Pickett (September 9); Wes Volz (September 12). We thank God for the faithful witness of their lives, and pray for God’s healing love and mercy to bring His Peace and Promise to those who grieve.  - Starting Rally Day Sunday, September 13, 2020, I am offering a new Adult Sunday School course, called, **“The Big Ten!”**   **This**  **NEW ADULT Sunday School Class** will also serve as our  **New Members’ Class**. This 10-week class will be the Lutheran Catechism up-close and personal like you probably have never had it before!  This is your chance to come and learn with other seeking adults as we grow in our Christian Faith.  This is your chance to learn afresh and anew the answer to that time-old Question: ***“What Does This Mean?”***

**Property** (Mike) Brian Schmidt and two of his associates met with the Committee us to explain their proposal for a new security system.  The system was broken into four phases  with a total cost of $32,360. The committee voted that all Four Phases would be needed sooner rather than later after consulting with Angie Murphy, who was at the meeting. It was agreed to send to Finance Committee for approval in part or whole. - Angie and Andy had three quotes on the fence to surround the new playground for CDS.   The lowest was about $10,800 from Longs Fence of Ashland. The committee voted on and passed the expenditure and is sending it to the Finance Committee to find the source for funding the project. - The committee discussed options for fixing the ailing elevator. The committee voted to do a basic upgrade/new panel as proposed by Davis Newcomer Elevators at a projected price of $70,000.  This will be sent to the Finance Committee to find funding.  There is also a crack in the floor just outside the elevator on the third floor. A structural engineer is being asked to check this to make sure there isn’t a structural issue. - Angie and Andy are getting quotes for asphalting the new playground.

**Finance:** (Lu) Nicole leaves printed financial reports in your mailboxes every month. Please let her or Lu know if you do not want a printed set. – Longs Fence has quoted about $10,800 for the playground fence. Sources of financing are the ELC Playground Fund, Flippin Building purchase and demo balance, ELC Endowment draw, Memorial Fund. Longs is asking for a sizeable down payment. The project is expected to take about one week. Action on this item awaits finding out if Longs will waive or lower the down payment and getting a completed quote. – The Committee considered financing for the 4-phase security system proposed by Schmidt Security Pro. Phase I “Intrusion System Upgrade” replaces the system we have now and eliminates the need for one phone line ($5,058); Phase 2 “DMP Networked Door Access Control” involves 7 door keypads and door access control modules, installation, programming, user training, etc. ($7,467). Finance Committee recommends allowing the Property Committee to exceed its budget by $13,000 to complete these 2 phases this year. Discussion: these two phases ony upgrade what we already have. The third phase ($10,670) is required to allow staff to communicate (voice/video) at the doors. Motion (Gary/Chris C) to allow Property to exceed its budget by $23,195 to complete the three phases. **Motion carried**. – Upon consideration of the elevator repair needs, Finance learned of another vendor who regularly works on elevators at the Brittany. All-Pro Elevator will be invited to quote the repair.

**ELC:**  (Tom) Currently,there are 38 children enrolled, with a staff of 15 employees.  Kudos again to Angie and staff for a smooth transition into the school year. - We are looking for volunteers to participate in the trunk or treat event scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 21 @ 5PM.

**EVANGELISM:** (Jan) Over the past few weeks we have had some consistent visitors to worship. I have managed to get their addresses and send out a little “Psalm” card greeting and welcoming them. It is difficult with masks to actually get names at times. - Produce Distribution was September 8. The produce was all back to bulk, much like it always used to be. My faithful volunteers did a great job of boxing up 6700# of produce.. 204 households adding up to 523 people including 114 children will be enjoying fresh produce this week, at no charge to them, and no charge to FELC. Blessed to be a blessing!

**WORSHIP:** (Cindy) Becky, Scott, Ed, Tom and Todd continue to work on updates for our sound system.  **Attendance for August:**  2nd – 64; 9th – 69; 16th – 80.; Still working on getting numbers for 23rd and 30th. **Facebook views:** 2nd- 167; 9th – 170; 16th – 210; 23rd - 305

30th - unavailable

**Stewardship**: (Mary) Stewards of God's Influence schedule for mailings is: from the Prayer Chair Chris Cichanowicz asking the congregation to pray for the success of our campaign, September 20; from Lowell Weeks, Congregational President, October 12; from Pastor Larson, letter includes pledge cards, a giving chart and a stamped return envelope with the church address, October 26 . As stated in Pastor Paul's report he will be preaching on stewardship the 3 Sundays before Commitment Sunday and on Commitment Sunday, November 1.

**Global Missions**: (Chris)

**Krafts**   1) The 4 Krafts are still busy every day in the construction area. The family helped Nick with the roofing of one apartment and will do the classroom next week. 2) They are somewhat worried about their son Moi after they saw the photos he sent of the skyline fires close to where he lives. He told them he may have to evacuate.3) In Bolivia they are starting the distribution of the food baskets. 4) KjirstenThingelstad has finally returned home to the US after being confined in Peru nearly 8 extra months due to the Covid crisis.

**Malawi**: 1) I have 6 pictures that I'll put in the Narthex - three of the new Skills Center which has a new paint job provided by the Board of KM and three of the truck purchased last year. Both look great!  2) $2500 has been donated to start a soap business in Malawi. 3) The feeding program is back to 5 days a week!

**The "Far Side**"  1)  Wanted to quote some of the information sent by Brian and Barb. "During the pandemic, our own hearts have been strengthened by doing comprehension test reading of the translated draft of Revelation with an Islander ... As we read, we felt such comfort knowing that God loves HIS OWN, loves us so passionately! ... In the midst of the uncertainties of this pandemic we belong to the One who sets the times and limits."  2) They are now in Nashville, Tennessee with Barb's mom after spending a month with Brian's mother.  3) A few of their prayer requests include the following: - Pray for clarity about the timing of their return to the Far Side. - Ask God to watch over Brian's mom as she prepares for a heart valve transplant - hopefully this fall. - Pray that the Islander who agreed to significantly revise/rewrite the first chapters finds words that communicate clearly and gets the work done in a timely manner.

Pray for the safety and health for our missionaries and all people!

**WELC**: (Jan) We are not yet meeting for group gathering, but we have just come up with a plan to engage with our “non-digital” members. Six of us have taken the names of our “non-digitals” and we will be doing outdoors visits, taking them each a beautiful fall potted mum. We plan to co-ordinate the visits with Pastor Paul so that these folks can have a chance to see their pastor. We know that many are still fearful of any contact outside of family. We will all be careful, as our concerns are their extreme loneliness after all these months.

**Interim Pastor Team** (Jan) Team Members: Angie Murphy, Rob Skropits, Elizabeth Volz, Christopher Kaschube, Cindy Russell, Becky Pittman, Jan Fisher. Jan introduced Pastor Tim Hubert to the council, and he spent some time introducing himself, meeting council members, Jan had shared the comments made about Rev. Hubert by the team members and questions they had asked of him. The comments were very positive.

**Announcements**: Next council meeting October 13, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Lu Blankenship for**

**Alicia Schulz, Secretary**

**Addendum**:

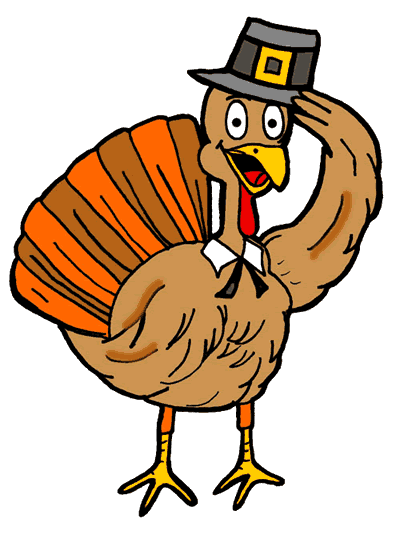
On September 17 an e-vote was solicited on the following motion (Tom/Lowell) Approval of the Longs Fence quotation dated 8/18/2020 for the fencing with all Items quoted plus the addition of the bottom tension wire included at no additional cost. FELC will pay $5800. down with the balance of $5,000. due at the satisfactory completion of this project. FELC’S Total cost $10,800.

On September 25 Lowell announced **Motion carried**.

**ELC**

**Little People BIG News**  
**November**

**Flashback into October**

Our Trunk-or-Treat event was a success! It was so much fun to see all those little tykes dressed up in their favorite costumes, shyly saying “trick or treat”. And it was certainly a safe way to let the children enjoy this seasonal event. Thank you to those who participated (Ted, Karen, Becky, Chris, Ed, April, Cindy, Jan, Mary and our ELC staff). We appreciate each of you!

**A Peek into November**

Our Thanksgiving Feast will be a lot different than we have had in the past. We will be providing a take home meal for our families. ELC will be closed on November 26th and 27th. We are looking forward to an exciting holiday season even though it will look a lot different than our normal! We will be helping the church in collecting non parishable food items for the needy!

Thank you for your continued support! We continue to meet all State of Ohio restrictions and expectations during the COVID19 pandemic.

**Bus and Playground**

Tom Sarbach is taking the new bus to get lettering applied. We thank you, Tom, for handling that process for us. (It will be like a mobile billboard.)

Andy Kershaw and Angie Murphy have secured quotes for the playground fencing. With the weather changing, it is not certain when the fencing will be installed, but it is very necessary in keeping the children safe.

**Angie Murphy**

**ELC Director**

**Some Good News from Finance**

We need some new equipment and updates to look our best when we share our worship services on line. Our services have been going well and looking good, but it has required a lot of work and a big time commitment from the technical team. Updating the equipment will not only make our services look better to folks watching from home, but the production will be a little less demanding for the team. Of course, when it comes to technology, newer is better.

FELC had some funds that had been sitting for a while. There was money remaining in a Prayer Seminar Fund, an FELC Concert Series Fund, and an Enrichment Fund (formerly Anderson Lecture Series). None of these are endowment funds, so the money is accessible. These funds are being combined into a New Ministries & Missions Fund, (dropping “endowment” and making this money accessible) which will result in a fund totaling more than $44,000.

The technical team needs around $33,000 in total. There was already over $10,000 available from the New Ministries & Missions Endowment Fund withdrawal for 2020. This left $23,000 which we thought would have to wait until next year. Instead, with this new fund resulting from combining these unused funds, we are able to go ahead with the upgrades and have $21,000 left in the New Ministries & Missions Fund going into 2021.

This happened because everyone at a council meeting was focused on accomplishing something worthwhile with these funds that weren’t really accomplishing anything sitting in the bank. After lots of good discussion, the vote was unanimous to combine these funds. What a blessing!

**Lu Blankenship, Finance Chairman and Council Representative**

**News about our future Interim Pastor**

On January 2, 2021 we will be welcoming Rev. Dr. Timothy Hubert as our Interim Pastor. Pastor Larson is retiring at the end of December 2020, and we have been blessed to have time to engage Pastor Hubert as our Interim. The Interim Pastor Team as well as Congregation Council has met with Pastor Tim and have found him to be very engaging. Pastor Hubert will be serving us full time, and he intends to be on site daily throughout the week, as well as offering a sermon each Sunday. He will be integral in interacting with the Early Learning Center children as well as staff. He will also be attending various committee meetings, as he has told us “I need to know what is going on and learn all I can about your congregation.” One of the duties of an Interim Pastor is to determine how healthy our congregation is. Pastor Hubert has extensive experience and knowledge in guiding congregations to a new Call Process for a permanent pastor. It is our honor and privilege to have Pastor Hubert serving with us on Sunday, November 29, 2020 as Pastor Paul takes some of his final vacation time. Please welcome Pastor Hubert warmly if you are able to be at worship on that Thanksgiving weekend.

**Jan Fisher**

**Interim Pastor Team Leader**



November update from our Worship Committee

As the editor writes this following worship on October 25, 2020 you may enjoy knowing that we had 92 faithful worshipers taking communion today! Give God the Glory!

We are excited to share the news that Rachel Justice, daughter of Ross and Barbara Justice, will be doing a “live” painting during worship on Sunday, December 6, 2020. You might want to save that date to be sure to come to live worship on that day.

On another note, it seems that we will continue serving communion in the “social distancing” mode which has been developed to keep us all safe. The prepackaged communion cup of host and grape juice is simply picked up from a long white table when you approach the sanctuary. At the appointed time, Pastor Paul gives the words of institution and we all take communion in place in our pews. As Lutherans, communion is a very important part of our liturgy and service. We are blessed to be able to receive communion in this manner.

Cindy Russell

Worship Committee Chairperson

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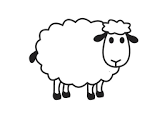
Women’s Ministry is currently not meeting regularly. Stay tuned for updates on those meetings.We anticipate starting our Women’s gatherings in January.

Funeral meals, when necessary, will be provided. Below is the squad assignment :

NOVEMBER: Squad B: Myra Cordrey, Jan Fisher, Beth Harruff

calendar here

calendar here

 Within the Fold

**Wednesday Noon Lunch Ministry**

In October, due to the continuing restrictions resulting from the Coronavirus, there was no Wednesday Chapel Service, and therefore there was no Wednesday Noon Lunch Fund donations. We are, however, offering a “carry-out” lunch on the first and third Wednesdays each month. It’s being served on the sidewalk beside the East doorway. We recently added two picnic tables for our guests to use and enjoy. Thank you, Mary Schwartz, for using your Thrivent Action Team card for this!

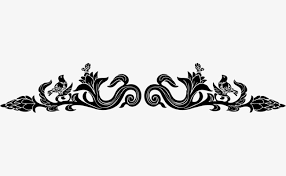
A Thank you from Garnet Stafford:

Dear Ladies, Thank you for the beautiful pot of mum flowers and the lovely card. They have brought me much joy! Thank you for your kindness. God Bless You, **Garnet Stafford** (one of our non-digital members.)

To My Dear Church Family,

I wish I could write each and every one of you a hand written note of “Thank You” for all the prayers, all the kind words of comfort from God’s Word, and stories you shared of Wes and how he touched your lives in so many ways throughout our years here at First English Lutheran Church.

We also want to thank those of you who gave memorials in his name for the ELC Playground Fund, and Malawi Orphan Care Project feeding program. His support for children throughout his lifetime was a great way to show his love. These days will long be remembered by our family. Please accept our heartfelt “Thanks.”



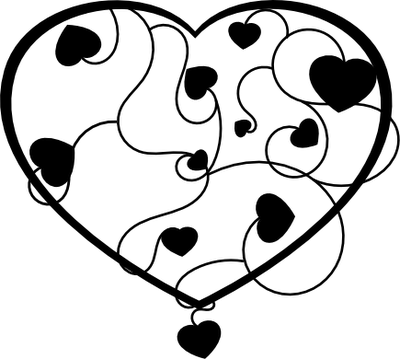
God’s Blessing to you all,

**Sandie Volz and Family**

**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 Cockrell 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.

*November 29, 2020 December 6, 2020 December 13, 2020 December 27, 2020*

Love Notes from Shirley

Greetings, Dear Reader,

It is a GOOD DAY to have a GOOD DAY! Guess who I’m writing about in this column?? ME! Actually I’m writing to request a favor and hoping a couple lovely grandmothers can help me out. The Dynamic Duo, Miss Angie Murphy and Miss Becky Pittman, came up with a nice idea to have someone read to the Early Learning Center four and five year old class and that someone happens to be Miss Shirley Lane.

The children, I call them Wiggleworms for obvious reasons, being four and five year olds, need stories that entertain, teach, and hold their attention. Miss Angie said I could use Bible stories as well as nursery rhymes. What better way to tell stories than to use *Little Red Hen, The Little Engine That Could,* and *Three Little Pigs,* etc.? So many timely lessons with morals can be woven into these stories. I can do a robust reading of *Jack and the Beanstalk* with a giant “Fee, Fie, Fo, Fum” that scares me, too! The stories that begin with the words “Once Upon a Time” are so exciting! Who knows what adventures are about to begin?

Do any of you Grammies have older children’s books that you used to read to your children or grandchildren that I could borrow?

It is very odd to look into the corner of a screen of a laptop and read to oneself! So I brought along a dear rabbit friend. Her name is Sassafras. Miss Sassy and I miss seeing all the sweet little faces in person. I’m hoping and praying to do a good job plus having some fun along the way with story book friends that I’ve always loved.

PS: Note from Jan: Miss Shirley doesn’t really realize how sweet this kind of story time really is!

Story by Shirley Lane

**Global Mission,**

**International Missions:**

**The Islanders**:  **Brian and Barb** will be visiting our church on November 1. According to Pastor Paul, they will be taking over his Sunday school class to update us about what's happening in their lives. A Scripture app needed for the Islanders for their iPhones/iPads/iPods /iPod Touch devices has finally become available in the Apple store. iPhones make up about 25% of the smart phone market in their country. To see the apps and Scripture resources for Islanders, visit the website [https://kethaabulmuqaddhas.com//](https://kethaabulmuqaddhas.com/). Those of you who use the iPhone app devices can join their effort and help these apps take off by giving them a 5 star review. There are 3 iPhone apps:   1)  The Scripture app called "kithaabul Muqaddhas" (The Holy Spirit)  2) The book of proverbs called "Hikumathuge31days" (31 Days of Wisdom)  3) And "Easaa almaseehu" (Jesus the Messiah)   Please install these 3 free apps onto your iPhone/iOS device from the Apple App Store and give each a 5 star rating. It will serve as an IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION that we can make to help give the Islanders easy access to the Scripture. Please pray that the Islanders will find the apps, install them, read and interact with the Scriptures and experience new life in Christ.

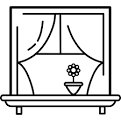
**The Krafts:** The restrictions have lifted just a little in Peru. Now 5 people can meet but no private transportation is allowed yet. As of today (October 11) they have no electricity. They have asked for prayers for their son TJ. who soon faces the last two weeks of basic training in the Marines. It looks good that the Krafts will get a bank loan to purchase a car. Prayers needed for two of our board members whose mothers are in hospice.

**Henrik and Patty Christopherson** found out that they finally have a building permit to start the rebuild! Unfortunately, they also got a message from their contractor that there was more damage to the roof than originally thought. They are meeting with the roofer to work out the details. Even more bad news.

Patty's 92 year old mom (Eunice Morris)  fell and broke two of her vertebrae. She will have to wear a neck brace for 3 to 4 months. Needless to say, her mom is now at the point of fighting back tears much of the time. Patty is also at that point. Please pray for the entire family.

Blessings to all,

**Chris Cichanowicz, Global Mission Chairperson**



**Becky’s Views………**

How fun to sing melodies to Jesus with the ELC kids outside all summer long and into the beautiful fall season on the front steps of First English. The Tuesday and Wednesday morning chapel and music time even caught the attention of a WMFD reporter. Did you see us on the news??? Before he interviewed Angie Murphy and myself, he told us that he was feeling a bit discouraged when he had left the station that morning. A co-worker had asked him what he was going to report on, and he replied that he was just going to drive around and search for some GOOD NEWS to help lift people's spirits in the surrounding area. The reporter drove past our church and saw all of the kids outside singing. He decided to stop to see what was going on. He found what he was looking for that morning. JESUS is the GOOD NEWS! Coincidental??? Maybe. The Holy Spirit??? Most definitely.

"Stories with Shirley" has been a huge hit with our ELC children! They even got to meet Shirley's special friend named Sassafras. He will be attending the virtual reading time regularly, too. I have heard that he will even have homemade outfits.

A big THANK YOU to EVERYONE who donated pre-packaged candy for our non-digital elderly folks! The Jr. and Sr. High youth stuffed goodie bags, signed cards and safely delivered the sweet treats to our special congregational members on Halloween. Jesus with skin on! I heard that somewhere....

I would also like to thank all of the church members that participated in the ELC Trunk-or-Treat event on Wednesday, October 21st! It was an evening of great fun for our daycare children and families.

A "shout out" to Mitchell Pittman, Elizabeth Volz, and Faith and Callie Kaschube for sharing their gifts of "hamming it up" for our special Stewardship Sunday events! Our congregation is overflowing with God given talents. Are YOU using YOUR gift???

*1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now YOU are the body of CHRIST, and each one of YOU is a PART of it!"*

**BE INTENTIONAL! BE LIKE JESUS!**

**Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and the Arts**

**YOUTH NEWS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Sunday School news**: Sunday School for all ages is now being held at 9:00 AM. Check with Amy Skropits or Trish Volz as to your location, as things had to change because of COVID19.

Pastor Paul’s Adult Sunday School is meeting in the Undercroft for social distancing. He will be teaching us all about Luther’s Small Catechism.

A new approach to how we offer our kids breakfast during Sunday School this year!! (Yep!  You said it. Covid.)  We are asking for donations of PRE-PACKAGED breakfast items ONLY at this time.  (PopTarts, packaged donuts, granola bars, etc...)  Feel free to give the items to Becky Pittman, Tricia Volz or Elizabeth Volz at your convenience.**OR you can deposit them in the tub in the Narthex. THANK YOU ahead of time!!**

**Youth:**

Our next Jr. and Sr. High youth group activity will be “rake and run” at Jeanne Hillman’s!  Date will be determined after the leaves fall. Please watch for details.  The group outing will be determined a week ahead of time due to the "Rona." Thanks for your patience and flexibility!

**Send some LOVE to a college student!**

College students LOVE receiving mail!  "Snail" mail, emails, and texts would make the following young adults smile in the middle of the week!  Here's our FELC college list:

Alaina Doklovic

Anya Doklovic

Taylor Grossenbacher

Josh Hamrick

Brianna McFadden

Mitchell Pittman

Justin Reeder

Zach Rippel

Renee Shupp

Hannah Skropits

Jared Sweeney

Please contact Angie in the church office or Becky Pittman for contact information.  Reaching out will only take you a few minutes, but it will make their whole day!

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**Memorial Donations**

Memorial Fund

*In memory of Sherry Winbigler*

*Given by: Penny Vance, Kurt & Nancy Skarl, Donna Maxwell, Marilyn Flanegan*

*In memory of Wes Volz*

*Given by: Kay Williams*

ELC Playground Fund

*In memory of Wes Volz*

*Given by: The Lexington Class of 1955, Carol Smith, Carl & Sharon Archer, Jack & Sharon Steel, The Pastor Family, Linda Clark, Pat Heichel, Gary & Shirley Lane, Lynn Lafene, Janice Beddard, Jane & Elizabeth Sprang, Howard & Marilyn Allgire, Roselia & Gus Harris, The Shupp Family*

*In memory of Sherry Winbigler*

*Given by: Gary & Shirley Lane*

*In memory of Beverly Pickett*

*Given by: The Shupp Family*

Malawi Feeding Program

*In memory of Wes Volz*

*Given by:* Joan Wirstrom, The Pastor Family, Fred & Phyllis Mueller, Dennis Allen, Janice Fisher, Peter & Sarah Leimkuehler

*In memory of Sherry Winbigler*

*Given by:* Janice Fisher



With Sincerest Sympathy

Bishop Emeritus Paull Spring October 17, 2020

Gretchen Albrecht October 2, 2020

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of those who have recently lost loved ones through death. We pray for Christ’s gifts of healing and peace during this time of loss and sorrow that they may be comforted with the Promise of the Resurrection through faith in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior.

**Pastoral Acts**

Pastor Paul Larson officiated at the funeral service for Gretchen Albrecht on October 6, 2020 at Ontario Home of Wappner Funeral Directors. Interment followed at Mansfield Cemetery.

There will be no Nursing Home Communions for the rest of 2020.

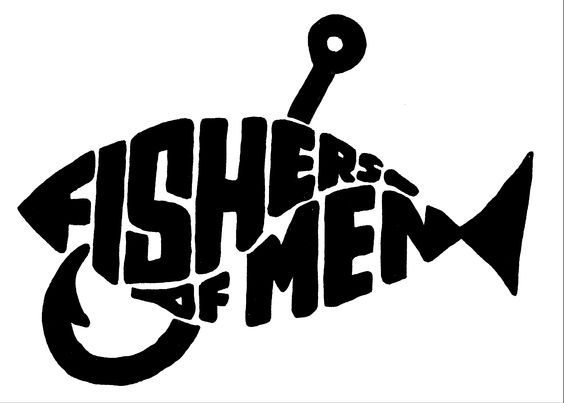
Please hold our shut-ins close in your prayers.

Stewardship Message

On November 1, Commitment Sunday, each of us will have the opportunity to pledge to our God and Savior what we will be giving to further the ministry of First English Lutheran Church during 2021. Please join me in prayerfully asking God what we will be offering to Him who has richly blessed each of us. We thank and praise Him for all the good gifts we are given, remembering that each and everything we have comes to us from our Heavenly Father.

I thank each of you for your generosity.

In Christ’s name,

*Mary Schwartz*, Stewardship Chairperson

**Evangelism for Today’s World**

**DRIVE THROUGH PRODUCE** was offered again on October 13, 2020.What a beautiful day for Produce! We received 6575# of fresh produce today. Beautiful tomatoes, sweet red peppers, onions, red delicious apples, cabbage, and Sunmaid Raisins. Twenty four volunteers worked our tails off bagging produce and putting it in cars. Angie Murphy does an amazing job of getting people registered before we let them drive through the parking area. So today we served 210 registrants which equates out to 577 food insecure folks. I am so thankful that we can continue this mission in our community! Blessed to be a blessing in Mansfield, that's us!

 Our next Produce Distribution will be Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:00 to 1:00.

I am very happy to share that our new billboard design has been accepted and will be posted by Lind Media on October 26th. Look for it on Ashland Rd. hill, southbound coming toward Mansfield.This is free to us, being redesigned every two years, via an agreement with Lind Media because they have a double billboard erected on FELC property in our west parking lot.

*Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson*

*Service/Social Ministry*

*As we have done in the past, we will continue to gather donations of non-perishable food items to be given to our WNL guests mid-December, so that they can enjoy a bountiful holiday meal. One of our members graciously obtained a Thrivent Action Team card to help support this project. Please bring your donations to church and deposit them under the coat rack. Deadline for donations will be Sunday, December 6th. The suggested items list is below:*

**We will be collecting items to donate to our needy friends in the community. Our plan is to get enough donations that we can provide a nice meal for at least 40 families. Please help our community by teaming with us. Items we are looking to collect are as follows:**

* **Canned Turkey**
* **Instant Mashed Potatoes**
* **Mac & Cheese**
* **Gravy**
* **Green Beans**
* **Corn**
* **Yams**
* **Stuffing**
* **Canned Fruit**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Volunteer Scheduling Contacts** | **The monthly volunteers are published in Visitor and posted on bulletin boards.** |
| **Worship Committee**  **Heather McFadden 419.295.6467**  Acolytes  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Cindy Russell 419.544.0878**  Assisting Ministers and Lay Readers | **Pew Pad Gleaners**  **Jane Sprang 419.610.9776**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Ushers**  **Charles and Myra Cordrey**  **419.632.4121** |
| **Evangelism Committee**  **Jan Fisher 419.589.2820**  Greeters | **Becky Pittman**  **419.989.8585**  Power Point, Nave |
| **Property Committee**  **Mike Anderson 419.295.4598**  Property Chairman | **Finance Committee**  **Lu Blankenship**  **419.564.1469** |
| **Becky Pittman**  **419.989.8585**  Sound Board/Audio | **Amy Skropits 419.747.3076**  Sunday School Superintendent |



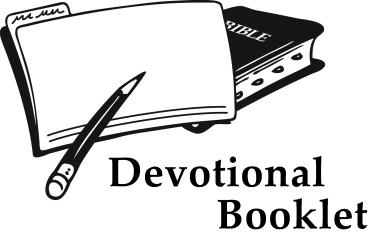
**Prayer Requests**

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 Angie Cockrell (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.

Call **Pat Shenberger** to activate the prayer chains.

Her home # is: 419.589.2399 or cell# is: 419.632.4850.

**Prayer is very powerful, and we encourage you to use these methods for many needs.**

**DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS**

Devotional booklets for NOVEMBER and DECEMBER are in the tract racks, so please help yourselves to these booklets. Make daily devotions a necessary part of your “routine.” There are also many good apps available for your iPhone orpasted-image.tiff Android. In today’s busy world, apps are a wonderful digital tool!

Find us on Facebook: **First English Lutheran Church**

**Podcasts of weekly sermons are on the website: felc-mansfield.org**

And please check out our new FELC mobile friendly website!

[felc-mansfield.org](http://felc-mansfield.org) **where you can be directed to online worship via Facebook and YouTu**

November 2020 Volunteers

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

**ACOLYTES**

\*NONE\*

**ALTAR WORKERS**

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

**ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Todd Heichel

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

\*NONE\*

**COMMUNION PREPARERS**

November 1: Lana Conry

November 22: Charles & Myra Cordrey

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

**GREETER**

Shirley Shupp

**LAY READERS**

November 1: Chris Hoecker

November 8: Amy Skropits

November 15: Kathy Hoecker

November 22: Sandie Volz

November 29: Jan Fisher

**PASTORS’ PRAYER PARTNERS**

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

**PEW PAD GLEANERS**

\*NONE\*

**POWER POINT OPERATORS**

November 1: Cindy Russell

November 8: Isaac McFadden

November 15: Teri Brenkus

November 22: Suzanne Rippel

November 29: Cindy Russell

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

\*NONE\*

**SOUND BOARD OPERATORS**

November 1: Ed Farner

November 8: Andy Kershaw

November 15: Ed Farner

November 22: Ed Farner

November 29: Ed Farner

**USHERS NAVE**

Jeff Davis & Annette Doklovic

Taylor Grossenbacher & Tim Ludwig

BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER:

Stafford, Garnet 230 Valley Hi Dr 11/02/1927

Lexington OH 44904-9792

McKean, Rosemary 291 Redwood Rd. 11/02/1928

Mansfield OH 44907

Dahlby, Hans 3453 W 4th St 11/02/1988

Mansfield OH 44903-8033

Hedges, Mary Ellen 553 Beechwood Dr 11/04/1925

Mansfield OH 44907-2305

Scheiber, Lolita 66 N Home Rd #6 11/05/1937

Mansfield OH 44906

Marchant, Jeremy 21 1/2 Granite St 11/11/1974

Mansfield OH 44902

Dahlby, Erika 3453 W 4th St 11/11/1991

Mansfield OH 44903-8033

Brenkus, Lindsey 197 Grosvenor St 11/14/1992

Athens OH 45701

Brenkus, Michael 273 Greenbriar Dr 11/16/1994

Bellville OH 44813-1159

Starner, Jane 434 Semmes Dr 11/18/1941

Wilmington NC 28412

Wirstrom, Joan 1301 Millsboro Rd. 11/19/1927

Apt. 217

Mansfield OH 44906

Skropits, Hannah 3399 Oakstone Dr 11/21/1999

Ontario OH 44903

Farner, Edward 1360 W Circle Dr 11/22/1976

Mansfield OH 44905

Berry, Scott 8300 Aylsworth Rd 11/23/????

Shreve OH 44676

Hannewald, James 271 Otterbein Dr 11/24/1947

Lexington OH 44904-1031

Murphy, Egypt 1120 Laver Rd 11/24/1999

Mansfield OH 44905

Hoecker, Abigal 264 1/2 Fairlawn Ave. 11/26/?

Mansfield OH 44903

Pittman, Mitchell 490 Rudy Rd 11/26/2000

Mansfield OH 44903-8038

Ellison, Ray The Waterford Apt 112 11/28/1927

1296 S Trimble Rd

Mansfield OH 44906-2977

**BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE!**

Need to get information in the bulletin for a meeting or an announcement?

Send details to Angie Cockrell at **acockrell@felc-mansfield.org** or phone the church office at 419.522.0662.

Weekly deadlines are noon on Wednesday for bulletins pertaining to that particular weekend. Bulletins assembled at 11:30 AM on Thursdays each week.

Nicole Goddard, our bookkeeper, may be reached by calling the church office at 419-522-0662 or email her at [NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org)

December **Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020.**

**Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020.**

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

**First English Lutheran Church E-Mail and Web Site**

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Angela Murphy [cds@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:cds@felc-mansfield.org)

Nicole Goddard [ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:croy@felc-mansfield.org)

Angie Cockrell acockrell@felc-mansfield.org Church Office office@felc-mansfield.org

Jan Fisher, Editor [newslettereditor53@yahoo.com](mailto:newslettereditor53@yahoo.com)

Andy Kershaw propman@felc-mansfield.org

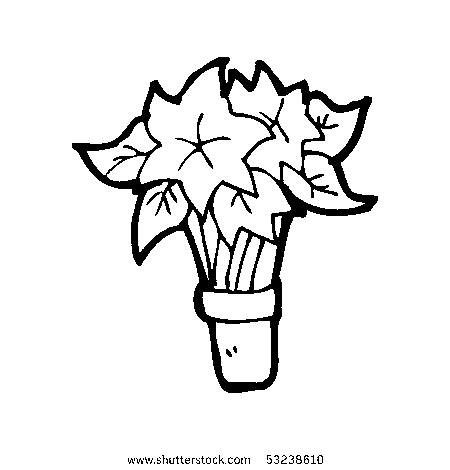
Visit our web site at: **www.felc-mansfield.org**

Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.

***Emergency cell phone number if the pastor cannot be***

***contacted at church or home:***

Pastor Paul Larson, 419-632-1875

POINSETTIAS are a tradition at First English Lutheran Church; an opportunity to honor a loved one and at the same time beautify  
the Chancel on Christmas Eve.

Deadline for ordering is SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
Cost per plant is $10.00  
\* (No orders will be accepted after November 29 th

because our order must be submitted to the greenhouse soon after.) \*

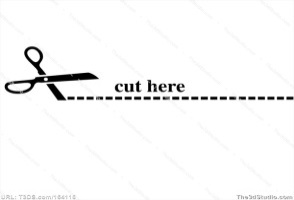
Turn your order and money in directly to the Church Office either in person or by mail or put your order in the offering plate.   
If you put the order in the offering plate, please put check & order form in a separate envelope marked for flower order.

On December 24th, the plants may be removed by the donor after the

Christmas Eve Service (the plants should remain at the church during the days leading up

to Christmas Eve).

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



----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2020

Poinsettia Order:

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

Donation (no plant):

$ Renewing God’s House II

$ ELC Playground Equipment Fund

$ Major Capital Improvement Fund

$ Memorial Fund

$\_\_\_\_ Building Maintenance Fund

$ Other

“In Memory of ”

“In Honor of ”

“Given by ” (Person ordering Envelope #\_\_\_\_\_\_)

Non-Profit Org.  **U.S. Postage**

**PAID**

**Permit No. 714 Mansfield, OH** **44902**

affix label here

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DO NOT DELAY – DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED**

**NOVEMBER 2020 VISITOR**