

# THE VISITOR



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

Volume 67

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

**CHURCH STAFF**

Reverend Jay Jackson Jr.

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

**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**

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Vice President, *Chad McFadden*

Secretary, *Christopher Kaschube*

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Evangelism, *Alicia Schulz*

Finance, *Lu Blankenship*

Personnel, *Teri Brenkus*

Property, *Mike Anderson*

Social Ministry, *Gary Lane*

Stewardship, *Sandra Volz*

**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](mailto: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 Jay's Jottings

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our risen savior and Lord. Amen.

*“A new year, a new resolution.”*

That seems to be the general way we look at beginning a new diet, or reading plan, but then what happens? We tend to fall back into our old habits, and the data will tell us that most new years resolutions have been thrown away by the second week of February. The biggest reason we don't succeed is because we are trying to add something into our already busy lives, and our patterns are already in place.

Enter in Jesus.

*Jesus says “A new year, A new life!”*

As I was reading an article from the Gospel Coalition website, I felt it hit me that we don't need a new resolution, we need a new life approach. So with that in mind, here are four ways to ensure that Jesus remains at the front of your sightline for the coming year... (2025)

## **1. Remember**

The wise man of Ecclesiastes said, “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (Eccl. 12:1). In January, the year is young and the opportunities seem fresh. So many productivity gurus preach a gospel of self-empowerment, but as gospel people, we know the fragility of human life. We know every breath is a miracle, a gift given to us by our Creator. Every new season is a testimony, a signpost, to grace. So the proper response to the past year, whether good or bad, is *not* “I made it through” or “Look what I achieved.” It is “Thank you, Lord.”

## **2. Repent**

Our worship of God for his faithfulness and majesty, evidenced by the changing of seasons, should then lead us to repentance. His goodness breaks us in fresh ways as our sin is exposed by the light of his glory. But this isn't a morbidly introspective, navel-gazing exercise. To repent is to rejoice. We claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 because we know our forgiveness has already been purchased at the cross. Beginning the new year with repentance is to draw closer to Jesus, to appropriate the fresh grace that is ours in him. This is why confession always brings relief and joy. It is the gateway to greater intimacy with God.

## **3. Renew**

New Year's should also be a time of renewing old commitments, like marriage, family, and church. Before we begin grand plans to lose weight or develop a new skill—good creational goals—let's begin by renewing the core commitments we already have. Our most vital work is what we do within the walls of our homes—loving our spouses and raising our children in an atmosphere of godliness and grace. We live out the gospel best when we live it out in the daily rhythms of repentance and forgiveness with loved ones. We must reject the lie that says success requires abandoning family commitments. We should also renew ourselves to the faithful body life of our local Bible-treasuring, gospel-preaching church. The local church is the locus of God's mission in the world, where we gather in community to

declare Christ's kingship each week, and where we work out our salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12) with brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### **4. Rest**

New Year's should be a time to rest. First, we rest in the reality of our identity in Christ. We may have failed to meet our heady goals in 2025. Jesus still loves us, despite our failures, unchecked boxes, and disappointment at the scale. The gospel tells us that he loves us in the midst of these. It's not the voice of your Savior, but the whisper of the enemy that says you have less worth because you blew your resolutions. A "more successful 2025" will not make Jesus love you any more. He's the One, after all, who calls broken sinners and empowers them for his mission. Failed apostles, former persecutors, recovering Pharisees—his body is full of them.

Rest isn't a sign of laziness or weakness; it's a sign of spiritual strength and confidence that when we close our eyes, our lives are in the grip of a sovereign God. To sleep is to say that we're not God and that the world can go on without us.

**Conclusion:** Setting goals for a new year are an important sign that we're intentional about glorifying God in our callings—work and business, home and church, private and public witness. But before we write out our goals, we should begin in the heart. The temptation for Christians is to make our plans and add a dollop of Jesus on top, rather than allowing him to form in us the desires and motivations to do his work.

*"Happy New Year. Happy New Life."*

God Loves You and So Do I,  
Pastor Jay

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**\*\*\*NO DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING\*\*\***

There will be a Congregational Meeting on January 19, 2025  
following the Sunday morning worship service.

Agenda items are:

1. Approval of the 2025 FELC Budget
2. Approval of a capital improvement project for the undercroft restrooms.

## Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who so willingly baked and donated cookies for our home-bound friends. We gifted 14 people with containers of cookies and candy as well as small gift bags with little decorated Christmas trees. It's always great to remember our "older" friends!



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## Worship and Music



We are very very thankful for the beautiful worship services we experienced during Advent, Christmas Eve, and the first Sunday in Christmas. So many people were involved, to name them all someone would get missed. Needless to say the instrumentals, vocals, bells, solos, children's messages, decorations and candle light were all to God's Glory! It doesn't get any better than that!

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## Service Ministry

Senior Boxes were distributed on the third Tuesday in December. We had a number of new enrollees, and we provided 113 eligible people with a very nice box of non-perishable food. We have cut back on our delivery order due to the winter months, however we do still encourage qualified seniors to come by from 10:00 to 12:00 (or until we run out) on the **FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**. Feel free to share this information with your friends and neighbors. **QUALIFY BY LOW INCOME AND AGE 60 OR OVER. QUALIFIED PERSON RECEIVES 30# BOX OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD, 2# BOX OF CHEESE, AND A 15# BOX OF FRESH PRODUCE.**



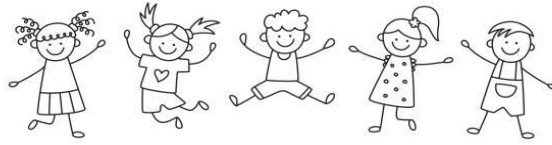
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## Arts and Crafts



Arts & Crafts will gather in January to make Valentines for our home bound folks. We will meet on Monday evening, January 20, 2025 at 5:30. Come and have a bowl of chili with us and enjoy some craft time. We will provide the chili but please sign up on the sheet provided on the poster table. Questions, contact Chris Mayglothling or Jan Fisher.





# ELC

## Little People BIG News

### Flashback into December



December was full of fun. We started out with our ELC Christmas program with 125 in attendance.

Then we had an amazing kids' night out with 28 kids in attendance. We would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make the kids' night out a success.



ELC staff finished the month by serving a downtown community lunch at the Bowman and 4<sup>th</sup> street location.

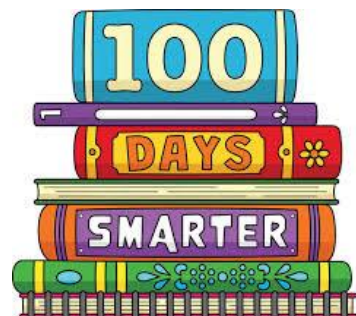


### A peek in January



ELC will be closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Day and January 20<sup>th</sup> for Martin Luther King Day.

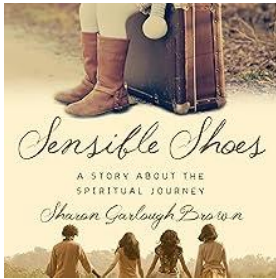
Our children will then finish the month up celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school with fun activities and crafts



## BOOK CLUB NEWS!

We have voted and have decided that we will be meeting at Judy Santoro's home at 2:30PM on the second Sunday of the month moving forward.

- For the month of January we will be meeting on Jan 12, 2025 at 2:30 PM at Judy Santoro's house to discuss the book :



*Sensible Shoes: A Story About the Spiritual Journey*

Sharon Garlough Brown tells the moving story of four strangers as they embark together on a journey of spiritual formation:

Hannah, a pastor who doesn't realize how exhausted she is.

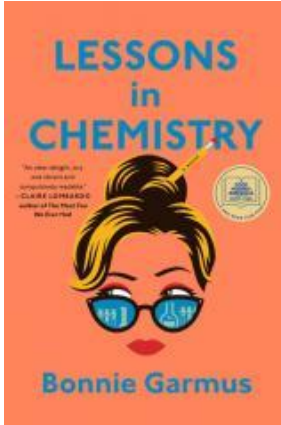
Meg, a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past.

Mara, a woman who has experienced a lifetime of rejection and is now trying to navigate a difficult marriage.

Charissa, a hard-working graduate student who wants to get things right.

You're invited to join these four women as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation.

- For the month of February we will be meeting on February 9, 2025 reading and discussing :



*Lesson in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

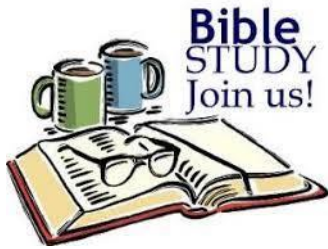
Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an *average* woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.

Thank you so much for all your support!  
Judy Santoro

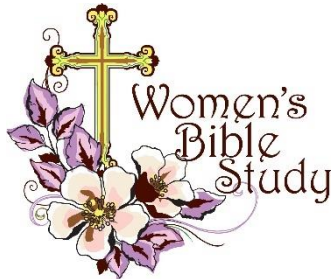




## Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets on Monday mornings at 9 am in the Emmaus Room. All are welcome!

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## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 1:00 PM in the Emmaus Room. Ladies, it's important to "grow" spiritually! Come and join us! It is **COSTLY NOT TO COME. THINK ABOUT IT!**

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## Luther Fellowship

Luther Fellowship will not meet in January, see you all in February!



## 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 15, 2025. 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.

## Within the Fold

### THANK YOU



Dear Women of FELC,

Your consistent and overwhelming love and support for Zoe's Learning Center is such a living testimony of God's Love for His children (all children!) Thank you for your "thanksgiving" offering at Thanksgiving for our children in the Mansfield community. We are the better for your love, generosity, and support!! Love from Zoe's Learning Center



**Marilyn Kocheiser**

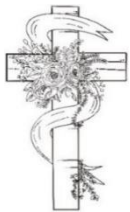
**December 15, 2024**

**Pete Altman**

**December 18, 2024**

**Betty Trainor**

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.



## *Pastoral Acts*

Blessing for Marilyn Kochheiser on December 16, 2024

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**



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 5, 2025*
- ❖ *January 19, 2025*
- ❖ *January 26, 2025*
- ❖ *February 2, 2025*
- ❖ *February 9, 2025*

# January 2025 Volunteers

## Sunday 10AM Worship (Nave)

### ACOLYTES

January 5: TBD  
January 12: TBD  
January 19: TBD  
January 26: TBD

### ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Chris Kaschube

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Property

### GREETER

Larry Lantz

### COMMUNION PREPARERS

January 5: Jen Rogers & Vicki Kern

January 12: Lana Conry & Mary Schwartz

### COMMUNION SERVERS

January 5:  
Wine West: Rachelle Zehe  
Wine East: Greg Hughes  
Intinction : Linda Hughes

January 12:  
Wine West: Dan Peterson  
Wine East: Gary Simmons  
Intinction : Myra Cordrey

### LAY READERS

January 5: Jan Fisher  
January 12: Angie Kaschube  
January 19: Lu Blankenship  
January 26: Myra Cordrey

### PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz

Mary Schwartz

Lowell Weeks

Jan Fisher

### ATTENDANCE SHEETS

January 5: Chris Mayglothing

January 12: Vicki Kern

January 19: Linda Hughes

January 26: Brenda Eyerly

### SLIDES

January 5: Isaac McFadden

January 12: Teri Brenkus

January 19: Cindy Russell

January 26: Allison Weeks

### LIVESTREAM

January 5: Suzanne Rippel

January 12: Tom Sarbach

January 19: Todd Heichel

January 26: Todd Heichel

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

January 5: Angie Murphy

January 12: Kayla McFadden

January 19: Tyler Crall

January 26: Elizabeth Freeman

### SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST:

January 5: Youth at Quake

January 12: Angie Murphy

January 19: Cindy Russell

January 26: Ashley Berry

### USHERS NAVE

Larry & Becky Faith

Bill & Yvonne Dixon

Alternate: Jan Fisher

### FUNERAL MEALS

Karen Ellis, Barb Coon

Lu Blankenship, and Ila Kershaw

## 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 heads 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](http://NALC.org) offers a great devotional option. "[TheNALC.org](http://TheNALC.org)" Check it out!



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



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

## **BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE!**

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

**Send details to Angie Mullins at [parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org) or phone the church office at 419.522.0662.**



Weekly deadlines are noon on Wednesday for bulletins pertaining to that particular weekend. Bulletins 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](mailto:NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org)**

**February 2025 Visitor Newsletter Deadline:**

**Monday, February 24, 2025.**

**Assembled and mailed: Wednesday, February 26, 2025.**

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: [parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org](mailto: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

Jay Jackson

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

Scott Berry

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

Becky Pittman

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

Angela Murphy

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

Nicole Goddard

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

Angie Mullins

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

Andy Kershaw

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

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

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



<p><b>Volunteer Scheduling Contacts</b>  <b>The monthly volunteers are published in the Visitor and posted on bulletin boards.</b></p>	<p>Funeral Meals  <b>Sandie Volz</b></p>
<p>Acolytes  <b>Heather McFadden</b></p>	<p>Attendance Sheets</p>
<p>Altar Workers and Safety Team  <b>Scott and Jodi Mumaw</b></p>	<p>Safety Team  <b>Charles and Myra Cordrey</b></p>
<p>Greeters  <b>Alicia Schulz</b></p>	<p>Slides, Sound Board, Sunday School  Breakfast, Children's Church,  Livestream  <b>Becky Pittman</b></p>
<p>Assistant Ministers, Ushers, &amp; Lay  Readers  <b>Cindy Russell</b></p>	<p>Communion  <b>Lana Conry</b></p>

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

**Pastor: Jay Jackson**  
**pastor@felc-mansfield.org**

**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:**  
**Chris Cichanowicz**  
**elc@felc-mansfield.org**

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

**Finance: Lu Blankenship**  
**finance@felc-mansfield.org**

**Evangelism: Alicia Schulz**  
**evangelism@felc-mansfield.org**

**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**  
**social@felc-mansfield.org**

**Youth: Ted Ellis**  
**youth@felc-mansfield.org**

**Stewardship: Sandie Volz**  
**stewardship@felc-mansfield.org**

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

**(Revised July 2024)**  
Non-Profit Org.



HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

MAY THE LORD'S GUIDANCE BE  
WITH YOU IN EVERY STEP YOU  
TAKE IN THE NEW YEAR.

