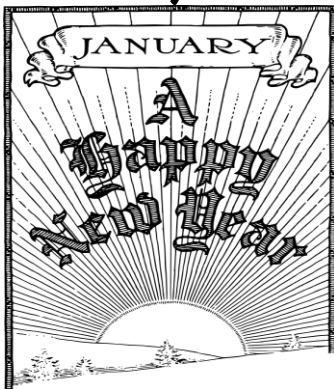


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First English Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

January 2023



FELC Mission Statement

By the grace of God First English Lutheran Church will grow as one family of faith, secure in the knowledge of Christ's gift of salvation, proclaiming God's love for all.

Pastor Denise Fossen

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson,
Missionaries/Tanzania

Barbara Wegner, *Parish Secretary*

Liz Ketz, *Financial Secretary*

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Building hours: M/F 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sat. & Sun. 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Facebook: @FirstEnglishLutheranChurchOrtonvilleMN

First English Lutheran Church
9 NW 3rd Street
Ortonville, MN 56278

JANUARY



From the Pastor

(Jesus says) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14

The year 2022 found First English Lutheran Church following the way of Jesus. We lived out Jesus' last words and commission to his disciples in the gospel of Matthew: ¹⁸*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

We as a group of committed volunteers have baptized, taught the youth pre-school through high school, mourned those that had completed their baptismal journey, celebrated at the Lord's Table the good news of Jesus' birth, life mission, death, and resurrection.

We gave thanks to Nancie Haukos and her years of committed service to our youth and wished her well as we said good-bye. We are grateful for Marilyn, Ronda, and Kirsten for keeping the after school and youth programs running without a paid staff youth leader. We pray to God to send us the right person to lead our youth.

We gave thanks for Mari Athey and her service as parish secretary and wished her well in her teaching career. We welcomed Barbara Wegner as the parish secretary. We are grateful for Liz filling in as waited for the right person to fill our secretarial position.

Through all these things, God has continued to be with us, and we have Jesus' promise that he will be with us *"until the end of the age."* We trust that God will guide us, especially the council, in our decisions to follow where we believe God is leading us.

We continue to give thanks to our talented and committed musicians, especially Lisa, Marilyn, Amy, Kathy, and Carol, and those volunteering their musical voices and instrumental pieces. They offer much to our worship service and bless not only us, but the community through KDIO radio and through services at Fairway View.

We are grateful for the special concern and care for our building that Dean, Karen, and Marina give us each week. Our tech people help us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to the wider community each week.

In gratitude and faith, we look forward to 2023 and where God is leading us at this time.

In Christ,

Pastor Denise

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING **Council Minutes – December 5, 2022** (not yet approved)

Members present: Pastor Denise Fossen, Kristi Ehrenberg (president), Marilyn Chindvall (vice president) *and Lay Ministry*, Becky Parker (treasurer), Kari Dorry-*Youth & Family*, Marla Strei-*Evangelism*, Darin Ehrenberg-*Stewardship*, Kayla Teske-*Christian Education*, Carmen Zupfer-*Christian Education*, and Barbara Wegner-*Secretary*.

Meeting was called to order by President Kristi Ehrenberg at 8:05 pm. Before the approval of November's minutes, Becky Parker wanted to make a note that last month's minutes say we appointed Michelle Bauer as an internal auditor, and she has since asked and Michelle is not actually going to do it. Deb Ellingson is.

Approval of November Minutes. Kari & Marla **MSP**.

Approval of Deb Ellingson and Julie Schneider as internal auditors. Becky & Marilyn **MSP**.

There were no financial meetings to accept. Marilyn Chindvall had approved the WAM minutes. There were no membership changes.

Approval of removing Nancie Haukos & David Tonn from the Youth Checking account leaving Liz Ketz & Becky Parker as signers. Darin & Kayla **MSP**.

Approval of November Treasurer's Report. We had to transfer \$10,000 out of the Operating Reserve in November. Kari & Darrin **MSP**.

Board of Youth & Family discussed having difficulty creating a budget since Nancie had handled that. They will discuss with Liz Ketz and were given more information on how to do that from the council.

Board of Lay Ministry – Marilyn Chindvall - There will be a private baptism December 26th at 6:00 pm. Brent & Kristi will be there for sure. Erik may. There will be some members from our congregation to witness it. Approved WAM report. For

Christmas Eve we will do regular communion with no center aisle chairs, but chairs in the Narthex for overflow. We will have a basket for extra disposable communion cups just in case. There will be a couple more staff interviews. December 26th will be a staff holiday. KDIO knows of the time changes, as of this meeting we don't know which service they will cover. Marilyn will do the annual report. January 9th for the next meeting would be preferable. Barb Nornes is stepping down from the coffee fellowship so we're looking for a new chairperson and volunteers. There is another meeting scheduled to work on the budget.

Board of Evangelism – Marla Strei - January 9th for the next meeting would be preferable. The budget will try to cut back on things, but since there hasn't been much spent, it will be similar to the past. Mission Emphasis Sunday went really well. The response was phenomenal. The Giving Tree is going well. There was discussion on giving a talk to clarify the procedure. There will be a notice in the bulletin. There have been no transfers of membership. They need to know about Facebook & KDIO broadcasting times for Christmas to get a notice in the paper. Confirmed it is candlelight with communion.

Christian Education – Kayla Teske & Carmen Zupfer - They will work on the annual report and also work on the budget with Liz. They are looking for people who want to join the board. There is no preference for the next meeting date. The additional preparation for the Christmas Program is just costumes and whatever else Marilyn Chindvall needs from them. They want to thank Marilyn for organizing and leading the youth in the Christmas Program. Emailed Green Lake Bible Camp to see if they are holding a weekend retreat for next year for first-year communion and also to request information about having counselors come out for a week-long day camp for Vacation Bible School.

Youth & Family – Kari Dorry - January 9th for the next meeting would be preferable. The annual report will be turned in shortly. The budget is unchanged. Thanks to Marilyn for keeping the afterschool program for the youth going. Being without a youth director, they will not plan for next summer or do the bake sale at this time. They may move the bake sale to February for Valentine's Day. There was discussion about who was handling the Just for the Love of It dinner in January. The youth was supposed to but may need to switch with another board. Marilyn asked if maybe the youth could help with coffee fellowship after the 18th Service.

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg - The annual report is basically done and the budget is done. They could use one more member, but they will keep the 4 for sure. The dedication of pledges will happen on the 8th so that more members will be in service that day. CenBank has a form available to everyone for automatic giving. The bank is getting that together & there will be a January Temple Talk discussing the form. Members can use any bank for themselves, fill out the form, and bring it in. There are much less fees taken through this process versus Vanco. Deb Ellingson will be an auditor. We may change the way we show people through the bulletin the fact that we're falling short each week. January 9th for the next meeting would be preferable.

Church Properties – Unable to meet. Kristi announced that the board did give what their budget would be.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Worship: In our building, we had four Sunday services, two with communion, and a Thanksgiving Eve service. November 6th, we celebrated the saints that have gone before us. Former ELCA Bishop Rick Hoyme and Episcopalian Bishop Craig Anderson presided during my vacation.

Confirmation and Youth: Liz taught confirmation November 16th and 30th while I was on vacation. There will be no confirmation on December 21st and 28th due to school scheduled time off.

Pastoral Care: Viola Melhlop's funeral on Sunday, November 6th in the afternoon. Met with parish nurses 11/21/22. Starting in January 2023, every Tuesday from 4-5 pm I or the nurses (if I'm not able) will be available for visit, prayer, or scripture in Donnie's Diner at FWV. We will assess after a month or so on needs. Reminder from the parish nurses that "Memory Cafe" is the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 1-3 in the library basement. That's open to anyone. Gathered prayers from homebound to include in the prayers of gratefulness on Thanksgiving Eve.

Community, Synod, and Miscellaneous: Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Steven Cook, has retired effective November 30th. Pastor Naomi Mahler is now in this position.

Upcoming: Baptism for Kyson Thompson is on Monday, December 26th at 6:00 pm.

Additional Comments:

- Becky asked about how people's names get on the prayer list and that is through family requests. Sometimes Pastor Denise will reach out and ask if people want to get added, but they often will say no.
- Barbara contacted Rural Solutions and they are willing to help us to get access to their hosting so that she can create a new website. Once the draft of that website is approved, then we will switch the domain name to the new version. The domain name will not change.
- The majority voted for the next meeting to be on the 9th.
Next council meeting will be on January 9th at 7:00 PM
Motion to adjourn – Marilyn & Marla **MSP**.
Closed with Lord's Prayer at 8:41 pm.

YOUTH NEWS January 2023 – Happy New Year!

- ❄️ Congratulations to the Sunday School students on a wonderful performance of “The Christmas Clinic”. The kids, Board of Education, Marilyn Chindvall, Amy Adelman, and Pete and Carmen Zupfer really worked hard on it to make it a joyful presentation.
- ❄️ The Youth have been busy and had a grand time going up to Fairway View for a rousing game of Left, Right, Center with the residents there.
- ❄️ December donations were made by: Russell and Ronda Thielke.
- ❄️ Thanks also to everyone who purchased a God's Creation Calendar.
- ❄️ Thank you so much for always supporting the youth of our church with your donations & other gifts.
- ❄️ Thank you to those who provided snacks and meals for the youth in the various groups.



COMING UP IN JANUARY: 🍷 4, 11, 18, 25 – Confirmation, Kids Club, and Youth Group
🍷 8, 15, 22, 29 – Sunday School

Please continue to pray and ask the Lord to provide us with a viable candidate for our Youth Director. Until then, give thanks to the Lord for those willing volunteers that step forward to keep the programs for our youth going!!! 😊

PARISH NURSE ARTICLE FOR JANUARY



NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

As we enter 2023, what are some things that we can do to better ourselves? Yes, exercise and eating healthy are important, but I am talking about spiritually. A few things that come to mind are: 1) open our bible each day and read a chapter starting with the book of John, 2) memorize a bible verse, 3) spend quiet time with God and let him know your cares and worries, 4) be forgiving and forgiven and 5) let God serve as the filter for everything we say and think.

We've got 365 days in this year so let's not take even a single one for granted. Every day we wake up is a day we get to experience God's grace and faithfulness. *"Because of the Lord's great love his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."*

Lamentations 3:22-23

HAPPY ★ NEW YEAR

CHURCH NEWS

Annual Meeting of the Congregation of FELC will be held Sunday, January 22nd (with a backup date of January 29th) at 10:30 am in the sanctuary.

God's Creations Fundraiser Calendars are in! \$8.00 cash or checks (written to FELC Youth) can be brought to the office if you'd like one! Get them before they're gone!

Remember to pick up your envelopes and please turn in your dedication pledges and opportunity sheets in the Narthex. January 8th is dedication Sunday.

Pastor Denise Fossen will be at Donnie's Diner up at Fairway View every Tuesday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm starting Jan 3rd.

We are seeking to fill the FELC Youth and Children Program Leader position. It will start at approx. 20-hours per week, Mon-Fri, plus limited evenings and weekend hours for youth ministry activities and chaperoning youth events and trips. There is potential for future growth in hours with program growth. If you or someone you know is interested, drop off your resume and references at the church office or e-mail it to pastor@firstenglish.net.

2 Large Print Bibles have been graciously donated to the church. If you or anyone you know could benefit from them, please contact the office. The first bible translation is "The Message" and the second translation is "New Living Translation."

Just for the Love of It dinner will be January 25th at 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

Congratulations and God's Blessings to...

...the Schoon family. We welcome into the Lord's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Lettie Jo Schoon, daughter of Austin & Shelby Schoon. Her sponsors are Keaton Schoon and Courtney Giese.

...the Thompson family. We welcome into the Lord's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Kyson Brent Thompson, son of Samantha & Dan Thompson. His sponsors are Heath Peterson and Mike & Nicole Lovgren.

Thank you to our very talented vocalists and musicians for performing during the prelude of our Christmas Eve Service: Julia Wiik, Kara Helgeson Wulftange with a duet Adam Helgeson, Christie Peterson, Katelyn Berdan Renne with a duet Keven Berdan, Senior Choir, Ellie Helgeson, Kara Helgeson Wulftange, Adam Helgeson, Keven Berdan, Kristie Peterson, Marilyn Hanson, Kaylee Helgeson, Lisa Berdan and our traffic directors: Jonathan and Carol Ydstie.

Additional bulletins and inserts have been uploaded to the website at www.firstenglish.net each week. If you haven't seen the extra bulletins, check them out.

Green Lake Ministries Summer Camp Registration Has Opened. Registration submitted by February 16th will receive a **\$50 Discount** on their registration. You can register your child online or we also have fliers available in the pick-up room.


The Silence & The Sound was a hit! Thanks go out to the very talented vocalists & musicians, and everyone involved in putting the cantata, and the luncheon afterward, on!

KDIO BROADCASTS

.... (December 4th) was sponsored in memory of Linda Olson by her family: Mary Lou Olson, Doug, Todd, and Pat.
.... (December 11th) was sponsored in memory of Inez Fraasch, Arlene Dockter, and Roy Hormann by Curt & Penny Hormann.
.... (December 18th) was sponsored by Rodney & Vicky Torgerson in honor of their 60th Anniversary on December 20th.
.... (December 24th) was sponsored by Roger & Barb Nornes in honor of their 69th wedding anniversary and also in honor of Richard & Marla Strei's 25th wedding anniversary.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Ricky Anderson Jr., Carol Barrett; Ken Henneberg; Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Brandi Tweeter; Mick Boone; Paul Erdman; Baby Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; Baby McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; Jerry Stotesbery; and Terry Ward. **AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS:** Swede & Janet Anderson; Ruth Hansen; Eleanor Nickolauson; & Aletta Simonitch. **ALL OUR MILITARY** who are deployed to areas of conflict. *If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.*



Dedication Sunday is January 8th! Please remember to turn in your pledges before then. 

THE PINK ENVELOPES

for each month are for designated funds. You may designate your extra gift to any fund you wish. Our Board of Stewardship also designates a special emphasis for each month of the year. September special gifts go to the Endowment Fund which helps cover the cost of the KDIO broadcasts when we do not have a weekly sponsorship.

Thank you for supporting FELC’s giving emphasis!

January 2023

Designated Funds

Building (please specify)	\$	
Operating Fund	\$	
Other <u>Technology Fund</u>	\$	

Name

January	Technology Fund
February.....	Service Trip Scholarship
March.....	Big Stone Lake Area Food
April.....	SWMN Funding Initiative
May..	Global Missions - Companion Synod South Africa
June.....	Someplace Safe
July.....	Families in Need
August.....	Baptism Chests
September.....	Endowment Fund
October.....	Jaycees Project Christmas
November.....	God's Work, Our Hands/Service Projects
December.....	ELCA Missionaries

CIRCLE 4



Meets in the Church Lounge on
Wed., January 4th at 9:00 am.
Hostess: Arlene Vollmer
Lesson: Carol Bell



Summer Camp Registration Has Opened

You can register your child online or we also have fliers available in the pick-up room. Registration submitted by February 16th will receive a **\$50 Discount** on their registration.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office and we will try our best to assist you.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The congregations and all the baptized who are the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are claimed by this mission: God places us in cities, farms and towns together under one prairie sky. The Risen Christ surprises us with opportunities to plant God's Word in the world.

Walking together in confidence, we cultivate life-giving congregations, nurture partner ministries, and cooperate in the life of the ELCA.

By God's grace, together we have what we need.

'As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world.'

DAY OF LOVE



On Tuesday, December 6th, the Day of Love took a break from their “Humanitarian Mission” and thoroughly enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner prepared by “Crazy Apron Catering.” After signing the cards, the gals enjoyed singing Christmas Carols until the turkey dinner was served. It was a great time, great friends and great food. The gals will resume their "Humanitarian Mission" on January 3rd at 9:00 a.m. You can be sure they will be ready to cut, stitch, press and pin. Oh yes, and they'll have time for a cup of brew!!!!

Number of cards sent in 2022 ----- 716

Cards created for the Eagles Healing Nest-----75

Approximately 290 quilts, all of various sizes were distributed to the following with our mission quilts being delivered to the Orphan Train for their distribution.

Quilts delivered to the Hospital – Swing Bed
Baby Quilts delivered to Hospital
Youth Quilts delivered to Hospital
Baptismal Quilts
Mission Quilts
Mission Baby Quilts
Mission Sheets
Mission Blankets
Cancer Patient Chemo Quilt
Graduation Quilts
Green Lake Bible Camp Auction
Emergency Quilts
Divine House

Mark Lindquist (Ukraine) (17 Swing Bed; 6 Baby)
Craft Fair/Lap Top
Ukraine Family Ortonville)
Raffle Quilt
Veterans
Divine House
Project Christmas (18 Swing bed;6 Baby)
Swing Bed/Lap Top – Thank you gifts & FWV
Big Stone County Cancer Support Group
Online Auction (Baby & Swing Bed)
Baby Rosie (Baby)
Quilts were made and purchased by members

As we stitch and prepare the cards, we are reminded that “love” doesn’t always come wrapped with a ribbon. “Love” the real thing appears in ways one might not expect or immediately recognize. The Day of Love group creates gifts of love by using threads of stitches and rays of sunshine by way of sending cards!!!! It is a busy group with busy hands – loving hearts!



Gifts & Memorials



(October 1st – December 28th)

ADVENT TREE

Gayle Anderson; Kevin & Becky Backstrand; Rick & Dawn Barnhardt; Marilyn Chindvall; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Jim & Julie Hipple; Sharron Johnson; Chris Petersen; Dale Price; Rob & Kathy Randall; Glenda Reiffenberger; Anthony & Jocelyn Schowalter; Scott & Monica Simonitch; Richard & Marla Strei; Jonathan & Carol Ydstie

ALTAR GUILD

Connie & Carol Newman in memory of Vi Mehlhop;
Glenda Reiffenberger

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT

Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg

CHRISTMAS

Ronald & Ginger Athey; Cody & Jennifer Backstrand. Vernon & Carol Bell; Lois Bergeson; Sharon Carlson; Marilyn Chindvall; Larry & Jyla Dahle; Melvin & Jackie Domine; Erik & Beth Fladhammer; Keith & Lynne Giese; Kyle & Courtney Giese; James & Kate Heinecke; Jim & Julie Hipple; Alan & Amy Hodenfield; Vivian Janssen; Sharron Johnson; Matt & Kristin Karels; Liz Ketz; Gale May; Nancy Nolop; Roger & Barb Nornes; Anthony & Jocelyn Schowalter; Sharon Smith; Dean & Karen Strand; Steve & Lori Strei; Bruce & Evie Swigerd; Taffe; Russ & Ronda Thielke.

DAY OF LOVE

In memory of Vi Mehlhop: Ronald & Ginger Athey; Lois Bergeson; Adeline Burgess; Sharon Carlson; Larry & Jyla Dahle; Arlene Gustafson; Darlene Mikkelsen; Erlys Sis.

Larry & Jyla Dahle in memory of Larry Farmer, Aleda Trebil and Chuck Trygestad.

Glenda Reiffenberger.

ELCA MISSIONARIES

Marilyn Chindvall; Liz Ketz; Darlene Mikkelsen; Sharon Smith; and Jack & Mary Weber.

FOOD SHELF

Marilyn Chindvall; Darlene Mikkelsen; Dennis & Jane Pansch.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Marilyn Chindvall; Melvin & Jackie Domine; James & Kate Heinecke; Sharron Johnson; Liz Ketz; Darlene Mikkelsen; Sharon Smith; Jack & Mary Weber

JAYCEE'S PROJECT CHIRSTMAS

Kevin & Becky Backstrand; Marilyn Chindvall; James & Kate Heinecke; Liz Ketz; Nola Lockwood; Darlene Mikkelsen; Sharon Smith; Jack & Mary Weber.

KDIO

Mark & Terry Block; Pat Collins; David & Debbie Ellingson; Curt & Penny Hormann; Darlene Mikkelsen; Roger & Barb Nornes; Rodney & Vicki Torgerson; Richard & Rita Verheul.

OPERATING

Gayle Anderson; Kirby & Mari Athey; Ron & Ginger Athey; Arvilla Bergseth; Sharon Carlson; Marilyn Chindvall *in memory of Vi Mehlhop*; Larry & Jyla Dahle; Melvin & Jackie Domine; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Marilyn Hanson; Glenn & Deb Henningson; Evelyn Johnson; Nancy Nolop; Mary Lou Olson; Glenda Reiffenberger; Scott & Julie Schneider; Erlys Sis *in memory of Linda Olson*; Garry & Ethel Swenson; Bruce & Evie Swigerd; Robert Swint; Russ & Ronda Thielke; Clara Zeek

OUTDOOR DIGITAL SIGN

Anonymous donor *in memory of Linda Olson*.
Bruce & Evie Swigerd.

SQUARES

Jerry & Kathy Longhenry *in memory of Tom Saeger*, Bruce & Evie Swigerd

SOMEPLACE SAFE

Arvilla Bergseth.

THANKSGIVING

Lois Bergeson; Chris & Kari Dorry; Dave & Deb Ellingson; Marilyn Hanson; James & Kate Heinecke; Jim & Julie Hipple; Terry Kalberg; Liz Ketz; Eldon & Carol Knutson; Roger & Barb Nornes; Mary Lou Olson; Burton Pansch; Sharon Smith.

YOUTH GROUP

Lois Bergeson *in memory of Tom Saeger Jr.*; Mark & Terry Block *in memory of Jeffrey Block*; Sharron Johnson *in memory of Viola Mehlhop*; James & Ranet Schmeichel *in memory of Larry Drobny*; Garry & Ethel Swenson *in memory of Tom Saeger*; Bruce & Evie Swigerd; Russel & Ronda Thielke *in memory of Kellie Thielke*.



Christmas Poinsettias/Floral Arrangements have been given...

... in loving memory of our parents Elvin and Alviera Randall and Ralph and Lyann Quade from the Rob and Kathy Randall Family.

... in loving memory of Bob & Donna Thompson from Chuck & Carol and families, Greg & Pat Thompson, and Mark & Sheila Thomson and families.

... in loving memory of Leo and Darlene Barnhardt and Bonnie Hill from Rick and Dawn Barnhardt.

... in loving memory of Herman and Alice Ellingson from David & Debbie Ellingson and family.

... in loving memory of Adeline Brown from David & Debbie Ellingson and family.

... in loving memory of Dallas I Hanson from Marilyn Hanson.

... in loving memory of Wes & JoAnn Strei from Richard, Marla & family.

... in loving memory of loved ones by Dean & Anita Longnecker

... in loving memory of Richard Janke from Patricia Janke.

... in loving memory of Jerry & Katie Dragseth from Matt & Kirsten Karels family & Marge Dragseth.

... by Erlys Sis and Connie & Carol Newman.

From the Dr. Steve & Jodi Swanson in Tanzania

Dear First English Lutheran Church,
This year marks the first Christmas that our family is not all together. We are in Tanzania, while Hannah, Caedmon, and Jennifer (our unofficially adopted Tanzanian daughter) are in Minnesota. Considering that Hannah and Caedmon are 22 and 19 years old, respectively, we are fortunate to have spent so many Christmases together. We have returned from an extended period of reflection/rest and mini-sabbatical in South Africa, with a greater sense of clarity for the coming year. In the coming months we will be sharing more, as new projects develop and we begin the next chapter in Tanzania. As 2022 draws to a close, we remember the many moments of healing, gift giving, and small miracles of life that we encounter every

week. God has been faithful. During our recent trip to Cape Town (as part of our mini-sabbatical/ Sabbath rest), we spent time with Dr. Evelyine Mushi. Evelyine is one of Steve's former trainees, and the recipient of an ELCA scholarship to study pediatrics in South Africa. She hopes to return to Arusha to work with him after completing her training in pediatrics & neonatology.

Year in Review: As 2022 draws to an end, we are grateful:

- ✓ Our children's health and opportunities in school with Hannah at St Olaf [MN], Caedmon at UW-Madison [WI], and Indya at Rift Valley Academy [Kenya]
- ✓ 25 years of marriage
- ✓ 9+ years in Tanzania
- ✓ Opportunities to serve in 2 hospitals & the nursing school
- ✓ Busy hospitals and clinics
- ✓ Teaching, and a successful international Tiny Feet, Big Steps neonatology conference
- ✓ ALMC NICU caring for ~400 babies (a record!)
- ✓ Your loving support, which helps us provide salaries for Tanzanian pediatric doctors, scholarships for nurses, equipment, medications, and food for hospitalized children, and the care of so many small, fragile babies.

We face an uncertain future with monumental struggles being faced by ALMC and Selian Lutheran Hospital, which cannot easily be put into writing. Despite this, we know that 2023 holds opportunities and possibilities for continued work and new directions. We hold to the promise that God, who began all good things, remains forever faithful. We may not see through the window clearly, but He is still there.

With grateful hearts for 2022,
Steve & Jodi



In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes

1 In a far-off place, Jesus comes to earth. Sheep and cattle grace the site. As the angel songs begin, like the whisper of the wind, nature's hope awakes again; Jesus comes.

2 For the poor in heart, Jesus comes to earth. Humble shepherds start the news. For each homeless infant born, for the meek and those who mourn, for the weary and the worn, Jesus comes.

3 In our deepest night, Jesus comes to earth: radiant star to light our way. Summer's heat or winter's chill, with a warm and loving will, to a world that needs him still, Jesus comes.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #737666-A All rights reserved.

This has been a year when the Advent message of Immanuel” – “God with us” - has been especially meaningful; powerful, in a gentle sort of way. We each can name the far-off places we’ve been, the fears, the losses, the roadblocks that suddenly appear, the continual pivoting to adapt to each new change, and the weariness of it all. In these moments, we often wonder where God is in the mix of it all. We feel we’re too far-off from the reach of God, can’t quite fathom that the Almighty God could be there in the messiness of life. Our lives. And yet God is. In the story of Jesus’ birth this promise is made known: **Jesus comes.**

In this cold December, may you know that Jesus comes to you in your far-off place, wherever that may be. May you know again that this Child, Jesus, was born for you, dear child of God. May the good news of the Word-made-flesh bring you joy and peace. May the knowledge of the cross bring you comfort and strength. May your heart be lifted up by song and prayer and sacrament. May your eyes be opened to see the needs of our world.

And may you go to far-off places and bring acts of love.

+ Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas,
Rev. Dee Pederson - Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – JANUARY

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Banners:

Flower Committee:

Barb Wiese & Mary Weber

Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter

Connie and Carol Newman



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Jan. 1: Kathy Haukos

Jan. 8: Marilyn Hanson

Jan. 15: Lisa Berdan

Jan. 22: Carol Ydstie

Jan. 29: Amy Adelman

Feb. 5: Kathy Haukos

Feb. 12: Carol Ydstie

Feb. 19: Lisa Berdan

Feb. 22: Marilyn Hanson

Feb. 26: Amy Adelman

LECTOR

Jan. 1: Liz Ketz

Jan. 8: Marge Dragseth

Jan. 15: Kathy Randall

Jan. 22: Jim Foster

Jan. 29: Tami Lundberg

Feb. 5: Chris Petersen

Feb. 12: Jon Ydstie

Feb. 19: Marilyn Hanson

Feb. 22: Kristi Ehrenberg

Feb. 26: Jim Schmeichel

ACOLYTES

Jan. 1: Rylie & Cameron

Jan. 8: Lexie & Eliot

Jan. 15: Brandon & Mason

Jan. 22: Meadow & Ashton S

Jan. 29: Jaclyn & Madilyn

Feb. 5: Miley & Ava

Feb. 12: Mikaela & Brianna

Feb. 19: Chase & Ashton C

Feb. 22: Bryson & Archer

Feb. 26: Hannah & Brooke

LAY ASSISTANTS

Jan. 1: Lori Strei & Becky Parker

Jan. 8: Jim & Ranet Schmeichel

Jan. 29: Brent Zahrbock & Terry Kalberg

Feb. 5: Lori Larson & Marilee Haukos

Feb. 12: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg

Feb. 22: Marilyn Chindvall & Sara Mattison

FV Neighborhoods

Jan. 1: Marge Dragseth

Jan. 8: Pat Collins & Mary Lou Olson

Jan. 29: Kim Anderson

Feb. 5: TBD

Feb. 12: TBD

GREETERS

Jan. 1: Lori Larson & Marilee Haukos

Jan. 8: Barb & Warren Wiese

Jan. 15: Kathy Randall & Ann Mattison

Jan. 22: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg

Jan. 29: Brent Zahrbock & Terry Kalberg

Feb. 5: Ethel & Garry Swenson

Feb. 12: Clara Zeek & Becky Parker

Feb. 19: Jackie & Mel Domine

Feb. 22: Marilyn Chindvall & Kevin Fossen

Feb. 26: Marge Dragseth & Liz Ketz

SOUND SYSTEM

Jan. 1: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

Jan. 8: Matt Karels & Marina Thomson

Jan. 15: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

Jan. 22: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

Jan. 29: Dean Strand & Marina Thomson

Feb. 5: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

Feb. 12: Matt Karels & Marina Thomson

Feb. 19: Dean Strand & Marina Thomson

Feb. 22: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

Feb. 26: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

USHERS

Jan. 1: Ev Johnson, Kim & Jon Anderson,
& Kevin Fossen

Jan. 8: Glenn Henningson, Ron Athey, Art
Vollmer, & Larry Dahle

Jan. 15: Dean Longnecker, Dick Strei, Gale May,
& Vern Nickolauson

Jan. 22: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Jackie
Domine, and Liz Ketz

Jan. 29: Dick Strei, Kevin Fossen, Larry Dahle, &
Rodney Torgerson


Feb. 5: Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern
Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson

Feb. 12: Eldon Knutson, Darin Ehrenberg, &
Harley Helgeson

Feb. 19: Russell Thielke, Warren Wiese, Connie
Newman, & Gale May

Feb. 22: Russell Thielke, Warren Wiese, Connie
Newman, & Gale May

Feb. 26: Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale
May, & Keven Berdan

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 2023 † † † First English Lutheran Church					Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net click on “Schedule & Weekly Daily Devotions”	
1 NAME OF JESUS 9:00 am Worship-Communion- KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fairway View Worship-Live New Year's Day	2 OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS	3 9:00 am Day of Love 12:00 pm Executive Meeting 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	4 9:00 am Circle 4 in Church Lounge 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) & Kid's Club 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	5	6 Epiphany of Our Lord 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	7
8 9:00 am Worship-Communion- Pledge Dedication-KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School 10:30 am Fairway View Worship- Pre-recorded	9 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10 9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	11 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) & Kid's Club 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group & TV Broadcast 6:15 pm WAM Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir	12	13 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	14
15 9:00 am Worship-Contemporary – KDIO Broadcast and Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School	16 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	17 9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	18 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) & Kid's Club 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	19 Pastor Denise Away Continuing Education	20 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	21
22 9:00 am Worship–Service of the Word– KDIO Broadcast and Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School 10:30 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation of FELC in Sanctuary (Backup date is January 29 th)	23 10:00 am Staff Meeting	24 9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) & Kid's Club 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5-6:30 pm Just For the Love of It Dinner 5:30 pm Youth Group & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	26 Pastor Denise Away Continuing Education	27 9:00 am Bulletins Printed Pastor Denise Away Continuing Education	28
29 9:00 am Worship–Service of the Word– KDIO Broadcast and Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School 	30 10:00 am Staff Meeting	31 9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV				