



First English Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

 Hello April 



From the Pastor

PSALM 150

1 Praise the Lord!

*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!*

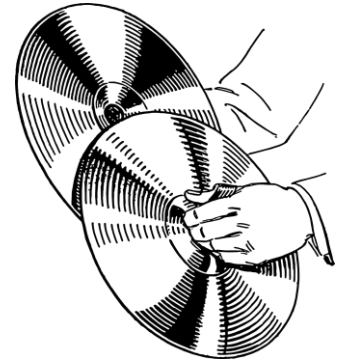
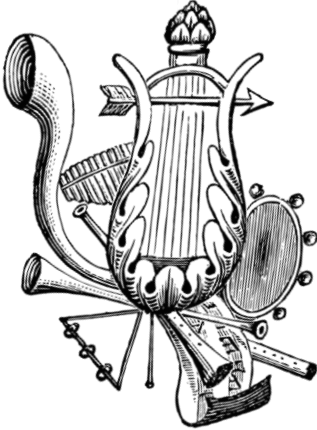
*2 Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!*

*3 Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!*

*4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!*

*5 Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!*

*6 Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!*



We're in the middle of the solemnity of Lent as I write this. Holy Week seems like a long way away; so does Easter. In the church planning world, we're already there! Church secretaries, pastors, and musicians all deal with this in different ways, some enjoying the challenge and some, not so much.

I came across this devotional by The Rev. Erik Hoeke, an ordained United Methodist minister that works as a writer for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Psalm 150 initiated an observation of his different friends and their personalities. One friend, he states, her "presence is always noticed. Her voice, though friendly, is the loudest in any room. Since we are both clergy, we often see each other at meetings in large sanctuaries that amplify her voice, which reverberates in those spaces like LOUD, CLASHING CYMBALS!" Do you know anyone like that?

In describing himself, he notes that he is not considered "loud." He self-describes himself "more like the lute and harp you probably didn't notice in this psalm's praise band amidst the trumpets and tambourines and clanging cymbals and dancing worshippers. There's a lot of unrestrained energy in this psalm's worship." Think of the people you know that are more like the lute and harp, people that are in the background, not the center of attention.

The season of Lent has a different mood or feel than Easter and Christmas. As Hoeke describes, "in Lent, pastors and church musicians exercise restraint. Worship is contemplative; the organ and praise band are softer and quieter; we even embrace silence as much as we can stand the discomfort. Then on Easter morning, we pull out all the stops—a phrase originating in organ-playing, describing the time when all the pipes are used to get the fullest possible sound." We need both, contemplative and noisy, loud clashing symbols and lutes. Hoeke compares the two spring liturgical seasons to personalities of people. "Some of us are Lent people. We are good at quiet contemplation and drawing others into a silence that notices things more deeply. Others of us are loud Easter people—the life of the party!—who pull out all the stops and release unrestrained energy and excitement reminding us of God's mighty deeds and surpassing greatness."

As a reminder, "God's holy praise band has soft and loud people and soft and loud instruments. Each have their time and purpose. Each reflect the God we worship, who sometimes spoke in thunderclaps and other times as a whispering wind. People who are soft or loud, or somewhere in between, each bear the image of God."

Isn't that good news? Per the refrain from the Celtic Thunder song, "A Place in The Choir:"

*All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.*

You, whether you sing loud or softly, clap, or play an instrument or not, you, all of you, are part of God's choir. We're glad you're here to make a holy, joyous noise.

We have many worship opportunities with Sundays, midweek Lenten services at Fairway View and FELC, Holy Week (April 2-8) services and two services with breakfast in between on Easter (April 9th). See the calendar for details. Come join the "choir" of voices worshipping God. Your part is needed and welcomed.

Singing praises with you,

Pastor Denise

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Council Minutes – March 13th, 2023 (not yet approved)

Members present: Pastor Denise Fossen, Kristi Ehrenberg (president), Sara Mattison-Lay Ministry, Becky Parker (treasurer), Deb Henningson-Evangelism, Darin Ehrenberg-Stewardship, Glenn Henningson-Church Properties, Gayla Athey-Youth & Family Ministry, and Barbara Wegner-Secretary.

Meeting was called to order by President Kristi Ehrenberg at 7:53 pm.

Discussed February Minutes with one edit concerning reviewing salaries for 2024.

Approval of new February Minutes. Becky & Darin **MSP**.

Acceptance of the treasury report. Deb & Glenn **MSP**.

There were no membership transfers this month.

Board of Lay Ministry – Sara Mattison – Holy week is set up. Staff holiday on April 10th. WAM minutes were approved.

Board believes the Events Calendar upgrade to pro is worth the \$99/yr. On the fence about the Congregational Revitalization Program. It starts next week but there wasn't enough time to see if enough people would be interested and able to attend that it would be worth the \$1,500.

Council thought the Revitalization program might not be worth it because we may not have enough willing and able to attend during normal working hours for such a long program.

Board of Evangelism discussed feeling as if the ideas from the survey have not yet been implemented so why spend more money on the program before implementing those ideas.

Board of Lay Ministry didn't talk about the Synod Assembly.

Board of Evangelism – Deb Henningson – No one on the board is able to attend the Synod Assembly. Through talking with others, the consensus was to wait a year on the directory as more people may come back to the church. There were no transfers in or out. Instead of prayer shawls for guests we will do cards with magnets. Agreed that the Events Calendar was worth the \$99/yr. for the time saved.

Youth & Family – Gayla Athey - The sub fundraiser was a great mentor/mentee project and made \$700. Easter Breakfast will be between the 7 & 9 services with a freewill donation. Eggs, rolls, and sausage will be served. The Kid's Club will make May Day baskets with the older kids distributing them on May Day. There will be a form for the congregation to order baskets & provide recipients. Green Lake opened some spots for summer. Senior Recognition will be May 7th. Board believed there was one senior, Julia Wiik (graduating May 14th), but the council discussed whether Hannah Vanderwal was a senior. Hannah had transferred out, but she's been coming to choir & has been involved with the church. She is a senior. Someone will reach out to her about senior recognition. No kids are going to the Synod Senior High Gathering because of conflicts.

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg – There is an opening, but everyone will stay on. Five online giving options will be edited on the website. We have had new online giving donations since the temple talk. \$99/yr. is fine for the Events Calendar.

Church Properties – The Narthex door has a new latch from Brian's Glass. There was furnace trouble but it's been fixed. Dean is going to get someone to look at the water fountain. Art will contact Nobels roofing to get a quote on shingles on the north slope of church & Narthex. The other part is covered by insurance. It should be cheaper to do the whole thing at one time. Art will get construction bids on replacing the sidewalk by the Narthex side door because of the sink hole cavity. Glenn will check with Nelson's Electric to get ideas on possible bell repairs.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Worship: Holy Communion service was held Feb. 12th both at FELC & Fairway View (FWV). Contemporary service was Feb. 19th; Ash Wednesday on February 22nd was cancelled due to weather; Sun. February 26th, after rewriting the order of service, begin with Ash Wednesday liturgy and imposition of ashes and transitioned to Lent 1 which included Holy Communion. March 1st Midweek Lent was held at FWV but cancelled at FELC due to weather. Design of Wednesday FWV services & FELC services were completed. I recruited several students to play parts in the FELC midweek dramas. WAM completed recruitment, planned staging, & scheduled practices. WAM met Sun, February 26th during coffee hour. Worship settings were discussed. Holy Week needs to be planned.

Pastoral Care: Pastoral care continues through in person, text, calls, and notes. Funeral for Zachary Giese was held Wednesday, February 15th with a prayer service and visitation the night before. The upcoming Sunday scripture are studied each week at FWV on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00pm. February 21st was cancelled due to weather. We have two baptisms scheduled for April 30th.

Confirmation and Youth: Confirmation was held February 8th but cancelled February 15th due to weather. As it was the last session before Lent when we pause classes, an email was sent to parents with their class special project assignments. As mentioned above, some confirmation students are characters in the mid-week Lent drama. I attended the synod sponsored three hour zoom on Tuesday, Feb. 28th on boundaries and influence for children. We continue to advertise for a youth leader.

Community, Synod, and Miscellaneous: I submitted my annual report to Bishop Dee Pederson prior to her preaching on Sunday, March 12th. A continuing education event (Preaching Sundays in Lent) was rescheduled in January due to weather and I was not able to attend the rescheduled event. Instead, I attended a sabbath and spiritual practices retreat at Green Lake Bible camp February 2-3. On Monday, February 13th I attended part 5 of Congregational Mental Health continuing education class at Gustavus Adolphus. Our monthly in person Lac Qui Parle pastor conference meeting was held at Madison Health Care center. Rev. Dawn Quame is the chaplain called to serve there. Synod Minister Rev. Naomi Mahler attended as a representative of the synod. The annual Lac Qui Parle conference assembly was held at Kvitseid Lutheran in Milan Feb. 26th. Kristi & Darren Ehrenberg, Marilyn Chindvall, and I represented FELC. Numerous positions were not filled during the meeting, though later some had expressed interest in open positions. Rev. Don McKee from Our Savior's Lutheran in Montevideo was elected dean of the conference. Pastor Don will be doing things differently, such as having less meetings, not as many as the by-laws say you're supposed to.

Part of my Lenten discipline is attending a weekly zoom meeting on Fridays that focus on grief, roughly based on the grief lectionary continuing education event I attended last September.

Upcoming: Vacation planned for April 10th (staff holiday) to April 17th; June 13th – June 19th. Both Sundays will need pulpit supply but they are not communion Sundays. Continuing education dates include April 23rd through Monday April 24th sponsored by Church Anew featuring Kate Bowler, the author of the book we based 2022 mid-week Lenten services on. I will return late that night. Scheduled in May, starting on Monday, the 15th, is the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis. There are still some unknowns regarding this but I should have final information next month. 2023 Synod Assembly June 9-10, 2023, in person, at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Council discussed LQP conference is wondering if it's meaningful and may be restructuring. Keeping Neva Foster in prayers. Caring friends is going. Deb loved the Mid-Week Lenten drama. Approval of Events Calendar upgrade to Pro. Becky & Deb **MSP**. Deb discussed Lenten soup suppers from the past and how it would be good to have a Lenten meal of sandwiches with service next year so families with children who need to eat can make it to service. Pastor discussed the survey results and why things haven't been implemented. One example is some wanted coffee before church, but no one wanted to prepare it. People want certain changes, but no one seems to want to do any work to get the things that they want to be implemented. Next council meeting will be on April 3rd at 7:00 PM. Motion to adjourn – Deb & Gayla **MSP**. Closed with Lord's Prayer at 8:29 pm.

There was a correction to the February minutes. In the Lay Ministry report, "Wants to remember to look into the choir director & organist with regards to increasing stipends when they review salaries. Barbara will remind them via Planned Parish notes." has been updated to: "Desire to look into the choir director & organist with regards to increasing stipends during salary reviews for 2024. Barbara will remind them via Planned Parish notes at the year end."

April 2023 Youth News

March was a quiet month for the youth as we entered Lenten Season and we do not hold youth activities other than Sunday School.

Thanks go to the following for teaching the PreK-2 Sunday School: March 12th Kaye/ Taffe family; March 19th Koch/Sigler family; and March 26th Wollschlager family. There are still spots available for volunteers to take a turn for both the K-2nd grade and the 3rd-6th grade. Please check the Youth Facebook page and let us know when you are available to help.

Update about the Noisy Offering: We support 4 South African Students through our congregation. Each student's tuition is \$300 a year. The Youth Group sponsors one student and the remaining 3 are sponsored by your generosity to the Noisy Offering.

Coming up for April:

2nd- Palm Sunday—kids sing and process for the Opening Hymn—Sunday school at normal time.

6th- Maundy Thursday 7PM

7th- Good Friday Cantata 7PM

9th- Easter Service 7 AM and 9 AM

Easter breakfast 8-9 AM (7-12th grade youth & parents serve. If you have not let us know which shift you will be working, please look at the youth page to see where the need is and let us know.)

No Sunday School

19th- Confirmation, Kids Club, and Youth Group resumes

30th – Sunday School will be singing at Fairway View

Thank you to these people for their generous donations to the youth.

🌸 Glenda Reiffenberger memorial for Zachary Giese 🌸 Russell and Ronda Thielke memorial for Zachary Giese
🌸 Kevin and Becky Backstrand memorial for Ann Lundberg 🌸 Sharron Johnson

Enjoy your Spring!

Parish Nurse Article for March

El Roi - "The God Who Sees"



He sees your pain. He feels your suffering and understands your sorrows. He sees what you are going through. He sees you.

When you are in need, remember that God is always there and there is nothing that He can't fix. El Roi sees your heartache. He wants you to let Him walk with you through it and to remind you that He has a good plan for you. (Jeremiah 29:11)

"The Lord himself watches over you. The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade. The Lord keeps you from all harms. He watches over your life." (Psalm 121)

CHURCH NEWS

The Annual Synod Assembly is at Gustavus Adolphus College June 9-10. Please contact the church office to let someone know if you'd like to attend as a FELC delegate. Last year's assembly had to be cancelled due to a lack of participation, hopefully this is not the case for this coming year.

Easter Breakfast will be served by our youth and their families. Come join us April 9th at 8 am (between our 7 am and 9 am Worship services) for an egg omelet, sausage patties, fresh baked cinnamon rolls, juice and coffee. Free will offering will help support our youth. Hope to see you there!



Bishop Dee Pederson was here on the 12th and gave the sermon, the Children's Message, & stayed to have a meet and greet with the congregation afterwards. We are thankful she could join us!

Dual Baptisms this month! Be sure to come and join us on April 30th as we will be welcoming into the congregation Harlow Hintz & Marcus Hanson!

Lutheran Men in Mission SW MN Synod Spring Gathering is April 15th at Gloria Dei Church in Redwood Falls. Registration starts at 8:30 am and closing worship and communion is at 2:45 pm. Registration forms and more information is available in the office or by going to our website and looking under "church updates."

FELC's New Website is up! If you haven't visited firstenglish.net for a while, check out our brand-new website design. Barbara Wegner, the parish secretary is also a web designer and created a whole new site for us!

Want the newsletter ASAP? The newsletter is always posted on the website & sent via e-mail to our list. Let the office know if you would like to get the newsletter e-mailed to you and we can put you on that list.

The Ortonville Ambulance Relief Association will hold their annual pancake breakfast fundraiser on April 23rd from 8-1 pm at the Ambulance Garage 232 1st St NW. It will be a drive-thru only pick up service with a free will donation to help support the OARA and provide higher patient care in the Ortonville service area.

We are looking for volunteers to prepare and serve coffee on Sundays going forward. Please contact the office or Kristi Ehrenberg if you are willing to help.



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.

MAY THE GOD OF ALL CONSOLATION be with the family of Ann Lundberg whose funeral was at FELC on Monday, March 20th.

KDIO BROADCASTS

... (March 5th) was sponsored in loving memory of Becky Trebil who would be 99 on March 6th, given by her family.


... (March 12th) was sponsored in memory of my best Singing Buddies, Marlys Selvig and Donna Hoel with love, Lois Bergeson.

... (March 19th) was sponsored by Kathy Stolpman in memory of her dad, Robert Taylor, who passed away 32 years ago today. Blessed be his memory.

... (March 26th) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

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

CIRCLE 4



Meets in the Church Lounge
on Wed., April 5th at 9:00 am.
Hostess: Ev Johnson
Lesson: Eryls Sis



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!

April 2023

Designated Funds

Building (please specify) \$ _____

Operating Fund \$ _____

Other SWMN Funding Initiative \$ _____

Name _____

JanuaryTechnology 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



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.'



Gifts & Memorials

(December 29th – March 27th)

ALTAR GUILD

Marilyn Hanson; Jim & Julie Hipple; Glenda Reiffenberger; & Anthony & Jocelyn Schowalter.

BELLS

Garry & Ethel Swenson *in memory of Ann Lundberg.*

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT

Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg.

CHRISTMAS

Scott Dahle and Dick & Marla Strei.

DAY OF LOVE

Larry & Jyla Dahle *in memory of Harlen Nelson & Ann Lundberg.* Marilyn Hanson and Dick & Marla Strei.

ELCA SW MN Synod

Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg

FOOD SHELF

Gayle Anderson; Marilyn Chindvall; Melvin & Jackie Domine; James & Kate Heinecke; Liz Ketz; & Erlys Sis.

GIVING TREE

Glenn & Deb Henningson.

KDIO

Lois Bergeson *in memory of Marlys Selvig & Donna Hoel.* Cheryl Carl *in memory of Becky Trebil.* Sharron Johnson *in memory of Jim Johnson.* Kathy Stolpman *in memory of Robert Taylor.*

LENT (DONATED TO KATIE'S KICKS)

Kevin & Becky Backstrand; Lois Bergeson; Sharon Carlson; Marilyn Chindvall; Larry & Jyla Dahle; Chris & Kari Dorry; Marge Dragseth; Dave & Deb Ellingson; Ruth Hanson; James & Kate Heinecke; Glenn & Deb Henningson; Alan & Amy Hodenfield; Vivian Janssen; Sharron Johnson; Matthew & Kristen Karels; Liz Ketz; Eldon & Carol Knutson; Mike & Nicole Lovgren; Ann Mattison; Sara Mattison; Gale May; Darlene Mikkelson; Dale Price; Judith Roberts; Scott & Monica Simonitch; Sharon Smith; Den & Karen Strand; Dick & Marla Strei; & Joshua & Rachel Zinski.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

James & Kate Heinecke; Alex Johnson; Gale May; & Clara Zeek.

LQP Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering April 18th in Rural Montevideo

Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Baxter HWY 212 between Monte & Dawson

Join us to hear from Melissa Bruns, Site Director of Hope Harbor's founding Marshall MN location to learn more about this ministry's work to impact generations.

8:30 am Registration, Coffee & Treats
 9:00-11:00 am Hope Harbor Program

Hope Harbor is a nonprofit ministry that works with teens & parents navigating a variety of challenges that face families today. Teens arrive at their doors in need of a life-altering change to get back on track, and they find that through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

OPERATING FUND

Gayle Anderson; Ronald & Ginger Athey; Arvilla Bergseth; Sharon Carlson; Larry & Jyla Dahle; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Marilyn Hanson; Evelyn Johnson; Darlene Mikkelson; Nancy Nolop; Erlys Sis; Garry & Ethel Swenson; Robert Swint; Russel & Ronda Thielke; and Clara Zeek.

PARISH NURSE

Dave Tonn *in memory of Carol Bell's Brother.*

SENIOR CHOIR

Lois Bergeson; & Cheryl Carl *in memory of Ann Lundberg.*

SOMEPLACE SAFE

Arvilla Bergseth.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Dave & Deb Ellingson *in memory of Ann Lundberg.*

SQUARES

Ronald & Ginger Athey *in memory of Zach Giese.* Sharron Johnson.

TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER

Marilyn Chindvall; Liz Ketz; Glenda Reiffenberger; & Robert Swint.

YOUTH FUND

In memory of Zach Giese: Kevin & Becky Backstrand; Glenda Reiffenberger; and Russel & Ronda Thielke. Kevin & Becky Backstrand *in memory of Ann Lundberg;* Marilyn Chindvall; Melvin & Jackie Domine; Ruth Hanson; Sharron Johnson; Liz Ketz; & Sharon Smith.



Zoom Conversation: Five Themes *LeaderWise* Hears

Tuesday, April 18

For many congregations, church-as-we-know-it is struggling and may soon vanish. When *LeaderWise*, as church consultants, work with congregations we often hear the same FIVE THEMES; however, these FIVE THEMES hinder congregations from stepping into the future.

Five Themes *LeaderWise* Hears And Why They Are the Death of the Church by Rev. Cindy Halvorson, MDiv, DMin
<https://swmnelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Five-Themes-by-Cindy-Halvorson.pdf>

Join us **Tuesday, April 18th** for Zoom conversation around the FIVE THEMES as we think together about what it means to *“be the church”* as society experiences significant shifts.

2:00 p.m. will be a conversation with the Rostered Ministers and 7:00 p.m. will be a conversation with Lay Leaders.

These Zoom conversations will NOT be recorded for future use, so please share this information with Rostered Ministers, Congregation Councils, and Lay Leaders because the conversation will be very beneficial to congregations.

RSVP to receive the Zoom Link: <https://swmnelca.org/event/five-themes>



**Join us for
Easter Breakfast**
Served by our youth &
their families.

Join us for an egg omelet, sausage patties, fresh baked cinnamon rolls, juice, and coffee.



Serving Sunday, April 9th

8:00am – 9:00am.

Free will offering will help support our youth.

OMELET BREAKFAST

Sponsored by: The Big Stone City
Bookends Cancer Team

All proceeds from benefit will go to
It Only Takes A Spark Cancer Walk



Big Stone Community Center

Saturday, **April 15th**

8:30 am to 11:30 am





The gifts [God] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13, NRSV

What you do matters, friends. Every day, God is doing life-giving things through you. Whether in cities, open-country, or towns, you are being the church in a changing era as God continues to re-form us today.

As I think about each of you and your congregations as you lean into Holy Week, I am reminded of this message to the early Christians in Ephesus. St. Paul knows that our identity as Christians is given by God as we are joined to the oneness of the Holy Trinity. Read Ephesians 4:4-6 and count how many times the word “one” appears. Yes: seven! This pivotal section of Ephesians is all about unity; not uniformity, but unity that embraces all our varied gifts. Oneness. Having the mind of Christ, to whom you are joined in baptism. And this unity is seen as people are equipped for ministry that builds up the body.

When Paul talks about gifts given to people in Christ, I *do not believe* he is saying that:

- only some have gifts; note how verse 7 names that *each one* is given gifts;
- some gifts are more important than others; or
- only these people are the gifts – although they certainly are gifts.

But Paul *IS* saying it is by God’s grace that among us there are particular gifts for ministry in order to build up the entire body of Christ. How do you see these gifts lived in your community of faith? These are some that I have the privilege of seeing:

- **Pastors and deacons** who have worked hard to lead their congregations through and emerge from a global pandemic. Many are exhausted. It’s been a rough 3 years. And now they are gearing up for the most intense week of the year, with anywhere from 5-10 liturgies and sermons to prepare between Palm Sunday and Easter.
 - Pray for them. Love them.
 - Ask how you can assist.
 - Provide clear communication.
 - Ask what might help them know refreshment and renewal that will help them continue to lead strong. That might mean, for instance, providing a sabbatical or extra time off to re-charge.
- **Church musicians** are also preparing for those 5-10 liturgies and music offerings.
 - Pray for them.
 - Come early to worship and be blessed by the Prelude.
 - Sing your lungs out! We haven’t been able to do that for a few Easters!
 - Stay for the entire Postlude and give them your applause. Thank them for their ministry.
- **Evangelists** – this is all of us – people who help others know the love of Jesus in the things we say and do.
 - Think about how good it feels when you walk into a new place and are welcomed with a smile and an authentically warm greeting.
 - Pray we might have warm and welcoming hearts as new people come to worship during this holiest time of the year, seeking healing and words of life. Pray that they know the love of Jesus through you.
- **Congregation lay leaders and call committees** are working hard to lead faithfully and identify new rostered ministers for congregations hoping to extend a call.
 - Pray for them.
 - Ask how you can support them.
 - Pray that God will raise up new people for full- or part-time ministry. Keep your hearts open for those you might encourage to consider this.
- Within all of our congregations and communities there are **prophets** – people who call a thing what it is, and **teachers** – in our public schools, Sunday schools, and preschools.
 - Pray for them. Listen to them. Encourage them.
- Finally, all of us are **apostles**, people who are “sent ones” – sent to be the hands and feet and voice and love of Jesus with whatever gifts God’s given.

As your Lent flows into Holy Week, may you be empowered, strengthened, and lifted up as you embody the gifts and oneness you have received in Jesus Christ.

Gracious God, thank you for the variety of gifts you hand out to your people: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, deacons, teachers, leaders, and all who serve. Sustain and empower each one as they prepare for the ministries of Holy Week and Easter. Build up the unity of our congregations. Bless those who seek new life in Jesus Christ. And send us to love the neighbors you give us. In the strong name of the Holy Trinity. Amen.

Bishop Dee Pederson



ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – APRIL

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Amy Adelman & Marla Strei

Banners:

Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter

Flower Committee:

Neva Foster & Ranet Schmeichel

SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

April 2: Kathy Haukos

April 6*: Marilyn Hanson

April 7*: Carol Ydstie

April 9 (7 am): Amy Adelman

April 9 (9 am): Amy Adelman

April 16: Lisa Berdan

April 23: Amy Adelman

April 30: Carol Ydstie

May 7: Kathy Haukos

May 14: Carol Ydstie

May 21: Lisa Berdan

May 28: Amy Adelman

LECTOR

April 2: Kelsey Kaye

April 6*: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

April 9 (7 am): Liz Ketz

April 9 (9 am): Kathy Randall

April 16: Ellie Helgeson

April 23: Kim Anderson

April 30: Brent Zahrbock

May 7: Terry Kalberg

May 14: Darin Ehrenberg

May 21: Liv Wollschlager

May 28: David Ellingson

ACOLYTES

April 2: Ashton S & Brandon

April 6*: Eliot & Chase

April 7*: Brandon & Ashton C

April 9 (7 am): Jaclyn & Julia

April 9 (9 am): Cameron & Ava

April 16: Hannah & Brooke

April 23: Brianna & Mikaela

April 30: Miley & Bryson

May 7: Justice & Archer

May 14: Mason & Rylie

May 21: Treshawn & Raimi

May 28: Madilyn & Owen

LAY ASSISTANTS

April 2: Brent Zahrbock & Becky Parker

April 6*: Liz Ketz & Kirsten Karels

April 9 (7 am): **2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

April 9 (9 am): Dave Ellingson & Kirsten Karels

April 30: Lori Strei & Sara Mattison

May 7: Marge Dragseth & Lori Larson

May 14: Jim & Ranet Schmeichel

*April 6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

*April 7 Good Friday 7:00 pm

*April 9th Easter has 2 services, 7:00 & 9:00 am

***Please contact the office if you are willing to volunteer for any of the above open spots.**

FV Neighborhoods

April 2: Barb & Warren Wiese

April 9*: Paula Reisdorph

April 30: Marge Dragseth

May 7: TBD

May 14: TBD

GREETERS

April 2: Glenda Reiffenberger & Julie Schneider

April 9 (9 am): Wollschlager Family

April 16: Kirsten Karels & Sharon Carlson

April 23: Dean & Anita Longnecker

April 30: Sandy & Tom Rice

May 7: Jim & Neva Foster

May 14: Paula Reisdorph & Ev Johnson

May 21: Wollschlager Family

May 28: Jim & Ranet Schmeichel

SOUND SYSTEM

April 2: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

April 6*: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

April 7*: **VOLUNTEER** & Marina Thomson

April 9 (7 am): **VOLUNTEER** & Marina Thomson

April 9 (9 am): **VOLUNTEER** & Marina Thomson

April 16: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

April 23: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

April 30: Dean Strand & Marina Thomson

May 7: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

May 14: Matt Karels & Marina Thomson

May 21: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

May 28: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

USHERS

April 2 & April 6*: Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson

April 7*: **4 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

April 9 (7 am): Russel Thielke, Ron Athey, Vern Nickolauson, Gale May

April 9 (9 am): Eldon Knutson, Darin Ehrenberg, & Harley Helgeson

April 16: Russel Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman

April 23: Eugene Stotesberry, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Keven Berdan.



April 30: Rodney Torgerson, Liz Ketz, & Rob Randall

May 7: Ev Johnson, Jon & Kim Anderson, & Kevin Fossen

May 14: Glenn Henningson, Ron Athey, Art Vollmer, & Larry Dahle

May 21: Dean Longnecker & Dick, Marla, & Adam Strei

May 28: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Jackie & Mel Domine

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 2023 † † † First English Lutheran Church				Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net click on "Schedule & Weekly Daily Devotions"		1
2 PALM SUNDAY  9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School 10:30 am Fairway View Worship LIVE 	3 10:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	4 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	5 9:00 am Circle 4 in Church Lounge 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:15 pm Endowment Meeting 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 6:15 pm Finance Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir No Youth, Confirmation, & Kid's Club	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm Maundy Worship – Communion – Facebook Live  	7 GOOD FRIDAY 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 7:00 pm Cantata – FB Live 	8
9 EASTER  7:00 am Sunrise Easter Worship – Communion 8:00 am Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:00 am Easter Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:30 am Fairway View Worship Pre-recorded	10 OFFICE CLOSED Pastor Denise Fossen Vacation 4/10 to 4/17	11 8:30 am Day of Love 4:00 pm FWV Donnie's Diner Group	12 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir No Youth, Confirmation, & Kid's Club	13	14 9:00 am Bulletins Printed Pastor Denise Fossen Vacation to 4/17	15
16 9:00 am Contemporary Worship – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School Pastor Denise Fossen Vacation until 4/17	17	18 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	19 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	20	21 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	22
23 9:00 am Service of the Word Worship – KDIO & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School	24 10:00 am Staff Meeting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25 8:30 am Day of Love 12:00 pm Executive Meeting 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	26 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	27	28 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	29
30 9:00 am Service of the Word Worship – Baptism of Marcus Hanson & Harlow Hintz Noisy Offering – KDIO & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School 10:20 am WAM Meeting 10:30 am Fairway View Worship Pre-recorded 						