



# *First English Lutheran Church* NEWSLETTER

May 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Ortonville, MN 56278





## From the Pastor

An Eastertide message



The Servant-Girl at Emmaus (A Painting by Velázquez) + Denise Levertov

She listens, listens, holding  
her breath. Surely that voice  
is his — the one  
who had looked at her, once, across the crowd,  
as no one ever had looked?  
Had seen her? Had spoken as if to her?  
Surely those hands were his,  
taking the platter of bread from hers just now?  
Hands he'd laid on the dying and made them well?  
Surely that face — ?  
The man they'd crucified for sedition and blasphemy.  
The man whose body disappeared from its tomb.  
The man it was rumored now some women had seen this morning, alive?  
Those who had brought this stranger home to their table  
don't recognize yet with whom they sit.  
But she in the kitchen, absently touching  
the winejug she's to take in,  
a young Black servant intently listening,  
swings round and sees  
the light around him  
and is sure.

The poet, Denise Levertov was born in England and emigrated to the United States as a young adult. By the time of her death in 1997, she had published nearly fifty volumes of poems, prose, and translations. She taught at several universities, including Stanford, where she converted to Christianity at the age of 60 — and a few years later, gathered together many of her poems on religious themes into one remarkable volume, *The Stream & the Sapphire*. Of that collection, Levertov wrote that her aim was to “trace my slow movement from agnosticism to Christian faith, a movement incorporating much doubt and questioning as well as affirmation.”

Eastertide, the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost (this year May 28), is the time for us too, to have our eyes opened and hearts warmed to the message of Jesus Christ, died and risen. Imagine. Levertov was 60 years old when she had that experience. It is never too late to turn our hearts to God's grace. It is never too late to pray for those who don't recognize Christ...yet. Jesus is always ready to welcome you, always ready to be with you, always ready to love and forgive you.

As the hymn asks, “How can I keep from singing?” how can we keep from sharing the good news of God's love and grace? Share this good news so that others' eyes can be opened, and their hearts warmed, too.

In Christ,

*Pastor Denise*

# FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

## Council Minutes – April 3, 2023 (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*, Kim Anderson-*Evangelism*, Kaitlyn Burdorf-*Christian Education*, Glenn Henningson-*Church Properties*, and Barbara Wegner-*Secretary*.

Meeting was called to order by President Kristi Ehrenberg at 7:48 pm.

So far there have been no volunteers to go to the Synod Assembly June 9-10<sup>th</sup>. There are a few people who may be able to but are still waiting to see if it will work out with their schedules. We save money by registering early so it would be good if we knew. The council decided May 8<sup>th</sup> would work the best for the next council meeting since May 1<sup>st</sup> would make it difficult to get the April financials together in time. Boards may meet at other times & send 1 speaker to the meeting. The council would like to keep the official minutes off the website (besides being in the newsletter as *unofficial*) but would like the upcoming agenda to be on the website so long as it's not got specifics on it. The council wanted to have communion procession and Kari, Becky, and Kelsey volunteered to be lay assistants at the 9 am service.

Approval of March Minutes. Kari & Kim **MSP**.

Approval of March Treasurer's Report. We are ahead of last year at this time, but we we're behind, so had to transfer \$5,000 out of the Operating Reserve to cover the deficit. The "professional expense" amount will be investigated as it shouldn't be there. The expense for Living Lutheran magazine will disappear as they've stopped printing them. Marilyn & Kaitlyn **MSP**.

Marilyn Hanson for WAM has a way to get some instruments from the school at a very good price. There's \$142 in praise band funds & \$523 in Dave Ramsey course. Becky wanted to move the money from the course to the praise band to get these instruments. Kari texted Kirsten Karels to check if she was alright with that. Council moved on while awaiting response.

**Board of Lay Ministry** – Marilyn Chindvall - Accepted WAM minutes. We are doing the senior acolyte gifts with Christian Ed. Marilyn will talk with Carol Thompson about engraved crosses. Pastor Renee Tecklenburg will do pulpit supply for us via Zoom on April 16<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>. Pastor needs coverage on May 21<sup>st</sup> for continuing ed. Becky will ask Pastor Renee if she will be able to cover it. Pastor Janet from Zion will do pastoral care while Pastor Denise is away. Kirsten is the only one on the board with her term up, so she'll be asked if she wants to continue. Because it was a small group they didn't discuss the safety committee.

**Board of Evangelism** – Kim Anderson - For the summer monthly hymn sing, Kim is still verifying if the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in June, July, and August at 4 o'clock will work for Fairway View. They're still working on Mission Emphasis Sunday. The board will present Mother's Day flowers to mothers and those who provide motherly care as they exit church that day. There were no transfers in or out. The directory is put on hold for one year or until more people come back to church. Money from the Advent Giving Tree was designated in December. This amount would be eligible for a percentage additional if we get it to the food shelf by April 9<sup>th</sup>. Approval to give that \$597 from the Advent Giving Tree to the food shelf to get that extra percentage and help the food shelf out more. Kim & Becky **MSP**

The bulletin board will be changed for Easter Sunday by Marla and Jane. Kim continues to call for volunteers up at Fairway View (FWV). FWV Ministry assistants will no longer have to bring the service video on a flash drive, but may use Facebook on the TV screen. In the cabinet by the sink counter there's a sound system, and that power button has to be turned on. Above the sink, open the cupboard door, there's a key there that will open that. According to FWV, assistants need to find someone from FWV, but they can be difficult to find. The secretary doesn't need the flash drive to get the service. Marina is aware she won't need to give someone a flash drive. Becky will need a flash drive for Pastor Renee. The board will look for candidates to fill the open positions.

**Christian Education** – Kaitlyn Burdorf - The board has messaged people about board replacements. The rest of the Sunday School year is all planned out. The last day of Sunday School (May 21<sup>st</sup>) they will do a thank you during church service for all of the volunteers. For senior recognition gifts the board talked with Lay Ministry. Carmen will talk with Hannah to see if she wants to come for Senior Recognition. The children will sing April 30<sup>th</sup> with the church choir. They will also go to FWV after service.

**Youth & Family** – Kari Dorry - Dean is planning on setting up for the Easter breakfast. There should be enough volunteers for that. There will be two lines for serving. Senior Sunday is May 7<sup>th</sup> and we didn't have volunteers to serve cake. The coffee assistants should be able to serve the cake. Barbara should order the cake Bill's Supervalu. It should be a full sheet cake with the senior names on it, which we will have to wait to hear if Hannah wants to do it. To recognize youth group and kid's club volunteers Youth & Family will be a part of the Christian Ed thank you in church on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Great to hear we're getting applicants for the Youth Leadership position. We're working on a May Day fundraiser. Marilyn & the Kid's Club will be weaving May Day baskets. Kirsten texted & said it is ok to move the money from Dave Ramsey to Praise Band. Approval to move money to Praise Band instrument acquisition. Becky & Kim **MSP**.

**Stewardship** – Becky said they didn't meet because there was nothing to discuss on the agenda.

**Church Properties** – Glenn Henningson - Spring Cleanup is set for April 24<sup>th</sup>. Board discussed the bells and getting someone to look at them. We'll have to look at working on some of the long term needs in Spring. Scratching the Luther Rose off the list because it's a lot of maintenance and it still won't last long. Marilyn Chindvall brought up the desire for the water fountain to be fixed, especially with bible school in summer coming up.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

**Worship:** March had midweek Lenten services at FELC and at Fairway View. Thanks for Marilyn Hanson for playing keyboard each midweek service at Fairway View (FWV). FELC is not having a midweek service during Holy Week at FWV. They will have a service.

We had a fair attendance, between 15-20 each week at FWV. Those participating and attending the midweek services at FELC enjoyed the message through drama. Many commented on points of view that they would not have pondered without the messages brought each week in a new way. Many thanks to WAM, and specifically Marilyn Hanson, for recruitment and staging, and for our weekly actors and costumes.

Palm Sunday at FELC included the Sunday School processing, waving palms, and singing the entrance hymn. They also sang two camp songs during the children's message time. Palm Sunday at FWV was lead in person and included over 20 people who waved palms from their seats. Thanks to Kathy Haukos for consistently playing the first Sunday of the month at FWV. It is Holy Week and we are putting final finishes on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, which includes all those bulletins. Grateful for Barbara, Liz, and the new printer for putting in extra time and work to get this all done, even with snow storms that have impacted actual in-office work.

**Pastoral Care:** Pastoral care continues through in person, text, calls, and notes. The funeral for Ann Lundberg was held Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Hospital visits were made to cover Zion's pastor's vacation (I was unaware ahead of time). Pastor Janet Warnes from Zion will cover my vacation next week for emergency pastoral care. The office has her number. The upcoming Sunday scripture are studied each week at FWV on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00pm. We have two baptisms scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>, Marcus Hanson and Harlow Hintz.

**Youth:** We continue to advertise for a youth leader.

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

**Upcoming:** Vacation planned for April 10<sup>th</sup> (staff holiday) to April 17<sup>th</sup>; June 13<sup>th</sup> – June 19<sup>th</sup>. Both Sundays Pr. Renea will preach via recorded zoom with Becky (thanks, Becky!).

Continuing education dates include April 23<sup>rd</sup> (afternoon travel) through Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>, is the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis. I will return Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> in the evening, so pulpit supply will be needed.

2023 Synod Assembly June 9-10, 2023, in person, at Gustavus Adolphus College. We should advertise this in the bulletin and newsletter to recruit people.

Next council meeting will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Motion to adjourn – Kari & Becky **MSP**.

Closed with Lord's Prayer at 8:32 pm.

## Youth News May 2023

- 🌸 The youth served Easter breakfast again. **Thank you** to all the youth and parents that helped. **Thank you** to Dean for setting up all the tables and for all the extra things he does for the youth. **Thank you** to Chris and Kari Dorry, Glenn Henningson, Bret and Kelsie Kaye, and Joe and Jennifer Wiik for getting everything ready that morning.
- 🌸 Kids Club met for their last two classes. One week they weaved baskets that our youth group later used to make baskets for shut ins and on their final day they worked on a Mother's Day Project. **Kid's Club** finished up their year on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 🌸 Sunday School led the procession on Palm Sunday and presented a couple songs to the congregation. They sounded wonderful! April 30<sup>th</sup> they will be up at Fairway View singing.
- 🌸 The Youth Group began meeting again and worked on various projects.



### Coming up for May:

3<sup>rd</sup>- No Confirmation or Youth Group this week due to the early out.

7<sup>th</sup> – **Senior Recognition** for our Senior, Julia Wiik and **Mentor Meeting** for the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. We will meet in the youth room after you have had a chance to go grab a piece of cake. There will be **Sunday School**.

10<sup>th</sup>- **Confirmation** for all grades. Final **Youth Group** meeting. Tonight will be ditch cleaning and pizza afterwards.

14<sup>th</sup>- Graduation in Milbank. There will be **Sunday School**.

17<sup>th</sup>- Today is the final **Confirmation Class** for each group.

21<sup>st</sup>- Today is the final **Sunday School** for this year.

28<sup>th</sup>- Ortonville High School Graduation at 2:00 pm.

29<sup>th</sup>- Memorial Day



**DITCH WALK  
CLEANING  
May 10<sup>th</sup>**



Thanks to Ron and Ginger Athey for the memorial for Ann Lundberg. Thanks also to everyone who donated to the Easter Breakfast with their generous donations!!!



### Parish Nurse Article for May


*El Shaddai - "the All Sufficient One or  
God Almighty"*

*This month's name for God is El Shaddai (the All Sufficient One or God Almighty). Shaddai means power to nourish, to sustain life, to calm your longings. This name for God is used a lot in the book of Job. God/El Shaddai in our lives will nurture us and calm our fears.*

# 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.

**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.


**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](mailto:pastor@firstenglish.net).


**Prairie Five Community Action Council** is looking for volunteers to help drive people to appointments or grocery shopping. They also need people to deliver meals and to work in their food shelves or thrift stores. If you would like to help volunteer, please contact their office at (320) 269-6578 or (800) 292-5437.


**The Respite Friends program** is a unique opportunity for people to learn the skills they need to comfortably and safely provide much needed short-term break (respite) for caregivers. It is a 2-hour training, no cost to you. Respite Friends has two available training days to choose from: Tues, May 9<sup>th</sup> 1-3:00 pm at the Fairway View Community Orpheum Theater or Wed, May 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to noon at Grace Home. For further information and to register call Ann Holme at 320-500-2775, or at home: 320-273-2176, or go to [www.startseniorsolutions.org](http://www.startseniorsolutions.org). Funded by MN Dept. of Human Services. Enrollment at each session is limited so pre-registration is required. – Parish Nurses

**CentraCare Hospice** currently has a high need for volunteers in our area and they're inviting you to consider learning more about this opportunity. Their spring volunteer training will be held at Rice Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The 2-day training will give you a comprehensive look at the hospice program including communication and caring skills, pain management and symptom control, an overview of their complementary therapies, and more. They are looking for men and women of all backgrounds and do have a high need for veteran volunteers. For questions or information, call Deb Van Buren at CentraCare Hospice - 320-231-4433.


**The Day of Love quilters** would gladly take any military fatigues that you might be getting rid of. They will use them for quilts to be given to veterans. 

## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS

 . . . be with Brittini and Jon Hintz as we welcomed their daughter, Harlow Krimson, into the Lord's family through Holy Baptism on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Her sponsors are Wayne & Misti Hintz.

 . . . be with Ashley and Dustin Hanson as we welcomed their son, Marcus Remigo-Wayne, into the Lord's family through Holy Baptism on April 30<sup>th</sup>. His sponsors are Katie & Blayn Ronglein.

**MAY THE GOD OF ALL CONSOLATION** be with the family of Marla and Dick Strei on the passing of her father, Mick Boone.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT** PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Ricky Anderson Jr., Carol Barrett; Ken Henneberg; Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Brandi Tweeter; 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; Vivian Janssen; & 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.

## KDIO BROADCASTS

. . . . (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) was sponsored in loving memory of Frank Zeek & loved ones by Clara Zeek & family.

. . . . (April 9<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored Curt & Penny Hormann in honor of their grandchildren: Avery, Oakley, Ryley, and Sigler.

. . . . (April 16<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

. . . . (April 23<sup>rd</sup>) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

. . . . (April 30<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.



Join us on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, during regular worship as we honor Julia Wiik who will be graduating this month.

The Commencement Ceremony is Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.



**Thank you to Day of Love** for making the quilt which will be presented during the special blessing ceremony at the end of worship. Join us for cake at our coffee fellowship following the service.

## 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!

### May 2023

Designated Funds

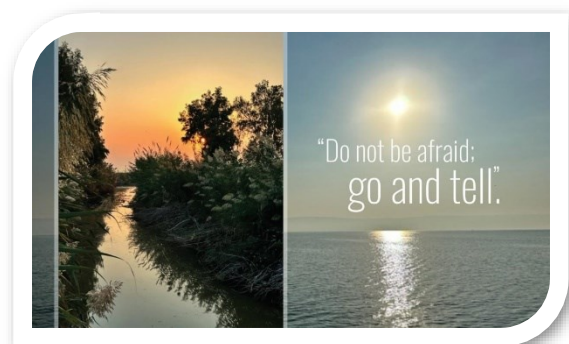
**Building (please specify)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Operating Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Other** Global Missions CS So. Africa \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



### “Do not be afraid; go and tell.” Easter 2023

As Matthew tells the resurrection story, Matthew 28:1-10, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had just stepped into a new reality. Jesus had been crucified. The earth itself was shaking. They had no idea what life would be like in the future. If the grave could be empty, there was no telling what else God might be up to. If the risen Jesus could meet them on the road, then maybe he actually could be going ahead of them and meet them as he promised! For as he told them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” (Mt. 28:10)

This Easter, as our congregations tell the resurrection story, we each step into our own new reality. Perhaps it is the first “more normal Easter” that we have been able to look forward to in three years. Thinking back, three

years ago, we were in shock. Two years ago, we were wondering what the “new normal” would be. Last Easter, we had to acknowledge, like St. Paul said, “for now, we see in a mirror dimly” (1 Cor. 13:12). And this year, we cannot be in denial; we know this new time of being the church brings realities yet to be discovered and experienced.

On this holiest day of the church year, Easter Sunday 2023 is an opportunity to speak good news that our world longs to hear more than ever. Some will come to worship because it is an expected family tradition. Some will come because someone invited them to go with them. Some will dare to come to worship in person because you met them where they were online, and now there is something drawing them to beloved community with you. And some will come having the story nearly memorized but knowing they need to hear the old, old story speak to the new reality of their life today.

Whoever the worshipers are, wherever and however they hear the Easter story, the words of Jesus according to Matthew speak a word for today. “Do not be afraid; go and tell.” “Do not be afraid” is one of those assurances God knows we need to hear. Again, and again! So, it appears frequently in Scripture. Here in Matthew’s Easter story, fear figures prominently and appears four times: “For fear of him.....” “Do not be afraid....” “... with fear and great joy...” “Do not be afraid....” What a relevant word that is for Easter 2023! It seems like fear tries to grip us in so many ways.

We are afraid about:

- health issues and emotional well-being – our own or of those we love;
- the polarization of our communities and congregations;
- flooding and drought;
- our children’s safety while at school;
- peace in Ukraine and in the Middle East;
- the economy;
- the survival of our churches;
- the future of opportunities to even tell the Easter story.
- the health of creation;

Do the words of the living Jesus make a difference this Easter? Yes! Like the Marys, you and I have stepped into a new reality. Sure, it’s not what we would have chosen; but this is where, by God’s grace, we are standing right now. And like the Marys, by God’s grace, Jesus does not just tell us to keep on standing where we are in fear. He says: **“Do not be afraid.”** Calm down. God is on the side of life, and nothing can stop God from loving you. If Jesus could go to the cross and overcome death and the grave with life, be assured that he has the power to give you courage and strength for the living of these days. **“Go and tell.”** Go. Don’t freeze where you are. Walking the way of Jesus is THE way to live; it is what it means to have life and have it abundantly. And that is a message too good to keep to oneself. So, go. Be a witness. Tell someone else. **“I am going ahead of you.”** Yes - Jesus is out ahead of you, bringing new life before we can even imagine the power and presence of God being there. There is no place where you or I will go that Jesus has not gone already. **“Go to Galilee.”** Jesus and the first followers went to Galilee. You and I are sent to the Galilees of our lives, our communities, our world - to the places and people who look for healing, freedom, forgiveness, faith, love, and belonging. This January, I had the opportunity to walk in the historic and sacred places of the Holy Land, going to the places where Jesus was born and did his ministry – places like Bethlehem and Galilee, holy places where God chose to move, to speak, and to be. They are also places where one hears from the ‘living stones’ who tell the story of Jesus today. Walking in these historic and holy footsteps changes the way I hear Scripture and the way I see the Holy Spirit at work there and here in our synod.

Dear friends, I give thanks for you and for your faithfulness to tell the Easter story in the cities, farmland, and towns where God has planted you. I pray for each of our congregations as you embody the good news of a living Jesus this Easter and every day. May this living Jesus strengthen your hearts, calm your fears, and send you to go and tell.

+ Grace, and peace in Christ,


*Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min, Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA*

Thank you to those who donated Easter Lilies, plants, floral arrangements, or gave monetary donations to the Easter Garden.

**The following were specially dedicated and given:**

- ...in memory of Adeline Brown from David & Debbie and family.
- ...in memory of Herman & Alice Ellingson from David & Debbie and family.
- ...in memory of Dr. Roger & Evelyn Nolop, my parents, from Nancy Nolop.
- ...in memory of Bill and Donna Hoel from their children.
- ...in memory of Richard Janke by Pat Janke.
- ...in memory of Donald & Corinne Tiegs & Pat Ketz by Liz Ketz.
- ...in loving memory of Wes & JoAnn Strei by Marla Strei.
- ...in memory of Henry Domine by Jackie Domine.
- ...in memory of Bob & Donna Thompson from Chuck & Carol Thomson and family, Greg & Pat Thompson and family, & Mark & Sheila Thompson and family.
- ...in memory of Vernon & Mary Gustafson and Lisa Hoffiezzer from Lynne & Keith Giese, Lori & Steve Strei, and Chad & Carol Gustafson.
- ...in memory of Jerry Dragseth and Katie Dragseth from Matt & Kirsten Karels and family.
- ...in memory of Leo and Darlene Barnhardt and Bonnie Hill from Rick & Dawn Barnhardt.
- ...in loving memory of our parents – Orlin and Elizabeth Ydstie and Lawrence and Evelyn Lundin by Jonathan and Carol Ydstie and family!



**CIRCLE 4** 

Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed., May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am.  
 Hostess: Sharon Smith  
 Lesson: Carol Bell






**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.'*

**GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN ministries** 

**Camp House Opening Weekend**  
 May 19-21, 2023

After a long winter of quiet, it is time to wake up Camp House and get it ready for summer! Individuals, families, and youth groups are invited to join us for the weekend. Cost is covered by your hard work in helping us get Camp House ready for another summer of ministry.

The biggest need will be opening up the buildings and giving them a good spring cleaning, as well as pulling out bikes, paddle boards, and other equipment to make sure it is ready for a summer of use.

Tentative Weekend Schedule:  
**Friday** - Arrival after 5:30 with a light dinner available at 6:30. Campfire and snacks before bed.  
**Saturday** - 8:30 rolls and coffee, followed by a morning of work. Lunch at 12:30. After lunch - finishing up projects. Participants are welcome to leave on Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening will be relaxed, with dinner and campfire.  
**Sunday** - 9:00 breakfast, followed by worship, and departure.

Basic cleaning supplies will be provided.

Please let us know if you plan to join us for all or part of the weekend by emailing Gretchen Bachman at [gbachman@gllm.org](mailto:gbachman@gllm.org).

## Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries Women's Connection

Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm at  
Tabor Methodist Church.  
The cost is \$6.00, and there is a  
free nursery available by reservation.

**Speaker:** Debby Schmitz of Harvey, SD presents  
"Coping with Life's Changes"

**Special Feature:** Marie Loutsch of Grant County  
Visiting Neighbor program.

**Music:** Marilyn Gapor of Odessa, soloist singing  
one song in English & one in the national language  
of the Philippines.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## Pastor Parish Relations

Part of the Board of Lay Ministry's job description says that the board is to: **Ensure that a pastoral relations committee is active and that it offers verbal encouragement and/or directions to the pastor(s).** Current members of this committee are Jackie Domine, Josh Wollschlager, and Marilyn Chindvall.

If any congregant has an issue and doesn't feel they can talk directly to the Pastor, they are invited to speak to one of the committee members. Please consider this an open invitation; both negative and positive comments are welcome. The committee meets with the Pastor twice each year, more frequently if necessary.

Thank you to those willing to serve in this capacity.

*Dear First English Lutheran Church,*

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson  
March 2023 ELCA Global Personnel

It has been a few months since you have heard from us, though not for lack of news! We returned from our mini-sabbatical with new hope for the future and are walking into it with many unanswered questions, but with faith. We are here and we aren't going anywhere soon!

Our roots are sinking in further into this community and country and there are many opportunities ahead of us. For the time being, the rural hospital of Selian has had high numbers of malnourished children receiving the benefit of a feeding program, the NICU at ALMC is at capacity every day and babies and mothers are surviving and thriving! Doctors and nurses round with Steve every day that he is in the hospital. The rains have started, our children are all doing well, so we have so much for which to be thankful.

**RUTF has Arrived!** The numbers of malnourished children have risen this month. In February we had 9 children admitted into our feeding program at Selian, and this month we already have had 20 come through the door. The short rains of Dec.-Jan. did not yield good harvests, so hunger is on the rise.

After a long and challenging journey, we have finally received a shipping container of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) from an organization outside of Atlanta, called MANA Nutrition. This will allow us to continue our outpatient program as we discharge the malnourished children from the hospital and follow them into their communities. RUTF is also commonly known as "Plumpy Nut". Each packet has 500 kcals, and has the right balance of carbohydrates, protein, and fat with added minerals, vitamins, and micronutrients. We are so thankful for this gift given in memory of Prof. Mark Jacobsen.

And... the rains are on our doorstep! The forecast looks promising. After months of waiting, many of us are seriously on the edge of our seats, checking the forecast regularly (a true Minnesotan). We had a heavy rainfall a few days ago which produced huge flooding. We are now looking and praying for steady, *moderate* rainfall!

### 2022 NICU Annual Report

- 392 admissions, an increase of 15% over 2021
- 49% of admissions arriving from 29 referring facilities in Northern Tanzania
- 93.5% adjusted survival rates among all NICU admissions

Trained 195 nurses and doctors from 64 hospitals in 9 African countries

Every Breath Counts: Manual of Neonatal Care & Drug Doses distributed to over 100 hospitals in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Burundi, Somaliland, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Liberia.

There are many moving pieces in the puzzle these days. More challenges than we wish to admit, yet we are looking for positive ways forward. There are possibilities of lunch programs and school gardens in nearby schools, more collaboration with neighboring hospitals, and invitations to many hospitals outside of Tanzania who long to have teaching and support to expand and improve the care in their NICUs. Many possible directions, many open doors! We are once again so grateful to have your partnership on this journey here in Tanzania.

[www.tanzanianchildren.com](http://www.tanzanianchildren.com) or <https://give.ghm.org/nicu>

New videos are now posted on the YouTube Channel, Neonatology Africa:

<https://www.youtube.com/@neonatologyafrica9640/videos>

*Steve & Jodi*

Care of hospitalized newborns and children, and training of doctors and nurses, is supported through your donations and through the gifts of churches with the ELCA. Churches and individuals can donate to our support through the ELCA: [elca.org/missionarygiving](http://elca.org/missionarygiving) Find our names under the drop-down tab, Designation: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship



*A child's smile signals an important stage in the recovery from severe malnutrition*



## ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – MAY

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Mari Athey & Courtney Giese

Banners:

Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter

Flower Committee:

Carol & Connie Newman & Paula Reisdorph



## SCHEDULING

### KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

**May 7:** Kathy Haukos

**May 14:** Carol Ydstie

**May 21:** Lisa Berdan

**May 28:** Amy Adelman

**June 4:** TBD

**June 11:** TBD

**June 18:** TBD

**June 25:** TBD

### LECTOR

**May 7:** Darin Ehrenberg

**May 14:** Terry Kalberg

**May 21:** Liv Wollschlager

**May 28:** David Ellingson

**June 4:** Jon Ydstie

**June 11:** Marge Dragseth

**June 18:** Kathy Randall

**June 25:** Sara Mattison

### ACOLYTES

**May 7:** Justice & Mikaela

**May 14:** Mason & Rylie

**May 21:** Bryson & Raimi

**May 28:** Madilyn & Owen

**June 4:** James & Mikaela

**June 11:** Meadow & Jaclyn

**June 18:** Lexi & Amelia

**June 25:** Hannah & Brooke

### LAY ASSISTANTS

**May 7:** Marge Dragseth & Lori Larson

**May 14:** Jim & Ranet Schmeichel

**June 4:** Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg

**June 11:** Liz Ketz & Marilee Haukos

### FV Neighborhoods

**May 7:** Mary Lou Olson & Pat Collins

**May 14:** Paula Reisdorph & Mailyn Chindvall

**June 4:** TBD

**June 11:** TBD

### GREETERS

**May 7:** Jim & Neva Foster

**May 14:** Paula Reisdorph & Ev Johnson

**May 21:** Wollschlager Family

**May 28:** Jim & Ranet Schmeichel

**June 4:** Ann Mattison & Becky Parker

**June 11:** Brent Zahrbock & Clara Zeek

**June 18:** Ethel & Garry Swenson

**June 25:** Dick & Marla Strei

### SOUND SYSTEM

**May 7:** Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

**May 14:** Matt Karels & Marina Thomson

**May 21:** Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

**May 28:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

**June 4:** Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

**June 11:** Matt Karels & Marina Thomson

**June 18:** Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

**June 25:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

### USHERS

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

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

**May 21:** Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Dick & Adam Strei

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
















**June 4:** Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson

**June 11:** Eldon Knutson, Darin Ehrenberg, & Harley Helgeson, & Liz Ketz

**June 18:** Russell Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman

**June 25:** Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Keven Berdan



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>May 2023 † † † First English Lutheran Church</b>			Daily Devotions are available @ <a href="http://www.firstenglish.net">www.firstenglish.net</a> click on "Schedule & Weekly Daily Devotions"			
	<b>1 May Day</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 	<b>2</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 12:00 pm Executive Meeting 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV 	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Circle 4 in Church Lounge 9:30 am TV Broadcast 4:00 pm Pastor-Parish Relations 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir EARLY OUT – NO Youth Group or Confirmation-Kid's Club is Done for the yr.	<b>4</b>  National Day of Prayer 	<b>5 Cinco De Mayo</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Senior Recognition</b> 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School 10:10 am Mentor Meeting 10:30 am Fairway View Worship LIVE	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	<b>10</b> 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group <b>(Last Day Ditch Walk)</b> & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Mother's Day</b> 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School 10:30 am Fairway View Worship – Pre-recorded	<b>15</b> Pastor Denise Fossen Away for Continuing Education (5/15 – 5/21)	<b>16</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm FWV Donnie's Diner Group  <b>Int'l Day of Living Together in Peace</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	<b>20</b>  <b>Armed Forces Day</b>
Pastor Denise Away Continuing Education (5/15-5/21)			Pastor Denise Away Continuing Education (5/15-5/21)			
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Contemporary Worship – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & last day of Sunday School Pastor Denise Away Continuing Education	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 	<b>23</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	<b>24</b> 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	<b>25</b>  	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship – Noisy Offering – KDIO & Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am WAM Meeting  	<b>29</b> OFFICE CLOSED  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>30</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 12:00 pm Executive Meeting 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	<b>31</b> 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir 