

First English Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

December 2023



Unto Us a Child is Born

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*

Kaitlyn Burdorf, *Jr/Sr High Youth Leader*

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





From the Pastor

December 2023

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. This year, we are doing an extended Advent allowing more time to prepare our hearts. We prepare to celebrate our remembrance of Christ's birth, 2000 years ago, we prepare to welcome him afresh as Savior in our lives, and anticipate his return at the end of time when the fullness of God's redemption will be revealed and all creation will be made new.

For Celtic Christians, Advent begins the evening of November 15th – forty days before Christmas Day. Celtic Christians always prayed and fasted for 40 days in preparation for any major life event, whether it be the planting of a new monastic center, the beginning of a new adventure, as well as for preparation for Christmas and Easter. This longer season of Advent offers us additional space and time to repent—that is, to walk (or not!) in a new direction. We are invited to let go of our striving so that we can experience God's love and grace without our effort.

We are entering a season of waiting, not a passive, idle, and maybe boring waiting, but an active, soul searching, and prayerful season. We are aware of the time, both in our preparations and in our anticipation, that we are nearly out of time.

In this time of preparation and anticipation, my emotions are mixed. We are nearly out of time in our ministry together. There are so many people and things about First English Lutheran I will miss. At the same time, I look forward to spending more time with Kevin and family. Both things are true at the same time.

With transition, there is opportunity to prepare for the next season. There is time to pray for God to open your eyes to see the things God is doing, pray for your hearts to be ready, and pray for willing hands and feet to go where God is leading.

Through all things, God is with you. As we anticipate Jesus' advent, we remember the words of the communion liturgy: Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. We live in the mystery of now and not yet, fully embraced by God's love, patiently waiting in hope for the future not quite clearly defined.

As Christmas will soon be upon us, let this Irish Christmas Blessing be a blessing for you: (Author unknown)

The light of the Christmas star to you
The warmth of a home and hearth to you
The cheer and good will of friends to you
The hope of a childlike heart to you
The joy of a thousand angels to you
The love of the Son and
God's peace to you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Denise



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Council Minutes – November 6, 2023 (not yet approved)

Members present: Pastor Denise Fossen, Kristi Ehrenberg (president), Becky Parker (treasurer) and Stewardship, Darin Ehrenberg- Stewardship, Kayla Minder (née Teske) - Christian Ed, Kari Dorry- Youth & Family, Kim Anderson - Evangelism, Marilyn Chindvall- Lay Ministry, Glenn Henningson- Church Properties, and Barbara Wegner- Secretary.

Prior to the meeting Kristi announced that Marilyn Hanson and Ethel Swenson would perform the internal audit.

Meeting was called to order by President Kristi Ehrenberg at 8:06 pm.

Approval of October Treasurer's Report with noted correction – We didn't have to go through the reserves. The roof is paid off. There's \$22,000 in capital improvement, \$11,000 of that was overage we put in for the roof & weren't charged for. We will leave it there for now. Kim asked about the \$8,347.75 in the Just for the Love of It account and if it could be dispersed where it's needed more. We used to put money in monthly but stopped. Benevolence added to the account, so it wasn't designated and could be dispersed, but we will leave it in the account unless there's a specific need. On the back bottom of the treasurer's report the date 10/31/2023 was written "10/3012023" which will be corrected. Kari, Kim MSP.

Approval to transfer Dennis & Susan Lien out to Hosanna Lutheran Church in Watertown, SD. **Kim, Becky MSP.**

Board of Lay Ministry – Marilyn Chindvall – Board approved the WAM, finance, and endowment reports. The board recommends ending our advertising of the second youth leader position for now and perhaps start advertising fresh in the summer or fall. The staff interviews are almost complete. Board appoints Jackie Domine to the endowment committee and Dick Strei will do a second term. Becky, Liz and Marilyn had a budget meeting. For planning purposes and to have a full budget they would put in what it would take to pay a pastor with 10 years' experience even if it may not be used. Nothing was settled on raises but they were discussed. Marilyn motioned that the church get a paid Zoom account for meetings to do with the Call process such as interviews. Darin seconded. **Motion passed.** The Employee handbook will be updated next month to include the new Safe & Sick day information. Sherrif Brown said there wasn't a need to have a safety meeting so Marilyn will send a letter to the ushers and ask them to be vigilant. The board suggested the church pursue an interim pastor while still being able to start the call process.

Board of Evangelism – Kim Anderson – Discussion was held on Mission Emphasis Sunday with consideration of topics and date. The board of Evangelism will pay \$200 to have the afternoon Christmas Eve service on KDIO. Board plans to go ahead with the giving tree this year and they made their end of the year donations. \$500 went to St. John's Catholic Church Christmas Day Dinner, \$498.00 to Ortonville Operation Christmas (tags for clothing and hygiene are covered by this), \$240.00 for bus passes, \$275.00 gas gift cards, \$275 grocery gift cards for a total of \$1,788.00. \$490.00 was given to the Food Shelf during the March Campaign benefiting our dollars to do more. The Giving Tree will be ready to receive donations the Sunday before Thanksgiving Eve. Church directory photos continue to proceed. We will take photos Nov. 12th at Fairway View Neighborhoods and at First English Church on December 10th which is the Christmas Program. People have inquired to submit their own photo and Barbara has made half sheets of paper explaining how to do that. The directory is ready to be used. People can go to InstantChurchDirectory.com to create a login and view all the addresses and photos. We were able to update and correct addresses and birthdays as people included that information when getting their picture. Sunday School teachers on December 3rd will pass out papers that can be given to their parents to let them know pictures are available to be taken on the 10th. If families do not like their photos, they can log in and update them whenever they want to. The board of Evangelism suggested looking for an interim pastor.

Christian Education – Kayla Minder (née Teske) – We will table the youth leader advertising for now. The board will do birthday cake and coffee for the day of the Sunday School Christmas program. There was discussion about confirmation gifts and whether Youth & Family should take care of those because they're 7th-12th graders. It is Christian Ed's responsibility because the graduation is the confirmation education programs "graduation" gift. There will not be Sunday School on December 17th. There was a discussion on first communion and when it starts. They will look into the Green Lake communion program. Christian Ed met on Sunday and didn't know about the interim/full-time pastor question.

Youth & Family – Kari Dorry – 7 kids and 3 adults signed up to go to the National Youth Gathering. More kids are welcome to sign up. The Jr. High Youth Gathering won't happen because there is no adult to go with them and it's the same weekend as the play. Fundraising for the Nat'l Youth Gathering will start with a bake sale after the Christmas Program on December 10th. Alan Hodenfield joined the board of Youth & Family. He will be added to the council list. The board said "yes" to looking for an interim pastor.

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg – The board looked at the treasurer's report and noted we're still in the black. The Stewardship Emphasis will be done on the 19th so that everyone from the committee will be there then. The board decided to give the Thanksgiving donations to the food shelf because that is where there is great need at this time of the year. Barbara will put an announcement in the bulletins that say the money is going to the food shelf a few weeks ahead so that people know ahead of time. The board discussed the ordering of donations envelopes. Many people who we order boxes of envelopes for never pick them up or use them. We will ask people to sign up to receive giving envelopes for 2025 in the newsletter and bulletin announcements. There will be a signup sheet next to the envelopes for 2024. The board decided to move forward to pursuing a full-time pastor. There are 38 openings in our Synod and at least 1/3 of them do not have interims. There are not many interim pastors. The demand is high and supply is low. We are looking to talk with Zion. Becky said we shouldn't wait for the Mission Site profile. Having an interim doesn't change that we will still need to do that. There was discussion saying that the profile wouldn't have changed much since the last time it was updated, but that we will still need to go through it again, especially if there are conversations with Zion. Pastor Denise mentioned that other pastors will be able to tell right away that the same profile is being used and that the Mission site profile should be very different from the past one and should look like a profile created post-COVID. We don't have a parsonage, and Pastor Denise was asked if she had a feel for how much housing would matter to a prospective pastor. It could be a detriment that we can't offer housing, but we can be on the lookout and know where there are opportunities, like apartments.

Church Properties – Glenn Henningson – We're still waiting on hearing about the plumbing for the water fountain. Glenn will look into it or find someone else to do it. Someone went up to look at the bells and it looked like there is old dried out timber. Glenn passed around some photos of the wood with (signs of cracks) that is holding the bells up there. The original amount of \$50,000 doesn't include getting electricians to wire it or the expense of getting the bells down so they can be repaired. With that the structural fixing it could be \$75-\$100,000 to fix them. They're 65 years old. There was discussion on if that is the best use of our money or if we should think about taking them down for safety issues and going with electronic bells instead. The air conditioner in the Narthex is about 30 years old and having some troubles. The board is looking into replacing it. Rongliens will be contacted for snow removal for the winter. The Christmas lights will go up after Thanksgiving. The board didn't discuss it. Glenn was thinking full-time pastor.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Denise **Worship** – On October 15th, this year's contemporary service was held for the first time. It will be held monthly (except December and in Lent) through May. Affirmation of Baptism was held October 29th and All Saints Sunday was on November 5th. This year for All Saints Sunday, a verse from each of the deceased's funeral scripture was incorporated into the service. Beginning November 12th through the morning of December 24th, we will be in an extended time of Advent. Bulletins have been finalized for this, including the Sunday of the children's program. Thanksgiving Eve service is November 22nd. This order of service has been completed. We will have three speakers from the congregation this year during the sermon time. Traditional Christmas Eve will be held in the afternoon and will be two worship services. I am working on this order of service. **Pastoral Care** – The Rachel Mork and Jordan Thorson wedding

was held at First English on October 7th with dress rehearsal the night before. Lori Strei was wedding coordinator and did an excellent job making things run smoothly. Bible study on Tuesdays continue at Fairway View. Marla Strei has filled in when I was not available due to the Bishop's Theological Event and Kevin's surgery. It was cancelled on Halloween due to the parade of young ones in their costumes. Sunny Giese was baptized on October 22nd during the service. EllaMae Karels was baptized off site by a former pastor. Letters and/or cards were sent out to families who's loved one died in the last year and to the families of those baptized in the last year to invite them to attend the All Saints Sunday worship on November 5th as their loved one would be mentioned. I continue to lead worship service at Fairway View on the first Sunday of the month and the second and fifth Sundays are lay led. **Youth and Confirmation** - Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation rite) was October 29th with five young people affirming their faith and assisting in the worship service: Rylie Conroy, Mikaela Johnson, Mason Block, Ashton Sletten, and Archer Dorry. Classes continue for the 7-9th graders. Thanks to Liz K. for filling in on the day after Kevin's surgery. Kaitlyn Burdorf has started as the senior high youth group leader. Her first night leading the group was November 1st. **Other** - Staff luncheon was held at my house on October 13th. **Synod** - The Bishop's Fall Theological Event, held in Sioux Falls October 8-10th was focused on on-line worship and how to allow those that are on-line become and feel a part of the in-person worship. Marla Strei led bible study at Fairway View that Tuesday. This event is a required event for rostered leaders. Rev. Naomi Mahler, assistant to the Bishop, died from a recurrence of cancer. Her funeral was Friday, November 3rd at Vinje Lutheran in Willmar. I, along with a good percentage of rostered leaders in the SW Synod, attended the one-and-a-half-hour service. As a rostered leader, you are encouraged to vest (wear alb and stole) to process in as a group as a matter of respect for the deceased pastor. Bishop Dee Pederson gave the homily with several clergy assisting in the service. **And...** Thank you for your prayers and concern for Kevin as he recoups from his surgery. They have been a source of support and comfort.

Becky & Pastor Denise mentioned how much better our screens are during service compared to others. Our screens help people to feel as if they are a part of the congregation. Our service is more inclusive to online viewers thanks to Marina making the lyrics readable and putting the screens in a box so people can see the church during the service.

Pastor Denise was excused from the council meeting for the night.

There was a correction to the October minutes. After Pastor Denise was excused for the night, the section that stated "The Church Council formalized the vote to accept Pastor Denise's second option for her resignation, which means she will be here for the whole of December, and we will pay her 2 extra weeks' vacation," was changed to, "The final order of business was to act on the terms of Pastor Denise's retirement date and compensation. She had met with the Board of Lay Ministry on September 11 and offered two options. 1. Her last day would be December 10 and we would pay her for two weeks of unused vacation and one week of continuing education. 2. She would stay until December 31st and we would pay her for the two weeks of unused vacation and the remainder of January (an additional two weeks). A motion was made and seconded to go with option 2. Discussion was the cost of the extra two weeks compensation which was \$3,050 and how we could cover pulpit supply during the holidays. The motion passed 5/4."

Approval to accept the October minutes corrected to reflect Becky's proposition with the addition that option 1 included 1-week continuing education. Becky, Glenn **MSP**.

Kayla said her board says we can go for a full-time pastor which means the boards are split. Becky mentioned someone from Lay Ministry should be there because Marilyn's vote is from her Vice President role. Kristi said to have the boards talk about it and they could discuss it next meeting. There was a desire to move forward in getting a pastor rather than wait to ask. Kristi will let the Synod know we are looking for an interim pastor to consider.

Next council meeting will be on December 4th at 7:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn – Marilyn, Kari **MSP**.

Closed with Lord's Prayer at 9:08 pm.

DECEMBER 2023 YOUTH NEWS

Welcome aboard to Kaitlyn Burdorf, our Junior and Senior High Youth Director. Kaitlyn began her duties on November 1st. Plans are to have Kaitlyn take over the newsletter articles in the near future.

We are still looking for a person who would be willing to take over our elementary program so that we can get that back up and running. It would only be 3-8 hours of your time each week. Let the office know if you are interested in filling this position.

Thank you to the volunteers who provided snacks for Confirmation. Also thank you to those who provided supper for the Youth Group.

We unfortunately had to cancel our involvement in the Synod Jr High Gathering.

We are hoping that next year we can get something lined up to work.

God's Creation Calendars are available in the office or in the Narthex following the worship services until they are sold out. They are \$8.00 each and the designs are breathtaking.

Sunday School students are busy preparing for their Christmas Program. The program will be on December 10th during the church service at 9:00 AM and is called "Signs of Christmas". There will not be Sunday School on December 17th, 24th, or 31st.

All Wednesday groups will meet at their regular times on December 6th & 13th. There will not be any youth activities on December 20th or 27th. We will resume on January 3, 2024.

Thanks to Deb Henningson, Mel and Jackie Dominee, Jim and Neva Foster, and anonymous person for your donations to the youth group.



PARISH NURSE ARTICLE FOR DECEMBER



Yahweh Hesed- God of forgiveness

The Hebrew language has a word for this lifelong love that is richer and deeper than English has ever conceived of: "hesed" (HEH-sed). Hesed expresses a steadfast, rock-solid faithfulness that endures throughout eternity. Isaiah 54:10 describes this love beautifully. "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing {hesed} for you will not be shaken."

We are saved by God's hesed and nothing we do or don't do will ever be enough to earn the love of God or the forgiveness that His love offers. The apostle Paul tells us that salvation is a gift- "For it is by grace you have been saved, though faith and this not from yourselves, it is a gift from God" (Ephesians 2:8)

Salvation and the blessings of God are his gifts to us. God is the source of all forgiveness. The tangible reality of His forgiveness is seen in the life, death, burial and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Powerful living flows from a heart that has repented of every known sin and received the gift of forgiveness that God so freely offers. Turn to him today and celebrate His love and forgiveness, celebrate your God that forgives.

"But You are a God of forgiveness, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness" (Nehemiah 9:17)

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

If you want donation envelopes for **2025** there will be a signup sheet in the Narthex to get those ordered for you. We order the donation envelopes very early, so please sign before January. If you want envelopes but can't sign up on that sheet, please contact Barbara in the office and she'll add you.

The Giving Tree has the opportunity to give to **Katie's Kicks** and **Trojan Backpack**. Katie's Kicks is a non-profit program that gives new shoes to Ortonville area school students. All shoes are purchased new and kids are able to pick out their own pair. So far this year, the program has served 120 kids. Trojan Backpack sends home a weekly bag of food to help curb hunger in children over the weekend and holidays. There are no income requirements, it's confidential and no one will be turned away. Thank you for sharing in these and other local needs.

God's Creations Fundraiser Calendars are in! They can be bought in the office or watch for them in the Narthex following church if you'd like one! They're \$8.00. You can bring cash, or if you'd like to pay by check, please write them out to FELC Youth.



The endowment committee will meet December 13th to disperse the remainder of funds. If you have any requests for them, please get them into the committee before that day.

Dish towels, cloths and scrubbers will be on sale here at First English Lutheran Church, December 3rd with the proceeds benefiting the FELC Women's group.

Abiding Faith Free Lutheran Church will be hosting a Hymn Sing on December 3rd at 7:00 pm. There will be a free-will offering taken and distributed between Big Stone County Food Shelf and Project Christmas. See the poster in the Narthex for more information.

It Only Takes a Spark Cancer Walk will be hosting a Bake Sale and Holiday Shopping Day at the Big Stone City, Community Center Sat. December 9th from 9 am – Noon. If anyone would like to donate baked goods to help them raise funds for cancer patients, please call or text 605-880-0385. See posters in the Narthex for more information.



CentraCare will be offering 3 Grief Support Groups for 7 weeks during the holiday season when the intensity of grief can be stronger. In Ortonville, the sessions will be at the Robert Ross Building (Golf room) at 450 Eastvold, from 3:00-4:30 pm 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/28, and 1/4. If you are interested in attending a support group, go to [CentraCare.com/Events](https://www.centracare.com/Events), click "Grief & Bereavement Programs," and fill out an online registration form. If you have questions, contact CentraCare Hospice at 320-231-4450.

The Bellingham Bloodmobile is set for Tuesday, December 12, 1-6 p.m. at the Bellingham Community Center. Regular or Power Red donation appointments can be made by calling Audrey Volkenant at (320)568-2385 or online at [redcrossblood.org/Bellingham](https://www.redcrossblood.org/Bellingham) location or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. There will be a drawing for a Red Cross t-shirt quilt made by local quilters that day.


This advent season we are looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday advent services by reading scripture, a prayer, and lighting the candles. Please contact someone in the office if you would like to help us out.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church will be having an Advent Salad Luncheon from 11:30-1:00 pm on Wednesday, December 6th with a free will offering benefiting the Swift County Food Shelf.

Volunteers needed on December 24th for the Advent morning service at 9 am and the Christmas Eve services (2 pm & 4 pm). Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping. We need acolytes, greeters, sound tech support, and ushers for each service and we'll also need 4 lay assistants each for the Christmas Eve afternoon services and a lector for the 9 am Advent service. We're also looking for volunteers for the New Year's Eve 9 am service.

The students planning on attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans will be having a bake sale on Sunday, December 10th before and after church. If you would like to donate baked goods to their event, please contact Archer Dorry at 320-305-1839 or at archerhdorry@gmail.com.

The new Photo Directory is available online! If you haven't had your picture taken and would like to upload your own photo, 'how to' instructions are available next to the newsletters in the narthex.

Coffee Fellowship needs volunteers to continue. Please contact the office or sign-up in the fellowship hall if you're willing to help to prepare & serve coffee. If no one volunteers to serve, we won't have coffee fellowship that Sunday. 

May the God of all consolation be with Barb & Warren Wiese in the passing of his brother Marlyn on November 17th.

KDIO BROADCASTS

. . . . **(November 5th)** was sponsored in memory of Billy Thymian from David and Debbie Ellingson and family

. . . . **(November 12th)** was sponsored in memory of Gale and Ann Haukos from Kathy Haukos and family.

. . . . **(November 19th)** was sponsored in honor of our mother & grandmother's birthday, Adeline Burgess, which was Nov. 16th from her children and grandchildren.

. . . . **(November 26th)** was sponsored in memory of my special friend Eileen Adolpson who passed away 12-12-12 from Kathy Stolpman.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Carol Barrett; Marcus Hanson, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Mary Lou Olson; Harris Selvig; Russ Thielke; Brandi Tweeter; Clara Zeek; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman; Beckett Foster; Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; David Scholberg; and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Janet Anderson; Ricky Anderson; Arvilla Bergseth; Adeline Burgess; Ruth Hansen; Jim Hipple; Vivian Janssen; & Eleanor Nickolauson. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict, especially Alexander Johnson (Ev Johnson's grandson). If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office. 

**Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries
Sponsored By Women's Connection**

Tuesday, December 19th, at 5:30 pm at
Tabor Methodist Church.

The cost is \$6.00, and there is a free nursery available by reservation.

Speaker: Levi Wadell of Marvin, SD

Levi is the part-time youth coordinator at Central Church in Milbank. He will tell of his work with the youth & his faith walk.

Music: Jim Wagar of Odessa, MN

Accompanied by guitar, will lead group singing of Christmas Carols.

FOOD WILL BE SERVED & ALL ARE WELCOME!



CIRCLE FOUR



Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed.
December 6th at 9:00 am. with a
potluck Christmas lunch following
the meeting at 11 am.
Lesson: Eryls Sis

Please join us for our 2023
Sunday School Christmas Program

Signs of Christmas

by Cathy Skogen-Soldner

featuring all of our PreS through 6th grade
students telling the Christmas story with
signs, songs, skits, Scripture, and sticks!

Sunday December 10th during 9 am Service

Then join us for Jesus' birthday cake after the program.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Check the full-page Calendar (included) for more detailed information on all activities during the week.

- Sun., Dec. 3:** 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live
10 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School (Christmas Program Practice)
10:30 am Fairway View Worship – Live
4:00 pm Christmas Cantata Practice
- Tues., Dec. 5:** 11:30 am Day of Love's Christmas Lunch
- Wed., Dec. 6:** 11:00 am Circle Four's Christmas Lunch
- Sun., Dec. 10:** 9:00 am Worship – Sunday School presents "Signs of Christmas" – KDIO & FB Live
10 am Bake Sale – Coffee Fellowship with Jesus' Birthday Cake
10:30 Fairway View (Pre-recorded)
4:00 pm Christmas Cantata Practice
- Sat., Dec. 16:** 3:00-4:00 pm Christmas Cantata (at First English) with Scandinavian lunch afterwards
- Sun., Dec. 17:** 9:00 am Worship – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship (**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR**)
3:00-4:00 pm Christmas Cantata (at Abbey of the Hills) with refreshments afterwards
- Sun., Dec. 24:** 9:00 am Advent Worship
2 pm Christmas Eve. Candlelight Communion Service – KDIO & Facebook Live
4 pm Christmas Eve. Candlelight Communion Service – FB Live
- Mon., Dec. 25:** No Church Service (Office Closed)
- Sun., Dec. 31:** 9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship
10:30 Fairway View (Pre-recorded)



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.

December 2023

Designated Funds

Building (please specify) \$ _____
Operating Fund \$ _____
Other ELCA Missionaries \$ _____

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


WINTER WEATHER

Please note: The Church Council has put in place the following procedure for Sunday winter weather cancellations:

- Decision to cancel will be made by 7:00 am on Sunday morning.
- Pastor will consult with head custodian (Dean) and organists. All of our organists have a longer drive and we do not want them in danger because of trying to get here).
- Announcement to cancel will be called into KDIO Radio and put on our Facebook page if possible. We will also call Fairway View.

We ask that when in doubt you err on side of caution when making the decision to come in inclement weather.





Thank you for the hope you are giving to a child, a family, a community, and ultimately, a nation!

Enjoy this picture as a reminder to pray for health and protection for your student and peace for the country of Haiti.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
- John 15:12-13

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MISSIONOFHOPE.COM

4925 ANGELO BAPTISTE
MOH-Titanyen SOH
2023 School Year

000764
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Poinsettias & Christmas Flowers If you would like to give a poinsettia or Christmas Flower to FELC during this advent/Christmas season, please bring or have it delivered to the church office. Don't forget to let us know who it is from and memorial/in honor of information so that we can list it in our Christmas Eve bulletin. If you want your poinsettia back, please put your name on it.

REMINDER: Organizations with financial reports need to be in no later than January 2nd for internal audit of FELC books. Thank you!



Remember to turn in your **Pledges for Dedication** before the end of the year!



ANNUAL MEETING:

Annual Meeting of the Congregation of FELC will be held Sunday, January 21st (backup date: January 28th) at 10:30 am in the sanctuary. Annual report information is due in the office by Tuesday, Dec. 19th. (**Electronic files preferred** but a hard copy for back up just in case is also appreciated!)

The Silence and the Sound

A musical Celebration of the Story of Christmas

It's the season for festive music and good food! You will have an opportunity to experience both in the upcoming event *The Silence and the Sound*, a musical presentation of the story of Christmas, which will be performed at First English on Saturday, December 16th, at 3:00 p.m. It will also be performed at the Abbey of the Hills in Marvin, SD on Sunday, the 17th, at 3:00 pm.

The concert features arrangements of beloved Christmas music, as well as some stunning new material, and concludes with a powerful performance of *The Silence and the Sound*, by Heather Sorenson. Nearly 60 local singers and instrumentalists from the tri-state area combine forces to create a very memorable and moving holiday experience.



A Scandinavian Luncheon Follows

Following the concert on the 16th, join us for a festive celebration with a Scandinavian influence in the fellowship hall, including a variety of sweets, lefse, Scandinavian goodies, and open-faced sandwiches. Free-will donations will support the food shelf and the ongoing mission of the Abbey.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod

In Memoriam - Rev. Naomi Mahler

Synod Minister, Pr. Naomi Mahler, 56, of Willmar, died in faith, October 21st at her home in Willmar with the steadfast love and support of her husband, Todd, and daughters, Grace and Sofia by her side. Her memorial service was held on Friday, November 3rd at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar.



Please continue to hold Todd, Grace, and Sofia, and all of Naomi's family and friends in our prayers as they grieve, mourn, remember and give thanks to God for the promises we know in Christ Jesus.

ELCA Announcement

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Church Council Executive Committee approved Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's request for a 4-to-6-month leave of absence. Her leave starts Nov. 17, 2023.

The Church Council appointed former bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, the Rev. Michael Burk, as Presiding Bishop Pro Tem to care for the responsibilities of the presiding bishop during her leave of absence. We give thanks for Bishop Eaton's tireless dedication and leadership and pray for her during this time of rest and rejuvenation.

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – DECEMBER

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Jen & Jaclyn Wiik and Barb Wiese

Banners:

Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter

Flower Committee:

Carol & Connie Newman, & Paula Reisdorph



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Dec. 3: Lisa Berdan

Dec. 10: Amy Adelman

Dec. 17: Marilyn Hanson

Dec. 24 (9 AM): Kathy Haukos

Dec. 24 (2 & 4 PM): Carol Ydstie

Dec. 31: Kathy Haukos

Jan. 7: TBD

Jan. 14: TBD

Jan. 21: TBD

Jan. 28: TBD

LECTOR

Dec. 3: Kristi Ehrenberg

Dec. 17: Lois Bergeson

Dec. 24 (9 AM): NEED VOLUNTEER

Dec. 24 (2 PM): Kathy Randall

Dec. 24 (4 PM): Kathy Randall

Dec. 31: NEED VOLUNTEER

Jan. 7: Brent Zahrbock

Jan. 14: Marge Dragseth

Jan. 21: Liv Wollschlager

Jan. 28: Barb Wiese

ACOLYTES

Dec. 3: James & Brianna

Dec. 10: Eliot & Archer

Dec. 17: Miley & Mason

Dec. 24 (9 AM): Archer & VOLUNTEER

Dec. 24 (2 PM): Archer & VOLUNTEER

Dec. 24 (4 PM): Archer & VOLUNTEER

Dec. 31: NEED VOLUNTEERS

Jan. 7: Hannah & Brooke

Jan. 14: Liam & Mikaela

Jan. 21: Jaclyn & Martino

Jan. 28: Bryson & Bennett

LAY ASSISTANTS

Dec. 3: Sara Mattison & Brent Zahrbock

Dec. 24 (2 PM): NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 24 (4 PM): NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS

Jan. 7: Ranet and Jim Schmeichel

Jan. 14: Kirsten Karels & Lori Larson

FV Neighborhoods

Dec. 3: Ranet and Jim Schmeichel

Dec. 10: Paula Reisdorph and Marge Dragseth

Dec. 31: TBD

Jan. 7: Miley Block & Marilyn Chindvall

Jan. 14: Barb Wiese & Liv Wollschlager



GREETERS

Dec. 3: Glenn Henningson & Bryson Karels

Dec. 10: Marge Dragseth & Lexi Kaye

Dec. 17: Ginger Athey & Lola Backstrand

Dec. 24 (9 AM): NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 24 (2 PM): NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 24 (4 PM): NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 31: NEED VOLUNTEERS

Jan. 7: (Mentor/Mentee) TBD

Jan. 14: (Mentor/Mentee) TBD

Jan. 21: (Mentor/Mentee) TBD

Jan. 28: (Mentor/Mentee) TBD

SOUND SYSTEM

Dec. 3: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

Dec. 10: Matt Karels & Marina Thomson

Dec. 17: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

Dec. 24 (9 AM): Marina Thomson & Terry Kalberg

Dec. 24 (2 PM): Marina Thomson & VOLUNTEER

Dec. 24 (4 PM): Marina Thomson & VOLUNTEER

Dec. 31: Becky Parker & Marina Thomson

Jan. 7: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson

Jan. 14: Matt Karels & Marina Thomson

Jan. 21: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

Jan. 28: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

USHERS

Dec. 3: Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Larry Dahle

Dec. 10: Liz Ketz, Eldon Knutson, Darin Ehrenberg, & Harley Helgeson

Dec. 17: Russell Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman

Dec. 24 (9 AM): NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 24 (2 PM): Ron Athey & 3 VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 24 (4 PM): NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 31: Rodney Torgerson, Liz Ketz, Rob Randall, & Josh Wollschlager

Jan. 7: Ev Johnson, Rodney Torgerson, Jon & Kim Anderson

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




Jan. 21: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Russ Thielke, & Dick Strei

Jan. 28: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Jackie & Mel Domine

*December 24th 9AM is **Advent Service**. The 2 & 4 PM services are **Christmas Eve Services**.

We're looking for a couple of family members to light candles & read scripture during Advent.

Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer to help with these services. THANKS!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
DECEMBER 2023 † † † First English Lutheran Church				Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net click on "Lutheran Faith" & "PRAYERS, STUDY, & DEVOTIONALS"		1 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	2
3 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School (Christmas Practice) 10:30 am Fairway View Worship LIVE 4-5:30 pm Cantata Practice	4 10:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	5 8:30 am Day of Love 11:30 am Day of Love's Lunch 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	6 9:00 am Circle 4 Bible Study (in lounge) & lunch in Fellowship Hall 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	7	8 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	9	
10 9:00 am Worship– Sunday School Presents: "Signs of Christmas" – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Youth Bake Sale & Fellowship 10:30 am Fairway View Worship Pre-recorded 4-5:30 pm Cantata Practice	11 10:00 am Staff Meeting	12 No more Day of Love until 1/9 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	13 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12), TV Broadcast, and a tentative Endowment Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir	14	15 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 7:00 pm (Tentative) Cantata Rehearsal	16 9:30 am Cantata Practice (Dress Rehearsal) 3:00 pm Christmas Cantata at First English Lutheran – FB Live 4:00 pm Scandinavian lunch in the Fellowship Hall	
17 No Sunday School for the rest of the year. 9:00 am Worship– KDIO & FB Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 3:00 pm Christmas Cantata & refreshments after at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin SD	18 10:00 am Staff Meeting	19 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	20 9:30 am TV Broadcast NO CONFIRMATION OR YOUTH GROUP (Winter Break) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	23 	
24 9 am Advent Worship- KDIO & FB Live 2 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/communion - KDIO & FB live 4 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/communion	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 	26 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV	27 9:30 am TV Broadcast NO CONFIRMATION OR YOUTH GROUP (Winter Break) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast NO CHOIR PRACTICE	28	29 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	30 Dedication Pledges should be turned in before the end of the year.	
31 New Year's Eve  9:00 am Worship– KDIO & FB Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Fairway View – Pre-recorded	New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 