

# *First English Lutheran Church*

## NEWSLETTER

January 2024



### 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.

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





## From the Pastor



*“Every time we make the decision to love someone, we open ourselves to great suffering, because those we love most cause us not only great joy but also great pain. The greatest pain comes from leaving.” Henri Nouwen*

In our time together these past few years, we have rejoiced together at baptisms, confirmations, anniversaries and marriages, and birthdays. We’ve grieved together at funerals for family and friends. We have been united in Christ Jesus through our joys, sorrows, sharing in the Communion meal, and worshipping together.

As Henri Nouwen proposed, we could avoid the suffering of leaving by not loving, but then we would never experience the joy of loving.

Joy comes from God, not from our circumstances. We are *imago Dei* – created in the image of God. We are connected to God in a way that can’t be severed or broken. In turn, we are saved by a God who chose to become one of us.

That is where our joy lies.

No matter our circumstances, no matter where we are, no matter whether we are together or not, we belong to and are loved by God. And, that beloved, is our source of joy.

Jesus’ life was bookended by joy. From the magi overwhelmed with joy when they traveled great distances to infant Jesus to worship him, to Jesus telling us about the abiding love of the Father filling us with joy, to the women filled with great joy at the empty tomb, joy is a foundation of our faith.

It’s hard for me to believe that this will be my last newsletter article written to you, beloved people of First English Lutheran. Kevin and I are looking forward to spending retirement together and at the same time, saddened to leave ministry here at FELC.

We thank you for your continued prayers as we begin the next part of our life journey. Know that we will continue to pray for you during your transition. Pray for your council and call committee as they, filled with joy, go as God leads them to their next pastoral leadership.

As we do at the end of worship each week and as we do in confirmation class, I leave you with a blessing, this one from poet John O’Donohue:

May we have the courage to take the step  
Into the unknown that beckons us;  
Trust that a richer life awaits us there,  
That we will lose nothing  
But what has already died;  
Feel the deeper knowing in us sure  
Of all that is about to be born beyond... Amen.

In the peace and joy of Jesus,  
*Pastor Denise and Kevin*



## From the President

### Greetings:

I hope that you and your families had a wonderful and blessed Christmas holiday. It was a joy to see so many in attendance for the Christmas Cantata at church and at the Abbey of the Hills. Our kids also did an amazing job for their Sunday School Christmas program. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents to plan, help, and perform for these special Christmas events.

As we enter this next chapter of our Church following the retirement of Pastor Fossen, I wanted to share with all of you what has been done so far for securing coverage for our pastoral needs. The Council has been working with Pastor Heather Culuris from the ELCA SW MN Synod. She is our primary contact for the Pastoral call process. The Board decided and we’ve requested for the Synod to seek an interim Pastor candidate for our church. In the meantime, we’ll continue the work needed to prepare and initiate the processes required for seeking full-time Pastor candidates. We, along with 30+ other congregations in our Synod region, are currently seeking pastors including our fellow congregation at Zion Lutheran here in Ortonville. So, it may be a lengthier process than we would hope.

Pastor Culuris recommended arranging for 8-weeks of coverage initially. The Board of Lay Ministry has been diligently working on securing coverage for the January and February services. As part of the plan, I met personally with Pastor David Tonn. Pastor Tonn expressed his desire to help our congregation in the ways that he felt were most appropriate for him relative to personal needs and other commitments. He asked that we not call upon him to preach for Sunday services, but instead to utilize him as needed for things such as presiding

over funerals and baptisms, being extra support for our Parish Nurses and congregants for visits and communion for our shut-in members, and things of that nature. He's willing to help us with these needs, as he's available, until we are able to secure either an interim or a full-time Pastor. I ask that our congregation be respectful of his wishes and limit our requests to these tasks and honor his retirement decision. Requests to utilize Pastor Tonn for these specific tasks must be submitted through Barbara at the Church office.

Beyond Pastor Tonn, the Board of Lay Ministry has been reaching out to rostered Pastors and Lay Leader from our Synod web site as well as the SD synod who are within reasonable driving distance. They've also been contacting some of our own talented Lay Leaders in our congregation who have expressed an interest in providing a sermon. Additionally, they have been reaching out to other people within our region who have provided lay support to other churches. They've been able to fill most of those initial spots and secured someone to lead our Lenten services. If there are others from our congregation with an interest in providing a sermon, please contact Barbara at the church office and a member of the board will contact you to discuss dates and the process further. We are also working with regional pastors to have a network of emergency contacts to draw upon for support when needed.

We will have many other needs for helping with leading services and other church tasks over the coming months until full-time Pastoral coverage can be secured. In addition to our normal service volunteer roles, we'd love to have people volunteer to lead one or several children's sermons, to volunteer with service assistance at Fairway View, to visit residents of Fairway View and other shut-in members of our congregation through the Caring Friends program along with our Parrish nurses. We'd also like to have some options for housing available if needed for those filling in from greater distances. Please contact Barbara to let her know if you can help in any of these ways.

We are so blessed to have a congregation with a heart to serve. We have an amazing Worship Arts and Music (WAM) committee that will continue to coordinate the music and other aspects of worship planning to support our service volunteers. Our great boards and committees will continue to serve in their respective areas, and our tremendous staff will be stepping up to provide additional support as needed. Special thanks to Liz Ketz for continuing our confirmation program, to Kaitlyn Burdorf for leading our Youth program with the excellent support of Ronda Thielke, and to our Parrish Nurses for continuing the FWV bible study and Caring Friends program. Special thanks as well to Barbara who will be instrumental in helping to coordinate the emergent and other needs of the church, providing the necessary service documents, and being the hub of our communications with the many volunteers, staff, boards, and committees above her normal duties. We couldn't do what we do normally, and especially now, without our wonderful custodial staff, tech crew, Choir Director, accompanists, and organists.

I'll leave you with a few final thoughts. We can dwell on the challenges of this situation and get mired down in a "woe is me" mentality; or we can do what we've done before at First English when we've faced other challenges and Step Up. Let's be kind and loving to one another; be forgiving of each other when we stumble or get stressed; and continue to give of our time, our ideas, our finances, and our talents in whatever ways we can to succeed through this interim period of filling our Pastoral position. Let's build each other up, pray for, and support one another. Let's be a beacon of God's light and love to our community and finally let's fervently pray for God to provide for our pastoral and other needs in both the short and long term. Let's trust that God has a plan and a purpose in all that he puts before us; and believe that whatever he brings us to, he will lovingly guide us through. May God continue to richly bless our congregation.

Sincerely,

*Kristi Ehrenberg*

Congregational President  
First English Lutheran Church



## FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING Council Minutes – December 4, 2023 (not yet approved)

Members present: Pastor Denise Fossen, Kristi Ehrenberg (president), Darin Ehrenberg- Stewardship, Kaitlyn Burdorf - Christian Ed, Gayla Athey-Youth & Family, Marge Dragseth -Evangelism, Marilyn Chindvall (vice president) and Lay Ministry, Michelle Bauer - Lay Ministry, Glenn Henningson-Church Properties, and Barbara Wegner-Secretary.

Meeting was called to order by President Kristi Ehrenberg at 8:04 pm.

Approval of November Minutes – Darin, Marge **MSP**.

Approval of November Treasurer's Report – Glenn, Gayla **MSP**.

**Board of Lay Ministry** – Marilyn Chindvall – Board approved the WAM report but tabled the request for someone to attend their meetings. (The board accepted WAM's proposal to increase Ministry of Music stipend to \$1200; organists to \$70 per Sunday and \$105 if 2 services; accompanist to \$16.00 per time). The board approved the endowment reports. They dispersed all their funds and gave some to the youth going to the National convention. Pastor Denise asked if someone would do the end of call for her final service, that will be Brent Zahrbock. The board authorized staff gifts totaling \$700. Plans for 12/31<sup>st</sup> service are coming together with coffee fellowship and cake. We've had one volunteer for the transition team. We will need 2 more. The board will listen to the council as to whether or not to contact Pastor Renee Tecklenburg to see if she is available but also made a list of possible lay leaders. The board worked on their budget. The Synod recommends 7% raises for rostered leaders and the board put in the budget what it would cost us to have a pastor of 10-years' experience, but the board knows we will need and use the staff more while not having pastor, so recommends 7% raises for the staff, except Kaitlyn as she was only recently hired. Liz will teach confirmation. Someone will talk with her concerning a possible Zion partnership.

**Board of Evangelism** – Marge Dragseth – Kim is working on the financial report. The board wishes to lower the budget by \$300 and is looking at cutting back some on purchasing devotionals (that are not being used). Due to all of the things that are going on (such as picking up bible studies at FWV), the board will not have a Mission Sunday, but will try to work on their own mission to help out without a pastor. There was an ad in the paper at Thanksgiving time for our Christmas services. The board hopes there will be an ad in the paper for Christmas leading up to it, but the board thinks advertising on Facebook is very valuable and Barbara handles that well. February midweek Lenten services will be catered to youth, (with adults welcome), to entice the



children to stay at the church between the meal and the church service. We're looking for rides for Martin Orman. Marge will call Barbara to get his sister's phone number to set something up. The board would like to see Pastor Tecklenburg every other week. She gave communion in the past, so it would be one way to get some communion services.

**Christian Education** – Kaitlyn Burdorf – Kayla is working on the annual report. The budget was sent to Liz. Carmen is working on dates for singing. The Sunday School program is looking good. We've got 48 kids performing.

**Youth & Family** – Gayla Athey – Kari is working on the annual report budget. The board would rather not have online sermons because they feel as if the congregation will not want to come if we don't have a leader present in church. There will be a bake sale fundraiser for the ELCA National Youth Gathering during the Christmas program. The board will be doing the Superbowl sub fundraiser after Christmas.

**Stewardship** – Darin Ehrenberg – The board looked at the financial reports and will drop the budget by \$50. The board recommended to stay on budget so we can increase in the future. We will be without a pastor's salary. The board wishes to increase the amount sent to the Synod in the future. Julie will write this year's annual report. Giving is up approximately \$12,000. The board feels as if online giving has helped to get more regular donations. The benevolence will stay the same as last year. The board didn't talk about Pastor Tecklenburg, but Darin mentioned maybe we could use her one Sunday a month. The board discussed whether we could inform the congregation during a temple talk about how the pastoral call process goes, so they know where we are in the process and know what to expect. Kristi pointed out if we're fortunate enough to get an interim pastor we'll have to pay that salary so we don't know whether we'll have that extra money or not.

**Church Properties** – Glenn Henningson – To replace the air conditioning in the Narthex it could cost \$7,500-\$7,600. The water fountain may be \$3,500-\$4,000. The board discussed having Hasslen Construction estimate replacing the cross and have them inspect the Bell area. Glenn will discuss the budget with Liz.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – Pastor Denise

**Worship** - Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and my last Sunday services have been planned. Worship Arts Ministry wanted another hymn added to the Christmas Eve afternoon service; after Communion we'll sing "Silent Night" and our last hymn will be "Joy to the World." Including the choir anthem and the communion distribution hymns there will be fourteen hymns with selected verses in each service. As the norm, there will be special music 30 minutes prior to each service on Christmas Eve afternoon. In our November WAM meeting, they were reminded of things that are upcoming and who to communicate with about them. Marilyn Hanson and I had selected hymns through mid-January. WAM is aware of the need to bring hymns, service setting, and liturgy to Barbara three weeks ahead of time. The Schmeichels assisted at my last Fairway View church service on December 3rd.

**Pastoral Care** - Ranet Schmeichel led Fairway View bible study with the questions I prepared on November 14th while I brought Kevin to his three-week post-op appointment in Sioux Falls. I visited a parishioner after a sibling called with their need for a home communion visit. Oddly, this person was removed from our directory due to a rumor of their death. Information given to the church office should be vetted. Graveside service was held November 22nd for Zachary Giese at the Clinton cemetery. I have been making final visits with Fairway View residents and others. I'll be meeting with the parish nurses on December 10th to plan next steps. My final bible study at FWV is December 26th.

**Youth and Confirmation** - Our final confirmation classes together will be December 13th. Classes start up again January 3rd with their interim teacher, Liz Ketz. All records of worship notes and attendance are current. All lessons and plans will be saved to a flash drive and the shared documents for easy access for the confirmation teacher.

**Synod and Community** - The Lac Qui Parle conference meeting was held November 16th in Dawson. The synod held a zoom meeting on November 30th on narrative budgets that I attended. I have an exit interview with a representative of the synod on December 8th. December Lac Qui Parle conference meeting is December 21st in Madison.

Thank you for your devotion to serving FELC and our mission to proclaim God's love to all.

Next council meeting will be on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn – Darin, Glenn MSP.

Closed with Lord's Prayer at 8:35 p.m.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## YOUTH NEWS January 2024

Congratulations to the Sunday School students on a wonderful performance of "Signs of Christmas". The students, Marilyn Chindvall, Amy Adelman, Liv Wollschlager, Emily Sigler, and the Board of Education: Kaitlyn Burdorf, Ashley Hanson, Kayla Minder, Sara Wollschlager, and Carmen Zupfer; all did a great job! Thank you.

The Youth Group has been busy: They helped decorate the narthex; went caroling up at Fairway View and delivered cookies to our members who reside there; and had a Christmas party of their own. They will begin meeting again after the New Year's break.

Thanks also to everyone who purchased a God's Creation Calendar. We sold out of them!!! 😊

Thank you to those who provided snacks and meals for the youth in the various groups.

### COMING UP IN JANUARY:

- ❄️ 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th – Confirmation and Youth Group will be held at their regular times.
- ❄️ January 31st – Confirmation will be held at the Early Out times of 1:45 and 2:45.
- ❄️ There will not be Youth group on the 31st.
- ❄️ 7, 14, 21, 28 – Sunday School resumes.

We will need teachers for the 1st-3rd grade students and the 4th-6th grade students for all 4 Sundays.

We also will need someone for the 21st and 28th for the PreK- K group.

Please see if you can help fill a time or two. All of the curriculum is ready for you to use. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the office!!!!

**December donations were made by:** Vern and Carol Bell, Russ and Ronda Thielke, Burton Pansch, Jerry and Kathy Longhenry, Becky Backstrand, Darin and Kristi Ehrenberg, 3 anonymous donations, Circle 4, Glenn and Deb Henningson, Sharon Carlson, Pastor Denise and Kevin Fossen, Marilyn Chindvall, and Liz Ketz.



# PARISH NURSE ARTICLE FOR JANUARY

## Elizabeth

Elizabeth was the mother of John the Baptist. She was a woman of great faith and humility. She and her husband Zechariah were righteous before God. (Luke 1:6) But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Elizabeth was a family member of Jesus's mother, Mary. Elizabeth was past the age of having children when the angel Gabriel approached her husband with the message that she would become pregnant with a son, John, who would later baptize Jesus.

When Mary came to visit, Elizabeth felt her baby jump with gladness in her womb at the sound of Mary's voice and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

She said to Mary, "You are the most blessed of all women and blessed is the child you will bear." (Luke 1:42)

Elizabeth is a beautiful example that waiting on the Lord often brings unexpected blessings. Her faithfulness did not go unseen by God, nor unrewarded.



### Lessons from Elizabeth:

- \*God puts people in our lives at just the right time
- \*God always keeps His promises
- \*We should Bless others whenever we have the opportunity
- \*Remember that God performs miracles

# CHURCH NEWS

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation** of FELC will be held Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> (with a backup date of January 28<sup>th</sup>) at 10:30 am in the sanctuary.

**Remember to** pick up your envelopes and please turn in your dedication pledges and opportunity sheets in the Narthex. Even if you filled them out in the last few years, we still need new ones to know that you are still interested and capable of volunteering in the same way as before.

**One of the Parish Nurses** will be at Donnie's Diner up at Fairway View every Tuesday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm for bible study this year.

**"Caring Friends" to meet January 14** during coffee after church. If you are part of the "Caring Friends" group, please stop to check in, tell us who you are seeing and give us ideas for new ways to touch base. If you would like to become part of this group, just come to our informal meeting and see if it is something you'd like to try. Each one of us picks a person from our congregation who we will contact at least once a month either by phone or a visit. Some of the people on the list are in the nursing home, assisted living or just at home and unable to always come to church. Questions or if you know someone that would benefit from a monthly visit call Neva, 320-305-4964.



**A HUGE Thank You to our entire congregation for your endless support of Katie's Kicks.** I have received many donations from individuals along with offerings and endowment support. In 2024 we gave away 131 pairs of shoes; brand new shoes to Ortonville students. There is such a great need and I am so thankful to have the support of our congregation as we continue to give kids a basic necessity they use daily. Without your financial support we would have to cut corners so THANK YOU for supporting our area kids. ~Kirsten

**Thank you to Marilyn Hanson and the youth** for decorating the Narthex for Christmas in December! You did a great job!

**Thank you to our very talented vocalists and musicians** for performing during our prelude & Christmas Eve Service: Adam, Kaylee, Jason & Ellie Helgeson, Christie Petersen, Lisa Berdan, Katelyn Berdan Renne & Keven Berdan, Jon & Carol Ydstie, and Darin, Kelsie, & Nathan Ehrenberg.

**Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota** will be holding a Caregiver Support & Respite meeting 10 a.m. January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Big Stone County Courthouse (Commissioner Room) so you can learn about the advantages of volunteering in your community and how simple it is to become a volunteer. Contact Information: [Kim.Brehmer@lssmn.org](mailto:Kim.Brehmer@lssmn.org) (218) 539-1333 or [Jamie.Aubart@lssmn.org](mailto:Jamie.Aubart@lssmn.org) (320) 979-4068.

**Green Lake Ministries** Summer Camp Registration Has Opened. Registration submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup> will receive an **early bird discount of \$50**. You can register your child online or we also have fliers available in the pick-up room.

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

**SEVERE WINTER WEATHER NOTES:** The decision to cancel church based on winter weather conditions will be made by 7:00 am on Sunday morning. Kristi Ehrenberg 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. The 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 during inclement weather.





**KDIO BROADCASTS**

- . . . . (December 3<sup>rd</sup>) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.
- . . . . (December 10<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored in memory of Mark Block's 72nd Birthday on Dec. 12th from Terry, Mark II, Jennifer, Matthew and families.
- . . . (December 17<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.
- . . . . (December 24<sup>th</sup> Advent Morning) was sponsored by Roger & Barb Nornes in honor of their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- . . . . (December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve) was sponsored by Marilyn Hanson in honor of her children & grandchildren.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT** for Carol Barrett; Marcus Hanson, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Beth Swanson; 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.



**THE PINK ENVELOPES**

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

Thank you for supporting FELC's giving emphasis!

- January .....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

**January 2024**

Designated Funds

**Building (please specify)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Operating Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Other** Technology Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_



**CIRCLE FOUR**



Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed. January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am.

Hostess: Sharon Smith Lesson: Arlene Vollmer



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

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

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

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

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



**DAY OF LOVE:** On Tuesday, December 5th, the Day of Love ladies and their spouses enjoyed a lovely catered Christmas dinner. It was time to relax! There were no sewing machines purring, the irons, cutting boards, pins and fabric were all tucked away in the storage room. It was time to take a break, enjoy some fellowship with a delicious meal!!! The Day of Love will resume on Tuesday, January 9th.

# Gifts & Memorials

(September 28th – December 27th)

## **ADVENT GIVING TREE**

Gayle Anderson; Rick & Dawn Barnhardt; Judy Beckman; Marilyn Chindvall; Circle 4; Chris & Kari Dorry; Marge Dragseth; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Kevin & Denise Fossen; Kathryn & Thomas Graham; Marilyn Hanson; Glenn & Deb Henningson; Sharron Johnson; Jerry & Kathy Longhenry; Chris Petersen; Dale Price; Rob & Kathy Randall; Bruce & Kristi Redfield; Glenda Reiffenberger; Garry & Ethel Swenson; Josh & Sara Wollschlager; and Jon & Carol Ydstie.

## **CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT**

Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; and Glenda Reiffenberger.

## **COFFEE FUND**

Glenda Reiffenberger.

## **ELCA MISSIONARIES**

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

## **ELCA SW MN SYNOD**

Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND**

Glenda Reiffenberger; and Sharon Smith.

## **FOOD SHELF**

Erlys Sis.

## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS**

Marilyn Chindvall; Melvin & Jackie Domine; Liz Ketz; Sharon Smith; and Jack & Mary Weber

## **JAYCEE'S PROJECT CHRISTMAS**

Marilyn Chindvall; Melvin & Jackie Domine; Sharron Johnson; Liz Ketz; Sharon Smith; and Jack & Mary Weber.

## **KATIE'S KICKS**

James & Ranet Schmeichel *in memory of George Gimmetstad, in memory of Bill Bergstad, in memory of Joe Strei, and in memory of Vicki Oakes (Christmas donation).*

## **KDIO**

Kevin & Becky Backstrand *in honor of Adeline Bourges's' Birthday; Dave & Debbie Ellingson and family in memory of Billy Thymian; Marilyn Hanson in honor of her children and grandchildren; Curt & Penny Hormann in honor of their grandchildren Avery, Oakley, Ryley Sigler and DJ Bartels, and in memory/honor of Shirley Horman, Inez Fraasch, Arlene Dockter & Peggy Paulsen; Roger & Barb Nornes in honor of their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; Evelyn Olson in memory of Leonard Olson; Rob & Kathy Randall; Kathy Stolpman in memory of Eileen Adolpson; Richard & Marla Strei in memory of Mick Boone, in celebration of Josh & Natalie (Strei) Haken's future wedding, and their own wedding anniversary; and Richard & Rita Verheul in honor of their grandson Boden.*

## **OPERATING**

Gayle Anderson; Ron & Ginger Athey; Larry & Jyla Dahle; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Marilyn Hanson; Evelyn Johnson; Glenda Reiffenberger; Paula Reisdorph; Judith Roberts; Garry & Ethel Swenson; Russ & Ronda Thielke; Jack & Mary Weber; and Clara Zeek

## **SENIOR CHOIR**

*In memory of Orrin Paul Scholberg:* Sharron Johnson and Janice Rodvick.

Glenn & Lisa Berdan.

## **SOMEPLACE SAFE**

Erlys Sis.

## **TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER FUND**

Glenda Reiffenberger.

## **THANKSGIVING (FOOD SHELF)**

Ron & Ginger Athey; Glenn & Lisa Berdan; Lois Bergeson; Sharon Carlson; Marilyn Chindvall; Mel & Jackie Domine; Chris & Kari Dorry; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Dave & Deb Ellingson; Keith & Lynne Giese; Ruth Hansen; Marilyn Hanson; James & Kate Heinecke; Glenn & Deb Henningson; Jim & Julie Hipple; Liz Ketz; Dale Price; Rob & Kathy Randall; Sharon Smith; Richard & Marla Strei; and Garry & Ethel Swenson.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Kevin & Becky Backstrand; Vern & Carol Bell; Sharon Carlson; Marilyn Chindvall; Circle 4; Mel & Jackie Domine; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Kevin & Denise Fossen; James & Neva Foster; Glenn & Deb Henningson; Liz Ketz; Jerry & Kathy Longhenry; Burton Pansch; and Russ & Ronda Thielke.

*Thank You!*



**Christmas Poinsettias/Floral Arrangements have been given...**

- ... in loving memory of Richard Janke from Patricia Janke.
- ... in loving memory of Bill & Donna Hoel from their children.
- ... in memory of loved ones from Dean & Anita Longnecker.
- ... in loving memory of Mark Block from Terry and family.
- ... in loving memory my Mom, Dad, and brother Joel from Marilyn Chindvall.
- ... in loving memory of Henry Domine from Jackie & Melvin Domine.
- ... in loving memory of Joseph & Beverly Menne from Mark & Amy Block and family.
- ... in loving memory of Mick Boone & Wes & JoAnn Strei from Richard & Marla Strei and family.
- ... in loving memory of Dallas I Hanson, Rev. LeRoy, & Carol Mueller from Marilyn Hanson.
- ... in honor of Barb & Roger Nornes' 70th Wedding Anniversary from Linda Ranisate and family.
- ... in honor of Barb & Roger Nornes' 70th Wedding Anniversary from Jackie Nornes & Jeff Nornes & family.
- ... in honor of Barb & Roger Nornes' 70th Wedding Anniversary from Kris Nornes & family.
- ... in loving memory of Patrick Ketz, Marvin Vick, and Donald & Corinne Tiegs from Liz Ketz and family.
- ... in loving memory of Bob & Donna Thompson from Chuck & Carol, Greg & Pat, Mark & Sheila, and families.
- ... in loving memory of Adeline Brown, Alice Ellingson, and Herman Ellingson, from David & Debbie Ellingson and family.
- ... in loving memory of our parents Elvin & Alviera Randall and Ralph & Lyann Quade from the Rob & Kathy Randall family.





Advent has been a time of watching and waiting as we move slowly toward Christmas. During this season many wait for comfort. Our communities look for hope. Our world longs for peace. We look for the appearance of light, for the presence and glory of God.

At a time and in a place that the world did not expect, the glory of God appeared in the flesh of an infant child, God incarnate. As Mary and Joseph held the baby Jesus, there must have been many questions that filled their hearts and minds. Perhaps they wondered how they all would survive in difficult circumstances. Perhaps they marveled at how this child could bring the fulfillment of some of God's greatest promises. Promises like:

- *Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem that her warfare is ended.* – Is. 40
- *Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'* – Is. 58
- *For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* – Is. 9



*And the Word became flesh and lived among us.*

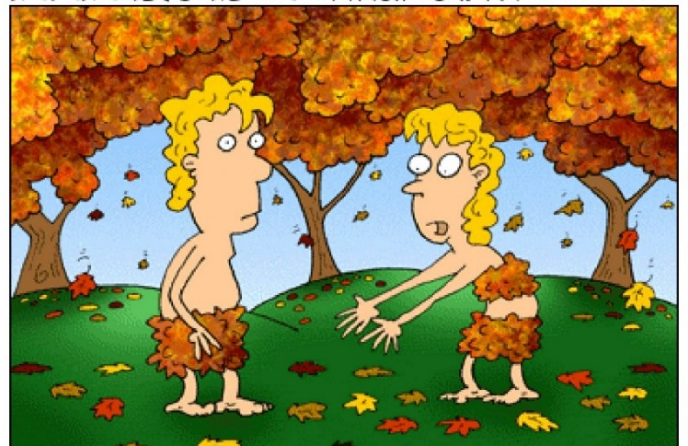
Christmas is about celebrating the fulfillment of God's ancient promises in the infant child Jesus, the Word incarnate. It is a celebration of God becoming flesh to live among us then - and now. At Christmas we will sing the prayer, "O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today."

As you again celebrate the birth of Jesus, may you look for the ways Jesus is born and lives among us today – lives in you. May the incarnate Word bring comfort, healing, and peace in your heart, in your home, and in our world.

Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas, filled with the light and love of Jesus Christ.  
+Bishop Dee Pederson



Christian Cartoons For A Change!!  
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WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?



## ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – JANUARY

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:  
Banners:  
Flower Committee:

Chelsy Stattelman & Ginger Athey  
Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter  
Carol & Connie Newman



### SCHEDULING

#### KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

**Jan. 7:** Amy Adelman  
**Jan. 14:** Carol Ydstie  
**Jan. 21:** Lisa Berdan  
**Jan. 28:** Marilyn Hanson  
**Feb. 4:** TBD  
**Feb. 11:** TBD  
**Feb. 14\*:** TBD  
**Feb. 18:** Lisa Berdan  
**Feb. 21\*:** TBD  
**Feb. 25:** TBD  
**Feb. 28\*:** TBD

#### LECTOR

**Jan. 7:** Liv Wollschlager  
**Jan. 14:** Marge Dragseth  
**Jan. 21:** Brent Zahrbock  
**Jan. 28:** Barb Wiese  
**Feb. 4:** Amanda Stattelman  
**Feb. 11:** Jim Schmeichel  
**Feb. 18:** Chris Petersen  
**Feb. 25:** Jim Foster

#### ACOLYTES

**Jan. 7:** Hannah & Brooke  
**Jan. 14:** Liam & Mikaela  
**Jan. 21:** Jaclyn & Martino  
**Jan. 28:** Bryson & Bennett  
**Feb. 4:** Ashton & Madilyn  
**Feb. 11:** Raimi & Lexi  
**Feb. 14\*:** Eliot & Archer  
**Feb. 18:** Ava & Chase  
**Feb. 21\*:** Brandon  
**Feb. 25:** Meadow & Justice  
**Feb. 28\*:** Owen

#### LAY ASSISTANTS

**Jan. 14:** Kirsten Karels & Lori Larson  
**Feb. 4:** Ranet and Jim Schmeichel  
**Feb. 11:** Terry Kalberg & Becky Parker  
**Feb. 14\*:** Kari Dorry & **VOLUNTEER**

#### FV Neighborhoods

**Jan. 7:** Miley Block & Marilyn Chindvall  
**Jan. 14:** Barb Wiese & Liv Wollschlager  
**Feb. 4:** TBD  
**Feb. 11:** TBD

#### GREETERS

**Jan. 7:** Sandy Brown & Justice Wittnebel  
**Jan. 14:** Marilee Haukos  
**Jan. 21:** Jim Foster & Bennette Karels  
**Jan. 28:** Liz Ketz  
**Feb. 4: (Mentor/Mentee) TBD**  
**Feb. 11:** Becky Parker  
**Feb. 18: (Mentor/Mentee) TBD**  
**Feb. 25: (Mentor/Mentee) TBD**





#### SOUND SYSTEM

**Jan. 7:** Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson  
**Jan. 14:** Matt Karels & Marina Thomson  
**Jan. 21:** Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson  
**Jan. 28:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson  
**Feb. 4:** Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson  
**Feb. 11:** Matt Karels & Marina Thomson  
**Feb. 14\*:** Matt Karels & Marina Thomson  
**Feb. 18:** Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson  
**Feb. 21\*:** Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson  
**Feb. 25:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson  
**Feb. 28\*:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

#### USHERS

**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, Scott Schneider, & Dick Strei  
**Jan. 28:** Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Jackie & Mel Domine  
**Feb. 4:** Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Marilyn Chindvall  
**Feb. 11:** Liz Ketz, Eldon Knutson, Darin Ehrenberg, & Harley Helgeson  
**Feb. 14\*:** Liz Ketz, Eldon Knutson, Darin Ehrenberg, & Harley Helgeson  
**Feb. 18:** Russel Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman  
**Feb. 21\*:** Russel Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman  
**Feb. 25:** Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Keven Berdan  
**Feb. 28\*:** Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Keven Berdan



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JANUARY 2024</b> † † † <b>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</b> <b>Name of Jesus</b> OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS DAY 	<b>2</b> 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Circle 4 Bible Study 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	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	<b>6</b> <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 
<b>7</b> 9:00 am Worship (w/Lisa Berdan) –KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School 10:30 am Fairway View Worship - Pre-recorded	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (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 (7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Worship (w/Rev. Hans Sacrison) – Communion - KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship, Caring Friends & Sunday School 	<b>15</b> <b>OFFICE            CLOSED</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed 	<b>16</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	<b>17</b> 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	<b>18</b> <b>Confession of Peter</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Worship– KDIO Broadcast and Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School 10:30 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation of FELC in Sanctuary (Backup date is January 28 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV) <b>NEWSLETTER            DEADLINE</b>	<b>24</b> 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	<b>25</b> <b>Conversion of Paul</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Worship (w/Brent Zahrbock) – Noisy Offering - KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	<b>31</b> <b>NO YOUTH GROUP/EARLY OUT</b> 9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:45 pm Confirmation (7-8) 2:45 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir 			