



First English Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

December 2024



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.

Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett
Interim Pastor

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson,
Missionaries/Tanzania

Barbara Wegner, *Parish Secretary*

Liz Ketz, *Financial Secretary*

Kaitlyn Burdorf, *Jr/Sr High Youth Leader*

Office: 839-2527 Fax: 839-3319
Email: felcort@firstenglish.net
Website: www.firstenglish.net

Office hours: M-Thurs 8:00 am–3:00 pm, F 8:00–12:00 noon
Building hours: M-F 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sat. & Sun. 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Facebook: [@FirstEnglishLutheranChurchOrtonvilleMN](https://www.facebook.com/FirstEnglishLutheranChurchOrtonvilleMN)

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





Notes from Pastor Cheryl



November 21, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you read through this month's newsletter, you will find a few new events for the month of December. One will be the Hanging of the Greens service, and the other is a Blue Christmas service. Both are services I have held for several years and found to be beneficial.

A Hanging of the Greens readies the sanctuary for the season with traditional decorations of wreaths, garlands, Christmas tree, nativity, and ornaments. During the service, explanations are given of religious symbolism for items as it relates to our theological beliefs. Then each time you see the items during the season, you are reminded of what Christ's birth in the world means for us, rather than the commercial aspect it holds.

A Blue Christmas service is held to give those who have suffered the loss of a loved one, or another significant loss, to hear the timeless message of hope for new life through Christ - a message to support mourners when all those around them dwell in the joyfulness of the season.

Both services provide a different way to communicate the traditional message of the good news of Christ's love coming into the world at Christmas for us.

Communication has always been very important, as the ancient Proverbs writer tells us, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."* (18: 21)

Paul wrote to the early church in Ephesians saying, *"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is head, into Christ,"* (4:15)

And the Psalmist wrote *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."* (19:14)

As you go forward in your congregational partnership, communication will be paramount in the mission and ministry of each church and sharing of a pastor. I see this as a very doable partnership where each congregation will benefit.

It is also crucial for leaders and committees to keep information flowing to and through the individual offices of each congregation as they make plans for activities, so there is no overlap or conflict.

This will require cooperation for the good of each church family and this partnership. As Paul writes in Romans 15, *"⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Cooperation takes good communication.

We often reflect on 1 Corinthians 12 when installing teachers, committee members, and church councils, where Paul describes how just as the body has many members, we the members of Christ family are one body with many different functions. This will be the same for the partnership where each congregation has their own history and personality, but will work together for one purpose, the glory of God.

This has already started with a shared VBS program last summer and this fall the combined confirmation classes and youth group as members and parents of each congregation are working together, taking turns to sit-in our confirmation class, supply treats and provide Wednesday meals and offer service project times together. Some programs cannot be shared but all support and encouragement can be offered.

Reflecting on your mission statements can be a focal point for each. Just as new styles of worshiping at Christmas are beneficial to hear the Christmas message in new ways, you will find similarities and differences to know and appreciate as you become a catalyst for spiritual growth individually and together.

There will be many traditions and customs for each to keep but there may be habits that are no longer important to cling to.

Paul expresses this to the Philippians saying, *"³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."* (2: 3-4) ...The interest to proclaim the love of God and the good news of Christ.

The season of advent is a time of preparation to communicate the coming hope and grace that unites all who believe through the love of God given at Christmas.

As you look forward to this special time of year and celebrate the gift God gave to communicate His love for you, hear the words written in Colossians 3, *"¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."*

Be thankful God understood communication was so important and remember to follow His example as you learn to work together for the glory of God.

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You! Merry Christmas

~ Pastor Cheryl

Greetings From the President

Zion Partnership

In consultation with our synod bishop the executive boards of both congregations continue to meet to finalize a Partnership Agreement for us to officially be able to share pastoral services long-term. This Partnership Agreement creates a Partnership Council to administer the agreement. Once we have it completed, we will be presenting the agreement for ratification to our councils and then will present the Partnership Agreement to our congregations at our annual meetings in January for a vote. If both congregations approve, we will be prepared for the call process which would be initiated by the Partnership Council and would include the use of each church's call committee. Once the Partnership Agreement is approved by our councils, copies will be available for review prior to the annual meeting of each congregation.

The Executive Committees intend to amend our current part-time/interim agreement with Pastor Cheryl to make it full-time/interim beginning January 1, 2025.

Jon Anderson

Church President

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Council Minutes – November 10, 2024 (not yet approved)

Members present: Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Ellie Helgeson (vice president) and *Lay Ministry*, Becky Parker (treasurer) and *Stewardship*, Kristi Ehrenberg – *Lay Ministry*, Kari Dorry – *Youth & Family*, Amanda Stattelman – *Christian Education*, Paula Reisdorph – *Evangelism*.

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ellie Helgeson at time unknown.

Appointed Ethel Swenson and Marilyn Hanson for internal audit of 2024 books. – Kristi, Amanda **MSP**.

Ellie will meet with Liz and Becky to start the budget planning process and will report to Lay Ministry.

The council came to a consensus on having the next annual meeting on January 19th with a backup date of January 26th.

Approval of October Minutes as presented – Kari, Becky **MSP**.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – We increased our giving from 2022 to 2023. In 2023, we ended with \$230,000. We'll be lucky to make \$210,00 this year based on the projections. We need to watch items as we budget. If we continue to share the pastor we should be okay. – Kristi, Kari **MSP**.

Board of Lay Ministry – Kristi Ehrenberg – Lay Ministry reviewed and approved the WAM & Endowment reports. The board needs to find someone to replace Brent Zahrbock for the Endowment committee. The board is open to suggestions. Ellie will have a separate meeting to discuss the budget with Lay Ministry after she meets with Liz & Becky. 4 staff interviews are completed. There are two left to do. There were a few things that came out of those meetings that the board will work on ways to address some concerns, but overall they were good.

Christian Education – Amanda Stattelman – The board has all of the materials for Sunday School classes, the only thing they need is volunteers for those Sundays. There is an announcement in the bulletin every week asking for volunteers. The Sunday School kids will be singing on November 17th and there was already an announcement of that. The Christmas program is scheduled for December 15th. The board was wondering if the youth would have a bake sale. Kaitlyn said that she still needs to find out if there would be help for that. January 5th is the date set for the family skating day at Sioux Historic, from 10:00 – 1:00 pm. Pizza will be served. Kandra will take care of that. We can invite Zion to join us.

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph – The board looked at the budget and they're unsure of publication costs for 2025. Kirsten Karels will present a temple talk concerning Katie's Kicks and the need for winter boots for children. Plans were made for the Advent Giving Tree for this year which will be in place by Thanksgiving Eve. The board would like to thank whoever donated to air the Christmas Eve service on KDIO (Marilyn Hanson & Barb Nornes). Paula motioned to transfer in Rebecca Heringer, Stacy Hennings, Carmen, Pete, Joey & Evelyn Zupfer.

Transfer in of Rebecca Heringer, Stacy Hennings, Carmen, Pete, Joey & Evelyn Zupfer, Paula, Amanda **MSP**.

Youth & Family – Kari Dorry – Nothing new on the agenda. The board is looking at their budget.

Stewardship – Becky Parker – The board has been giving temple talks for the Stewardship Emphasis drive the first 3 Sundays of November. The Stewardship pledge dedication will be the first Sunday in January (5th). The Thanksgiving Eve donations will be dedicated to the Food Shelf as we did last year. Our Good News newsletter will talk about the Stewardship Drive, highlight the new members, and get the number of Sunday School students working on the Christmas Program and perhaps a Zion update. The board would like to see the HeGetsUs.com website in the bulletin, but first the council members should take a look at it and the council can discuss it next month. We're not doing that great financially, but we're getting new members and it's difficult to estimate what Christmas will be like, so we don't know what the end of the year will look like yet.

Church Properties – no one from the board was here, but they met prior. The notebook said that they received an invoice from Art for the hallway repair. Ronglien will continue to do snow removal. The board is waiting for completion of final billing on Back Bell Tower Hallway. They will have to choose a carpet replacement. The furnace inspection is completed. Kristi brought up that we do not have volunteers to help shovel snow and it's getting to be overwhelming for Dean to do alone. We may need to put an announcement in to get volunteers for this. When there are special services, like Christmas Eve, he is unable to sit with his family because he is in charge of turning off the lights. The tech desk may be asked if they can help with that so he can sit with his family. It was also brought up that someone from the church should make sure to turn off the lights and lock up when they are done if it's after hours so that Dean does not have to keep coming back to lock up. The council wondered if the doors automatically lock or if they need to issue keys to someone. Liz locks up after choir practice. Pastor Cheryl will talk with him about this. Concerning shoveling snow, it was discussed that the youth could get service credit for volunteering to shovel. Pastor Cheryl was good with this. Trinity has a sign-up sheet for snow & ice removal for each week. Is this something we want to do?

No decision was made. Ellie talked about the recent FELC-Zion executive meeting with the bishop. The first thing that has to happen at this point is that they have to get together and write up an agreement concerning sharing the pastor. At the June meeting we all went forward thinking we were not going to pay for a full-time pastor solely. We are going to share the cost. The bishop said the agreement should be very specific about what the job duties would entail, keeping mind to be respectful and not overwhelm the pastor with duties. Maybe some members of the church can help with things like visiting members or other duties. That agreement has to be formally approved of at the annual church meeting in January. In January we are extending the agreement with Pastor Cheryl to cover pulpit supply with her working with us both full time come January 1st. Pastor Cheryl will cover both churches in the same scenario that we would have with a full-time shared called Pastor in the future. The Executive Boards of both churches will be working on that agreement and figuring out compensation, service times, and more. The only way to get a pastor is to go through the formal Call Process. The Synod will give us names of pastors when someone has expressed an interest in being here. That process only goes forward through the Call Committee. The individual would be interviewed by both Call Committees and at that point we would move forward with that. All of this is spelled out in the partnership agreement. So, we do not need to find pulpit supply.

Big Stone County MN Family Services requested that we sign an agreement with the governing board of Big Stone County, MN with the intent of serving as a mass care shelter site if requested to address a disaster or other large event.

Approval of entering into the Shelter Agreement, Becky, Cody MSP.

Ellie, as Vice President signed the agreement and it was sent back to Big Stone County Minnesota.

Ellie adjourned the meeting at 11:12 am

Next council meeting will be on Sunday, December 8th after church services.

DECEMBER YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to the volunteers who provided snacks for Confirmation and to those who have sat in on the class as an extra adult. Also thank you to those who provided supper for the Youth Group.

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.

There will not be Sunday School on December 1st due to the Thanksgiving break.

Sunday School students are busy preparing for their Christmas Program. The program will be on December 15th during the church service at 9:00 AM and is called "Just A Little Christmas". There will not be Sunday School on December 15th (after the Program), 22nd, or 29th.

All Wednesday groups will meet at their regular times on December 4th, 11th, and 18th. There will be a youth bake sale fundraiser on December 15th. Please contact Kaitlyn if you would like to donate baked goods to help fundraise. There will not be any youth activities on December 25th or January 1st. We will resume Sunday School on January 5, 2025 with a skating outing at Sioux Historic, and Confirmation and Youth Group will resume on January 8, 2025.

Bible Camp registration will open on December 12th. When you are registering your child be sure to opt for the SUPPORTED FEE pricing. You can go online to "GLLM.ORG/SUMMER" to register. You will not need to send any money at the time you register as we will do that as one large group later in the early spring. We will let you know when we need the money here at the church.



ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS AND REMEMBER:
JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

Parish Nurse Article for December

Miriam



Anselm Feuerbach – "Miriam" Public Domain

The prophetess Miriam was Moses' older sister, and she helped save him as a baby. Their mother left him in a basket to protect him from being killed by Pharaoh, and Pharaoh's daughter found him and took pity on him. Miriam offered up her mother to nurse him so that the two could remain together.

Not only does Miriam's story encourage us to continually trust in God, but also shows us how we should respond to God's work in our lives. Just as Miriam led the Israelite women in praise worshipping God for His deliverance after he parted the Red Sea, we also are called offer praise and thanksgiving to Him.

"Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand. All the women followed her playing tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang a refrain back to them. 'Sing to the Lord for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider he threw into the sea.'" (Exodus 15:20-21)

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

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/boots to Ortonville area school students. 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! If you'd like one, they can be bought in the office or in the Narthex following church! They're \$8.00. You can bring cash or pay by check (please write checks for calendars out to **FELC Youth**).



Youth bake sale - we will be planning to have a youth bake sale on Sunday, December 15th after church. If you would like to donate baked goods to their event, please contact Kaitlyn Burdorf at 320-766-4717 or at kmburdorf@hotmail.com.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Benson will be having an Advent Luncheon on Wednesday, December 4th at 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (*Free-Will offering.*)

There will be a Holiday Bake Sale & Shopping Event to raise funds for "It Only Takes a Spark" Grant County Cancer Patients on December 7th from 9 am – Noon at Big Stone City Community Center. The vendors include: Britt's Beads, Aromies, & Norwex (Shannon Britt), Retro Craft Arts (Kyleen Andrews), Greeting Cards (Paula Wieting), Kimmy's Crafts (Kim Larson), Pampered Chef (Amber Moberg), Thirty-One Bags & Tula XII (Jennifer Miska), Kids Crafts (BSC Branch Library), and LIKE NEW Kids Clothing (Sarah Chrzanowski). Baked goods will be made by the BSC Bookends Cancer Team.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Bellingham Community Center, Tuesday Dec. 10 1-6 p.m. Call Audrey at (320)568-2385 for an appointment for both whole blood and Power Red donations. All donors will receive a \$15 gift card by supplying an email address.

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.



Mark your calendars and join us for a free family fun day of skating and pizza from 10am-1pm Sunday January 5 at Sioux Historic. They have plenty of skates available if you don't have a pair at home, or bring your own if you prefer.

On November 10th we welcomed our new members: Carmen & Pete Zupfer and their children Joey and Evelyn; Rebecca Heringer; and Stacy Hennings. We're happy to have them join us!

The GLLM Dinner Theater is back for its 10th year! Visit Green Lake Bible Camp for an evening of theater & music alongside a four course meal. Enjoy the show alongside a 4-course meal complete with hors d'oeuvres, salad course, main course & dessert course. The show runs Dec. 12-15. Tickets are \$90 per person. Limited quantities of tickets are available! For more information & details, visit www.gllm.org/dinner-theater or call 320-796-2181.

KDIO BROADCASTS

. . . . **(November 3rd)** was sponsored in memory of Billy Thymian from David & Deb Ellingson and family.

. . . . **(November 10th)** was sponsored in honor of all our Veterans, especially Don Tiegs, Pat Ketz, and Drew Johnson by Liz Ketz.

. . . . **(November 17th)** was sponsored in honor of Adeline Burgess' 102nd Birthday (which was November 16th) by her family.

. . . . **(November 24th)** was sponsored by Pastor Cheryl in memory of her daughter Sally Rondeau who passed away 2 years ago on Dec. 1st.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT Carol Barrett, Jane Debner, Arlen LaCombe, Gail Olson, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman, Rosie Frank, Larry Helgeson, Natalie Henneberg, McCoy Jipson, Janice Redfield, David Scholberg, and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Ruth Hansen, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Roger Nornes; and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict. If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.




CIRCLE FOUR



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

Lesson: Arlene Vollmer

FELC WOMEN CRAFT SALE

Many have asked and perhaps there are many who, even if this is very last minute, would like to donate to a small craft sale!!! The ladies of FELC have napkins, towels, scrubbies and dishcloths for sale. The sale will be held on Sunday, December 8th in the church Narthex and will be held before and after the service giving you the opportunity to shop. We are also giving you, women and men the opportunity to bring a craft item or even a gift basket to sell if you wish. We would ask that if you donate, you do not bring food items. You will have the opportunity to purchase FOOD items on Sunday, December 15th from our youth. If you are wanting to bring an item or items, we would like you to have them at the church on Friday, December 6th. We certainly are aware that this is VERY last minute and there are other events happening the same day, but it was the only day available on the busy calendar. Sometimes it's the simple events that did not involve hours of planning that are the best! This is one of those events....we discussed...we are doing!! All proceeds will go to the FELC Women.



The Day of Love has been busy doing God's Work with their hands.

November 24th Pastor Cheryl blessed a total of 66 quilts. The Christmas quilts will be taken to the nursing home for our church members and the remaining quilts will be delivered to our community Project Christmas and to the Orphan Train for our ongoing mission work. Our goal is to donate quilts to all those in need. The need is great. To each of you who have donated monetarily and to the Endowment Board, we say a huge thank you. With your help, we are able to continue doing such a project and undertaking for the mission of our church. We continue to send our weekly cards and to each of you that have saved cards to recycle, a huge thank you. Last year we sent out over 1,000 cards and our work continues. Your dollars also help us immensely with the postage costs. Thank you...Thank you to all who have and continue to support our group. God's Blessings.



Join us at First English for a Blue Christmas Service December 21st

During the holidays many who have lost a loved one struggle with their emotions and the thought of an empty chair at the dinner table. Grieving someone you have shared past Christmases with is especially difficult when apart for the first time causing intense feelings of loss, loneliness and sadness. Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, along with the churches of First English and Zion Lutheran invite any who are mourning someone or something to a special Blue Christmas service, on what is called the "longest night," to be held at 3 pm on Saturday, December 21st at FELC. This wonderful time of year can also be very painful for those who have experienced divorce, health issues, unemployment, business loss, broken relationships, life-altering operations, family conflict or trauma, or any other type of loss making them feel life is not wonderful at all. The long nights with extra hours of darkness add to these difficult feelings of gloom, increasing the sense of hopelessness and sorrow. The happiness and joyful activities bear down on those who grieve more deeply as everyone else appears to be cheerful and celebrating.

A Blue Christmas service creates a safe place to join with others who mourn or struggle with loss and hear God's word of hope and healing calling you forward to the bright shining light of spring when new life will come again. All are welcome, whether you have suffered loss this year or in the past, to this special nondenominational service to honor your loss and embrace God's Hope that shines through the darkness.



The Silence and the Sound

The Silence and the Sound is a musical presentation of the story of Christmas, which will be performed at the Abbey of the Hills in Marvin, SD on Saturday, Dec. 7th at 3:00 pm and Sunday, December 8th at 1:15 pm and 4:30 pm. A freewill donation for the event will benefit the local food shelf and the ongoing mission of The Abbey of the Hills. There will be cookies & coffee following the presentation. There are no reserved seats, but please register your concert preferences online abbey@abbeyofthehills.org or by calling the Abbey (605) 398-9200.

Limited Seating Available

Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries Sponsored By Women's Connection

Tuesday, December 17th, at 5:30 pm at
Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church
109 2nd Ave., Big Stone City, SD

The cost is \$6.00, and there is a free nursery available by reservation. For reservations call Paula Reisdorph at (320) 760-9583.

Speaker: Joan Reiffenberger of BSC, SD.
"A Word a Day"

Special Feature: Alicia Dixon will speak about a Light in the darkness – Transitional living in Ortonville.

Music: Linda Ostlund of Ortonville, accompanied by keyboard will lead group singing of Christmas Carols.

FOOD WILL BE SERVED & ALL ARE WELCOME!



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.'

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

- Sun., Dec. 1:** 9:00 am Advent Worship (w/Rev. Melissa Gall) – Communion – KDIO & Facebook Live
10 am Coffee Fellowship (**No Sunday School - holiday weekend**)
TBD Endowment Committee Meeting
10:30 am Fairway View Worship – Pre-Recorded
4:00 pm Christmas Cantata Practice
- Tues., Dec. 3:** 11:30 am Day of Love's Christmas Lunch (*by invite only*)
- Wed., Dec. 4:** Youth Group decorating the Narthex and basement
7:30-8:30 pm Christmas Cantata Practice at FELC
- Thurs., Dec. 5:** 7:00-8:15 pm Christmas Cantata Practice at FELC
- Sat., Dec. 7:** 10:30 am Christmas Cantata Practice (Dress Rehearsal at Abbey of the Hills)
3:00 pm Christmas Cantata Performance at the Abbey of the Hills (in Marvin, SD)
- Sun., Dec. 8:** 9:00 am "Hanging of the Greens" Worship (w/Pastor Cheryl) – Communion
– Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship, Sunday School (Christmas Program Practice), and Church Council Meeting.
10:30 Fairway View Worship (Pre-recorded)
1:15 pm & 4:30 pm Christmas Cantata Performance at the Abbey of the Hills
- FELCW
CRAFT SALE**
Before &
After Dec.
8th's Service
- Wed., Dec. 11:** 11:00 am Circle Four's Christmas Lunch (*by invite only*)
- Sun., Dec. 15:** 9:00 am Worship (w/Kristi Ehrenberg) – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live
– Sunday School presents "Just a Little Christmas" – KDIO & FB Live Broadcast
10:00 am Youth Bake Sale – Coffee Fellowship with Jesus' Birthday Cake
(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR)
- Wed., Dec. 18:** Youth Group's Christmas Party
- Sat., Dec. 21:** 3:00 pm Blue Christmas Service (for those who mourn w/Pastor Cheryl) (Not Broadcast)
- Sun., Dec. 22:** 9:00 am Advent Worship (w/Pastor Cheryl) – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship
10:15 am WAM Meeting  **WAM**
- Tues., Dec. 24:** 2:00 pm FELC Christmas Prelude Music Starts
2:30 pm FELC Candlelight Christmas Eve. Service (w/Pastor Cheryl) – Communion
– Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live
4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at Zion (with Pastor Cheryl)
- Wed., Dec. 25:** Office Closed
- Sun., Dec. 29:** 9:00 am Worship (w/Ellie Helgeson) – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship
10:30 Fairway View (Pre-recorded)
- Wed., Jan. 1:** Office Closed

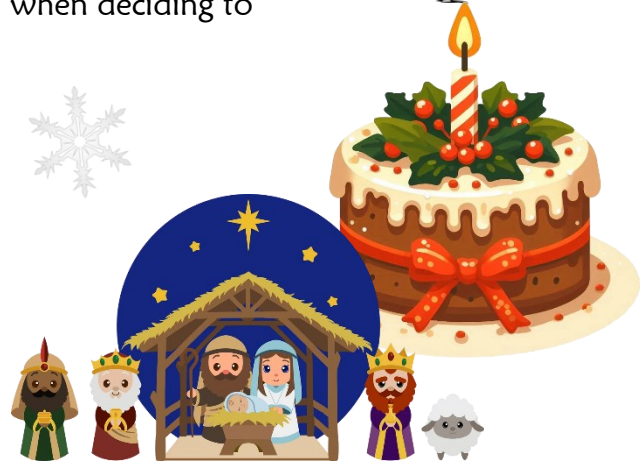
WINTER WEATHER

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



- The decision to cancel will be made by 7:00 am on Sunday morning.
- Jon Anderson will consult with the 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.
- An 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 the side of caution when deciding to come in during inclement weather.

Please join us for our 2024
 Sunday School Christmas Program
Just a Little Christmas
 Sunday December 15th during 9 am Service
 Then join us for Jesus' birthday cake after the program.



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 2024

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

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 *the week leading up to Christmas*. Don't forget to let us know who it is from and the 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 Fri. January 3rd for internal audit of FELC books. Thank you!

Remember to turn in your **Pledges for Dedication** before the end of the year! The pledge dedication is Sunday, January 5th, 2025.



ANNUAL MEETING:

Annual Meeting of the Congregation of FELC will be held Sunday, 19th (backup date: January 26th) at 10:30 am in the sanctuary. Annual report information is due in the office by Thursday, Dec. 19th. **(Electronic files preferred** but a hard copy for back up just in case is also appreciated!)

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – DECEMBER

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Jen Wiik and Barb Wiese

Banners:

Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter

Flower Committee:

Carol & Connie Newman, & Paula Reisdorph



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Dec. 1: Carol Ydstie
Dec. 8: Kathy Haukos
Dec. 15: Amy Adelman
Dec. 22: Lisa Berdan
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Marilyn Hanson
Dec. 29: Kathy Haukos
Jan. 5: TBD
Jan. 12: TBD
Jan. 19: TBD
Jan. 26: TBD

LECTOR

Dec. 1: Becky Parker
Dec. 8: Amanda Stattelmann
Dec. 22: Kelsey Kaye
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Archer Dorry
Dec. 29: Liv Wollschlager
Jan. 5: Jim Schmeichel
Jan. 12: Sara Mattison
Jan. 19: Kathy Randall
Jan. 26: Chris Petersen

ACOLYTES

Dec. 1: Archer & Lexi
Dec. 8: Martino & Nash
Dec. 15: Mikaela & Liam
Dec. 22: Ashton & Madilyn
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): **NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS**
Dec. 29: Ava & Chase
Jan. 5: Brandon & Lexi
Jan. 12: Katelyn & James
Jan. 19: Dawson & Jace
Jan. 26: Martino & Nash

LAY ASSISTANTS

Dec. 1: Marilyn Chindvall & Kirsten Karels
Dec. 8: Darin Ehrenberg & Jim Foster
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Archer Dorry, Kari Dorry & **NEED 3 VOLUNTEERS**
Jan. 5: Becky Parker & Marla Strei
Jan. 12: Kirsten & Bryson Karels

FWV Neighborhoods

Dec. 1: TBD
Dec. 8: TBD
Dec. 29: TBD
Jan. 5: TBD
Jan. 12: TBD



GREETERS

Dec. 1: Hartley & Amy Hodenfield
Dec. 8: Cameron & Mike Lovgren
Dec. 15: Mya & Carol Knutson
Dec. 22: Jace & Austin Schoon
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): **NEED VOLUNTEERS**
Dec. 29: Oliver & Jim Schmeichel
Jan. 5: Liv & Barbara Wiese
Jan. 12: Kimberly & Sara Wollschlager
Jan. 19: TBD
Jan. 26: Liam & Sara Mattison

SOUND SYSTEM

Dec. 1: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson
Dec. 8: David Ellingson & Marina Thomson
Dec. 15: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson
Dec. 21*: Liz Ketz
Dec. 22: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Marina T. & **VOLUNTEER**
Dec. 29: Marina Thomson
Jan. 5: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson
Jan. 12: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson
Jan. 19: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson
Jan. 26: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

USHERS

Dec. 1: Kim Anderson, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson
Dec. 8: Darin Ehrenberg, Eldon Knutson, Ellie & Harley Helgeson
Dec. 15: Russ Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman
Dec. 22: Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Keven Berdan
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): **NEED VOLUNTEERS**
Dec. 29: Tami Lundberg, Josh Wollschlager, Scott & Julie Schneider
Jan. 5: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, Jon & Kim Anderson
Jan. 12: Glenn Henningson, Art Vollmer, Scott & Julie Schneider
Jan. 19: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Rodney Torgerson, & Dick Strei
Jan. 26: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Jackie & Mel Domine

Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer to help with our Christmas Eve Service.
THANKS!



