

First English Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

December 2025



Unto Us a Child is Born

<u>FELC</u> <u>Mission Statement</u>

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, *Pastor*Barbara Wegner, *Parish Secretary*Liz Ketz, *Financial Secretary*

Office: 839-2527 Pastor Cheryl's Office Hours: Mon 10-4, Tues (at Zion) 10- 4, Wed 10-3:30, Thur. 10-4
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First English Lutheran Church 9 NW 3rd Street Ortonville, MN 56278





Notes from Pastor Cheryl



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Change has become a common theme this fall for the congregations of First English and Zion Lutheran. Changes in Sunday school. Changes in youth activities. Changes in technology.

Folks at Zion Lutheran have been updating their camera, computers, software and tech system over the last months to a new and updated setup for streaming worship and providing PowerPoint for worship services.

At First English, the project has been much bigger and more difficult since the equipment became outdated and past due for upgrades, it required immediate improvements to continue to be used for the weekly streaming, Fairway View Neighbors worship services, and now the very old connection for radio broadcast.

Often, we talk about how we must wait upon the Lord for His perfect timing. I know I have had to do that, and it is difficult when your prayers are not answered or answered in a way other than how you think they should be.

But even though God is always patient and waiting for us to turn to Him for forgiveness, scripture also gives us warnings about the danger of procrastination or delaying action to seek Him. Our technological failures reminded us of this. Life is as uncertain as using your computer one day and when turning it on the next, it will not boot-up.

Isaiah knew this centuries ago saying, "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near." (55:6) We are reminded there will come a time when God may not be found by us because we have waited too long.

The story of Lazarus and the rich man found in Luke 16: 19-31 is one such reminder when both the poor beggar Lazarus and the rich man die the same night and the rich man goes to Hades while Lazarus to paradise. The rich man finds he cannot go back himself or to warn his family.

Another story is that of the 10 brides where half prepared and were ready after a long-delayed bridegroom arrived and the other half were not and missed their opportunity. Their late plea was rejected, and the door was closed as found in Matthew 25:10-12.

It may sound strange to reference technology issues to scripture, but it reminds us there is no guarantee for what tomorrow may bring and we must prepare so we are not caught unaware or unready.

Peter writes "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." (2 Peter 3:18) encouraging us to recognize how important our spiritual life is. Change (or upgrading) is part of our journey through this world that comes from growth in new knowledge.

Just as your parents probably told you not to put off until tomorrow what you can do today, because it will make life much easier and less stressful, we learn from Proverbs 27:1 "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."

The technology upgrades will be completed soon and the stress and distractions of work that has been occurring will soon be over. The volunteers and those working on the upgrades at both congregations have spent many hours getting the project(s) completed, and we thank them for sharing their time and talents.

Thank you for your patience and may this everyday issue of upgrading computers and tech equipment be a reminder that life is short, do not push off to tomorrow ways to serve the Lord today, as James tells us, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." (4:13-14)

Give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings He has provided and serve the Lord today.

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!

~ Pastor Cheryl



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING Council Minutes – November 12, 2025 (not yet approved)

Members present: Ellie Helgeson (vice president) and Lay Ministry, Becky Parker (treasurer) and Stewardship, Darin Ehrenberg-Stewardship, Archer Dorry - Youth & Family, Beth Fladhammer - Christian Education, Emily Sigler - Lay Ministry, Paula Reisdorph - Evangelism, Dale Price - Church Properties, Barbara Wegner - Secretary, and Pastor Cheryl. Meeting was called to order by president Ellie Helgeson at 6:14 pm. Pastor Cheryl led the group in prayer.

Approval of October Minutes as presented – Becky, Dale **MSP**. **Approval of Treasurer's Report** – Darin, Paula **MSP**.

Board of Lay Ministry – Emily Sigler reported – The board approved the Endowment Report. There were no WAM or Financial reports to approve. Staff interviews will be completed by the end of the year. Ellie will meet with Liz and Becky for the budget. Lay Ministry suggested the annual meeting be January 18th with a backup date of 25th.

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph reported – We have leftover large print Christ in Our Homes devotionals, so the board does not need to purchase more than what they're currently purchasing for the new year. The board will host an Adult Game Night on Friday, January 9th. There will be a 5:30 pm supper and then games after. The giving tree will be set up on November 23 after church. The board tabled the Lenten meal discussion. The board will continue to have coffee fellowship in the Narthex before church and Neva Foster will be in charge of November's. There are no transfers in or out and members continue to reach out to non-members to see if they would like to join. The Mission Emphasis for the Day of Love went well. They took in around \$600 and that would help out with postage as they send out many cards throughout the year.

Christian Education – Beth Fladhammer reported – There may be a conflict with Cousin Camp concerning the VBS planned days of May 31st – June 4th. The board believes that the change to Sunday School being earlier is going well. Marilyn Chindvall is leading the Christmas practice right now. The younger kids do their rehearsal and then crafts. The Christmas program will be on the 14th. The board will have a Christmas cookie coffee fellowship downstairs after the service that Sunday. The kids will perform Immanuel from the Wonder Junction VBS during the Christmas Program. The board has booked a couple of combined events – Roller skating and Unity Square. February 8th is the Superbowl, so the board moved swimming at Unity Square to the 22nd. The board discussed maybe instead of a movie in Milbank doing an ice skating event at the Ortonville rink. The last day of Sunday School will be April 26th with a family picnic at the park. There was a \$450 deposit made to reserve the Roller Skating time of 11:30 am – 2:00 pm on Feb. 11th. The Unity Square swimming is set for 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. The board wondered if church in the summer could be on the lawn at Zion. December 7th the Sunday School practice will go until 11:00 am. Sunday School spent \$1400 this year and the board was wondering if they could get an itemized list of where that money went. Someone from the board can ask Liz for that.

Youth & Family - Archer Dorry reported - The discussion on how much families will pay for bible camp was tabled until Paul Hanson from GLLM/Water's Edge Ministries had come to FELC (11/16). The confirmation gifts this year were purchased from Cutting Edge Engraving in Ortonville. They were engraved gift boxes with a cross and their name on it and inside was a small bible. It was \$25/confirmand. 14 kids will be going to the Synod Youth Gathering in Willmar November 21st to 22nd. There were a lot of empty spots on the signup sheets for helping watch the youth and providing snacks. The board suggested putting those in the Facebook group (which we already do) and moving them to the Narthex so that people see them more readily. There is a spot to sign up to help with Youth Group specifically on the 2nd Wednesday of the month because that's when the council meets and it's nice if the Youth Group is in a different location on those nights. They went to Fairway View to play games this 2nd Wednesday. Maybe next month they could go caroling, but there we could use helpers for that. The youth interested in the senior high youth mission trip to Savannah GA (tentative June 22nd to July 1st) will be meeting on Nov. 17th to discuss that. There will be a \$100 deposit required to secure their spot. There are about 12 interested right now. Liz told Pastor Cheryl how she distributes the points for youth who have volunteered/fundraised. Pastor Cheryl wrote up the points system with examples and will let the youth know how it works. If the fundraiser is for a special trip, any funds raised would be distributed among the youth going (who had points). But the general fundraiser funds get distributed among all the youth who have points. At the end of the year, Liz takes the total amount of funds raised and divides it by the points. Then the youth with points get that amount to help offset their expenses. Funds raised by siblings can be passed down to keep it in the family. The Jr & Sr youth who are planning trips will be meeting on Nov. 17th and they will be informed of this point system so they can start earning money

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg reported – The board is good with the annual meeting being January 18th with a backup date of the 25th. The temple talks went well. There was a large group at the first Sunday's service so many people heard that. There should be a reminder in the bulletin to pick up stewardship letters to turn in opportunity sheets and pledges before the end of the year. Any stewardship letters still here after December 1st will be mailed out. We're \$12,500 under what we were last year, but we are in the positive. We owe some bills but haven't received them yet, so it's difficult to know where we're at. The board is still considering having an auction to build back some funds. This may be brought up at the annual meeting. There was discussion on how to make the congregation more aware of the Elevator Repair Expense, like a thermometer graphic.

Church Properties – Dale Price reported – We had a bid from Pat Dwyer & Gunner group to do some repair. We found water damage inside the ceiling. That was supposed to have been fixed, but it hasn't yet. That should be about \$3,500 but hasn't been paid yet. We have bills outstanding but we're not receiving them. There was about \$1,300 allocated to the wrapping of the air duct to fix the condensation. Larry's came out and talked with Dean. There is no space between the ceiling grids and tubing for insulation. The board would like to buy 2 dehumidifiers (\$365/a piece) and increase the pressure flowing into those vents to try to mitigate the moisture issue. Because of TKE's request we are adding extra electrical work on the Elevator. The board has asked Nelson Electric to put a bid package together for this. We do not know when the Elevator work will be started. The outstanding bill the board has is with Larry's for the air conditioning

work that happened this summer. They were out multiple times working on it. The board has decided to table the eternal candle discussion. Pastor Cheryl came to the Board of Church properties meeting on Monday and discussed the sound system upgrade. The board may remove one pew and raise the sound system.

Pastor's Report - Everyone received a copy of the Pastor's Report. 14 students are going to the Jr Youth gathering. About 12 are going to the Sr Youth mission trip. There was a consensus to go with the 4k camera. We need to find someone to put in the CAT line which runs from the computers to the camera. Pastor Cheryl would like a tech committee formed to oversee the equipment because our equipment went too long in getting updated. When some updates happened, some of our equipment failed. Our equipment was purchased in various decades and some of the regular updates were not done. Pastor Cheryl believes it would be best to purchase equipment compatible with each other and that a tech committee would be formed to make sure things continue to stay up-to-date. We will get handheld microphone that for sure go with the system we have. We've had issues with crackling on our old microphone. The board of properties would like 2 cameras, one in the back and one in the front. This is why we need a CAT line. These cameras will be able to zoom in much better/clearer. There will be a new laptop and desktop computer (donated). The tech desk computer will not upgrade to Windows 11 because of system requirements. Cody donated a computer but it has the same issue of not being able to use Windows 11. Also our new computers will need a USB-C input and his did not. Pastor Cheryl has been working with Ron (who originally put in our equipment) out of Willmar. He sent in a couple of proposals. The one with the camera and microphones is estimated at \$13,743.16 and the other one that was donated was \$2,894 and those don't include the computers which are donated. This will take a few weeks to get done. Ron wants the CAT line put in before he comes on December 1st. We won't have to pay for it until it is all done. The technology/electronic improvements might cost \$15-16,000, and this does not include the amount that will be spent by the Board of Properties to improve the tech desk cabinetry structure. An announcement will be made looking for tech committee members.

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

- Motion by Darin/Becky **MSP** to use some of the money originally allocated to wrapping the air duct (about \$1,300) to purchase two dehumidifiers (about \$730) as suggested by the Board of Properties.
- Motion by Becky/Archer **MSP** to go forward with the technology update funding as described by Pastor Cheryl. Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Wednesday, December 10th at 5:30 PM.

On 11/23/25 there was a vote by the Executive Committee on the MN Paid Leave Policy coming into effect in Jan. '26.

• Motion by Becky/Jon **MSP** for FELC to cover the full amount (to not withhold any of the Paid Leave Policy money from church employees paychecks).



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.



degember 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.

Sunday School students are busy preparing for their Christmas Program. The practice on Sunday, December 7th will go until 11 am so they have extra time to practice leading up to the program date. The program will be on December 14th during the church service at 9:00 AM and is called "The Christmas Story". There will be cookies and coffee in the Fellowship Hall after the service. There will not be Sunday School on December 14th (after the Program), 21st, 29th, or January 4th.

Youth that are doing the summer mission trip to Savannah will be holding a bake sale on Sunday, December 14th before and after the church service. Remember to bring along some cash so you can get in on the goodies!!! ©

All Wednesday groups will meet at their regular times on December 3rd, 10th, 17th. There will not be any youth activities on December 24th or December 31st. We will resume Sunday School on January 11th, 2026, and Confirmation and Youth Group will resume on January 7, 2026.

Online registration for Water's Edge Summer Camp will open on January 15th. When you are registering your child be sure to opt for the SUPPORTED FEE pricing. There will be more information in the January Newsletter on how exactly we will be handling the registration this year as we may have to change up the way we have done this in the past. You may be doing the deposit this year. Be watching for details next month.

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





Thank you to our Chaperons

Kristen Karels, Gara Tollakson, & Alan Hodenfield

For taking us to the GW MN Ir High Youth Gathering

Kenadee Jolliff, Olivia Tollakson, Kathlyn Hodenfield, Kim Neuman, Harley Neuman, Mya Wittnebel, Dawson Evje, Bennett Karels, Maci Haukos, Liv Wollschlager, Lola Backstrand, Alexis Tollakson, Nash Kindelberger, and Jace Athey.

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 2025	
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 - Com	
June	Someplace Safe
July	Families in Need
August	Baptism Chests
September	Endowment Fund
October	
November God's Work, (
December	•

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

The Board of Evangelism set up the 2025 Giving Tree on November 23rd. There are a variety of ways to help our community. The tags include Katie's Kicks, Trojan Takeout, Day of Love, Groceries, Gas, and Bus Tickets. Katie's Kicks is a non-profit program that gives new shoes/boots to Ortonville area school students. Trojan Takeout 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. The Day of Love recently explained all they do for our community including donating quilts and sending thoughtful cards. We also have specific funds to provide those in need with grocery cards, gas cards, and bus passes.

The Endowment Committee will be meeting on December 7th. Please get your requests in to their mailbox before then.

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 - Join us on Sunday, December 14th for a Youth Bake Sale held before and after worship, the same day as the Christmas Program. All goodies will be available for freewill donation, with every dollar supporting the FELC Youth Mission Trip to Savannah, Georgia next June. Thank you for your continued generosity to the FELC Youth! If you would like to donate baked goods, please contact Archer at 320-305-1839.



Blood Drive - Wednesday, December 3rd at Ortonville High School, organized by the OHS Student Council, which includes over ten youth from FELC. All are encouraged to give the gift of life if able. You can sign up at http://tiny.cc/uc7v001, using the QR code, or by contacting Archer at 320-305-1839.





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, communities in 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 FLCA. 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 Jesus Christ's name throughout the world."

Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries Sponsored By Women's Connection

Tuesday, December 16th, at 5:30 pm at Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church. The cost is \$6.00, and there is a free nursery available by reservation.

Speaker: E. J. Moret, of Ortonville, MN with a talk titled:

"Daughter of the King"

~ Special Feature ~

Jerrolyn, Doreen, Rhonda, Laura, & Denise will lead us in singing Christmas Carols with Amy Adelman, pianist. Music: The Weeding Sisters of Ortonville singing some

of our favorites. FOOD WILL BE SERVED & ALL/WALK-INS ARE WELCOME! For reservations call Paula Reisdorph (320) 760-9583

Call to support FELC Technology Upgrades



First English Lutheran Church has been known for its continual commitment to proclaim the gospel message through song, word and actions sharing their talents within and outside of its walls. Today we are reaching out to you for help to donate to the technology upgrades needed to continue that commitment.

Our technology is outdated and past due for upgrades requiring immediate improvements. Updating is essential to continue our mission to those at Fairway View, snowbirds, and others outside our faith family who login each week to hear the good news of Christ for them.

Thank you for your patience with the current audio and video quality as we work on this project with New Life Communications of Wilmar to be completed in the next weeks.

Donations have already been made, but approximately \$15,000 is still required for additional equipment and installation. Your generous contribution will go directly to fund this project. Please send or drop off a designated contribution to the Technology Upgrade Project at First English Lutheran, 9 3rd St NW, Ortonville, MN 56278.

Volunteers sought for FELC Technology Committee

We are asking for volunteers to be on a technology committee to oversee our equipment and software ensuring they are up-to-date and will continue to work reliably. The committee should meet at least once a year to review the current technology and advise on any upcoming needs to be addressed and in any urgent technological situations. Please let the office know if you can share your gifts in this area.

Bellingham Bloodmobile: Spread cheer before the new year. Consider donating the lifesaving gift of blood at the upcoming American Red Cross Bloodmobile in Bellingham. On Tuesday, December 9th, the American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Bellingham Community Center from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Both regular blood and Power Red donation appointments are required by calling Audrey at 320-568-2385, by searching Bellingham Community in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or at RedCrossBlood.org, or by calling 800-RED-CROSS. As a thank you, the American Red Cross will send donors a \$15 Amazon e-gift card.

MAY THE GOD OF ALL CONSOLATION BE WITH

...Glenn and Deb Henningson and family and Sharon Carlson and family on the death of their sister-inlaw, Linda Henningson on November 11th. Services were held on Friday, Nov. 14th and burial was at Eidskog Cemetery on Saturday, Nov. 15th.

....Roger Nornes and family on the death of Barb Nornes on November 25th. Services are pending. Keep an eye out for announcements with more information.

KDIO BROADCASTS

- (November 2nd) was sponsored in memory of Gale and Ann Haukos from Kathy Haukos and family.
- (November 9th) was sponsored in memory of Billy Thymian from David & Debbie Ellingson and family.
- ... (November 16th) was in honor of Adeline Burgess. Happy 103rd birthday to our mother & grandmother, Adeline, today, November 16th from her family.
- (November 23rd) was sponsored in honor of Eldon & Carol Knutson's 61st Wedding Anniversary on November 28th from Dick & Marla Strei and family.
- (November 30th) was sponsored by Pastor Cheryl in memory of Sally Rondeau who passed away 3 years ago on December 1st.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Kelly Athey, Gail Olson, Nancy Pierzina, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter, Jean Zielike; Bishop Craig Anderson, Monty Athey, Paul Erdman, Rosie Frank, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Natalie Henneberg, McCoy Jipson, Janice Redfield, David Scholberg, and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Arlen LaCombe, Nola Lockwood, Roger Nornes; Aletta Simonitch; and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict especially Jacob Hamann, Colin Hartman, Tyler Ruby, and Thomas Halverson; and our Haitian student, Ycherson Soh and South African students Sanelisiwe Dlamini and Andiswa Mbatha. If you would like a name to be added/removed, please contact the church office.



Community Christmas Cantata - Love Changes Everything

Enter into the spirit of Christmas with a concert of inspirational music at the Abbey of the Hills! The concert features over 70 of our local singers and instrumentalists: Saturday, Dec. 6, at 2:30 and 6:30 and Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2:30 -- freewill donation. Festive refreshments will follow each performance. There are no reserved seats, but please register your concert preference online at abbeyofthehills.org or call 605-398-9200. Concert attendance is limited to 200 at each performance, so please register early!

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.



The Day of Love would like to say thank you to the Board of Evangelism for recognizing the group and the work that we do. The scraps of fabric that once were thought to have no worth, have, by the Day of Love, become a treasure for those in need. Stitch by stitch, step by step the ladies lovingly impact the lives of others doing God's work with their hands.

We would like to thank those who have donated fabric, yarn, and monetary donations. Your donations help create stitches of love and approximately 1,000 handmade cards of sunshine being sent in one year. To everyone who has saved their cards for recycling, a huge thank you.

We continue to furnish quilts to our hospital, Foster Children, Green Lake Auction, Graduation Quilts, Baptism Quilts, Child Protection Services, Veteran Quilts/Eagle's Nest, Veteran's



These pictured quilts and more were blessed during our November 9th service in which the Day of Love ladies talked about the work they do.

Quilts/Montevideo Veterans Home, Residents at Fairway View Nursing Home (this year every resident will receive a quilt), Project Christmas, and missions. Your donations are appreciated as we continue the mission of our congregation by providing warmth and comfort to those in need with quilts stitched with love and cards sent as a message of support and love.

We welcome new members, come and join us.

BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, PLEASE NOTE:



Please pick up your Stewardship enevelope (and giving envelopes for 2026 if you requested them). If you would like 2026 giving envelopes, but did not request them, we have some extras, so you can let someone in the office know and we'll get you a box.

Please return your completed opportunity sheets and pledges from your envelope. There is a box in the Narthex that says "Leave commitment cards and opportunity sheets here" on it. If the office is open, you can leave them with Barbara instead. It's important that they be turned in before the end of the year. The first Sunday of 2026 we dedicate the pledges, and the opportunity sheets will be compiled into a list for the council in January. **ANNUAL MEETING:** Annual Meeting of the Congregation of FELC will be held Sunday, January 18th (backup date: January 25th) at 10:30 am in the sanctuary.

Annual report information is due in the office by Friday, Dec. 19th.

(Electronic files preferred but a hard copy for back up just in case is also appreciated!) **Organizations with financial reports should be into the office by January 5**th (or as soon after as possible) for our internal audit of FELC books. Thank you!



The Board of Christian Education is looking for 15 dozen Christmas cookies to have at their Coffee Fellowship the Sunday morning of the Christmas Program. If you would be willing to provide some cookies for this event, please let someone in the office know, or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Parish Nurse Article for December 1 Corinthians 7:17



Don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live, love, obey, and believe right there.

Enjoy the love and forgiveness Jesus provided for us. Be content and follow God. Remember to thank God for the wonderful year we have had!

Forget Elf on the Shelf

Jesus wants Ewe in a Pew

CRCLE FOUR

Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed. December 3rd at 9:00 am. with their Christmas party following the meeting at 11 am.

Lesson: Erlys Sis

WALL OF THANKS



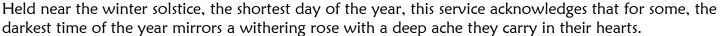
A combined Thanksgiving service for First English and Zion Lutheran Churches took place at Zion Lutheran Parish on Monday, November 24th.

Those attending wrote cards expressing gratitude, which were then posted on the Wall of Thanks as a collective reminder. "My family" was the most frequently listed item of thanks.

Service of Comfort and Hope Offered December 20th

First English and Zion Lutheran Churches in Ortonville, MN, invite you to a special Blue Christmas service on Saturday, December 20th, at 4:00 PM in FELC sanctuary. This service, sometimes called the Longest Night Service, is a dedicated time for those who find the atmosphere of holiday celebration difficult due to grief, loss, or struggle. For many, this wonderful time of year can be challenging, overshadowed by feelings of anguish, loneliness, and sadness. You may be struggling with:

- The first holiday season after the loss of a loved one—seeing an empty chair at the table.
- The pain of divorce, broken relationships, or family conflict.
- The stress of health issues, unemployment, or business loss.
- The difficult emotions following a life-altering operation or trauma.



The Blue Christmas service provides a safe, quiet place to come as you are to find hope in the darkness where we will join with others who share similar experiences of loss and struggle; hear God's comforting Word of hope and healing; honor your loss in a gentle and non-judgmental atmosphere; and embrace God's promise of light that shines even in the deepest darkness, calling us forward to the new life of spring.

This special, non-denominational service offers comfort and support to all. Whether your loss is recent or happened in years past, all are welcome to come and receive a moment of peace and remembrance.



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

Wed., Dec. 3rd: 11:00 am Circle 4's Christmas Lunch (by invite only)

7:15-9:15 pm Christmas Cantata Dress Rehearsal at FELC

5:30 pm Youth Group Decorates for Christmas

7:00-9:00 pm Christmas Cantata Dress Rehearsal at FELC Thur., Dec. 4th:

2:30 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hils (with festive refreshments following) Sat, Dec. 6th:

6:30 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hils (with festive refreshments following)

8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in the Narthex Sun, Dec. 7th:

9:00 am 2nd Advent Worship – Communion – KDIO & Facebook Live

9:30-11:00 am Sunday School Christmas Program Practice

10:00 am Endowment Committee Meeting

10:30 am Fairway View Worship – Pre-Recorded

2:30 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hils (with festive refreshments following)

Sun., Dec. 14th: 8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in the Narthex & Youth Bake Sale

9:00 am 3rd Advent Worship – Sunday School presents "The Christmas Story"

- KDIO & FB Live Broadcast

10:00 am Youth Bake Sale – Coffee Fellowship (with cookies)

(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR)

Wed., Dec. 17th: 5:30 pm Youth Group's Christmas Party

Sat., Dec. 20th: 4:00 pm Blue Christmas Service (for those who mourn w/Pastor Cheryl)

(Not Broadcast)

8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in the Narthex Sun., Dec. 21st:

9:00 am 4th Advent Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live

11:30 am Swedish Tea at Zion Lutheran Church

Tues., Dec. 24: 2:00 pm FELC Christmas Prelude Music Starts

2:30 pm FELC Christmas Eve. Service – Communion

- Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at Zion Lutheran Church

6:30 pm FELC Christmas Eve. Service – Communion

Thur., Dec. 25: Church Office Closed

A. Carrie

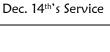
Church Office Closed Fri., Dec. 26th:

Sun., Dec. 28th: 8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in the Narthex

9:00 am Worship – Favorite Hymns – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live

Thurs., Jan. 1: Church Office Closed





YOUTH BAKE SALE

Before & After







Pastor Cheryl will take vacation

time until December 31st

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – November

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices: Banners:

Flower Committee:

Marla Strei & Amy Adelman Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter Neva Foster & Ranet Schmeichel



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Dec. 7: Kathy Haukos

Dec. 10* (1 pm FWV): Marilyn Hanson

Dec. 14: Amy Adelman Dec. 21: Lisa Berdan

Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Carol Ydstie Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): Marilyn Hanson

Dec. 28: Amy Adelman

Jan. 4: TBD Jan. 11: TBD Jan. 18: TBD Jan. 25: TBD

LECTOR

Dec. 7: Kristi Ehrenberg

Dec. 14: Jon Ydstie Dec. 21: Archer Dorry

Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Archer Dorry **Dec. 24* (6:30 pm):** Kathy Randall

Dec. 28: Marge Dragseth Jan. 4: Amanda Stattelman

Jan. 11: Kelsey Kaye Jan. 18: Brent Zahrbock Jan. 25: Marge Dragseth

ACOLYTES

Dec. 7: Meadow & Dylan Dec. 14: Mya & Justice Dec. 21: Jace & Lola

Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): NEED Volunteers Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): NEED Volunteers

Dec. 28: Chase & Cameron

Jan. 4: Brandon & Lexi Jan. 11: Brielle & Archer Jan. 18: Dawson & Gibson Jan. 25: Ashton & Madilyn

LAY ASSISTANTS

Dec. 7: Darin Ehrenberg & Marla Strei Dec. 21: Sara Mattison & Terry Kalberg

Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Archer Dorry, Kari Dorry &

NEED Volunteer

Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): NEED 3 Volunteers Jan. 4: Kris Redfield & Marilyn Chindvall

Jan. 18: Kirsten & Bryson Karels

FWV Neighborhoods

Dec. 7: James & Ranet Schmeichel

Dec. 14: Paula Reisdorph

Jan. 4: TBD Jan. 11: TBD



Dec. 7: Emily Sigler & Riley Stattelman

Dec. 14: Cody Backstrand & Jordan Stattelman

Dec. 21: Oliver Zinski & Jim Schmeichel Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): NEED Volunteers Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): NEED Volunteers Dec. 28: Connie & Carol Newman & Tino

Jan. 4: Brielle Rademacher & Amy Adelman

Jan. 11: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers Jan. 18: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers Jan. 25: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers

SOUND SYSTEM

Dec. 7: Marge Dragseth & Cody Backstrand

Dec. 14: Kim Anderson & Liz Ketz Dec. 21: Matt Karels & David Ellingson

Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Liz Ketz & 1 VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): NEED VOLUNTEERS Dec. 28: Liz Ketz & Cody Backstrand Jan. 4: Kim Anderson & Terry Kalberg Jan. 11: Matt Karels & Marge Dragseth

Jan. 18: Liz Ketz & Kim Anderson

Jan. 25: Cody Backstrand & Terry Kalberg

USHERS

Dec. 7: Gale May, Dean Strand, Vern

Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson

Dec. 14: Darin Ehrenberg, Eldon Knutson, Ellie &

Harley Helgeson

Dec. 21: Russ Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, &

Connie Newman

Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): NEED Volunteers Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): NEED Volunteers

Dec. 28: Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale

May, & Art Vollmer

Jan. 4: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, Jon & Kim Anderson

Jan. 11: Art Vollmer, Brent Zahrbock, Glenn & Deb Henningson

Jan. 18: Nancy Nolop, Dick Strei, Dean Longnecker, & Josh Wollschlager

Jan. 25: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Mel &

Jackie Domine





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net go to "Lutheran Faith" & then "Prayers, Study, & Devotionals."							
HANGING 8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in Narthex 9:00 am Worship – Giving Tree Temple Talk – KDIO & Facebook Live 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded 4-6 pm Christmas Cantata Practice	9:30 am Ron comes to set up Tech Desk	9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV) 5:30 pm Zion-FELC Partnership meeting at Zion	9:00 am Circle 4 (Church Lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 11 am Circle 4's Christmas Party (by invite only) 3:30 pm Confirmation (grades 7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (grade 9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12 th gr.) Decorating the Narthex 8 Basement & TV Broadcast 7:15-9:15 pm Christmas Cantata Dress Rehearsal	7:00 - 9:00 pm Christmas Cantata Dress Rehearsal	5 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	2:30 pm Christmas Cantata at the Abbey of the Hills 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata at the Abbey of the Hills	
8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in Narthex 9:00 am Worship –Communion – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 9:30 – 11:00 am Sunday School Xmas Practice 10:00 am Endowment Meeting 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded 2:30 pm Christmas Cantata at the Abbey of the Hills	8 11 am Staff Meeting	11:30 am Day of Love's Christmas Party (by invite only) 3:30 pm Evangelism Mtg (Pastor Cheryl will attend) 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:00 pm Fairway View Worship (Pastor Cheryl Live w/communion) 3:30 pm Confirmation (grades 7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (grade 9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (gr. 7-12) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir	11	9:00 am Bulletins Printed	13	
YOUTH BAKE SALE: Before and after service 8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in Narthex 9:00 am Service with Sunday School's "The Christmas Story" presentation – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Cookies 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded 4-5:15 pm Christmas Cantata Practice	15 11 am Staff Meeting	16 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (grades 7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (grade 9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (gr. 7-12) Christmas Party 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	9:00 am Bulletins Printed Annual Reports Due	20 Longest Night 4:00 pm Blue Christmas Service (for those who mourn)	
21 8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in Narthex 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 11:30 am Swedish Tea at Zion Church	22 11 am Staff Meeting	23	9:00 am Bulletins Printed Early 9:30 am TV Broadcast 2:00 pm FELC Christmas Prelude Music 2:30 pm FELC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/communion – on KDIO & FB Live 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at Zion 6:30 pm FELC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/communion	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	27 Dedication Pledges & Opportunity Sheets should be turned in before the end of the year.	
28 8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in Narthex 9:00 am Worship – Favorite Hymns – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live	29	30	5:30 pm TV Broadcast 31 New Year's Eve 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast	Pastor Cheryl will take vacation until December 31st. Pastor Cheryl's Hours: Mondays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am to 4 pm), Tuesdays (Zion Lutheran 10 am to 4 pm), Wednesdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am to 3:30 (and then teaching confirmation classes), & Thursdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am – 4 pm (unless up at FWV/or visiting members) or by appointment. Contact her anytime via text (605-237-1501) or email at CMQRondeau@outlook.com.			
	Pastor Cheryl will	take vacation until December 31st.		(003-23/-1301) or emo	ılı di CiviQkondeau@00110	JOK.COM.	