

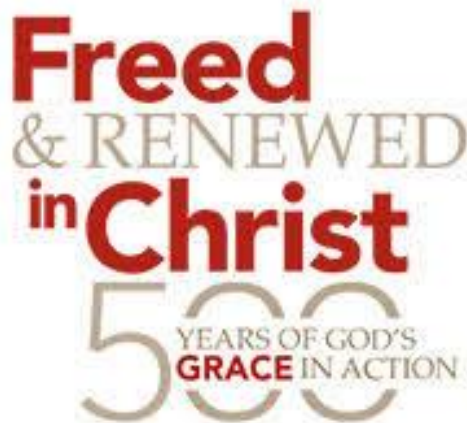


FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Redeemed by Christ to Witness and Serve

October 2017 Newsletter

There will be many celebrations happening in October to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Lutherans around Peoria will be hosting events this month and throughout the year. As we learn about the events, we will post the information on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the narthex. (near the main floor restrooms.)



Sparks of the Reformation

+Wednesdays in October at 6pm+

Pastor Ryan will lead an adult Christian education class—we will take a look at and discuss the texts that inspired and propelled the Lutheran Reformation. We will ask: How did God's Word transform the Church and the world? What innovative ideas and technologies fulfilled God's purpose of sharing Christ in new ways? How is the Church being reformed today through old and new understandings of God, scripture, and faith? Don't miss this primer for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation...and an opportunity to find the traces of the Holy Spirit in our very midst!

Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2017

8:30am and 11am

Join us for a festival worship service as we give thanks to God for the gift of grace.

Join us for a cake reception at 9:30am, celebrating our confirmation students and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

During the 11am worship service Imani Hester, Josh Ross, and Kole Schoenheider will be celebrating their Affirmation of Baptism.



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Amy Glass—Bell Choir

Lois Neptun—Organist

Katlyn Reimer—Praise Band Coordinator

Beth Stalker—Chancel Choir

Building Staff

Ralph Lingenfelter—Sexton

Otis Westerfield—Building Superintendent

From the Senior Pastor:**Unwavering Gratitude**

“Every generous act of giving, along with every perfect gift, comes from above, coming down from the Father of lights, in whom there is no shadow or variation due to change.” James 1:17

I am convinced that gratitude is the posture of the spirit on which all of the other virtuous spiritual positions are based. How much easier—how much more natural—is it to treat others with mercy, love, compassion, hope, and generosity when we are first thankful to them? Indeed, even our love and trust of God is born in us when we first see and feel God's grace.

I am grateful to be here at FELC. On my first morning in the office, I walked in to a joyful welcome—balloons, signs, gifts, and a desk full of loving and hopeful notes. My excitement and anxiety at starting a new venture was reduced—honed really—to a posture of pure thankfulness. And in my first days, leaders of the congregation (members and staff) have been bringing me up to speed quickly. They have witnessed to the service, dedication, tithing, talents, and gifts of time that so many of you share generously with and through our church. Your contributions to our life and ministry together are perfect gifts from above—gifts we need...gifts that make all the people of God thankful.

The passage above from James acknowledges that change makes it hard to be grateful. Whether the changes are big or small, hard or easy, change is always a disruption that throws us off our sometimes delicately

balanced posture of gratitude. At times, we are thrown completely off our feet. When I am down or out, it is hard to be grateful—to God or to anyone. And the other virtues become impossible.

But the Christian, in faith, takes on gratitude as a spiritual discipline—a posture that can be practiced...like spiritual yoga. In faith, gratitude is not always easy, but it is always possible. Faith is trusting that God always provides for us in the midst of hardship or suffering. “For we know that *in all things* God works for the good of them who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). We fear no variation or shadow because the God of light—our God—never changes. The Cross proves that whatever befalls, God invariably provides.

Your long interim period was a time of variation. Yet, so many of you have already witnessed to the gospel, pointing out to me the light that shone through the shadows due to change. Even now, with me arriving, change will likely continue. I mean just look at me, I am younger (and let’s name it—taller) than what you may be used to seeing as your senior pastor. More than that, I bring my own style and identity to the table, despite the fact that you will form and teach me in FELC ways and traditions. We will both be changing, you and I. Still more than that, I see in many of you a yearning (or at least begrudged admission of the need) for change in our midst. Why? Not just because Peoria and the world are changing around us, but also because you perceive God doing a new thing in FELC (Isaiah 43:19). Re-formation is the hallmark of a living faith. We will

together adapt ourselves to the new ecology of our mission. God has called us to this purpose—that call is itself the gift.

And here we hit the firm foundation. Here we fall, feet firmly planted in the gospel. God chases away shadows with light from above. Here we stand in that light...bearing it for all to see. Thanks be to God for that...and for you.

With Unwavering Gratitude,
Pastor Ryan

Installation Service for Rev. Ryan H. Anderson Sunday, October 8 at 3pm

Bishop of C/S IL Synod, S. John Roth, will preside at the installation worship service for Pastor Ryan at First English Lutheran Church. A gathering with light hors d’oeuvres will follow. Please Rsvp.



Offering at Installation

An offering will be collected during the Installation service. It will go to First Call Theological Education (FCTE). Newly ordained clergy in the ELCA attend six retreats over the first three years of their ministry to reflect theologically on their experiences and work toward articulating a pastoral identity. FCTE is administered and subsidized by each synod. Here in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod FCTE retreats are led by Bishop Roth.

Welcome to Wednesdays

Mid-Week Ministries

5:00pm to 5:45pm Congregational Dinner
Sign up the Sunday before.
\$5 per person.

5:45pm Chancel (adult) Choir

6:00pm

+Youth Choir K-9th Grade

+Adult Class

+Knitting Group

7:00pm

+Men's Group Study

+Confirmation Class

+Hand Bell Choir

+Sr/Post High Group--9th
grade-Post High

+Youth Ministry Group
1st-6th grade



Youth talk about their love for Confirmation Camp at the Thank You Luncheon.

Knitting Group off to a wonderful start.



Mid-Week Meal Ministry

Hosts, cooks, organizers are needed to help with meals on Wednesday nights. We are looking for people to order pizzas, pick up Avanti, (or other ideas) to host the meal. We appreciate cooks as well.

To contribute to this valuable and relied upon FELC ministry, please sign up on the bulletin board in the gym.

For more information contact Kathy Neptun or Jerry James.

Men's Group at 7pm

Men of all ages are invited to join in prayers, discussion, and fellowship every Wednesday night at 7pm. We meet downstairs. Follow the signs to the "Junior High Youth Room."

Sunday Mornings: The Day the Lord Has Made.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

+Adult Bible Study on Ruth

Meet in the Parlor for a 4-week Bible Study. We'll use the Book of Faith Series on Ruth. Runs to October 8th.

+Coffee and Conversation

Meet in the 2nd floor "Council Room" for conversation with Pastor Ryan each Sunday.



Lutheran World Relief Quilt Blessing

Sunday, Oct 22

During worship, we will give thanks for the quilt ministry and offer our prayers for the people who will be warmed by each quilt.

Help our Shut-In Ministry Recording Help on Sunday

Looking for a person (or persons – more than one volunteer would be fantastic) to record the 8:30am service. Training is available. Please contact Amy Glass at ladyjocelyn@gmail.com or at 309-678-0157 if you are interested.

'Simply Giving' Electronic Giving

Member enrollment forms are found in the Information Rack as you enter the main front doors of the building. The forms need to be returned to the Office so we can submit them to Simply Giving.

Electronic giving helps you, and the church, maintain a consistent budget.

Sign Up Bulletin Boards are located in Luther Hall (the gym). Wednesdays and Sundays, be sure to look them over and consider the ways you can become more involved at First English Lutheran.

Serving Actively in the Church and in the World

Your faith in action!

Reformation 500 Stewardship Challenge 2018

On Sunday, Oct. 1, stewardship packets were made available. Packet includes:

- +Letter from the Stewardship Committee
- +Pledge Card
- +A return envelope (mail or bring to worship)
- +3rd Quarter Statement

If you did not pick up your packet, it should arrive at your house the first week in October.

Commitment Sunday October 22

Please prayerfully consider your financial pledge for 2018 and remember your card when you come to worship on the 22nd.

500 Years of Proclaiming the Gospel. Stewardship Challenge 2018

Prayerfully consider increasing your household giving an extra \$10 a week. This would be an increase of about \$500 a year.



Lutheran World Relief Projects

Donate Bible and Devotional Material (Also in need of sturdy boxes.)

If you have extra Bibles or unused devotional material, please consider donating it to LWR. These will be boxed and sent with our other LWR boxes on Oct. 25th.

Boxes, Bibles, and Devotional materials may be left in the quilting area by the stage in Luther Hall by October 22. Please contact Char Davis for more information.

Load the Bus

Wednesday, October 25 at 5pm

The LWR boxes of quilts and kits will be headed to Bloomington. We need to load the bus on Wednesday, October 25 at 5pm. Please come over to church and help out!

Cost of Shipping Donations

The 2017 LWR Ingathering is October 28. All our kits are brought to Bloomington to be shipped off as they make their way to our brothers and sisters around the world.

We welcome donations to help offset the cost of shipping the boxes. Mark your donation for LWR Shipping.



Lutheran World Relief

Unload Food Donations at First English Lutheran: Wednesday, Wednesday, October 4 at 9:30am

Please show up at FELC to help unload food donations for the Snack Pack Ministry.



Unloading Food Donations at East Bluff Community Center: Wednesday, October 11

Truck arrives at EBCC between 12:30pm and 1pm.

No One Hungry.

Volunteer to Serve at East Bluff Food Bank

9am to Noon on October 14

Meet at the East Bluff Community Center. Meet other FELC members as we serve our neighbor. Wear a FEC t-shirt, if possible.

Congregation Donates to East Bluff Food Bank Sunday, October 15

Following worship services, empty food sacks will be passed out at FELC on Sunday, October 15. Please plan to return the filled sack on Sunday, October 22.

Snack Pack Ministry

Snacks for 168 Middle School Kids Snack Pack Donations Needed

Donate healthy (NUT FREE) snacks or monetary gifts.

Suggested Items:

oatmeal packets,
ramen noodles
mac & cheese (Kraft, please)
pasta cups
pudding
fruit snacks
snack crackers
100% fruit drinks
cereal (small boxes)
raisins.

Help Pack the Snacks

Thursday October 5, 19, and 26 at 9am
at FELC.

Wednesday, October 11 at 7pm at
FELC

Help is needed to pack the bags of food
items each week. Meet in the 2nd floor
bell room.

Preparing Thank You Luncheon



Von Steuben Middle School Support

We have had a few members stop over to volunteer at Von Steuben Middle School. They report walking into the main secretary's office and having a task within minutes. Copying papers for a teacher, sitting with a student during a class, reading to student, popping into lunch...the list is endless and the teachers are ready. We are needed and welcomed at VSMS!

You do need to fill out the background check form and bring it to the District 150 Office.

Watch for more updates on a mentor program between Big Brother/Big Sister, VSMS and FELC.

For more information contact Marilee Tilly.

Free Yarn for Mitten Tree

If you knit or crochet, there is yarn available for your use in a basket in the narthex. Please use the yarn to make hats and/or mittens to be donated to the Sunday School Mitten Tree this December



Youth Talk about experience at 'Be Like Jesus' Event. Thank You Luncheon 2017

Welcoming and Inviting People into a Life of Faith Congregational Social Events and Cross Generational Events

FELC Congregation T-Shirts Order

Need a new shirt? Grab an extra one for a new season. Our purple shirts have the ELCA logo on them and help identify us as members of FELC at events and service project. We have a variety of styles: polo, t-shirt, long sleeve shirt, hoodie sweatshirt, and zip up sweatshirt.

For more information and to place your order, pick up an order form on the Youth Bulletin Board. (Hallway across from main floor restrooms.) Return with payment by October 22, to Mrs. Raylee Brown.

Youth Bible Study

Saturday, October 21

9am-2pm at FELC

Lunch provided. Please remember your Bible. Sign up by Wed., October 11.



Thank You Luncheon- Sept. 24

Fall Festival

Wednesday, October 25

6pm-7:30pm

Fun for All! Wear your Costumes. Bring a bag for your goodies.



Join us for: Trunk or Treat, Batty Games, walk the 'Not So' Scary Trail, try your luck at the Sweet Walk, and so much more fun.

Let us know how many people you'll have with you.

Also, help with the event!

Sign up on Bulletin Board in Luther Hall.

Congregational Bonfire Potluck

Saturday, October 21 4pm-8pm

Join us at the Perkinson Family home.

Bring a dish to share and your lawn chair. Hot dogs, beverage, s'mores and bonfire provided. Please sign up by Sunday, October 15. Contact Mrs. Brown for directions and more information.

Adult Fellowship Event

Saturday, November 11 at 5pm

We will meet at The Hive in Peoria to paint a winter landscape picture. Please bring snacks and drinks to share. Watch for sign up and more information later this month.

Church Events Around the Area

Check the bulletin board in main hallway out of Narthex (near main floor bathrooms) for more 500 Reformation events in the area.

Kindling New Fires of Hope Human Rights Celebration Church Women United

Friday, Oct. 6 9am
First English Lutheran Church
Brunch \$5 donation
Rsvp by October 2 to Thelma Hopwood
699-6950.



Life with Luther Wine and Chocolate Hosted by "Martin and Katie Luther"

Sunday, October 29 at 2pm
Advanced tickets required.
\$25 per person. Door prizes and a light supper, plus chocolates and wine.
Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria invite you to enjoy a Wine and Chocolate tasking for adults (21 years and older) at Mackinaw Valley Winery. Write checks payable to Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria. Contact Pepper at 309-697-5762 or pepperbauer@att.net

Enjoy a Gourmet Brunch and Help Others!

Lutheran Hillside Village is hosting its annual Benevolent Care Brunch Extraordinaire on Saturday, October 7 from 8:30am to 1pm.

The cost is \$50 per person. Proceeds will benefit the Lutheran Hillside Village Benevolent Fund to support care center (nursing) residents who outlive their resources.

Please call Lutheran Hillside Foundation; Phil King (309-683-1298) or Laurie Hahn (309-683-1263) for more information.

Lutheran Women Greater Peoria Peoria Dining Tour Books

The books are available in the church office.

There are 22 new restaurants this year and 115 restaurants total. The books are \$30. Books will be available until December 15.

Ten dollars from each book will go to the Lutheran Hillside Village and Lutheran Social Services of IL.

Reformation Event: Hymns and Beer

Sunday, November 5

2pm-4pm

Lindenhof German American Society
Hosted by Salem Lutheran
Beer, soda, and pretzels available for purchase

Fall Celebration

Northern Conference Women of the ELCA
Sat., Oct. 14, 2017 8:45am—1pm
(coffee/treats in morning; lunch included)

Fee is \$10, due by Wed., Oct. 4

Mail registration form and money to
Barb Hanson 4118 N. Hawthorne Place
Peoria, IL 61614

In-kind offering: hygiene items

Elaine Cone, Director of Esther House, will tell us about her ministry.

Esther House is a branch of the Peoria Rescue Ministries provides a long-term support program for women and their dependent children.

Information on Women's Bulletin Board – may make copies of the registration form.



The Knitting Group on Wednesdays

Biennial Convention

2017 C/SIS Women of the ELCA at
Lake Williamson, Carlinville
Fri., Oct. 20 and Sat., Oct. 21 (will be staying in Williamson Lodge)

Registration begins at 2 p.m. on Friday.

Besides business meetings, there will be Bible studies and speakers.

Convention ends at 3 p.m. on Oct. 21.

You can register for the whole weekend or register just for one day (Friday includes dinner) or (Sat. includes lunch).

Speakers: Judy Engebretson will portray Katie Luther; Rose Moser will present a on her travels to Madagascar; Chaplain Maggie Falenschek will lead a Bible study as well as preach & preside at Holy Communion at the closing service.

Details are on the Women's Bulletin Board or please contact Pam Anderson (444-2018). Registration forms can be copied.

Save the Date Scrap and Craft

March 3, 2018 8am-8pm

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

God Squad: Sunday School 2017-2018

