

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Redeemed by Christ to Witness and Serve

March 2018 Newsletter

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY MARCH 25

Worship at 8:30am & 11am



MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 29

Worship at 1pm & 7pm



GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 30

Worship at 1pm & 7pm

Stripping of the Altar at 7pm



EASTER VIGIL SERVICE MARCH 31

Worship at 7pm

**Easter Sunday is April 1
Festival Worship at 8:30am & 11am.**

First English Lutheran Church

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Peoria, IL 61603
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Ministry Staff

Rev. Ryan H. Anderson, Senior Pastor
ryan.anderson@felcpeoria.org
cell phone 815-222-5924

Mrs. Raylee M. Brown
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
raylee.brown@felcpeoria.org

Rev. Heather L. MacIver Arnold
Director of Outreach & Communication
heather.arnold@felcpeoria.org

Office

Kathy Neptun—Church Bookkeeper
kathy.neptun@felcpeoria.org

Lois Neptun—Church Secretary
office@felcpeoria.org

Music Directors

Char Davis—Youth Choir
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

Committee Schedules

Care and Connect Committee

3rd Monday of the month at
6pm Contact Pastor Heather
MacIver Arnold

Parish Education Committee

Last Monday of the month at
5:45pm Contact Mrs. Raylee
M. Brown

Outreach Committee

3rd Monday of the month at
7pm Contact Pastor Heather
MacIver Arnold

Stewardship Committee

3rd Tuesday of the month at
4pm.
Contact Pastor Ryan H.
Anderson

Trustees Committee

2nd Monday of the month at
6:30pm
Contact Mr. Phil Neptun

Worship Committee

2nd Thursday of the month at
5:15pm Contact Pastor Ryan
H. Anderson

Youth Committee

Last Monday of the month at
6:45pm Contact Mrs. Raylee
M. Brown

Recast at the Cross

Hanging on the cross, Jesus looked down and saw Mary, his mother, and his beloved disciple staring up at him in dread. Shortly before his last breath, Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, here is your son." And to the beloved disciple, "Here is your mother" (see John 19:26-27). In that moment, a completely new relationship was formed between Mary and the beloved disciple. For John the Evangelist, who writes of this exchange, this is the very birth of the Church.

In the Church, strangers are recast as relations. We are cared for by people we don't expect will care about us. We care for others that we wouldn't expect to care for or about. Six months ago, I didn't know any of you, nor you me. Then we were cast (thrown) together by the Spirit of God. Our relationship was recast. At the Cross, the Word of God forms the bond—not blood, not simpatico, not shared ideologies, not sympathy, not even love...the Word & Cross alone are the ground of our relationships.

Right now, FELC is looking at some changes to our organization. In particular, we are looking to recast two committees. In the year to come, we will explore what that means and what the Spirit is doing. With the changes come new names:

Evangelism becomes **Care & Connect**.

Social Concerns becomes **Outreach**.

Both committees, as they are newly cast, repeat the exchange Jesus, Mary, and the beloved disciple shared at the Cross.

Care & Connect. Jesus makes a new connection in that moment. The Church makes new connections, too. The purpose of Care & Connect will be to build meaningful connections around the Cross. Whether it is helping visitors transition to full and meaningfully connected members, or it is connecting our own around specific

interests or needs (grief support, knitting, couples with young children, retirees, etc.). We have many such existing groups, but how do we connect more people to these ministries of support? From the Cross, Jesus was also making sure his mother would be cared for after he died. How do we at FELC care for one another? With hospitality, food, prayer, companionship, encouragement, and acts of service of every kind. Care & Connect will coordinate and enrich all the ways we care for one another in this relationship Jesus cast, the relationship we call FELC.

Outreach. When Jesus took these two strangers—Mary and the beloved disciple—and made them family, he was expanding each person's circle of care to encompass the other. The purpose of Outreach will be to expand our circle of care. Here is the heart of the church's mission. Reaching out, we serve neighbors and strangers, caring for those we wouldn't even meet, were it not for the Church. In our outreach, we witness. In other words, we give an account of the hope that is within us, so that others are lifted up by hope. Our hope is in Christ and in the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Outreach will listen for ways the Spirit leads us to minister outside our walls. Outreach will continue to challenge us to recast our circle of caring to extend beyond our families, and beyond our FELC family...for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Jesus reveals the heart of who we are as we stand at the Cross. We are the ones who reach out—to neighbor, needy, outcast, and stranger. We are the ones who expand our circle of care, creating—recasting people for—life-giving connections.

People, here is your Church. Here is your people.

In Christ, Pastor Ryan

Ways to Get Involved



● Loose Coins on Sunday

All loose coins that are put in the offering plate on Sundays rotate to go to local hunger, world hunger, and the seminary in Madagascar that our synod supports. Bring your change and help support these ministries!

● Lost and Found Table is FULL

The congregational lost and found table is located outside the main church office. At present this small table is overflowing with lonely and forgotten items. Please take a walk by it to see if you have a missing item living at church.



● Outdoor Sign Maintenance—In Search of New Volunteer/s

We are looking for someone to maintain the permanent outdoor sign that faces Forrest Hill Ave. The worship times are changed seasonally and for some special events. There will be a bit of training as our current, “Keeper of the Sign,” Ron Arnold, passes on his knowledge. Please contact Pastor Heather if you are interested in working on this project. It can be handled by one person or we could create a team.

heather.arnold@felcpeoria.org

Worship & Education



Worship Wednesdays in Lent 1pm and 7pm

Wednesdays our worship will follow the *Small Catechism* of Martin Luther. Each service will include Word, song, and prayer, as well as interactive reflection on the Catechism.

Luther's catechism gives us the basics of the faith. Our mid-week Lenten worship will help us experience the basics in a fresh, new way--what better way to prepare for Holy Week? All Wednesday Lenten services will be held at 1pm and 7pm.

Postcard Prayers

Each Monday morning at our Staff Meeting, Pastor Ryan, Pastor Heather, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Lois Neptun, pray for a number of our members. We then sign a postcard to let you know you have been in our prayers that week.

Sunday Adult Education Class The Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ

Meets on 2nd Floor center room (Council Room) from 9:45am-10:45am.

Pastor Ryan leads a class for adults between services on Sunday morning.

Follow Jesus to the Cross this Lent. Hear his last words. Understand the gift.

3/4— "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" (Mark 15:34)

3/11— "I am thirsty." (John 19:28)

3/18— "It is finished!" (John 19:30)

3/25— "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Coming Up Next...

4/1—No Class (Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day)

4/8—New Members: Lutheran Basics (members welcome to review the basics)

4/15—New Members: FELC Mission Statement (members welcome for review)

4/22—New Members: Getting Connected (new members & guides only)

4/29—New Members: Next Steps (new members & guides only)

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Youth Bible Study

March 11TH Noon-3PM

Lunch Provided

Don't forget to bring your Bible

Please sign up by Sunday, March 4th



Calling Singers for Special Project

The Chancel Choir is planning to sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter Sunday.

Join us at 5:45pm, March 7, 14, 21, & 28 to practice the "Hallelujah Chorus."

We would love to have a few more voices join us for this special music.

If you would like to do so, we will be rehearsing it first at each of our March rehearsals at the start of our practice time. We will spend the first 15 minutes or so on it; that way if you have another commitment on Wednesday prior to service, you can do both.

Traditionally, we sing at the 8:30am service but have also sang right at the beginning of the 11am service as well on Easter.

~Beth Stalker, Chancel Choir Director

New Member Class

Are you or someone you know thinking about making FELC your church home? Come learn more about who we are, and what being a part of our faith community is all about. The Spring New Member Classes will be held between services on Sunday mornings in April:

4/8—Who We Are: Lutheran & ELCA Basics

4/15—Who We Are: Redeemed by Christ to Witness & Serve

4/22—Getting Connected

4/29—Next Steps on the Way

Those who decide to become members, will be welcomed as new brothers and sisters in Christ in worship on April 29th.

To enroll, or if you have questions, please call the church office at 309-685-0337 or contact Pastor Ryan at ryan.anderson@felcpeoria.org.



First Communion

Instruction for First Communion will be held May 5 and 1st Communion will be celebrated on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday May 20th, 2018.

All those in 3rd Grade or older who do not yet receive communion are encouraged to enroll.

For more information or to enroll, please call the church office at 309-685-0337 or contact Pastor Ryan at ryan.anderson@felcpeoria.org.



Community Grief Seminar

"Finding Spring Again" is a free educational grief seminar offered by Unity Point Hospice—Peoria, to persons experiencing the loss of a loved one. The seminar will take place Thursday, March 8 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Methodist Atrium Conference Room in Peoria. Please RSVP by March 6 to 309-672-5746.

Funeral Planning Worksheet

In Lent, we are reminded: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Discussing the inevitability of death, and one's wishes for that time, is a way to face death with the strength and hope of faith. When a person dies, their family is faced with an overwhelming number of profound decisions—at the very time grief clouds the mind and soul.

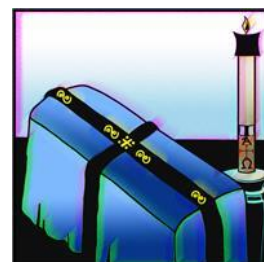
A new resource is available to all Christian adults for End of Life planning. It is designed to make your wishes known, and to guide your loved ones as they make decisions at the end of your life. The resource not only walks you through planning your funeral service, but also guides you through other practical and important end-of-life questions. Most of all, the document is intended to spark conversations about life, death, and faith among loved ones—whether they are nearing death or not.

Once completed, keep a copy with your important documents and/or share a copy with your next of kin. If you do not have any family to give the document to, consult Pastor Ryan so it can be filed at church.

Pastor Ryan is also available to meet with individuals and families to complete the form.

The Funeral Planning Worksheet can be found in the kiosk in the entrance to the sanctuary. You may also request a copy at the church office.

The Funeral Planning Worksheet is recommended for all adult members of FELC, young and old.



To Witness & Serve

Upcoming Service Events



New Food Collection Bags

Four times a year, the congregation has a food drive to benefit the East Bluff Community Food Bank. In previous years we have made brown paper bags available for people take, fill, and return to FELC.

Beginning in late February, reusable bags were introduced. These blue bags will be set out for members to take with them shopping, then the following Sunday the bags full of food will be returned to FELC.

We have a limited number available for purchase for your personal use. We are selling the bags for \$5.

Unload Food Donations at First English Lutheran

Wednesday, March 7 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, March 14

Truck arrives at EBCC between 12:30pm and 1pm. Meet at East Bluff Community Center

East Bluff Community Center

512 E Kansas St, Peoria, IL 61603

Come to Serve at Food Bank 9am to Noon on March 10

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



Please sign up early and new volunteers are needed!



Family Fun Night at VSMS

Dr. Seuss Themed Games

March 6 5pm to 7pm at VSMS gym

This event is similar to the one First English Lutheran helped with in the fall. Support the students, teachers, and library of the middle school across the street. Stop by between 5pm and 7pm to order books—proceeds will help the school purchase books.

+Volunteers are needed at the school from 5pm-7pm. We will be helping with carnival type games.

+Financial donations to purchase books

+Stop and shop on March 6th. Bring your family!

Packing of the 187 Snack Bags

Thursdays at 9am Meet in the 2nd floor bell room at FELC.

New volunteers welcome-come give it a try. Sign up in Luther Hall.

Tutor Program Off to Great Start

About 6-7 FELC members are actively volunteering at VSMS. The majority are tutoring a variety of subjects a few others are teacher volunteers. The school administration and teaching staff has made it very easy to serve. Once you have filled out the background information for District 150, you are free to pick your day and time to volunteer. The need is great and there are many opportunities to get involved.

If you would like the opportunity to tutor or help out at the school, please contact Marilee Tilly.

Thank you to everyone who is volunteering and supporting our service at VSMS.

Sewing Project—items needed

The students at VSMS have the opportunity to attend a sewing small group after school. The program leaders are requesting support and donations.

- +Needles, thread, buttons, trim
- +Workable sewing machines
- + Fabric

Bring items to FELC and we can get them to the school.



The Snack Pack Program at FELC provides a bag of supplemental food over the weekend for students. We collect donations throughout the month and work with the Midwest Food Bank to acquire other items.

Communication Reminders

+The Weekly Buzz and monthly Newsletter are on our webpage.

You can also find a Google calendar linked to the webpage. All of these items are found under the heading "What's Happening?".

+Watch for a Communication Survey to be linked to our webpage, on Facebook, and hard copies will be found at church.

Over the last two years we have been working hard to communicate clearly to keep people informed and involved. As we evaluate our progress and set new goals, we want to hear from you. What is working? What would you like to see us improve? What isn't necessary? Once the survey is out, please take a moment to share your thoughts and ideas.

+FELC has a weekly electronic newsletter that is sent via email to everyone on our email list. If you are not receiving emails from FELC and would like to, please drop a note to Lois Neptun at office@felcpeoria.org

Snack Pack Donations

March: Fruit Cups. Please donate fruit cups throughout the month of March. Leave in the Donation Hall.



Thank you so much for your generous oatmeal donations in February!

Heart of IL Big Brother/Big Sister Lunch Buddy Update

We are thankful that Dani Bess and Michelle Girard from Heart of IL BB/BS were able to be at First English Lutheran in January. In February, seven members from FELC have been interviewed and begun the process of becoming a Lunch Buddy at VSMS.

Mr. Ryan, the principal at VSMS, set a goal of having 20 lunch buddy matches. There is room for more volunteers!

A Lunch Buddy meets with a student at Von Steuben Middle School for lunch at least twice a month. You'll meet with your "buddy" in the library for around 30 mins.

If you are interested in beginning the volunteer process, please contact Dani Bess at dani.bess@hoibbbs.org.

Welcoming & Inviting People into a Life of Faith

Congregational Social Events, Youth & Cross Generational Events

2018 Lenten Meals

Hosted by the FELC Youth

Wednesdays 5pm to 6:30pm



Tickets on Sale

Tickets are sold following both worship services on Sunday mornings or by contacting Mrs. Brown. Extremely limited number available at the door.

\$6 per weekly meal ticket

Beverage and dessert included

March 7	Baked Potato Bar & salad
March 14	Pasta & Meatballs, bread, salad
March 21	Italian Beef, cheese potatoes, veggies

Perfect Mid-Week Addition to Lent!



Adult Fellowship Event

Let's make pottery!!!

Friday, March 16

Enjoy some adult fellowship at Wheel Art Pottery Studio in Peoria on Friday, March 16 from 5:45pm-8:00pm.

We will do some hand sculpting as well as clay throwing on the pottery wheel. Bring munchies to share and anything you'd like to drink.

Please bring \$23 per person + any tip you'd like to leave the night of the event.

There is a price break if we have more than 20 people participate, so the more the merrier!

Please arrive a few minutes ahead of 6:00 if possible, so we can get everything set and started right away. If you have questions, contact Kari Gosteli at kari@gosteli.org or 309-657-5175

Share & Support Care Group

March 5 at 11:30am—Red Lobster

FELC's grief care group will meet for lunch, if you are interested, please contact Pam Johnson for more information.

Youth Plant Sale

Spring fever is upon us. Get your gardening dreams started while supporting our youth. For the fourth year, we will be hosting a plant sale. A wide variety of excellent plants can be ordered.

Order sheets and more information will be in the narthex this month.

Orders and payment are due by March 14. Make checks payable to FELC.

Flowers will be available for pick up on Friday, May 11 from 4:45pm-6:45pm.



Candy Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunt by March 18

Donations of individually wrapped candy are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Candy should be placed in the bins in the donation hall by Sunday, March 18th.

Egg Stuffers—Fun & Easy Task

Sunday, March 25th

During Education Hour

Egg stuffers are needed to get the Easter Egg Hunt ready.

Please contact Mrs. Brown if you can help. raylee.brown@felcpeoria.org

Save the Dates

April 13th --Dine-In Movie Night

April 6th--Adult Fellowship Event

We are going to the Contemporary Art Center by the five spot to watch the band Cousin Eddie.



Easter Egg Hunt--April 1

Easter Sunday 10:15am Luther Hall

Pre K-6th graders

There is no Sunday School.

Easter Breakfast

hosted by the FELC Youth

April 1 7:30am-9:45am

\$6 Adults

\$4 Children (age 10 and under)

Please buy your tickets in advance-at the door sales will be extremely limited!

Ticket Sales: Wednesdays, March 14th & 21st during Lenten Meal

Sundays, March 18th & 25th following worship services

Menu: Pancakes, Breakfast Casserole, Bacon, Juice and Coffee

No doughnuts or Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Proceeds will help offset the costs of youth retreats including the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX.

Community News



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

St. Bernard Fish Fry

5:30pm-7:30pm

East Bluff Community Center Gym

Fridays, March 2, 16, and 30

\$9 for fish or shrimp dinner

\$5 children's meal or light adult meal

All meals include: bread, coleslaw, your choice of baked potato, french fries, or potato salad

Passion Play in 2020

Pastor Knight and Susan Wells are organizing a special trip to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany in 2020. The trip will include various sites in the Alps, Vienna, Venice, and the Adriatic Coast. For more information please contact them email: revknight.wells5@frontier.com or by phone (309) 531-8298.

Give Your Spouse the Gift of Your Time and Attention on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend.

The next Weekend is scheduled in Peoria, IL on April 13-15, 2018. Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org or contact Norm and Deb Lopez at peorialmereg@gmail.com for more information. Preregistration is required – don't miss out! Registration deadline is March 26th. Registrations after that date will be on a space available basis.

C/S IL Synod Northern Conference Assembly

Sunday, April 22, 2018

2:00 PM 4:00 PM

Faith Lutheran Church, 2206 Washington Road Washington, IL,

C/S IL Synod Assembly

Thursday, June 7-Saturday, June 9
Champaign, IL

If you are interested in representing FELC at the Assembly, please contact Carey Mayer or Pastor Ryan.

ELCA Summer Advocacy Intern

The Advocacy Office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in Washington, D.C. is looking for an intern interested in learning all aspects of the faith-based government relations field and connecting public policy with motivated ministries across the country. The ELCA is offering passionate and motivated students the opportunity to work in a fast-paced and strategic office focused on shaping public policy affecting communities throughout the world. www.elca.org Advocacy Office
Deadline for application is March 14

Memorial Day Work Weekend

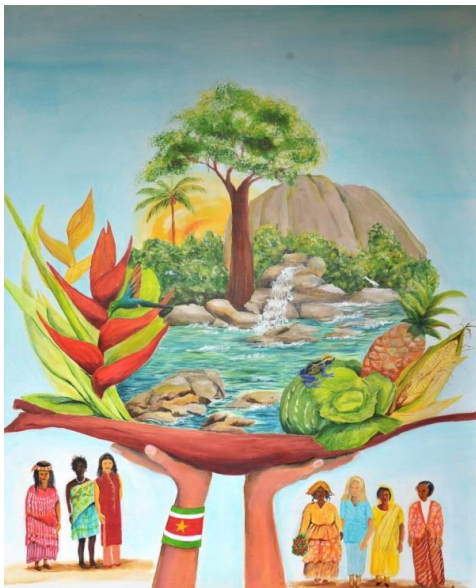
Friday, May 25--Monday, May 28

The Memorial Day Work Weekend is an Annual Event At LOMC. Families and individuals come for a weekend of Projects, inside and outdoor to get the camp ready for another great year of summer camp. If you would like to do this, contact the camp and the staff will help you with the action team. If you have any questions, contact Ken Dillbeck, property manager, at ken@lomc.org, or (815) 978-5843 . Housing and meals are provided for the weekend, free of charge. Contact the camp office, (815) 732-2220 or www.lomc.org to register.

World Day of Prayer for Women

March 2 at 9am Salem Lutheran

On March 2 there will be an ecumenical celebration at Salem Lutheran. The theme is "All of God's Creation is Very Good" prepared by the Church Women United World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname.



What IS The Church Mouse?

Do you have items that you no longer need or use? Instead of donating to Goodwill or another local resale shop, please consider The Church Mouse. It is located near Bradley University at [600 West Main Street, Peoria](#). Donations accepted Tues – Sat 10 – 2 pm. Items such as furniture, small appliances, jewelry, kitchen supplies, clothing, shoes, books, craft supplies, childrens' gently used toys, knick knacks, holiday decorations you no longer use, etc. Televisions not accepted.

Looking for volunteers

The Church Mouse could definitely use some helping hands in 2018. You choose the day of the week. The Church Mouse is a faith-based ministry. Proceeds benefit Lutheran Hillside Village and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. If you are willing to help, you choose the amount of time: 2 hours a week, 2 hours per month, one day a month, etc. Please contact one of the store managers: Shirley Lewis or Joan Resler at [\(309\) 673-2363](#). The Church Mouse Thrift Store needs volunteers and occasionally the use of a truck & driver Tues – Sat, 10 – 2 pm. Duties inside the store would include: sorting and hanging clothes, bagging purchases, organizing shelves and racks. A person with a pick up truck would be beneficial as calls are received describing large items that cannot be easily transported. Staff would accompany you to load and unload, as needed.

Did you know...

In 2017, **Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria** was able to generously give over \$18,000 to Lutheran Hillside Village and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois to help serve their residents and clients, respectively. This large amount of money was due to the profits at The Church Mouse.