



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Redeemed by Christ to Witness and Serve

May 2018 Newsletter



Pentecost Sunday

May 20th

Worship at 8:30am & 11am.

First English Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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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

Final Monthly Newsletter

This May Newsletter will be the final edition of the monthly newsletter as we have come to know it. Beginning in June, the newsletter will be replaced by a shorter paper publication that will be mailed to people's homes 6 to 8 times a year. This new publication will highlight our gratitude for the ministries of FELC and will also shine a spotlight on upcoming events.

The weekly Sunday Buzz has been and will remain our most effective way of communicating ministry needs and upcoming events.

The Sunday Buzz is available in the following ways:

- + A copy is sent by email on Fridays.
- + Printed & available on Sunday mornings.
- + Shared with hospitalized and home bound members by our Barnabas Ministers.
- + Linked to our webpage each week.

The deadline for the weekly Sunday Buzz remains the same. Please have your submissions to Lois Neptun by Wednesday at 11:30am. Submissions generally run two weeks ahead of the event, for up to two weeks. office@felcpeoria.org

Thank you from the Quilting Ministry

On April 22, the first *Tie It Up* quilting event was held. There were around 35 people, of all ages, helping work on finishing up the quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Together 18 quilts were finished! The quilters estimate that it would have taken 3 to 5 Tuesdays of work to accomplish that goal.

Thank you!

College Scholarship

The FELC Foundation offers scholarships to confirmed or active members who are college students in accredited Lutheran Colleges or Universities. The application deadline is 5/15/2018 for the 2018-9 academic year. For an application, please contact April Privett at april_privett@yahoo.com or 309-370-7318.

What Difference the Spirit Makes

(Acts 2:1-12)

The story of Pentecost is a weird one. In a reversal of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-10) [when all the peoples of the earth were scattered into different nations and languages] the Holy Spirit comes down in the form of tongues of fire on each head. Suddenly, everyone is talking at once in different languages. Yet, everyone understands each other—talk about a miracle!

In the story, the Holy Spirit gathers and unites. But notice, the Spirit does not make the people one and the same, but one and different. The Spirit didn't give them one language or make them look or think the same.

We still live in a world that is painfully broken up into different nations and peoples and languages and parties. The Church herself has many denominations. Yet we are one Church and one human family.

Christ's Spirit is a gift which reveals all of our differences to be an illusion. On the Cross, Jesus gathers all people to himself. That is real. That is the most real thing in existence. Everything that divides us is less real in comparison. Divisions stemming from skin color, religion, class, citizenship, gender, ability, intelligence, sexuality, belief, opinion, party affiliation—all of these (and more), are mere illusions compared to the cross and crown of our Creator. We confess and proclaim a blessed communion, a people made one by the Spirit—and she is our true being and commonality.

But here's the paradox: Our differences, though illusory, are not trivial. We do not simply dismiss our differences as irrelevant—like the one, usually white person, who says dismissively: "I don't see color." No, our differences are highlighted and respected and honored. God did not create whitewashed drones, dull pawns, or pallid zombies.

God created a wonderful diversity of life, not in black-and-white, but in full color. All of our differences are God-given; all of our differences are treasured by our Creator; what's more, our differences are necessary to reveal the complete and utter miracle of our oneness in Spirit. It is easy for those who are the same to flock together. But God doesn't call those who are created equal to be a people—God calls those who are disparate and discrete into unity.

Immediately, the presence of the Spirit causes us great trouble. We scarcely communicate well when we supposedly speak the same language. Then the Spirit says: "Love the Different Ones." And that's how you can tell the Church apart. We struggle with living out the Spirit's mission. We struggle to learn: How do we build meaningful and holy relationships with those different from us—our neighbors, strangers, and enemies? Those near and those out there, even to the ends of the earth? Believers and non-believers alike? How do we love the whole world, as Christ loved us?

For starters, we cry out with one voice in this fractured world:

"Come, Holy Spirit, Come!"
—Pastor Ryan

Worship & Education

Sunday Adult Education with Pastor Ryan

Meet at 9:45am in the Council Room on the second floor. We will be discussing the scripture texts for the day.

Large Catechism Class

Wednesdays from 6pm—7pm

Books are still available. Here is a schedule of the readings for each class period:

5/2—Section on Holy Baptism

5/9—Section on Holy Communion

Adult Education Class on the Book of Mark

Sundays in May at 9:45am in the Parlor

Gather to discuss the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome!

First Communion on May 20th

On Pentecost Sunday during the 11am worship service, we will celebrate with the First Communion Class as they receive communion. There will be a cake reception between services. We invite everyone to celebrate with the young people and their families.



Final Wednesday Meal

May 9th is final Wednesday Meal for mid-week ministries.

Cross Generational Summer Sunday School

Save the dates for some super Summer Sunday School sessions. We'll gather at 9:45am—everyone, all ages are invited to join in the Summer Sunday School Program.

June 10 July 8 August 12

Confirmation Youth & Parent Meeting

May 9 at 7pm

ELCA Youth Gathering Parent & Participant Meeting

May 23 at 7pm

Thank You, Choirs!

The Youth, Handbell, and Chancel choirs will be ending their season during the month of May. A sincere thank you to all choir members, directors, and accompanists for enhancing our worship services and sharing your talents! On Thursday, May 31st at 6 pm, the choirs will present a combined concert for the residents of Lutheran Hillside Village.

FELC'S Got Talent

While the choirs take a break over the summer, we would like to continue to have special music during worship. We welcome vocal or instruments solos, duets, small groups, etc. Students, if you are learning to play an instrument, you can keep in practice over the summer by preparing a piece to share with the congregation.

Please contact our organist, Lois Neptun, and she will schedule a date for you. If you need accompaniment, she is available to accompany you. You can contact her on Sunday morning, during church office hours, or at mlneptun@gmail.com. Thank you!

Faith on Fire FELC Youth Choir Cantata
Sunday, May 20 at 3pm

The congregation is invited to the annual choir cantata. Our young people have been working hard to share their musical gifts with the congregation, friends, and family. Please join us as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and God's gracious power in our lives.

Shipwrecked VBS: Rescued by Jesus

Vacation Bible School registration begins Sunday, May 6.

Watch the Sunday Buzz and bulletin boards for updates on VBS needs and volunteer positions.

Vacation Bible School at FELC is offered for preschool aged kids through 7th grade.

Please begin to invite your friends and family to join you at VBS this June!!

Congregation Service Project Night

May 16 from 5pm to 8pm.

Everyone is invited to help clean and organize in anticipation of the summer months and Vacation Bible School. Please be sure to sign up.

Quilting with the Grannies

Tuesday, August 7 from 9am to 3pm

9am to 3pm \$10 Bring a sack lunch and snacks are provided.

Everyone is welcome to this day of quilting! The FELC Quilters are hosting this fun, educational day for all ages and skill levels. Kids and adults will try their hand at quilting and learn the details that go in to making a full quilt.

Children do not need a parent or grandparent present but they must be old enough to focus and stay engaged in the activity.



**FIRST ENGLISH
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 17th--
Thursday, June 21st.

6pm-8:30pm



To Witness & Serve

Upcoming Service Events

Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

Friday, May 4 5pm-7pm

First English Lutheran Church

Tickets are \$6; carryout is available for \$7
Help FamilyCore serve up a helping of fun at our Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser. Featuring spaghetti from Bernardi's Washington, Silent Auction, Children's Games, and 50/50 Raffle.

This will benefit summer camps and other youth activities offered through FamilyCore.



Two Opportunities to Unload Food Donations this Month

1. At First English Lutheran

Wednesday, May 2 at 8:30am

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

2. At East Bluff Community Center

Wednesday, May 9 between 12:30 and 1pm

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

Serve at EBCC Food Bank

9am to Noon on Saturday, May 12

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!

May Snack Pack Schedule:

We will pack on: Thursdays, May 3, May 10 & May 17. Our final packing date will be on Wednesday, May 23 at 9am.

I want to thank all our members for their continued support during this school year. It remains one of the most meaningful acts of kindness that we all undertake every year. The students appreciate each and every item that you donate.

To the folks that dedicate their time to fill our packs each week, a huge THANK YOU for your dedication and presents during the nine months that we pack. I have watched this program grow and become so appreciated by the staff and students at Von Stueben Middle School. Our outreach to this school has grown in leaps and bounds, and I see so much progress and bonding between our members and the staff and students that it just makes my heart overflow with blessings.

Once again, "Thank you" all so very much for supporting this endeavor.

~Kathy Neptun

Snack Pack Donations

May: Fruit Cups

Please donate fruit cups throughout the month of May. Leave in the Donation Hall.

Teacher Appreciation Week at VSMS

FELC will be showing our support for the teachers and staff who work at Von Steuben Middle School. May 8, 9, 10 there will be special treats brought over to the school.

Please sign up on the bulletin boards to donate sweet treats and items for the snack tray.

May 8~we will be providing bagels and coffee

May 9~we will bring over snack trays and soda

May 10~we will share some sweet desserts and baked goods.

Snack Tray items are due back by May 7. Sweets and baked goods can be dropped off at church by May 9.

“Ready to Roll” Event Needs You

His Helping Hands is a local charity with many roots at FELC. THIS IS BIG--on Saturday June 23rd, in partnership with Advocates for Access, we will be installing 15 wheel chair ramps in the Tri-County area. A “Pre-Build” will take place on May 19th (9am till 2 or 3pm, however long you can help) where we literally assemble the major components of each uniquely designed ramp. Accomplished carpenters, untrained laborers & “gophers” (me) are all needed. **Steve Brown and Jim Yocum have committed to finding a team of 8 for the INSTALL on one ramp and raise \$750 for the cost of the ramp** (NOTE: funding in the past has come from grants, which didn't occur in 2018, thus our efforts here).

How Can You Help?

- 1) Join us for the PRE-BUILD (completely inside) and/or the big INSTALL ... on 5/19 or 6/23.
- 2) If you cannot help with the manual labor, but would like to support this important ministry financially, please go to hishelpinghandsinc.org.
- 3) Pray for a sunny warm day for the INSTALL (normally I wouldn't be concerned about temps, but this is a strange year.

If you would like to help on the PRE-BUILD or INSTALL, please call Jim Yocum or Steve Brown for more details. THANK YOU in advance for any support that you can provide!!!

~Thank you, Jim Yocum and Steve Brown



Living Generously: Give & Receive...

Significant wealth is not a prerequisite for charitable giving. If you have a passion for your church, or another charity and would like to benefit them, either now or later, there are some easy and creative ways to give. Join us for light lunch and a brief presentation on how best to meet your charitable goals. We'll also discuss how 2018 tax reform may help you do this. We're meeting after the 11am service on Sunday, May 6th. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. This event is offered by your Stewardship committee.

Personal Care Kit Collection in May & June

Items may be dropped off at church in the Donation Hall Area. (just off the front door entrance.)

Our collection effort for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits is especially in need of:

**dark bath towels,
bath sized soap bars,
and metal nail clippers.**

We will also accept donations of adult toothbrushes and large combs, but our need is not as great for these items at this time.

All items should be new and in good condition.

When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of chaos and tragedy, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world.

The very simple gesture of giving a Personal Care Kit can give someone dignity and encouragement.



Food Bank Collection

Bags will be available Sunday, May 13—please return on or before Sunday, May 20.

We have some blue bags available for purchase for your personal use. We are selling the bags for \$5.



Are you Ready for Spring Cleaning?

Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 2 from 8am to 2pm.

Box or bag up all the items you need to get out of your house—save them for the rummage sale!

Your donations may be dropped off at the church on the stage in Luther Hall starting Monday, May 21st through Sunday, May 27th. The Youth will be available to help unload your donations Sunday, May 27th following both services and on Tuesday, May 22nd & Wednesday, May 23rd from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

If you have larger furniture items that you need help getting to church, please contact Raylee Brown by Sunday, May 13th.
685-0337 ext. 4 raylee.brown@felcpeoria.org

Proceeds from the sale help to offset the cost of youth events including Leadership Lab and the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX.

Trustee Committee Job List

Master list is posted on bulletin board outside main office.

The Trustee Committee has created a master list of many projects that need to be tended to around FELC's building and outside property. Please look over the list. If you'd like to work on a project, please let Phil Neptun or Mark Neptun know. We are grateful for their work!

We invite everyone to join the effort to keep FELC a beautiful and welcoming place for all!

Lost & Found/Kitchen Items Going to Rummage Sale

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. There is also a large metal rack in the kitchen where forgotten baking dishes, bowls, and utensils are stored. Please pick up your items as soon as possible.

Any remaining items after May 20th, will be donated to the FELC Rummage Sale.

Share & Support Grief Care Group

May 7 at 11:30am—at Longhorn Steak House

FELC's grief care group meets for lunch each month to socialize. If you are interested, please contact Pat Johnson for more information.

Retirees Lunch

May 29 at 11:30am at Pizza Ranch

This fun social group meets for lunch each month. They welcome anyone over 55 who is looking to connect with others from FELC. Please join us! Contact Sharon Obourn for more information.

Mid-Week Knitting Group

Wednesdays, May 2 & 9.

The group meets from 6pm-6:45pm.

We welcome everyone who is interested in learning to knit or a current knitter to join in on Wednesday nights!

Needlework Group

2nd & 4th Fridays at 10am.

Invite other needlework enthusiasts to join this social and productive group at FELC. Bring your own project—fellowship and support as you work!



Adult Fellowship Game Night

Saturday, May 12-5:30pm to 9pm

Bring some munchies to share. Soda and lemonade will be provided. Have a favorite board or card game you love to play? Bring it with you. There will be a selection of games and playing cards available, but the more choices, the better!

Please RSVP so we have an idea of how many people will be there. As always, please invite friends and family. The more the merrier! If you have any questions, contact Kari Gosteli at kari@gosteli.org.

Youth Plant Sale Pick Up

Friday, May 11 from 5pm-7:00pm

If you ordered flowers in March, they will be available for pick up on Friday, May 11 from 5pm-7:00pm. There will be some cash and carry plants available if you didn't get an order in, or want a few more plants for your garden beds.





FELC 30 Hour Famine

**Beginning May 29 at 11:30am through
May 30 at 5:30pm**

Fact: Every day, as many as 11,000 kids die from hunger and related causes. This is not okay with us. So we're doing something about it! We're going hungry for 30 hours to help raise awareness and funds so that no one is hungry.

Here's how everyone can help:

Pray. Please sign up on the gym bulletin board to pray for us during the famine

Ask God to help us as we become more mindful of others, overcome hunger and raise funds to help those in need

We are hoping to have people praying for us each hour during the entire 30 hour famine

Volunteer. Come join us during our famine or participate at home or work with your family and friends or help provide meal for participants at famine close

Give. \$1.32 can provide food and clean drinking water for one day

\$40 provides food and clean drinking water for a month

Our goal is \$960 to help feed and care for 2 children for one year

Jr/Sr/Post High Youth who are participating in this event, please arrive at FELC by **3:00pm** on Tuesday, May 29.

Flamingos for Funds

Benefit to support the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston

Cost \$20 per flock or two flocks for \$30 sent to one location

Send a flock of these feathery friends to your family, friends or neighbors to show you care and to help the Youth raise funds for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

Order your flock from May 6 through May 20. You'll find order forms on a table in the Narthex.

A Few Facts about our Flamingos:

Flocks will land at their destinations between May 29 and June 6.

Each flock will be picked up by FELC, 1-2 days after their arrival.

Flamingos remain the property of the FELC Youth.

Flocks are delivered in "secret" and placed in the recipient's front yard.

One flock contains 15 flamingos

