



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Redeemed by Christ to Witness and Serve

November 2017 Newsletter

Thank you for your compassionate response to all the work going on within this congregation. You have donated to so many worthy ministries this fall. Your hard work and dedication is obvious as we share food donations with our neighbors in the East Bluff and send boxes of love around the world through Lutheran World Relief. You generously share each other's burdens and offer a place of hope to those seeking rest. First English is a special part of the Body of Christ and we are thankful for you.

Giving Thanks for the Bounty of God's Grace.



**"You crown the
year with your
bounty..."**

Psalm 65:11

May our lives, and our
ministries, share God's
generosity with the world.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship
1pm and 7pm

Wednesday, November 22

Pie and fellowship after each worship service

First English Lutheran Church

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

Ministry Staff

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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

Cottage Meetings

Pastor Ryan has a goal to visit with every member/household. Please help him by signing up for a Cottage Meeting in November. A few spots remain—sign up today!

Sign up by calling the office, stopping by the bulletin boards in Luther Hall, or calling the hosting council member. Meeting option details are below.

November

11/2 Thursday 7pm
Host: Phil & Kathy Neptun
Location: Neptun Residence

11/7 Tuesday 3pm
Host: Donna & Jack Hartwig
Location: Hartwig Residence

11/9 Thursday 7pm
Host: Stu & Gigi Kinkade
Kinkade Residence

11/11 Saturday 7pm **FULL**
Host: Kejuan Jones
Location: Pastor Ryan's 20's and 30's age only, please.

11/12 Sunday 3pm
Host: Carey & Allen Mayer
Mayer Residence

11/14 Tuesday 6:30pm
Host: Corina Smith
Location: Smith Residence

11/16 Thursday 7pm
Host: Craig & Renee Ross
Location: Ross Residence

From the Senior Pastor: Accepting Grace

Martin Luther was plagued with guilt. When he became a monk, he was assigned a confessor, Brother Johann von Staupitz. Each day, Luther felt the need to confess completely everything he had ever done wrong. He spent hours (one time, a full six hours!) confessing every little sin, slight, and oversight to Staupitz.

Luther judged himself so harshly, he refused to trust God's forgiveness. He felt he couldn't be accepted by God or people. He constantly felt judged, felt inadequate. He was paralyzed by self-doubt.

I see this same paralysis today, in our midst. At times, I feel it myself. I read the meme "love yourself; accept yourself unconditionally." Some days I can. Other days I can't. On those days, the meme makes me feel even more a failure.

Desperate, don't we turn to others for acceptance? We displease ourselves, so we try to please other people. Our worth now hinges on being a part of this group or that clique. Or everything hinges on our achievements. Losing the game, getting a bad grade, receiving a poor job review, not having a life like FB friends seem to have, hearing any little critique, not living up to my parents' expectations, not having what 'the Jones' have, forgetting to do something, failing when I try something new—we turn these into more than mere disappointments.

Luther was paralyzed by the worry of being judged. Staupitz told Luther of God's grace, tried to remind him that

Jesus died to forgive sins. But Luther couldn't believe such grace existed *for him*. Exasperated, the long-suffering Staupitz appointed Luther a teacher in the monastery, hoping he would believe the Bible. Luther found relief in *Romans*

"...since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (5:1) But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us (5:8)..."

Luther realized it wasn't about him, and it wasn't about others. The answer was God's grace. Luther learned that God's acceptance is more powerful than being accepted by others, more beneficial than accepting one's own self. When we rest in God's acceptance alone, then and only then do we gain self and others and all things. Grace is being accepted by God. Faith is trusting that truth. We are confident not because we are great or have done great things, but rather because great is God's love.

For this reason, we of FELC must heed scripture: "...maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). God gives us grace as a gift out of love. Standing in that grace we have the blessed opportunity to be the living word that people long to hear. Each of us is a Staupitz—sending others to scripture if they don't believe us when we try to tell them.

And when self-doubt rears its head in you, remember: If God is for you, who can be against you? (Romans 8:31) No one. Not even yourself.

—With Love in Christ,
Pastor Ryan

Ways to Get Involved This Month

●Mid-Week Meal Ministry

Hosts, cooks, organizers are needed to help with meals on Wednesday nights. 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.

●Thanksgiving Eve Service Opportunities

Pie Fund

Contribute a financial donation to help offset the cost of our Thanksgiving Eve pies. We will be ordering them from Trefzger's Bakery this year. Please mark your checks: Pie Fund.

Hosts

Your help is needed following the 1pm and 7pm worship service. We will be serving pie and will need people to host and clean up the pies.

Sign up is posted on the bulletin board in Luther Hall.

●Wedding Coordinator Position Open

To make FELC hospitable to couples seeking marriage, we are creating a Wedding Coordinator position. This paid position is ideal for someone with good hospitality instincts, strong communication skills, and eye for detail, and a passion for celebrating in each other's joy. For more details and information, please see Pastor Ryan. ryan.anderson@felcpeoria.org

●New Member Guides

In 2018, there will be two New Member Class sessions available to those interested in joining our faith community. We are seeking to create a large group of Member Guides. These people would be paired with a new member and serve as a resource to help get new members engaged in life at First English and connect with appropriate ministries. If you are interested in serving as a Guide, please contact Pastor Heather. heather.arnold@felcpeoria.org

●Snack Pack Designated Shopper

The Snack Pack Program is looking for someone to shop for the snack packs. Once in a while Kathy Neptun needs to purchase snack items to supplement the donations we receive. She would like someone to help her who is able to lift and carry boxes and bags. If you are interested in serving in this role, contact Kathy Neptun at kathy.neptun@felcpeoria.org.

●Seeking Fund Raising Assistance

The Snack Pack Program would like to enlist someone to help organize fund raisers or search out additional fund raising ideas. If you have experience or ideas on securing monies from area businesses, non-profits, or other grant-like avenues, please contact Kathy Neptun at kathy.neptun@felcpeoria.org

Sunday Mornings in November

Sunday Morning Adult Education

●Adult Bible Study at 9:45am

When the current, Philippians class wraps up, the group will begin: *God's Will for Life: Studies in Mark*. Join us! For more information contact Lee Maki.

This 3-session study looks at the texts in Mark from historical, literary, Lutheran theological, and devotional perspectives.

1. Seeing God's Will for Life Embedded in Creation (Mark 4:26-34)
2. Trusting God's Will for Life When Nature Runs Amok (Mark 4:35-41)
3. Laying Hold of God's Will for Life in the Face of Disease and Death (Mark 5:21-43)

●Coffee and Conversation at 9:45am

Meet in the 2nd floor "Council Room" for conversation with Pastor Ryan each Sunday. Join us any Sunday and jump in on the conversation.

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.

WELCA Thankoffering

Sunday, November 19

During the regular offering, ladies with Thankoffering donations are invited to bring their gifts to the front of the altar. As we make our Thankofferings, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s. Historically, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would take action. Gathering in groups called "Cent" or "Mite" Societies, each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year, in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds.

Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, let us give our thankoffering.

Wednesdays in November

Sparks of the Reformation November 15 and 29 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.

Knitting Ministry Meets Nov. 1 and 8.

Two weeks of the knitting session remain. Watch for future session in 2018. Thank you to everyone who participated!

To Witness and Serve

Upcoming Service Events

Your Generosity in Action

Thank you for supporting Lutheran World Relief this year.

At the end of October FELC sent the following items to our neighbors around the world.

178 Quilts

216 School Kits

2 boxes of Bibles

397 Personal Care Kits

21.75 lbs of Soap

2 boxes of Devotional Materials



Quilts to be donated to LWR, filled the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 22.

Volunteer to Serve at Food Bank

9am to Noon on November 11 Meet at the East Bluff Community Center. Meet other FELC members as we serve our neighbor. Wear a FELC t-shirt, if possible.

Free Yarn for Mitten Tree

There is yarn available in the Donation Collection Room. Please use the yarn for items to be donated to the Sunday School Mitten Tree this December

Unload Food Donations at First English Lutheran

Wednesday, November 8 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, November 15 Truck arrives at EBCC between 12:30pm and 1pm. Meet at EBCC

For more information on any of these events, contact Pastor Heather Arnold heather.arnold@felcpeoria.org

Snack Pack Ministry

180 kids-Von Steuben Middle School

Donations Always Welcome

Donate healthy (NUT FREE) individually snacks or monetary gifts.

Join the Packing of the Snacks

Take note of packing dates:

Thursdays, Nov. 2, 9 at 9am

Wednesday, November 15 at 7pm

Tuesday, November 21 at 9am

Thursday, Nov. 30 at 9am

Meet in the 2nd floor bell room.

Donation Collection Room

We are officially designating the pass way area between main entrance and main church office, a Donation Collection Room. (The portraits of past Senior Pastors hang in this space.)

FELC collects many food donations, LWR items, home supplies, and other goods throughout a month. Now we will designate this space as the central drop spot.

Please note directions of each event, as a few items may be gathered elsewhere in the building.

New Program: Lunch Buddy Program at Von Steuben Middle School Support the kids at VSMS

Become a lunch buddy—connect with a student at VSMS and join them for a 1:1 lunch in the library a few times a month.

From Big Brother/Big Sister: *“Lunch Buddies” meet with their student for ½ hour during the child’s lunch period at school a minimum of twice a month.*

Some of the biggest supporters of our School-Based Mentoring program are the teachers. They see students come back from their time with their Big filled with confidence, smiling big, ready to learn and eager to succeed.

Information Sheets on the Big Brother/Big Sister Lunch Buddy Program is available outside Pastor Heather’s office. You’ll find information sheets for volunteering in District 150, too.

For more information, contact:
heather.arnold@felcpeoria.org



Welcoming and Inviting People into a Life of Faith

Congregational Social Events and Cross Generational Events

Adult Fellowship Event

Saturday, November 11 at 5pm

At 'The Hive' in Peoria to paint a winter landscape picture. Bring snacks and drinks to share. *Spots are limited.*
Check the bulletin board in Luther Hall.



Youth Baking/Game Day Bible Study

Saturday, November 11 9am-3pm

Sign up by Sunday, November 5.

Baked Goods Needed!

Get out your favorite sweet treat recipe and make it for the Youth Bake Sale. Bring baked good donations to Baking Day on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Cinnamon Roll Sunday--November 12

Hosted by the FELC Youth

Proceeds from coffee time and the bake sale will help offset the costs of youth retreats including the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX.

There will be no doughnuts on Nov. 12.



Advent Calendar Sales

Begins November 19

Support the youth and mark the season of Advent. The youth will be selling Advent Calendars during coffee time and in the narthex following services to help raise money to offset the costs of youth events and retreats including the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

\$4.00 each chocolate filled calendars

\$3.00 each non-chocolate calendars
(limited supply)

Women's Advent Celebration

Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6pm

We celebrate the Advent season with our annual Salad Buffet followed by a short program.

Bring a salad to share – drinks, table service, and dessert will be provided.

The program will be based on the script that our late member, Jean Harms, wrote of the various Rolan Johnson prints and the story behind each one. After hearing the stories, we will end with a few Christmas carols.

Guests are welcome!

For more information, contact Pam Anderson.

Grace Abound Conversation Confirmation Students

Wed. November 29
meet at FELC at 5pm.

Helping our youth: Discussion on defining intimacy, social media influences, understanding self-worth, answering hard questions.



Advent Decorating! Party for All! Saturday, December 2 at 3pm

We will be making ornaments, setting up and decorating Christmas trees in the gym and decorating the sanctuary. There will be cookies to frost and decorate.

We'll be going to pizza together following the decorating—please be sure to sign up by Nov. 26!

Mark Your Calendar

First Sunday in Advent--December 3.

FELC Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17 at 3pm
with dinner to follow.

8Days Coffee House

Friday, November 24 at 10am-Noon
Starbucks on Prospect Ave.

A campus ministry sponsored by C/S IL Northern Conference.



Women of FELC Cookie/Goodie Walk Saturday, Dec. 16 at 8am-to Noon

We will need donations of cookies/goodies.

A signup sheet for donations will be placed on the bulletin board in Luther Hall by early December.

Any leftover cookies/goodies will be sold in Luther Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Sun., Dec. 17 until gone! The proceeds of this sale will support the First English Youth, East Bluff Community Center, and the Snack Pack program.

On Reformation Sunday, First English celebrated as three young people were confirmed.



Church Events Around the Area

Lutheran Hillside Village Cookie Walk

Friday, December 8 8am-11am

A delicious assortment of homemade cookies will be available for purchase. You choose whatever treats look appealing to you. Your container is weighed--\$7 per pound.

Other holiday treats will be pre-priced and available for purchase.

Crafters & Bakers—Needed

Lutheran Hillside will accept crafts and baked goods for the bake sale (see above event.) Please drop off any baked goods or crafts at main desk by 1pm on Thursday, December 7.

Proceeds benefit LHV's Benevolent Fund for those folks that have outlived their resources.

For more information, contact Lisa Mack, 309-243-5859 lisadmack@comcast.net

Grace Unbound Parents Workshop

How to Talk About Sex with your children

Tuesday, November 28 at 6pm-8p Salem Lutheran Church

First English Moves Forward

Faith. Gratitude.

As servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries, we move forward into the future God imagines. And God, who is faithful, will bless us with opportunity to make an impact for good in the world.

How your pledge becomes our budget.

- A big thank you to the 85 members who have submitted pledge cards for 2018! No one is ever pressured to fulfill a pledge, but pledging and setting a goal for your giving helps provide the starting point for preparing the FELC budget.

- Financial Secretary Carol Ladwig and long-time church financial advisor Lyle Hallock are the only people who ever see individual pledge cards.

They will total the pledges, add estimates of giving for people who do not turn in pledges, and provide the Stewardship Committee projected income for 2018. Without question, pledges add accuracy to the process.

- Church staff, program committees and trustees are currently working on projected expenses for 2018.

1. Monday, November 20, the Stewardship Committee will meet to match projected income with requested operating, benevolence, and program expenses for 2018.

2. On December 4, the first draft of the 2018 budget will be presented at the Church Council meeting. The Council will review, discuss and adjust the draft and approve a proposed budget.

3. January 21, the proposed budget will be presented at the Congregational Annual Meeting. The congregation will have the opportunity to question, comment, and offer further changes. The congregation will then vote to approve a final budget which will become the basis of our financial transactions for 2018.

We invite you to renew your commitment to this community of faith.

If you have not turned in a pledge card,
please consider doing so at any time before November 20.