

FIRST ENGLISH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Redeemed by Christ to Witness and Serve

Sunday, March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Worship at 9:30am

THE WEEKLY BUZZ

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!



Join us as we journey through Lent.

"Bread of Life" highlights how Jesus fed people—not just their bodies but their souls—with good news, redemption, and stories of God's kin(g)dom. From wedding feasts to eating with tax collectors to feeding thousands, people left Jesus' presence with full hearts and bellies.

Wednesdays through April 9 at 7 pm

Looking towards

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7 pm

Good Friday, April 18 at 7 pm

Easter Sunday, April 20 at 9:30 am

TODAY'S READINGS

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

FAITH FORMATION (Sunday School)

- **PreK & Kindergarten / 1st - 4th / 5th - 8th** meet on the lower level for fellowship and snacks at 10:30am. We begin at 10:45am.
- **Adults** meet on the upper level in the Council Room at 10:45am.

POST-IT PRAYERS: Please post your prayer requests on the board in the Narthex and we will include them in our prayers in worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS, crayons and coloring pages are available.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday, April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12: 1-8

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Today, March 30

- 9:30 am **WORSHIP**
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:45 am Faith Formation

Monday, March 31

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting
- 5:45 pm Youth Committee Mtg - Zoom
- 7:30 pm Faith & Fellowship Committee Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, April 1

- 10:00 am Quilting
- 6:30 pm GriefShare

Wednesday, April 2

- 5:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm **LENTEN WORSHIP**

Thursday, April 3

No Snack Packs

- 10:00 am Crossways Confirmation
Camp Staff Meeting

Friday, April 4

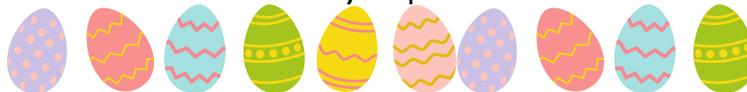
- 10:00 am Yarn Craft & Needle Work

Next Sunday, April 6

- 9:30 am **WORSHIP**
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:45 am Faith Formation



HELP STUFFING EGGS for Egg Hunt. Meet in Luther Hall Sunday, April 6th at 10:45 am



Hospitalizations: If you, a loved one, or church member is hospitalized, please notify the church office.

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests may be submitted by filling out a prayer request card and placing it in the offering plate or e-mail prayer@felcpeoria.org.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to donate altar flowers, you can sign up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Attendance:

Sunday, March 23 - 122
Wednesday, March 26 - 28

GRIEF SHARE

Grieving the loss of someone close to you? You can find comfort and support at GriefShare.

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
March 18 - June 17

Led by Vicar Kevin Eack and Lori Reed

\$10 for GriefShare book
Call the church office to register: 309-685-0337



More information can be found at griefshare.org.



NOW TAKING EASTER LILY ORDERS You may order Easter lilies to help beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Orders are due by Sunday, April 6th.

Cost is \$16 per plant. You may take your plant home following the Easter service or you can come in during office hours the following week to pick it up. Order [HERE](#):



Please note - your payment (cash or check) must be received by Sunday, April 6th or your order can not be included. If you prefer, you can pick up a paper order form in the Narthex.

HEART OF ILLINOIS WIND QUINTET



will perform their annual recital at Bradley University's Dingledine Music Center on Tuesday April 8 at 7:30 PM.

Wayne Heinemann, FELC Director of Operations has played clarinet in this group since 2017.

Concert is free to the public.

REBECCA CIRCLE April 9 @ 10:00 am

Mary Niemi is hosting in her home. The meeting starts at Bible study using Gather Magazine, followed by a potluck lunch. Mary will provide the main lunch dish. Guests are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

All women are invited! Please contact Mary with questions or more information.

Thank you!

Last Sunday the Outreach Committee, with help from a Thrivent Action Team grant, prepared and delivered a spaghetti dinner for 70 unhoused people. A local organization, LULA, is currently housing approximately 70 unhoused people in a local hotel while they are in the process of finding them permanent housing. LULA put out a request to local organizations to help feed this group, and the FELC Outreach Committee answered the call. Thank you to Jerry and Ronna James for shopping and preparing the meal, and to Marsha and Rich Kutter, and Shelley Atkinson for helping with preparing and delivering the meal.

LWR QUILT TOP KIT

Do you enjoy sewing?
Here is an opportunity
to contribute to a
great cause at your
own convenience.



We have assembled quilt top “kits” of 48 squares. They can be sewn together to make a quilt top and returned to FELC. The FELC quilters will then layer and hem to make the finished quilt. They will be sent on their way to Lutheran World Relief in the fall. From there they are distributed to areas in need all over the world.

A basket of quilt kits with material and directions is in the overflow. The kits can be taken home and sewn together as you have time. Any and all help is appreciated. Thank you!

If you have questions, contact Suz Smith

OUR NEW CARE VISITATION TEAM will meet on **Sunday, April 6 at 11:45 am** following Faith Formation for a kick off and orientation. A brunch will be served. If you have not yet signed up and are interested in being a part of the new Care Visitation Team please contact Cheryl Miller or Vicar Kevin Eack through the church office.

THRIVENT BETTER TOGETHER FOOD DRIVE 25 - Sunday, April 13

On Sunday April 13, instead of collecting food for the Hines Elementary Little Pantry, we will be collecting food for the East Bluff Food Pantry. We are in the process of getting the EBCC Food Pantry signed up with Thrivent Choice as a pre-approved food pantry for Thrivent grants. Once that is complete, Thrivent will donate \$1.00 to the EBCC Food Pantry for every non-perishable food item that is donated to our food drive on April 13 (up to \$150.00). ***Our goal is to collect at least 150 items to get the full \$150.00 donation from Thrivent.***

The items that the EBCC Food Pantry are most in need of right now are Canned Tuna, Ramen Noodles, Pull Top Soup, and Canned Pasta.



POLLING PLACE

FELC is serving our community as a polling place for the **General Election April 1 from 6am - 7pm.** If you have any questions regarding use of the church facility during this time, please contact Wayne Heinemann, Director of Operations at: 309-361-1987 / directoroperations@felcpeoria.org

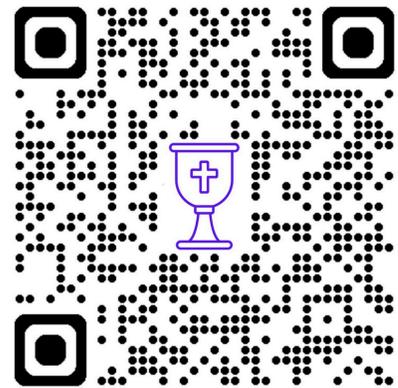
MAUNDY THURSDAY “SHARING THE TABLE” Dinner & Worship April 17 @ 5:30pm

The congregations of Forrest Hill United Methodist Church (FHUMC) and First English Lutheran Church (FELC) will be celebrating the “oneness” we have in Christ through a combined Maundy Thursday potluck and worship service with Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17.



The dinner, in FELC’s Fellowship Hall and hosted by FELC’s Faith & Fellowship Committee, will begin at 5:30pm, with worship following at 7:00pm.

Members (and guests!) of both congregations are welcome! Please sign up to participate, either by scanning the QR code or by calling either church office (FELC: 309-685-0337; FHUMC: 309-685-6243). Each household is invited – but not required! – to bring a dish to share.



Maundy Thursday is the perfect occasion for such a gathering, as our two denominations, the United Methodist Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, are full communion partners, and our two congregations share a great many ministry priorities. United in Christ’s love, and united in Christian service to our community and world, we gather as a Christian family to eat, talk, laugh and commune together!

LOCAL BEE KEEPER SPEAKS

at April 4 @ 10 am at
Church Women United
Peoria Meeting



All women are invited to attend the Church Women United Peoria general membership meeting on Friday, April 4 at 10:00 AM, at Mosaic Christian Church (2507 W. Newman Parkway, Peoria).

Refreshments will be served, followed by an informative talk on bees from Luke Harvey, local beekeeper from the Riverview Road Apiary in Chillicothe. The program wraps up with a short business meeting. There is no cost to attend.

CWUP is seeking new members. Membership is \$10 per year. Please contact Kathy Olesuk for more information at kfolesuk@yahoo.com

WORSHIP MINISTRY SIGN UP

Sign up by using [THIS LINK](#) or QR code. Thank you for volunteering during our Worship Services!



LUTHERAN WOMEN OF GREATER PEORIA

presents the sixth
"Easter Parade"
Style Show and Tea



Saturday, March 29, at 2pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1427 W. Lake Ave. Peoria. Models will show off some of the delightful spring styles available at The Church Mouse while everyone enjoys coffee, flavored teas, and "English Tea Room" type desserts. Door prizes, raffles and items from The Church Mouse for sale.

Tickets are \$10, \$5 for children under 12. Contact Marilee Tilly for reservations or you can pay at the door. Groups can reserve tables together on a first come first serve basis. Proceeds go to LSSI homes for disabled adults.

FELC RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 31 8AM TO NOON

Donations may be dropped off at the church on the **stage in Luther Hall** starting: **Sunday, April 27 through Wednesday, May 21**

*Clean and in good condition

High-Demand Items:

Clothing, Shoes, Coats,
All items infant-adult sizes
Kitchen & Housewares

We Can Not Accept:

Car seats, Highchairs, Cribs, Mattresses,
Exercise Equipment, Old TVs, Computers,
or Outdated Electronics

This event is a congregational event and benefits a variety of FELC Ministries!



EASTER LILIES

You may order Easter lilies to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.

ORDERS ARE DUE BY SUNDAY, April 6.

Place orders in the offering plate or give to the church office.

Cost is \$16 per plant. Please indicate below how many plants you would like to order and include payment with your order. Make checks payable to First English Lutheran Church. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or given to the church office.

You may take your plant home following the Easter service or you can come in during office hours the following week to pick it up.

If you prefer to sign up online, please note: Your payment (check or cash) must be received by Sunday, April 6 or your order can not be included.



of Easter lilies _____

Name _____

Phone _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 E. Forrest Hill Ave., Peoria, IL 61603 Phone: 309-685-0337
E-mail: office@felcpeoria.org Web site: www.felcpeoria.org

#that youth group

YOUTH GROUP Upcoming Dates:

April 10 @ 6:30 pm @ FELC

April 24 @ 6:30 pm on Zoom



CROSSWAYS CONFIRMATION

CAMP June 9 - 13, 2025 is for current 6th - 8th grade youth.

Participant and parent meeting

April 13 following confirmation co-op. Please bring your \$175 camp fee, insurance card, and copy of most recent physical to the meeting.

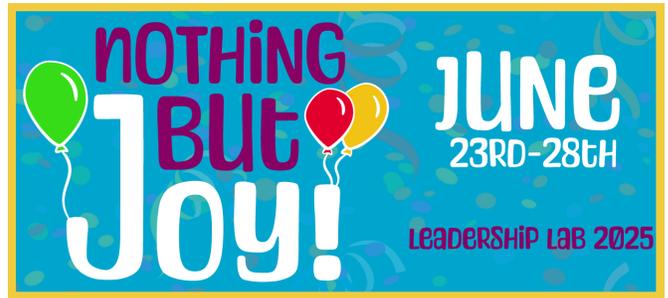


Sunday, March 30, 10:45 - 11:45 am

Faith Formation Feast!

Friends and adult family members welcome.

Join us as we celebrate the Bread of Life with a special feast.



On time registration is now open!

Register by: March 31

Contact Mrs. Brown with any questions.

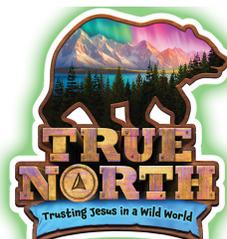
Confirmation Co-Op

Next Meetings:

April 13 from
2 pm - 4 pm

Acolytes needed for Holy Week and

Easter Confirmands please sign up to help out during this season. Please sign up!



SAVE THE DATE: VBS

July 6 - 10 at FELC 6 pm-8 pm

Staff and participant registration coming soon!

Questions, please contact Mrs. Brown at raylee.brown@felcpeoria.org

ON-GOING MINISTRY



HELP (Hines Elementary Little Pantry) every second Sunday of the month (donation box will be in the Narthex). We are requesting shelf stable items such as:

- pasta
- pasta sauce
- rice
- beans
- tuna
- tuna helper
- canned chicken
- canned vegetables
- canned fruit
- mac and cheese
- soup
- cereal
- oatmeal
- peanut butter
- tomato sauce & tomato paste
- vegetable oil
- powdered milk
- spices

or any shelf stable items that are helpful in putting together a meal for a family of four or more. Thank you for your generosity!

YARN CRAFT & NEEDLEWORK GROUP

This group has been helping our community quite a bit this year! Here is a brief overview of items created so far:

- Children's winter hats for LSSI
- Lap afghans for veterans who are "welcomed home" as part of the Penguin Project
- Chemo or treatment hats for patients at Illinois Cancer Care
- Red/white/blue hats for low-income veterans honored by The Fuller Center



All are welcome to join regardless of skill level! Yarn Craft and Needlework Group meets Fridays @ 10am in the Parlor

ALTAR GUILD Ever felt like God is calling you to lead worship, but you're more of a behind-the-scenes person? The Guild is for you! Exciting, yet "backstage," positions are open now--with flexible hours! No prior or arcane knowledge is required. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Yocum.

ON-GOING MINISTRY

PILL BOTTLE DONATION PROJECT

Place clean bottles in the collection bin in the Donation Hall (to your right as you enter through the main doors).

Matthew 25 Ministries sends bottles for reuse in developing countries - improving medical care and caring for the environment.

Acceptable collection items include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles - Large and small pill bottles
- Pill bottles with and without secure/child resistant caps. The cap needs to be included with the bottle

How to prepare pill bottles for donation:

- Sort bottles by color and type
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue
- Wash bottles and lids in very hot water and dish soap
- Rinse and dry thoroughly then replace lids
- Place clean, recapped bottles in large resealable bags marked "Clean Bottles"



FOR YOUR PRAYERS - FELC PRAYER

CHAIN God hears the prayers of God's people, and it makes a difference. FELC has a dedicated group of people who are called to pray—and we want to pray for you. Share joys and concerns, big and small, by emailing...

prayer@felcpeoria.org

Your prayer requests are held in confidence and love.



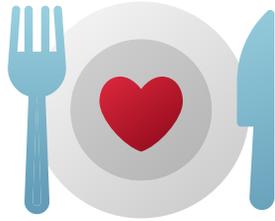
Through the prayer chain, you can have the comfort and confidence of knowing that you and those you make requests on behalf of are held by the Holy Spirit through prayer. If you have any questions about the Prayer Chain or would like to participate in our ministry of prayer, please contact Martha Schmitt.

ALTAR FLOWERS Please consider sponsoring Altar Flowers! This is a great way to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. Cost is \$30. You can sign up on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.



ON-GOING MINISTRY

CARE MEALS The Care Meals' focus is to help families by providing meals during demanding times in their lives—the birth of a baby, the loss of a loved one, following surgery, or an extended illness.



If you know of someone who could benefit from a Care Meal, please contact a Faith & Fellowship Committee member or Anna Ullmann:

anna.n.ullmann@gmail.com.

Anna contacts the recipient and sets up the actual Meal Train app.

THE FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION supports the witness and mission of the church through annual grants. Each year, between \$10,000 and \$20,000 is given to support neighborhood, community, and global mission partners. The list of recipients changes from time to time. The Foundation also provides scholarships to members of FELC who attend Lutheran colleges and financial support for seminarians. Grants are funded by the income made from investing designated, special gifts to the Foundation. To contribute, designate the FELC Foundation in your estate planning, or put “foundation” in the memo line of your check or in a note accompanying your gift. If you have questions about the Foundation, please contact Lee Maki, current President of the FELC Foundation.