

**HELP with  
ACCESSING**



**Love in Outreach** is in the process of putting together a team to assist members/friends of FELC who would like to watch our church services streamed on-line. If you would like help with streaming options or know someone who would, please contact the church office.

Someone would come to your home and if desired, be present during a church service. It is our hope that we could accomplish this in the month of April.

## March is Food Share Month at First English Lutheran Church



### Items Most Needed

- Pre-boxed meals and pasta
- Canned soups, vegetables and fruits
- Canned proteins like tuna or chicken
- Peanut butter
- Non-food items: Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Laundry Soap

Checks can be made out to **First English** with **“March Food Drive”** noted on the memo line.

We will share monetary gifts this year— one-half to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf and one-half for ELCA World Hunger.

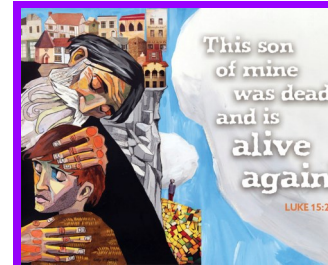
## Cannon Falls High School 9th Grade Clothing Drive Fundraiser



This summer 24 ninth grade students from Cannon Falls High School will embark on a six-day adventure to visit three national parks. They are collecting donations for the Epilepsy Foundation to raise money to help offset the cost of the trip.

Please bring your donations of clothes, clothing accessories (hats, gloves, scarves, ties), personal accessories (purses, wallets, belts, bags), bed and bath items (sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, tablecloths, curtains), shoes and other cloth materials. Please don't donate water-damaged or moldy items.

Donations will be accepted at **First English Lutheran Church, 511 Belle Street W, Cannon Falls**, on **Wednesday, April 2 from 3 to 7 pm** and on **Saturday, April 5 from 9 am to 1 pm**.



# Fourth Sunday of Lent

First English  
Lutheran  
Church

Sunday,  
March 30,  
2025

## PRELUDE

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross with Above All”*

by Carol Tornquist

## Welcome

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please stand.)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. Compassionate One,

People: **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Leader: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

People: Amen.

## GATHERING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

pgs 121-122

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: **God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, Amazing Grace

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, Amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

(Please be seated.)

## Word

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Maddie Patterson

#### READING 2 Corinthians 5:6-21

Kay Sabin

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM Psalm 32

Kay Sabin

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!  
<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**  
<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

## Music

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross with Above All

Author: Carol Tornquist  
© 2002 Word Music

### Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Author: Chris Tomlin

### Our Father We Have Wandered

Author: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006  
Resource Collection of Hymns

### Pass Me Not

Author: William H. Doane  
© 1986 Word Music

### We Are an Offering

Author: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

### My Life Flows on in Endless Song

Author: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

### Psalm 56

Author: Heinrich Schutz  
© 1965 Augsburg Publishing House

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## Upcoming Schedule

### Sunday, March 30

10:15—10:45 am Sunday School and  
Faith and Life Conversations

### Wednesday, April 2

6 pm Lenten Soup Supper  
7 pm Lenten Service

### Thursday, April 3

3-6 pm Cannon Falls Food Shelf

### Sunday, April 6

9 am Worship  
10:15—10:45 am Sunday School and  
Faith and Life Conversations

### Wednesday, April 9

1 pm Staff Meeting  
6 pm Lenten Soup Supper  
7 pm Lenten Service

### Thursday, April 10

3-6 pm Cannon Falls Food Shelf  
7 pm Church Council Meeting



### The Search Process Starts

The search process has formally been started to replace Maddie, who will be leaving for internship later this summer.

Anne Shoemaker, who serves on our council, will be the chair of the committee. Anne, along with Amanda Swanson, Mike Althoff, Katie Meyers, Bill Peterson, a youth representative and one more member which we are finalizing, will be tasked with

the hiring process. We are open to hiring another rostered minister who would share pastoral and intergenerational ministry responsibilities with me, or a lay leader who would be responsible for overseeing our Children, Youth, and Family Programming. We wish to keep an open mind and cast a wide net in order to find a good fit for our staff and church community.

If you have feedback about this process, please reach out to Pastor Luke or anyone on the Call Committee.

### Worship Participants

Pastor Luke Hollander  
Director of Children, Youth and Families: Maddie Patterson  
Accompanist: Deb Stark  
Ushers: Jim and Babe Nelson; Lay Reader: Kay Sabin  
Offering Officer: Phil Jacobson

#### CROWD NOTICE

Please note that our regular worship services are livestreamed.  
The resulting material may be used by our church without restriction or compensation.



### MIDWEEK LENTEN Worship Services

7pm – Holden Evening  
Prayer with weekly theme

April 2 — Forgiveness  
April 9 — Love



Wednesdays through April 9

**SIGN UP NOW** in the Narthex to  
bring your favorite soup to share on  
Wednesdays during Lent!

**Supper starts at 6 pm**



#### A 125th Celebration

A committee is being started to plan for our 125th Anniversary celebration of First English Lutheran Church. If you are interested in helping to celebrate the history of our church, contact Phyllis Althoff at 507-273-6554 or email [phyllisalthoff@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisalthoff@gmail.com).

<sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.  
<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.  
<sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.  
<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
<sup>8</sup> “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”  
<sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.  
<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand.)*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Pastor Luke Hollander

The gospel according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far

off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## SERMON

Pastor Luke Hollander

*(Please stand.)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Our Father, We Have Wandered"* ELW 606

# Thanksgiving

## IONIAN CREED

**All: We believe that God is present  
in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty  
where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God  
who sits down in our midst  
to share our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith  
that takes us beyond a safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability  
and onto the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks,  
live powerfully  
and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit  
for God's new community of hope.  
Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the conclusion of each prayer, *"God, in your mercy,"*

**People: Receive our prayer.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*(Please be seated.)*

## OFFERING

### OFFERING MUSIC

*"Pass Me Not"*

by William H. Doane

*(Please stand.)*

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*"We Are an Offering"*

ELW 692

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

# Sending

## BLESSING

Leader: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"* ELW 763

## DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**People: Thanks be to God!**