

Children, Youth and Family Faith Formation – Fall 2020

Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20

Jesus teaches that wherever two or three of us gather, God is with us. During this pandemic, we are more carefully choosing where to gather and with whom to gather. In these times, God continues to work and move through us. Yet, we experience God differently when gathered in community than when scattered and interacting online. What does this mean for our faith formation?

Building Faith and Relationships

“Faith Formation at First English Lutheran is an engaging place where we teach, model and nurture relationships across generations while forming faith in Jesus Christ.”

FELC Faith Formation Impact Statement

In August I distributed a Faith Formation survey to assess what most suited your families during this pandemic. As we prepare for fall, your responses and impact guide us. I’m excited because even during a pandemic God continues to form faith in us!

What Ministries are Offered this Fall?

As I worked with others to prepare for fall, we sought options that respect your health and safety as it relates to Covid-19 and current state and CDC guidelines for faith communities. Our plans look different for each age group. We considered what is happening in the school district as well as what is safe for volunteers and staff.

Children Ages Birth-Fifth Grade Family Faith Formation

Guidelines caution us to keep meeting times short. Thus, rather than offering both worship and Sunday School – we are combining them. Our Sunday School Worship includes motion songs, a Bible story from the Spark Story Bible, skit, and other elements of worship. It is designed for the whole family. Holy Communion will be served the first and third weeks of the month. Our Sunday School Worship Service models a Good Earth Village day camp worship service. Children love this style of worship! The Faith Formation Surveys indicated families are looking for opportunities to gather outside, to serve, and enjoy fellowship. We are embedding these faith practices in Sunday School Worship.

Sunday School Outside Worship Themes for October

Please bring your own chairs, sit six feet from other families, and wear a mask.

**Bring your favorite pet
or stuffed animal!**

Blessing of the Animals Sunday School Worship October 4, 4:00 P.M.



- **Sunday, October 4, 4:00 p.m. (rain date October 11)**
Blessing of the Animals – October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis, who was known for his love of animals. Legend has it that St. Francis preached to the animals about God’s love and concern for them. Bring your pet or favorite stuffed animal for a blessing! Holy Communion will be served.
- **Sunday, October 11, 4:00 p.m.**
It’s a Party - The lesson this week is the parable of the Wedding Banquet. We will have fun learning how God invites us to be followers of Christ. How does it feel to spend time with people you love? How are we open to God’s love?
- **Sunday, October 18, 4:00 p.m.**
You are a Gift – God gives each of us gifts to share with others. What are your gifts? How do you use gifts to meet the needs of others. It’s also super fun to look for gifts in others! It’s even MORE fun to use your gifts together with other people’s gifts. Today’s Sunday School Worship offers an opportunity to serve others. Holy Communion will be served.
- **Sunday, October 25, 4:00 p.m.**
Pumpkin Decorating Event – Preregister by Monday October 19th
Come to carve or decorate pumpkins and share a devotion on how God’s light shines through us. We are called to shine our light for all to see!

We will gather outside in the parking lot, with each family/self-selected group at a separate table. Preregistration is necessary for this event so we have enough pumpkins and tables for all the friends who gather. Register on the First English website, <http://www.firstenglishchurch.com/children-youth--family.html>



Two Options for Decorating:

- Carve** – we furnish the pumpkin, you bring your own carving tools.
- Face Stickers** – we furnish a pumpkin and pumpkin face sticker set

When you register, include each person who will need a pumpkin (or indicate you will bring your own) and if you will carve or use a sticker set.. Children grades 5 and younger must be accompanied by a caring adult. Social distancing guidelines are to be followed*.

*In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall, physically distant and wearing masks.

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AFFIRM - Grades 6 – 9

FELCY Connections and Confirmation Ministry

God and Daily Life

Register Online at www.firstenglishchurch.com/youth

Orientation for Parents and Youth**Wednesday, September 30, 7:00 pm via Zoom**

We kick the year off with an online parent and youth orientation, Wednesday, September 30, at 7 :00 p.m. Kris will email and text the Zoom link to all families in her database on Tuesday, September 29. If you are new to the 6-9th grade ministries – we look forward to your participation Please reach out to Kris at felcykris@gmail.com or her cell phone, 507-330-1824, for information and register online with a Google form on the youth page of the First English website - <http://www.firstenglishchurch.com/youth.html>.

Content: This year 6th-9th graders will dive into topics about **God and Daily Life**. Since we are combining sixth through ninth grades and all are working toward their Affirmation of Baptism, we have a new name, AFFIRM. Wednesday night discussions will focus on God’s presence in your life. We will connect and build relationships in small groups, take part in a mentor program, and serve others by sharing our gifts.

Two options:

On-site: Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

We will meet briefly in the sanctuary to introduce the lesson. From there, we will go to separate areas with our small groups for discussion and connection.

Virtual: Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Those who prefer to not meet in person will meet with a small group leader via Zoom. Depending on the numbers, we will figure out how this options works.

Expectations:

1. **Wednesday Night Attendance:** We ask you make attendance on Wednesday nights a priority. When we gather, we meet God. Faith grows as we spend time learning and growing together.
2. **Worship:** You can't get to worship in the sanctuary right now due to COVID, but we have several ways you can participate. The worship is posted each week on the website, www.firstenglishchurch.com, we meet outdoors Sunday at 10:00 am (this is scheduled to continue as long as weather permits), and we offer Outdoor Sunday School Worship services, Sundays in October at 4:00 p.m. Worship and Wednesday night ministries connect you to our faith community and being connected to a community creates faith that sticks for a lifetime.

3. **Worship Photograms: (replaces worship notes)**



Each student needs to complete 12 worship photograms during the school year. Basic instructions:

- Take a photo during worship whether you watch it online or attend an outdoor worship service.
 - Explain why you took that photo, what you heard when you took the photo, and what makes it important to you.
 - Photos can be taken with student or parent's phone or iPad. If a phone or iPad is not available, an email works as well. Students, please send photos or notes to felcykris@gmail.com using the Subject line: Photograms. Do not text your photograms to Kris. Thank you.
4. **Service:** Youth are asked to participate in four service projects each year. Some will be part of the Wednesday night Confirmation meeting, others will be offered separately, and others are opportunities for leadership in the church.
 5. **First English Mentor Ministry: October 7, November 4, and December 2.**
The mentor ministry seeks to expand a Confirmation youth's circle of trusted adults in the congregation, offer youth the opportunity to see and learn how another adult (if possible, an adult other than their parent/s) lives out their Christian faith, and to explore and make sense of their faith. Mentors are asked to meet with the youth in-person or on the phone to discuss monthly topics, which will be provided in advance. Due to Covid-19, we will not meet at church in a large group.

-Seventh through Ninth graders – an online Google mentor form and hard copy of the form is available on the youth page at www.firstenglishchurch.com/youth. Please fill this out by October Kris needs to send mentors their information prior to Oct. 7.

-Sixth graders – High school youth are paired with sixth graders and meet the same nights as 7-9th graders. The first mentor night, October 7, will be Campfire

Conversations at First English from 7:00-8:00 p.m. In the case of inclement weather, we will meet on Zoom.

6. **Leadership Opportunities:** Sign up online on the Youth Leadership form.

-Skit Troupe: Each Sunday School Worship includes a Skit (think Good Earth Village Day Camp).

-Technical Support:

- **Video Editor:** Do you know how to edit multiple videos into one? Kris is looking for help with putting together videos that can be used online.
 - **Record Sunday School Worship:** The weekly Sunday School worship would be great to post online. Volunteers are needed to record this worship service. The October dates are October 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 4:00-4:45 p.m.
- **Peer Ministry Team** – Meet with peers and learn and practice leadership skills in the context of faith and life!

First English Lutheran Church
AFFIRM Ministry for Grades 6 – 9
Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Updates are posted online at www.firstenglishchurch.com/youth

Fall Schedule: Please pay attention to the calendar for dates and times.

Date	Theme	Style
September 30	7:00 p.m. Orientation for parents and youth	Zoom https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/91400865536 Meeting ID: 914 0086 5536
October 7	7:00 p.m. Mentor Night Mentor forms are online and were emailed.	The Gift of Faith – meet virtually or one-on-one with your mentor and complete the activities for this night.
October 14	No Meeting MEA	
October 21	Resilient Faith – Breath	First English, Sanctuary and Small Group
October 28	Resilient Faith – Peace	First English, Sanctuary and Small Group
November 4	7:00 p.m. Mentor Night	Cloud of Witnesses
November 11	Resilient Faith - Justice	First English, Sanctuary and Small Group
November 18	Service Project	Souls for Hope in the Fellowship Hall
November 25	No Meeting Fall Break	
December 2	7:00 p.m. Mentor Night	TBD
December 9	Resilient Faith - Baptize	First English, Sanctuary and Small Group
December 16	Service Project	Christmas Caroling Outside with Masks Place/ Time - TBD

