

THE FIRST EDITION

First English Lutheran Church 511 W. Belle St., Cannon Falls, MN 55009 Phone 507-263-3042

JANUARY 2022

They say “Time flies when you are having fun.” I can’t believe how quickly time has flown by since I first came here to interview with the call committee on the Sunday afternoon following the Halloween snowstorm of 1991.

It has been a joy, a privilege, and an honor to serve as your pastor over these 30 years. Although I sense it is time for me to retire from full-time ministry, I can honestly say I have never grown tired of you. It has been wonderful to get to know you, accompany you in joys and sorrows, and share the great story of Jesus and his love.

Terry and I are filled with gratitude for you. Many of you taught our children in school and here in Sunday School. Some of you have been their confirmation mentors, and all of you have been our mentors and guides in life and faith. You have walked with us when our parents and my sister, Kathy, died. You have rejoiced with us in the births of our grandchildren. This church family has encouraged and supported our family. We can never thank you enough for sharing your lives, your faith, and your friendship with us.

My retirement marks a big transition in my life. It feels exciting, sad, and scary. It will be a change for you to receive a new pastor as well. Even the changes which are good and for the best still aren’t easy. Although we don’t know exactly what lies ahead of us, we can trust that God will help us find our way.

I know that you are good and faithful people. I know that this is a good congregation. I know that Cannon Falls is a wonderful community and a very pleasant place to live and work. For all these reasons and more, I am confident that God will send you an excellent pastor who will come with the right gifts, talents and skills for ministry for just such a time as this.

In addition to saying thank you, I also want to encourage you to keep on keeping on—

- Keep showing up for worship
- Keep financially supporting the mission and ministry of God’s Church
- Encourage your new pastor
- Pray for your new pastor
- Forgive your new pastor for any of his or her faults or shortcomings, just as you have forgiven me!

My, how time has flown by. For the journey we have shared, Terry and I want to say, “thanks be to God and to you!”

With great gratitude,

Pastor Phil and Terry Ruud



FIRST THINGS FIRST

STEWARDSHIP 2021

In spite of many challenges in our families and in our church family, you have continued to be faithful in giving and caring.

Through your collective gifts of \$2,990 for the Giving Tree project, we have surrounded a number of families with the love of Christ.

Earlier in December through giving to Rooted in Faith mission, we sent gifts to many ministry causes including \$1,000 to the Cannon Falls Good Samaritan Fund.

With your faithful giving, you enabled our congregation to give \$1,000 to Lutheran Social Services. You also enabled us to reach our Benevolence commitment of \$19,938 to SEMN Synod. Half of these Benevolence dollars are passed on to support the worldwide ministry of the ELCA.

Because of your faithful giving, we will finish the year with all of the churches expenses paid in full. Because of your faithful giving, we are in a good place to take on the challenges and opportunities of the new year.

For a full financial report of the past year, I encourage you attend the annual meeting on Sunday, January 23, 2022 , at 11 am.

Thanks to all of you who have returned an estimate of giving card for the new year. It's still not too late to do this. Just place it in the offering plate, drop it off or mail it to the church office.

Phil Ruud, Pastor



WORSHIP SERVICES

The livestream of our 9 am worship services are available on our website
www.firstenglishchurch.com



...on our YouTube channel & Facebook page
...aired on the local HBC Channel 12 (*check local listing for times and days*)
& MediaCom cable channel 12 (*11 am on Tuesday, 3 pm Wednesday, and 4:30 pm on Saturday*)
If you'd like to have a DVD of the worship services delivered to your home, contact the church at
507-263-3042.

Still unable to access the weekly worship? Call the church office; a link can be sent to your email and you can click on it and watch!

JANUARY USHER SCHEDULE

January 2	Brad Ferg
January 9	Karen Coakley
January 16	Ken Behnken
January 23	Ken Behnken
January 30	Brad Ferg

USHER COORDINATORS

2022-January-February-March

Dean Kautz 612-750-1868 dwkandmak@gmail.com

April-May-June

Gary Thomas 507-302-9528 mthomas838@gmail.com

July-August-September

Todd Swanson 507-298-0891 tkswanny@gmail.com

October-November-December

Randy Nelson 651-494-8283 rmnelson.cannonfalls@gmail.com

Thank you for your assistance during Worship!

PASTORAL CALL TRANSITION

The executive council met with an interim pastor, recommended to us by the Office of the Bishop of the SEMN Synod. At the December meeting, the entire council voted to accept this recommendation. This interim pastor will begin his service at First English in the first quarter of 2022. We will share more detailed information regarding our interim pastor and when he will start, once provision has been made for the congregation in which he is currently serving as interim pastor.

During this next month, Sunday worship will be led by a pastor or pastors from a list of names provided by the Synod. Pastoral emergencies and funerals during this time will be covered by ELCA Pastors, who are currently serving congregations in this community.

The council will be appointing a call committee according to the rules of our constitution. Pastor Barb Streed from the Office of the Bishop will meet with this committee once it is appointed.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 2021 Council Highlights

The Church Council met November 11, 2021.

One addition was made to the October meeting minutes: Mike Miller is another key holder and contact for the Cannon Falls Fire Department in case of emergency at the church building.

The Council approved the purchase of a replacement computer, \$979 plus set up costs, for the office. The expense will be paid for from the Rooted in Faith–Furnishings fund.

The Council approved the purchase of a replacement twin furnace and two new air exchangers from Cannon Mechanical to address aging equipment in need of near-term replacement for safety purposes. Royce Anderson will liaise with Cannon Mechanical to finalize the initial bid of \$13,306, which will be paid from the Rooted in Faith–Building Endowment fund.

Several updates were shared with the council:

- Volunteers to help with snow removal this winter would be appreciated.
- The bell choir is seeking additional members to fill out the roster.
- Adult helpers are needed for Sunday school.

With the conclusion of Befriender activities, the Council approved closing the Befriender budget line and moving the \$77 into the General Fund Reserve.

The Council endorsed retaining consultant services to apply for federal stimulus funds available to congregations. Karen Anderson will liaise with

the consultant; final fee is based on outcome of the application.

Adrienne Graaf requested to rotate off the council at the next election cycle or earlier should a new member be identified to step in. A new member was identified who will formally begin in December, at which time a new Secretary will also be elected.

The Council approved disbursements from the Rooted in Faith Mission Fund to the following organizations:

- Lutheran Campus Ministries \$1,250.00
- Hope Coalition in Red Wing \$500.00
- Good Samaritan Account \$1,000.00
- Habitat for Humanity \$1,000.00
- AMMPARO \$1,000.00
- ELCA World Hunger \$1,500.00

Treasurer's Report:

9/30 Gen Fund Balance	\$ 484.61
October Gen Fund Income	+ 22,135.24
October Gen Fund Expenses	- 21,901.03

10/31 GENERAL FUND BAL \$ 718.82

During the month of October we received enough general fund income to pay all the expenses and ended the month with a positive balance of \$718.82 without taking any funds out of the General Fund Reserve.

Adrienne Graaf,
Secretary

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, January 13 6:15 pm Executive Council
7 pm Church Council

God Comes to Us

In the Apostles Creed we profess, “I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.”

Born! Jesus Christ, begotten of the God the Father and also a true human being comes to us.

December was filled with the anticipation of Advent and joy of Christmas, yet, our celebrations do not stop with Christ’s birth. God continues to reveal God’s love and show us the way of love. On January 6 we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord and remember the magi who came with gifts to worship the newborn king.

When I reflect on the story of the magi, I am reminded the Word of God is universal, yet comes to us in a particular place and time. The magi heard about something they believed and followed a star to learn more. Their journey is our journey.

We believe in a loving God, who comes to us, finds us, and claims us as beloved children. God’s love frees us to love and care for others. The magi exemplify for us the power of attending to others with love and care. Just as the magi offered their gifts to Christ, the people of First English generously

share your gifts. God’s love grows here.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries are vibrant through the gifts of time, love, and care you offer. Thank you to all who serve pizza on Wednesday nights, co-lead youth and children’s events, guide small groups, help with the Sunday School classes, and assist with worship when you acolyte, read scripture, and provide music. God’s love flows through the littlest children, tweens, teens, and adults. God is a God of relationships and asks us to tend to our faith. If you wonder where your gifts might be used in CYF ministries, please contact me. There is a place for you here, God’s work invites us in. Here are some questions to help you think about your gifts:

How are you opening your mind and heart to God’s Word?

What gifts do you offer Jesus?

How are you noticing God in your life?

As you enter this new year, turn your hearts and mind to the Triune God, the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, who come to us with steadfast love. Amen.

CYF Ministries in January

Happy New Year!

Wednesday night ministries resume January 5, 6:30-8 pm and it’s also Mentor Night.

Sunday School resumes on January 9, 10-10:45 am.

Each Sunday interested adults and youth are invited to assist with Sunday School. Sign-up is available on our church website, www.firstenglishchurch.com. Volunteers accompany the kids to different stations as they learn the Bible story for that week.

Parents – remember to bring your child downstairs and sign her/him in, and return to sign them out. Not all volunteers know all the children, and this is a safety measure. Thank you!

Monday, January 10, CYF Faith Formation Team to meet at 7 pm via Zoom.

Wednesday, January 12, Connections and Confirmation, 6:30–8 pm
Summer Trips Info Meeting, 8 pm for gr. 6-12 following worship!

Sunday, January 16, Sub sandwich sales begin.

Sunday, January 23, Service Sunday at Sunday School. Parents or a caring adult are invited to attend Sunday School with their child/children.

Sunday, January 30, 9 am, Baptism Faith Milestone. We celebrate the beloved children of God baptized between November 29, 2020, and December 4, 2021. Gather in worship for a blessing and gift!

Saturday, February 5, 8:30 am-Noon, Make subs.

Sunday, February 6, 9:45-10:30 am, Distribute subs following worship.

Faith Milestone Dates, February – May

February 13	First Grade, I Spy Worship
March 6	Kindergarten, The Power of Prayer
March 13, 20, 27, & April 14	5 th Grade, Communion
April 3	4 th Grade, Ten Commandments

Upcoming Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

GRADES 6-9

**Mentor Night: A Migrant Journey,
January 5, 6:30-8 pm.**

*(Pizza Servers are needed this night, sign-up at
www.firstenglishchurch.com.)*

Mentors and youths will participate in the first of a two-night program presented by Kathy Chatelaine from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Office of the ELCA. We will learn about youth who leave their families in Central America to begin a dangerous journey to the United States. What causes young people to flee their communities? What are the dangers along their journey? How are these vulnerable youth received at the U.S./Mexico border?

WEDNESDAY PIZZA VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our fall volunteers! Youth conversation and energy are abundant during our weekly pizza meal. Starting January 5, we seek two volunteers weekly, from 6-7:15 pm. Youth ministry thrives with your help. Thank you!

For Current Information and to Sign-Up for Events,

Go to this link: www.firstenglishchurch/youth.html.

SUMMER 2022 TRIPS

**Information Meeting, Wednesday, January 12,
8 pm (following worship)**

Meet in the Sanctuary to learn more about trips offered to youth listed below in 2022.

BWCAW, grades 8-12 (as of the 2021-22 school year),
Interested in going to the **BWCAW** this summer?

There is a sign-up sheet on the information board by the office, or let Kris know! Phil Jacobson is working on a trip and will contact you.

BOUNDLESS ELCA GATHERING, July 24-28, grades 8-12, (as of the 2021-22 school year)

Registration has been extended! Information about the gathering and registration forms are on the website or ask Kris.

SUMMER FESTIVAL CAMP, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN; Sunday, July 17 through Wednesday, July 20; 4 days and 3 nights for \$70 for First English Youth.

-High School Leadership Track (9th-12th gr, 2021-2022)
-Middle School Camp (6th-9th gr, 2021-2022)

Welcome to the migrant journey and AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities). Beginning in Central America you will virtually walk alongside youth forced to flee their beloved communities with the hope of a new start in the United States. As we journey together, you will also learn about the AMMPARO Strategy, a commitment by the ELCA to accompany migrant children and their families. Mentors are welcome to attend on January 12 as well if you desire.

January 5: Part I - A Migrant Journey: With Great Hope

January 12; Part II - A Migrant Journey: Encountering Realities

ACOLYTE

We appreciate how acolytes draw us in to worship, as they light candles and bring our attention to the cross. Youth in grades 6-9, please sign up at least one between January and May. Thank you.

What will you experience at **Summer Fest**?

Relevant and engaging discussions about faith and life,

High-energy inspiring worship,

Creative, immersive activities that will challenge you in fun and faith,

Friends, food, AND SO MUCH FUN!

What more could you want in a summer camp?

At **Summer Festival**, keynote speakers come to share inspiring and challenging stories about real life, God, and where the two intertwine. The days are packed with fun surprises of all kinds. From the music, the movies, the games, the speakers, and club – all with laughter to tears – Summer Festival Camp really has something for everybody. Find additional information and a promo clip on their website for summer 2022 here: <https://summerfestivalcamp.com>.



THEODORA FERN BOWKER was baptized on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. She was born on October 29, 2020, to Maren Peterson and Matt Bowker in Newton, MA. Godparents are John and Erica Peterson.

A special gathering is scheduled for **Sunday, January 30**, after worship in the Fellowship Hall for **Pastor Phil** in appreciation of his 30 years of service to First English Lutheran Church. A brunch will also be available.

Thank You, Pastor Phil!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

ELCA Hunger Notes for Year 2022

Each month, our church will focus on different areas to help families in need.

January-Warm blankets are needed for families in an emergency or natural disaster (world-wide). Cost is \$10 each.

February-Support for a refugee family is needed now more than ever. \$50 will feed a family for a week.

March-Mosquito nets help protect families from malaria and other diseases carried by them. Cost is \$10 each or \$20 for a family.

April-Hygiene kits are vital to protect from disease such as COVID-19 and they contain sanitation supplies. Cost is \$25 each.

May-Food for orphans and vulnerable children. \$25 feeds a child for a month.

June-Seeds and gardening tools help families care for themselves. \$50 supplies one family.

July-Fruit tree seedlings help create orchards to feed a family and provide an income by selling to others. \$10 covers the cost of seedling tree.

August-School supplies of notebooks, paper, etc.

only cost \$10 per child. Our church makes many kits each year.

September-Safe drinking water is rare in many countries. Water filters in simple ceramic containers costs \$30.

October-October 17 is Bread for the World Day. Bread exists in many forms all over the world and is vital for families.

November-Animals are very important for families as they could feed a family as well as give them something to sell as income. For \$30, you could provide a piglet or for \$50 can purchase a goat that can survive on limited food and provide milk, meats and skins.

December-Chicks are very important as a food sources as well as an income for families. \$10 can purchase 10 chicks and a rooster can be added for \$15.

Coming January 2023-More than 30 million children in the US depend on school meals. Stock a backpack with food for \$10. Another option for warm meals is at soup kitchens, \$20 feeds 10 people.



WISH TO PUT SOMEONE ON THE PRAYER CHAIN?

Contact our
Prayer Chain Coordinators
Marlys Weber 507-263-2737
Marcine Lundell 507-263-9146
E-mail:
marcinegrace@gmail.com
or the church office to place
your prayer request or if you'd
like to be a prayer petitioner on
the FELC Prayer Chain.



Cannon Falls Food Shelf

For more than 25 years, Cannon Falls Food Shelf has devoted its energy to passionately advocating for the hungry, needy and politically underrepresented members of our community. Find out how you can contribute to the future of someone in need through donations of money and time.

FOOD SHELF HOURS & DATES

1st Saturday of the month from 10 am to Noon
2nd Thursday of the month from 10 am to Noon
3rd Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 pm
4th Thursday of the month from 10 am to Noon

Email us at foodshelfcannonfalls@gmail.com or call us at (507) 263-3257 (Sue Banks) with any questions.



MEMORIALS & GIFTS

DECEMBER 2021

In Memory of Merle Johnson

from JoAnn Johnson

In Memory of Larry Benson

from Grayden and Loraine Moorhouse
from Elvena Schmugge
from Jim and Arletta Soule
from Phyllis Wilson

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Mike Miller

651-210-6650

mikemiller10541@hotmail.com

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Stewardship/Finance

Foundation

Vice-President: Royce Anderson

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Council Rep. for Property Committee

Bonnie Cumiford

Phil Jacobson

Danny Meyers

Jennifer Nobach

Jane Peterson

Council Rep. for Worship & Music

Matt Shoemaker

Rondi Sjoblom

Robin Stewart

Council Rep. for Memorials & Furnishings

Mike Trelstad

FOUNDATION BOARD

President: Phyllis Althoff

Vice President: Cathy Rehm

Secretary: Rick Hughes

Nicole Holz

Lisa Lundell

Emily Spicer

CHURCH OFFICE

Office Hours:

507-263-3042

M-F, 9 am - 3:30 pm

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PARISH NURSE:

Becky Shepard

507-298-1176 rbrown53@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 January 2022	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf
2 9 am Communion Worship	3	4 Women of WELC 10 am Park St Apts Bible Study 10:15 am Meeting Us Where We Are Bible Study 7 pm	5 10:30 am Pastors Text Study 6:30 pm Mentor Night 7:30 pm Weds. Worship	6	7	8
9 9 am Worship	10	11 Park St Apts Bible Study 10:15 am Meeting Us Where We Are Bible Study 7 pm	12 10:30 am Pastors Text Study 6:30-8pm Connections/ Confirmation 7:30 pm Worship	13 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf 6:15 pm Exec. C. 7 pm Church Council	14	15
16 9 am Communion Worship	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 Park St Apts Bible Study 10:15 am Meeting Us Where We Are Bible Study 7 pm	19 10:30 am Pastors Text Study 6:30-8 pm Connections/ Confirmation 7:30 pm Worship	20 4:30—6:30 pm CF Food Shelf	21	22
23 9 am Worship 10 am Annual Church Meeting	24	25 Park St Apts Bible Study 10:15 am Meeting Us Where We Are Bible Study 7 pm	26 10:30 am Pastors Text Study 6:30-8 pm Connections/ Confirmation 7:30 pm Worship	27 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf	28	29
30 9 am Worship 10 am Appreciation Brunch for Pr. Phil Ruud	31	1	2 10:30 am Pastors Text Study	3	4	5 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf

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