



JANUARY 2024

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Celebrating the New Year

We have double the fun as followers of Christ. As we follow through the church calendar, we celebrate the New (church) Year as we go into December, just before the start of Advent. Now we celebrate the New Year again, beginning a new calendar year with those around us. In both celebrations we have the opportunity to rejoice in the faithfulness of our loving God and to look forward to the day when we live with God forever.

Now when we gather as God's people, we can look forward to the New Year. We look back on the past year and give thanks to God for the blessings given us, for the challenges God has brought us through, and for the fact that God has preserved us in the true faith for another year. We look forward as well, trusting in the promises of God and taking a good hard look at how we can continue to serve our Lord in this next year.

May God bless you as you worship and share God's love and throughout the New Year!

Wishing you a happy New Year and blessed year ahead. May God's light guide your way in 2024.



**First English
Lutheran Church**

511 W Belle St Cannon Falls MN 55009
507-263-3042 www.firstenglishchurch.com

CHURCH OFFICE

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Nicole Holz Tiffany Kiffmeyer

Elvena Schmutz Emily Spicer

**Visit our Website
for Updates!**

www.firstenglishchurch.com



PASTOR LUKE

lukefirstenglish@gmail.com

507.218.1311

A Quick Monthly Update

Happy New Year's, First English!

I hope you were able to get some rest, hear the good news story of Jesus' birth, and experience some hope and love this season. Our family will be returning home from a quick trip up to Winnipeg to celebrate Christmas with Lisa's family.

It certainly wasn't the white Christmas we are used to, but there was still beauty in the many stories told by you of your Christmas traditions when you were young, current traditions, and hopes for future traditions. There is something grounding in the touchstones of our family and church traditions. The Christmas story is perhaps the best touchstone of them all as it grounds us in the vulnerable love of our God who wishes to experience life with us.

I hope this love launches you into the new year with hope, my friends.

Pastor Luke

Adult Education Opportunities

During the month of January, we are going to take a short sabbath from adult education. Look for opportunities related to Nature & Spirituality, Bible Study, and Brewed Theology on the calendar starting up in February again.

WORSHIP SERVICES



The livestream of our 9 am worship service is available on YouTube via our website,

www.firstenglishchurch.com

And aired on the local HBC Channel 12 (check local listing for schedule)

& MediaCom cable channel 12

(11 am on Tuesday, 3 pm Wednesday, and 4:30 pm on Saturday)
(Note: Recently the local cable commission have been having issues with the government access channel.)

If you'd like to have a DVD of the worship services delivered to your home, contact the church office at 507-263-3042.



Time to Take the Decorations Down!

The Altar Guild is asking for help to take down the Christmas decorations all around our church. Please join them after worship on **Sunday, January 7**. All hands are welcome!



FELC Committee Meetings in 2024

Look for committees to be meeting early in 2024. We didn't meet as regularly during the busy fall programming months, but will reconnect soon. The **Children, Youth and Family Committee, Memorial Committee, Worship and Music Committee, Property Committee, Social Committee** and more will meet and make initial plans for 2024. Please let us know if you are interested in getting involved in any of these ministries.

Women of FELC Gathering January 9



The next gathering of the Women of FELC group will be held on **Tuesday, January 9 at 10 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Join them for fellowship and bible study!

PT Custodian Needed

First English is looking to hire a custodian to help keep our church clean and tidy. This position will require about 5-10 hours a week. Job description and application our available on our website and Facebook page. Please contact Pastor Luke if interested or if you know of a possible applicant.



WESTON LEE DUDEN was baptized on Sunday, December 10, 2023. He was born on June 16, 2023 to **Jillian Sass** and **Mason Duden** in Edina, MN. His sponsor's are **Leigh Sass, Ryan Finnegan, Charli Duden** and **Jack Dommeyer**.

CCIC Update

The Community Churches Interaction Council is preparing for new and wrapping up some of our goals for the year. First English is looking for a new CCIC representation. We meet four times a year and are involved in some great ministry. Please contact Pastor Luke if you might be interested in getting more involved with the CCIC.

Interested in Helping to Stream Worship?

Come, share your talent and join our tech team!

Streaming and recording our Worship services is an important part of getting the Good News to our congregation and beyond! Persons are needed to help operate the system on Sundays during worship. If you are interested in sharing your expertise, please contact Pastor Luke or the church office at 507-263-3042 or email firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Maddie Patterson

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry

maddiefirstenglish@gmail.com

507-384-8317

Anticipating Jesus' Birth at First English

In seasons of waiting, slivers of joy and hope break in, and we have had them in abundance at First English in this season of Advent. As we anticipated Jesus' birth and looked for His coming again, there has been much happening this side of life.

On Sunday, December 17, during the regular worship service, this looked like all the little children gathered around the manger and telling the story of how Christ was born. Thanks to our hardworking parents, volunteers, and kids; they were able to reenact Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, and helped us look forward to Christmas Day! Our older kids joined us as narrators, telling the story from each Gospel writer's perspective, as the smaller kids acted out the scenes.

After worship, we continued with the pancake breakfast, children's activities, and a bake sale. Everyone ate plenty of pancakes, made Advent wreaths, and a few played pin the nose on the snowman. Earlier in the week, our youth also had contributed to this event, as they had made cards for the bake sale and made snowflake decorations. Funds from the donated baked goods went to help support the upcoming youth trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, which will happen this summer. Getting our kids to New Orleans is a big task for all involved, from fundraising and planning to signing up and participating. We greatly appreciate the support we have received towards this trip. For those of you going, it's time to get registered!

That's all for now. Advent is closing, the Christ child has come. Our wait is over.

Peace,

Maddie Patterson

Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries





Children's Christmas Program, Pancake Breakfast and More !



National Youth Gathering Trip

High school youth from all across the country will be gathering at New Orleans this summer from July 16-20. FELC and other local ELCA churches hope to send a good group of youth. We have received good verbal interest from families, but really need to get our registrations in ASAP. Please connect with Pastor Luke if you have any interest or questions in this trip.

Like Us on Facebook!



First English Lutheran Church-Cannon Falls

298 likes · 321 followers

Let Us Know When Your Contact Info Changes

In this day and age when phone numbers, mailing addresses and email addresses are frequently changing, getting ahold of our church members can be challenging, especially when unexpected and emergency situations develop.

If your address, email or phone number has changed, please call (507-263-3042) or email (firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com) with your current information. We will do our best to keep you informed of important notices.

FELC OFFICE HOURS

Regular church office hours are **Monday-Friday,**

9 am-Noon, 1-3:30 pm

Closed on January 1 and 15 for the holiday.

When Community Members Need Help

When someone in the community is hurting or in need of help, First English has posted area resources that are available on our website at www.firstenglishchurch.com, under the *Need Help?* Tab.

Some of the resources include:

Emergency Assistance

A variety of forms of assistance is available for county residents. Information is available from Good houe County, Dakota County and the MN Department of Commerce.

The Good Samaritan Fund

The Good Samaritan Fund is available to assist Cannon Falls community members with funds for emergencies. Each household may be used these emergency funds only once during the calendar year. For requests, please contact Pastor Shannon Bauer at 507-298-7719 or Lori at 507-298-7282. The Good Samaritan Fund is a joint effort of area churches to support community members with emergency needs.

First Choice Clinic

First Choice Clinic offers confidential medical, educational and support services, free of charge, to men and women in our community and surrounding areas.

There are also other links on the page to Lutheran social Services, the Mayo Clinic Health System and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Cannon Falls Food Shelf

For over 25 years, the volunteers of the Cannon Falls Food Shelf has devoted their energy to passionately advocating for the needs of our community family.

Consider donating food to restock the shelves for our community today.

The Cannon Falls Food Shelf is run by a local volunteer board and is not under the administration of First English Lutheran Church.

Tax ID# is 30-0221349.

Email

foodshelfcannonfalls@gmail.com or call (507) 263-3257 with any questions.

Food Shelf Hours

1st Saturday (January 6)
10 am to Noon

2nd Thursday (January 11)
10 am to Noon

3rd Thursday (January 18)
4:30 to 6:30 pm

4th Thursday (January 25)
10 am to Noon



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The First English Lutheran Church Council met on December 14, 2023.

The following are the highlights of the meeting:

- Approved November 16, 2023 council minutes.
- Heard Pastor's Report.
- Approved Treasurer's Report.

10/31 Gen Fund Balance/Checking Acct	\$ 13,971.18
Gen Fund Income	+ 17,045.75
Gen Fund Expenses	- 23,606.95
11/30 General Fund Balance/Checking Acct	\$ 7,409.98
- 10/31 Fund Balances/Gifts

Rooted in Faith Fund	\$ 43,591.40
Building Expense Fund	\$ - 1,616.92
Youth Account	\$ 19,658.08
Benevolence/LSS Gifts (Oct.)	\$ 1,603.00
Designated Gifts (Oct.)	\$ 2,635.48
- Approved purchase of fellowship hall chairs with funds from memorial gifts.
- Heard an update from the Family Room task force.
- Heard recommendation from the Family Room Task Force, moving table to a conference room downstairs.
- Heard an update on exploring options for the custodial position.
- Reviewed the 2024 proposed budget.
- Discussed the upcoming annual congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 28.
- Approved the distribution of RIF Mission Funds
- Heard an update from the Nominating Committee.
- Heard an update on the Cannon Falls Breakfast Club.
- Approved the new treasurer and transition planning.
- Reviewed Committee Reports.

Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting is **Thursday, January 11, at 7 pm.**

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 28

Following the
Worship Service




MEMORIALS & GIFTS

DECEMBER 2023

In Memory of Jan West

Stephen West

In Memory of Marjorie Dracy

Queen Esther Chapter 26

In Memory of Jon Behnken

Ken and Betty Behnken

Betty Nelson

In Memory of Darold Safe

Kevin and Beth Nerud

In Memory of Maxine Roush

Darlene Sundheim

Dar Qualle

In Memory of Joe Huss

Dort and Roland Spillman

Lowell and Sharon Anderson

New Baby?

We want to know!

Are you expecting a child through birth or adoption? Do you have a new infant at home? In these sacred times of welcoming a baby, First English Lutheran Church is here for you. We have resources to support the whole family and look forward to connecting with you! Contact Maddie Patterson at

maddiefirstenglish@gmail.com.

For baptism requests, please fill out the Baptism Request form found on our website at

www.firstenglishchurch.com.



JANUARY 2024

JAN 1, MON New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

JAN 3, WED

10 am Staff Meeting

JAN 5, SAT

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

JAN 7, SUN

9 am Communion Worship

Sunday School During Worship

10 am Holiday Undecorating by Altar Guild

10:30 am Confirmation Classes

JAN 9, TUE

10 am Women of FELC Meeting

JAN 10, WED

10 am Staff Meeting

JAN 11, THU

9 am– Noon Goodhue County WIC

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

7 pm Church Council Meeting

JAN 14, SUN

9 am Worship & Shaker Hymn Sunday

No Sunday School

10:30 am Confirmation Classes

JAN 15, MON

Church Office Closed

JAN 17, WED

10 am Staff Meeting

JAN 18, THU

4:30 – 6:30 pm CF Food Shelf

JAN 21, SUN

9 am Communion Worship

Sunday School During Worship

10:30 am Confirmation Classes

JAN 24, WED

10 am Staff Meeting

JAN 25, THU

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

10 am CCIC Council Meeting

JAN 28, SUN

9 am Worship

Sunday School During Worship

10 am Annual Congregation Meeting

10:30 am Confirmation Classes

JAN 31, WED

10 am Staff Meeting



First English Lutheran Church

511 W Belle St

Cannon Falls MN 55009

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Thank You for Attending Our Christmas Eve Services.

Blessings to All in the New Year!

