

THE FIRST EDITION DECEMBER 2021

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

Stillness

"Deeper than any language of word or gesture is the cosmic stillness before which all things bow." -Gerhard Frost



We are on the doorstep of another Christmas. For me, it is my last Christmas as your pastor.

So the question comes to my mind, what can I do that will make this Christmas special? Similarly, perhaps you are asking yourselves, what can you do that will make Christmas special for you and your family?

These aren't bad questions, but they might not be the most important questions. After all, the center of Christmas is God's doing and not our doing. We experience Christmas best, not because of our frantic activities, but rather in the moments of being still.

We remember that the shepherds experienced the presence of God born out of the wilderness in the dead of night. An angel of the Lord appeared and directed them toward the center of Christmas, the Christ child.

Christmas is a time for being still. It is a time to stop, look, and listen to discover what God is doing in the world and in our lives.

Perhaps our most important activity to get ready for Christmas is prayer. As you enter into the fray of Christmas activities, I encourage you to pray these prayers:

Dear Jesus,

Give me:

- *patience with others and myself,*
- *a sense of humor,*
- *and enough time, not only to get things done, but to be peaceful with others and myself.*

Amen.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Amen.

May God direct you and me to the one who is the Prince of Peace. It is around Jesus that our celebration of Christmas and our lives appropriately revolve.

Peace in Christ,

Phil Ruud
Pastor

FIRST THINGS FIRST

STEWARDSHIP 2021

We know the Christmas story, but the story never gets old.

The part about the magi, those star-studiers who came from the east to worship the newborn King, never ceases to capture my imagination and inspire my faith. They came bringing the very best gifts they could offer in gratitude for the gift of the Savior. Their gifts were expensive and demonstrated the value they placed in Jesus and their faith in the role Jesus would have for the world.



- Gold was a gift fit for a king.
- Frankincense was used for worship in the temple and was a gift fit for God.
- Myrrh was an oil used to make perfume and thought to be a pain killer. Later in the story, myrrh was mixed with wine and offered to Jesus **on the cross. Jesus' dead body was anointed with myrrh to cover up the smell of decay.**

Their gifts were expensive, and tradition holds that these gifts helped support the Holy Family in their journey to Egypt and back to Nazareth.

So we, too, bring gifts in gratitude for the gift of a Savior. Our gifts support the work of God's church. We remember Jesus' words, " As you do onto even the least and last of people so you also onto me."

Your gifts shared in the month of December will help us meet our mission goals and start the New Year in **good financial position. Christ's light shines through you and your giving.**

From gifts designated for the Rooted-in-Faith mission, our church recently disbursed funds for these missions:

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Mankato \$625

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Winona \$625

ELCA World Hunger \$1,500

Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity \$1,000

Hope Coalition in Red Wing \$500 (The FELC Foundation also gave funds in support of their work.)

SEMN Synod AMMPARO \$1,000 (funds to support the resettlement of immigrant minors.)

Your giving blesses God's people near and far.

Thanks for the ways you let the light of Christ shine in our church and in God's world.

Phil Ruud, Pastor



Join Us
Friday, December 24
3 pm
5 pm
8 pm
For our special
Christmas Eve Services
All are welcome!

Join Us Sunday, Dec. 19 at 9 am

*A special recitation of
the nativity story*

Through songs, storytelling, and audience participation, children and youth will share the nativity story during our 9 am worship on December 19. Please join us on this special Sunday!

The beauty of
Christmas
is not in the
presents but in
His presence.
Matthew 1:23

WORSHIP SERVICES

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



Go to Live Stream

...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!



DECEMBER USHER SCHEDULE

December 5	Dean Kautz
December 12	Julie Gergen
December 19	Sunday School Families
December 24 3pm	Jim Pagel
December 24 5 pm	Royce Anderson
December 24 8 pm	TBD or Randy Nelson
December 26	Jeff and Melissa Hansen

USHER COORDINATORS

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 rmlnelson.cannonfalls@gmail.com
2022-January-February-March	
Dean Kautz	612-750-1868 dwkandmak@gmail.com

Thank you for your assistance during Worship!



THEODORE SAWYER WEBER was baptized on Sunday, November 28, 2021. He was born on September 10, 2021, to Nick and Pebbles Weber in Red Wing, MN. Godparents are Chris and Josie Mudgett.

RETURNING OUR GIFTS OF Time & Talent

Help is needed in multiple areas in our church. If you can assist in any of these areas, please contact the church office at 507-263-3042 or email firstenglishlutheranchurchcf@gmail.com to let us know which area you can help. Please be sure to note your name, and preference receiving a phone call or text message.

Hospitality for Funerals

I can help with funeral hospitality!

Please let us know which area you can help.

- Any area needed
- Bake bars or a cake for a funeral
- Set-up before a funeral
- Serve at the funeral
- Clean-up after the funeral

Worship Service—Streaming and Recording

I can help stream and record worship services! Streaming and recording our Worship services is an important part of getting the GOOD NEWS out to our congregation and beyond! Persons are needed to help operate the system on Sundays during worship. Your time can be reimbursed. Training will be provided.

Worship Service—DVD Delivery

I can help deliver DVD's! Persons are needed to deliver DVD copies of each **Sunday's service to area shut-ins**. A monthly delivery schedule is set up to enable persons to be rotated. The DVD can be delivered Monday afternoons or on Tuesdays, whatever fits into your schedule.

The light

SHINES IN THE DARKNESS,
AND THE DARKNESS
HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.

John 3:19



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.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Christmas Carol Quiz

These Christmas carols have been renamed by an over-achieving linguist. Can you figure out the original title?



1. Emotion brought on by the expectation of good given to the terrestrial sphere: Joy to the World
2. Nocturnal time span of unbroken quietness: _____
3. Listen as the celestial messengers produce harmonious sounds: _____
4. Small municipality southeast of Jerusalem: _____
5. Proceed forth declaring upon a specific geological alpine formation: _____
- 6. Twelve o'clock on a clement night witnessed its arrival:** _____
7. First person nominative plural of far eastern heads of state: _____
- 8. In distant location the existence of newborn child's slumber furniture:** _____
9. 288 Yuletide hours: _____
10. Song of hollow metallic vessels vibrating and ringing: _____

Answers on Page 10.



New Members

New to our church this year?

A special new member recognition will be included with the December 12 worship. Please contact the FELC office at 507-263-3042 or email firstenglishlutheranchurchcf@gmail.com to become an official member of First English during this service.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS



After the first Sunday Worship each month, FELC attendees are invited to get their blood pressure checked after the service. For more information, contact Becky Brown, Parish Nurse, at 507-298-1176.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

NOVEMBER 2021

In Memory of Jan West
from Vicki and Bryan Pepera
from Sue and Thomas Eaker

In Memory of Verne Holt
from Betty Nelson
In Memory of Tom Shorter and Loved Ones
from Barb Shorter

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. This year we celebrate Advent from November 28 to Christmas Eve, December 24. During **Advent we participate in God's story with the** posture of those who came before us. We anticipate. We wait. We trust in the future knowing we will soon celebrate Christ, the Son of God, being born among us.

Celebrate we do with the twelve days of Christmas known as Christmastide, which extend from December 25 to January 5. This time is joyful. God is **incarnate in Jesus! The Son of God shines God's light** and teaches us to live in faith.

The season of Epiphany follows Christmas and begins on January 6. On this day we rejoice in the revelation of God as a human being in Jesus Christ. It commemorates the wise men, or Magi, arriving to honor Jesus.

Each season invites us to pay attention to how God is working in and through us. Here are some questions to ponder:

- Advent - Where do you notice the Spirit stirring amid deep silence and stillness? How are you being invited to wait with patience and faith for new life to emerge?
- Christmas – How is your life a celebration of the life Christ brings? Where do you see evidence of **God's light in the life and world around you?**
- Epiphany – How are you noticing the work of God in your life? What gifts do you have to offer Jesus? How are you being invited to grow?

These questions remind me how God acts and who we participate. Our God is a God of relationships. We are claimed and loved and formed in relationship with the Triune God and live our lives as part of the body of Christ.

As we enter the Advent season, I invite you to join Christians around the world in lifting up the following **prayer, "Almighty God our Father, your generous** goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen."**

New Face in Youth Ministry Welcome Jen!

Hello. My name is Jen Kooistra and I am a student at Luther Seminary with your Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry, Kris. This semester, I am **taking a class titled "Christian Public Leader III". Part of the** requirements for the class is to engage in a congregation to practice leadership, articulate theology, and develop relationships.



During the next few months, I will be accompanying youth who are in the confirmation program that meets on Wednesday evenings. However, if you attend the worship service on Wednesdays at 7:30pm, I hope you will take the time to introduce yourself to me and share your history of faith formation. Thank you for allowing me to experience the community and some of the programming at First English Lutheran Church.

**Peer Ministry Team
Meets at CannonBelle's
Sunday, December 12
Noon**

@firstenglishchurch.com

We figured out a time! Your coffee/beverage is on me. If you are interested in planning youth events, join us! RSVP to Kris. Thank you!

Upcoming Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

SAVE THE DATES

December offers special ministries each Sunday. Sunday School children are asked to attend these events. All are welcome!

December 5—Children and caring adults are invited to the St. Nicholas Breakfast following worship at 10 am.

December 12—Children and youth who wish to be in the annual Christmas Program rehearse from 10-11 am.

December 19—Children will lead 9 am worship for their Christmas Program, *What Child Is This?*

December 26 and January 2—Sunday School does not meet.

January 9 – Epiphany is celebrated the closest Sunday to January 6 and marks the Wise Men arriving to visit Jesus. We will learn more about this event and our activities will focus on shining **God's light.**

Grades 6-9, Connections and Confirmation

Mentor Night

Wednesday, January 5, 6:30-8:00 pm

Kathy Chatelaine, an Assistant to the Bishop on Global Ministry in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, will be with us to facilitate an interactive

experience on A Migrant's Journey. We will start

with pizza and table discussions at 6:30 pm.

The 7th grade girls are on the schedule to assist with mentor night. Please arrive at 6:00 pm to set up tables and bring two dozen store-bought cookies to serve with the pizza.

Pizza Servers Needed for Wednesday Nights!

6:00-7:15 pm

Connections and Confirmation ministry starts with a meal each week and adult pizza servers are needed to help set out the beverages, serve pizza, and clean up. The large group is scheduled to be out of the Fellowship Hall by 7:00 pm. Volunteers are needed from 6 pm to approximately 7:15 pm. The online sign-up form is on the youth page of the website, www.firstenglishchurch.com. If you haven't signed

up yet, please take a look at your calendar and sign up to help with this ministry. Thank you!

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS

Sunday, December 5, 10-11 am
(Please note the date change to December 5.)

St. Nicholas is coming to our party! We know the song Jolly Old St. Nicholas, but how many of us know about St. Nicholas, the generous man who performed secret acts of kindness to others? Celebrate the story of St. Nicholas through storytelling, crafts, and cinnamon rolls after worship. As you learn about St. Nicholas's generosity, you will also make a gift to share with someone.



Psst: Wear socks! You will need to leave your shoes outside the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School will not meet on December 5 - all ages are invited to share in this lesson of generosity.

FAMILIES, PLEASE SIGN UP

by Tuesday, December 7
for the 2021 Christmas Program,
What Child Is This?

Through songs, storytelling, and audience participation, children and youth will share the nativity story. There are speaking and nonspeaking parts, as well as opportunities to share special music. There will be one rehearsal. The script and online sign-up form are posted on the website, (firstenglishchurch.com) under the Children, Youth & Family tab. Check it out to see the different ways you might share your gifts.

Who: Children and Youth, ages 3 through grade 12

Rehearsal: Sunday, December 12, 10-11 am

Performance: Sunday, December 19, 9:00 am
during Worship

SOCIAL MINISTRIES



FELC has joined forces with Goodhue County Christmas Project to help four area families and their children (11 total!) enjoy the holiday spirit.

Your donations are now being accepted through December 15.

You can pick up an envelope from the giving tree located in the narthex; insert your cash or check donation and return to the FELC office. Another option is to mail or drop off your donation at the **church office**. Make sure to mark "Giving Tree" on the memo line of your check.

Last year over \$4,000 was collected to help six families as the Refugee and Resettlement Services Division of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota.

Thank you for your generosity!

Over 40 Quilts Sent to Families

FELC Social Ministry had another successful year, gathering materials and creating quilts to sent to Lutheran World Relief and other area programs to help families in need.

LWR distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the Second World War. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed **from the world's attention. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts** are lovingly given worldwide each year.

LWR Mission Quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. This November, over 40 quilts were displayed for our congregation to see before they were shipped to LWR in South St. Paul for distribution.

Thank you to Sara Novotny, Chris Profahl and Loraine Moorhouse for sewing all these quilts this year.



AT THE OFFICE



Historians Take Interest in FELC Painting

This past month the church has been contacted by some area historians regarding the painting in the Fellowship Hall. Research is being done on the artist of the painting. Here is some of the history as we know it.

The painting depicts the risen Lord and Mary in the garden and was painted by C. Beck in 1935. It hung over the altar, with the two round, stained glass windows flanking it, from the mid-30's until the church was remodeled in the mid-50's. During this time, the large stain glass window was on the north end of the building and the altar was on the south.

Clarence Beck was born on June 8, 1910, in Zumbrota, Minnesota, one of four children of Willis Beck, who was also the pastor of this congregation from 1906-1915 and again from 1924-1926.

Beck's mother was a schoolteacher. Clarence went on to other creative endeavors in life and became well known as C.C. Beck, the creator of the comic book hero, Captain Marvel, (today known as Shazam!) at Fawcett Comics and DC Comics. More can be found on C.C. Beck on Wikipedia.



WOMEN OF FELC

Next Meeting
Tuesday, December 7
at 10 am
in the
Church Fellowship Hall
Sharing Christmas Cheer and Music
Bring a Treat to Share
JOIN US!



devotions and candle. If you haven't picked up your devotion candle yet, they have been moved to the Family Meeting Room next to the Sanctuary.

Devotion Candles

Be Sure to Pick Yours Up

We hope you and your family has enjoyed the Let Your Light Shine

Let Us Know if 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 or phone number has changed, please call (507-263-3042) or email (firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com) the church with your current information. We will do the best we can to keep you informed of important notices.



DONATE TO THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Community members can donate to the CCIC Good Samaritan Fund through Cannon Falls Family Fare grocery receipts. When \$150,000 is counted in receipts, the Fund will receive \$1,000.

The collection box is in the church office.

Guidelines for the CCIC Good Samaritan Fund can be found on our website at

www.firstenglishchurch.com. The Good Samaritan Fund is a joint effort of area churches to support community members with emergency needs.

Donate to help your community members today!



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 a.m. to Noon
2nd Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to Noon
with the WIC Clinic hoping to resume in January
3rd Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
4th Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to Noon

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

Answers to Christmas

Carol Quiz

(from page 5):

1. Joy to the World
2. Silent Night
3. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
4. O Little Town of Bethlehem
5. Go Tell it on the Mountain
6. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
7. We Three Kings
8. Away in a Manger
9. 12 Days of Christmas
10. Carol of the Bells



Ways You Can Support AMMPARO

As we head into the Advent season, the AMMPARO ministry of the ELCA SE MN Synod continues to support those who seek lawful asylum at our southern border. The need for financial and logistical assistance is ongoing. Those who would choose to support this mission may do so in several ways. Financial donations may be made by check or online **giving. More information can be obtained by visiting the Synod's new** website at semnsynod.org and clicking on the Ministry Areas and Global Ministry links. You may also contact Brian McDonald at brmcdonald@frontier.com or (401) 378-4314.

CHURCH OFFICE: 507-263-3042
Office Hours: M-F; 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.
E-Mail: firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com
Website: www.firstenglishchurch.com

Pastor: Phil Ruud philruud4@gmail.com
Home: 507-263-5785 Cell: 507-298-0048

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Evangelism/Congregational Life
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December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 10:30 am Pastors Text Study 6:30-8 pm Connections/ Confirmation 7:30 pm Weds. Worship	2	3	4 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf
5 9 am Communion Worship 10 am St. Nicholas Event	6	7 Women of FELC 10 am Park St Apts Bible Study 10:15 am Meeting Us Where We Are Bible Study 7 pm	8 10:30 am Pastors Text Study 6:30-8 pm Connections/ Confirmation 7:30 pm Weds. Worship	9 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf 6:15 pm Exec. C. 7 pm Church Council	10	11
12 9 am Comm. Worship 10 am Rehearsal of Nativity Program Noon Peer Ministry Meeting at CannonBelles	13	14 Park St Apts Bible Study 10:15 am Meeting Us Where We Are Bible Study 7 pm	15 10:30 am Pastors Text Study 6:30-8 pm Connections/ Confirmation 7:30 pm Weds. Worship	16 4:30—6:30 pm CF Food Shelf	17	18
19 9 am Nativity Service 'What Child Is This?'	20	21 Park St Apts Bible Study 10:15 am Meeting Us Where We Are Bible Study 7 pm	22 10:30 am Pastors Text Study	23 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf	24 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf Worship 3 pm, 5 pm & 8 pm (FELC Office Closed)	25 Christmas
26 9 am Worship Service of Lessons and Carols	27	28	29 10:30 am Pastors Text Study	30	31 New Years Eve (FELC Office Closed)	1 New Year's Day

DECEMBER 2021

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