



THE FIRST EDITION

FEBRUARY 2024

THIS ISSUE:

UPDATE FROM PASTOR LUKE

Page 2

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Page 3

ADULT EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITIES

Page 4

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY
MINISTRY UPDATE

Page 5

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Page 6

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Page 7

CHURCH CALENDAR

Page 8

Lamenting in Lent

On Ash Wednesday, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance.

Marking our foreheads with ash, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. By marking the sign of the cross, we also remember or baptism and acknowledge the new life we are given in Christ. While we journey through Lent, we remember we are reconciled to God through Christ and humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.”

This Lenten season we will explore various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to

bear, we will find there is not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus’ death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

Each week during the Lenten Wednesday Service at 7 pm, Pastor Luke will lead us as we reflect on the following themes:

February 21

What Is Lament?

February 28

“Little” Laments

March 6

Laments from the Depths

March 13

Individual Lament

March 20

Communal Lament



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Lutheran Church**

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**Visit our Website
for Updates!**

www.firstenglishchurch.com



PASTOR LUKE

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This Month's Update

Well, I have officially been here over a year. And what is the first thing I do? I take off to Costa Rica to go birding with a couple of buddies. As you are reading this, hopefully I am watching a Resplendent Quetzal or a Fiery-billed Aracari or something equally stunning. I'm sure I will have lots of stories to share when I am back, so don't hesitate to ask (also, I will be presenting my trip at the Senior Center for "The Flock" on Wednesday, February 28 at 10am if you'd like to join).

January was a busy month preparing for annual meetings which led to reflecting on 2023 and dreaming for 2024 in all of the ministries I help lead. The thing that keeps striking me is one of our strategic initiatives: meaningful opportunities for service. There is so much need in the world, and I sense there is a desire to take action and help meet that need. Yet, it seems like we have a hard time getting ourselves motivated to commit to things. Why is that?

I certainly don't have the answers, but I do have a couple of wonderings. What kind of communities are most service-oriented? Communities that are engaged and have close relationships with one another, or ones that show up, say a few hellos, and leave? Communities that ask what is my church doing for me, or ones that ask what am I doing for my church? I am certainly not suggesting we are one or the other in any of these. I only wonder what kind of a community we wish to be and how can we better support one another?

My last little reflection, for now, is how do we model service? Are we inviting youth that show up on Sundays to usher with us? Are we smiling and engaging with people as we serve? Are we making an effort to get to know one another? I have had some excellent conversations with some of you about how we model service. I have witnessed some of you model service beautifully. And each time we are intentional about serving God and others, especially in a positive way, we bring God's kingdom just a little closer.

Thank you for the ways you serve (noticed and unnoticed)!

Pastor Luke

FELC Committee Updates

Thank you to the many members that serve on our committees! Without you, we would not be able to do ministry the same way.

Before Pastor Luke was hired, First English identified four strategic initiatives. Two of them were to “broaden leadership” and to have more “meaningful opportunities for service.” There is great opportunity at First English to serve and have meaningful impact on our committees. Perhaps you would be interested in joining one of our existing committees: Memorial, Worship & Music, Social, Property & Building, Women of First English, Altar Guild, and Prayer Chain. Or, if you think there is something First English should be doing, like Stewardship, Small Groups, or Outreach, maybe you want to consider starting a new committee.

Upcoming Meetings:

Memorial Committee Meeting – February 13 at 1pm

Worship & Music Committee Meeting – February 18 following worship

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.

Love Knitting, Crocheting or Sewing?

Our church needs more baby blankets to gift to our young families upon their baby’s baptism! The blankets can be knitted (we have patterns!), crocheted, made from fleece material or quilted. The finished size for the blanket should be approximately 28” X 32”.

Help us welcome each child to our church!

Questions? Contact the church office.



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 our office for more information. For baptism requests, please fill out the Baptism Request form found on our website at www.firstenglishchurch.com.



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.

FELC OFFICE HOURS

Regular church office hours are

Monday-Friday,

9 am-Noon, 1-3:30 pm

Closed on February 19
for the holiday.



ELLA JO MILLER was baptized on Sunday, January 7, 2024. She was born on October 12, 2023 to **Chloe** and **Thomas Miller** in Red Wing, MN. Her sponsor's are **Cody Miller, Samantha Biglow, and Morgan Notch.**

CLARA LOUISE PEARSON was baptized on Sunday, January 21, 2024. She was born on November 14, 2023 to **Katie** and **Bjorn Pearson** in Fairfax, VA. Her sponsor's are **Kaitlin Sikkink Brown, Austin Noble, and Cora Martinetto.**

ELI WILLIAM HEATHER was baptized on Sunday, January 28, 2024. He was born on October 16, 2023 to **Alana** and **Evan Heather** in Rochester, MN. His sponsor's are **Alyssa** and **Mike Ohmann.**

TOM COLTON OHMANN was baptized on Sunday, January 28, 2024. He was born on November 21, 2023 to **Alyssa** and **Mike Ohmann** in Minneapolis, MN. His sponsor's are **Evan Heather** and **Emily Edlund.**

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.

Adult Education Opportunities

It was nice to take some sabbath in the month of January from adult education opportunities so I could focus on other ministries. And as we enter into a new year, I will try to keep some of the momentum from 2023 going and make an effort to pilot some new options as well. I have heard from some of you that it would be nice to bring back adult forums. In order for this to be successful, we will need some people to step up and help organize it. This could look like bringing in guest speakers from places like Habitat for Humanity, the Food Shelf, the Tree House and more. It could even look like having members of our congregation share about something that is important to them (even better if it relates to our faith). Please let me know if you have ideas.

Nature & Spirituality – I continue to enjoy leading this class. Some of you have expressed interest, but due to schedules haven't been able to make it. Because of this, I am going to offer two classes on Wednesday, February 21. One at 10am and another at 5:30pm prior to Lenten Midweek Worship Service. All are welcome as we consider how our experiences with nature and spirituality intersect.

Women's Bible Study – We will continue to utilize the Bible study resources from the Gather Magazine. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13 at 10am.

Brewed Theology – As many of you know, Tilion Brewing is no longer open on Wednesday nights this winter. Thus, we are going to try hosting it on Thursday, February 15 from 5:30-6:30pm at Tilion. Out of respect for trivia night, we are going to meet in the back corner and try and keep it to an hour. If you are interested in sticking around for trivia after, you'd be welcome to join me. The topic will be Artificial Intelligence. As ChatGPT becomes widely recognized, and recent employment statistics indicate that AI is taking more and more jobs, this topic has become increasingly relevant. We will be engaging with this topic through the lens of technology (and even AI) as part of the church.

Pastor Luke

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.

Food Shelf Hours

- 1st Saturday (February 3)
10 am to Noon
- 2nd Thursday (February 8)
10 am to Noon
- 3rd Thursday (February 15)
4:30 to 6:30 pm
- 4th Thursday (February 22)

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



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Maddie Patterson
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
maddiefirstenglish@gmail.com
507-384-8317

Trying New Things in January

As you may have noticed, January has been different this year! There have been a few experimental things going on. This began with the fundraising and preparation the oldest youth have been doing as they get ready for the ELCA youth gathering. Beginning with the bake sale, they have started to work their way to New Orleans. But that wasn't all, you will see (or more accurately taste) their next contribution towards NOLA on February 11th at the Fat Sunday Chili Cook off. For those of you brave enough, you too can enter a chili and take a chance at winning the golden spoon. If you're feeling like eating is more your speed, join us after worship to taste test the chili and vote on your favorite. In order to raise funds for the youth trip, we will vote by placing money in baskets by your favorite chili. So come hungry on February 11th. January also saw confirmation classes taking place on Sunday mornings. This will go back to the normal schedule of mentor Sundays and Wednesday evenings beginning in February. Thanks for coming along on the journey.

Peace,
Maddie Patterson
Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries



Join Us on Fat Sunday, February 11 For a Chili Cook Off Fundraiser!

Everyone is invited to a Chili Cook Off and Fat Sunday celebration on Sunday, February 11, after worship.

Want to win the Golden Spoon?

Sign up with a crock pot of your favorite chili recipe! The winner will be determined by who raises the most funds through your dollar votes.

Enjoy a feast and activities!

Come and taste the various types of chili, chat with your congregation friends and join in various activities.

Support our youth.

FELC Youth is hosting this Chili Cook Off as a fundraiser so they can join kids from all across the country at New Orleans from July 16-20 for the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

National Youth Gathering Trip

High school youth from all across the country will be gathering at New Orleans from July 16-20. The goal of the Gathering is to create environments and opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service and fellowship. While some of the experiences may be replicated at home, some are unique and special to the Gathering because of the size and scope of this ministry. For more information, go to www.elca.church/gathering/about/mission-goals.



CCIC Update

The Community Churches Interaction Council met on January 22. We are finally in good standing with the government having filed all of the appropriate non-profit status paperwork. Additionally, the churches have come together with a renewed commitment to have a positive, gospel-centered impact on our community.

The support for Feed My Starving Children and the Good Samaritan Fund continues to be strong, and there are many additional ministries we can come together to support. The Goodhue Habitat for Humanity is in need of volunteers. They are looking for local people with all sorts of skills: carpentry, plumbing, electric, and even quilting and cooking, to name a few. Ideally, Cannon Falls would have a team of capable volunteers ready to jump in whenever there are housing needs through the Habitat for Humanity program. Additionally, the Senior Center continues to grow its programming and involvement. There are many programs we can support there including fabric donations for the Dress a Girl program. Lastly, the CCIC has agreed to better support and eventually take the lead on the Thanksgiving Community Meal again (look for more information in the fall).

When we come together, just as Jesus called us, the possibilities are endless. The CCIC is currently accepting Dream Ideas as we imagine what we can achieve for the greater good of the Cannon Falls Area. I hope you will consider getting involved in at least one of these meaningful service opportunities.

Pastor Luke

Lenten SOUP Suppers Are Back!

Lenten Soup Suppers are back starting Wednesday, February 21! The suppers will be served at 6 pm with Lenten Worship to follow at 7 pm.

Helpers are needed to cook and serve soup for the suppers for each of the five Wednesdays during Lent. Sign up in the Narthex if you can bring soup or call the church office. To get you started, below are some "souper" recipes from FELC's *Bread for the Journey* cookbook, published in 2000.

Lenten Soup Supper Recipes

God's Souper Squad

(These recipes have been served at First English Lenten Soup Supper for many years.)

Potato Soup

6 potatoes, peeled & cut	1 T. parsley flakes
2 leeks, washed & cut	5 c. water
2 onions, chopped	1 T. salt
1 carrot, pared & sliced	Pepper
1 stalk celery, sliced	1/3 c. butter
4 chicken bouillon cubes	1 (13 oz.) can evaporated milk

Put all ingredients, except evaporated milk, in a crock-pot. Cover and cook on low for 10 to 12 hours. Stir in evaporated milk during the last hour.

Note: If using a 2-quart crock-pot, reduce this recipe by half.

Cheese-Vegetable Soup

4 chicken bouillon cubes	1 (20 oz.) pkg. mixed, fancy frozen vegetables (broccoli, carrots, cauliflower)
1 c. chopped onion	2 cans cream of chicken soup
1 c. chopped celery	1 lb. Velveeta cheese
1 c. chopped carrots	
1/2 c. diced, raw potatoes	

Dissolve bouillon cubes in 1 quart of water. Add onion, celery, carrots and potatoes; cook 10 to 15 minutes. Add frozen vegetables; cook 5 to 6 minutes. Add soup and cheese; heat thoroughly.

Wild Rice Soup

1/3 to 1/2 c. uncooked wild rice	1/2 c. (or less) flour
4 c. chicken stock/broth	1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 c. diced celery	1/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 c. green pepper	1/4 tsp. curry powder (opt.)
1/4 c. onions	1 c. turkey, chicken or other meat
1/4 c. mushrooms	Other spices
1 to 2 carrots	Slivered almonds (opt.)

Sauté celery, green pepper, onions, mushrooms and carrots in 1/3 cup margarine or butter (with garlic), until tender. Put all in crock-pot for a day. Just before serving, add 3/4 to 1 cup half & half; stir in well. (Do not add earlier, to prevent curdling.)



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The First English Lutheran Church Council met on January 11, 2024.

The following are the highlights of the meeting:

- Approved December 14, 2023 council minutes.
 - Heard Pastor’s Report.
 - Approved Treasurer’s Report.
- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 11/30 Gen Fund Balance/Checking Acct | \$ 13,971.18 |
| Gen Fund Income | + 17,045.75 |
| Gen Fund Expenses | - 23,606.95 |
| 12/31 General Fund Balance/Checking Acct | \$ 7,409.98 |
| 12/31 Fund Balances/Gifts | |
| Rooted in Faith Fund | \$ 38,479.35 |
| Building Expense Fund | \$ - 882.99 |
| Youth Account | \$ 22,747.86 |
| Benevolence/LSS Gifts (Dec.) | \$ 2,921.00 |
| Designated Gifts (Dec.) | \$ 16,473.06 |
- New chairs for the fellowship hall arrived.
 - Approved to recommend the proposed 2024 budget for congregational approval at the January 28 annual meeting.
 - Discussed the January 28 presentation.
 - Heard an update from the Nominating Committee.
 - Discussed the Earned Sick and Safe Time Employee Notice.
 - The Audit Committee plans to meet on a Saturday at the end of January.
 - Reviewed Committee Reports.

Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting is **Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 7 pm.**

Like Us on Facebook!



First English Lutheran Church-Cannon Falls

298 likes · 321 followers

MEMORIALS & GIFTS
JANUARY 2024
In Memory of Jan West
 Stephen West



Taken Care of Business Tree Business, that is

Several diseased ash trees were taken down around the church property at the end of December. This creates a new landscape for our Belle Street entrance. Thank you to Rahn Save Tree Service for their work!



FEBRUARY 2024

FEB 3, SAT

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

FEB 4, SUN

9 am Communion Worship
Sunday School During Worship
10 am Mentor Sunday and Breakfast

FEB 7, WED

10 am Staff Meeting

FEB 8, THU

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf
7 pm Church Council Meeting

FEB 11, SUN

9 am Worship & Shaker Hymn Sunday
Sunday School During Worship
10 am Fat Sunday Chili Cook-Off

FEB 13, TUE

10 am Women of FELC Meeting

FEB 14, WED Ash Wednesday

10 am Staff Meeting
2 pm Ash Wednesday Service
7 pm Ash Wednesday 2nd Service

FEB 15, THU

4:30 – 6:30 pm CF Food Shelf

FEB 18, SUN

9 am Communion Worship
No Sunday School

FEB 19, MON President's Day

Church Office Closed

FEB 21, WED

10 am Nature and Spirituality w Pr. Luke
1 pm Staff Meeting
6 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Lenten Service

FEB 22, THU

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

FEB 25, SUN

9 am Worship
Sunday School During Worship

FEB 28, WED

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



First English Lutheran Church

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Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Worship Services

2 pm and 7 pm

Wednesday Lenten Services

Soup Supper 6 pm

Worship 7 pm

Lament Series

February 21 - *What Is Lament?*

February 28 - *"Little" Laments*

March 6 - *Laments from the Depths*

March 13 - *Individual Lament*

March 20 - *Communal Lament*

