



THE FIRST EDITION

MARCH 2024

THIS ISSUE:

UPDATES FROM PASTOR LUKE
Page 2

MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA
Page 3

CHILI COOK OFF
Page 4

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY
MINISTRY UPDATE
Page 5

ADULT EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITIES
Page 6

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS
Page 7

CHURCH CALENDAR
Page 8

Holy Week Worship



Palm Sunday

March 24 at 9 am

Maundy Thursday

March 28 at 2 pm and 7 pm

Good Friday

March 29 at 7 pm

Easter Sunday

March 31 at 8 am and 10:30 am

Join Us for Easter Breakfast!

All are welcome for an Easter breakfast between our Easter services on Sunday, March 31, as well as an egg hunt for the Sunday Schoolers.

For breakfast, there will be egg bakes, fruit, and other treats. There will also be gluten-free and vegetarian options. At about 9:45 am, Sunday Schoolers will head downstairs to hunt for eggs, before the second Easter worship service starts at 10:30 am.



**First English
Lutheran Church**

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

CHURCH OFFICE

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Julie Gergen	Scott Johnson
Jim Nelson	Bill Peterson
Robin Stewart	Amanda Thompson
Carna Visagie	

FOUNDATION BOARD

Barb Elias	Denise Holz
Tiffany Kiffmeyer	Elvena Schmutge
Emily Spicer	Kathy Swanson

**Visit our Website
for Updates!**

www.firstenglishchurch.com



PASTOR LUKE

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Service Updates for March

New Member Sunday – March 17

First English is glad to welcome new members! On Sunday, March 17, we will be formally welcoming a number of new individuals and families to our congregation. There will be a brief welcome during the 9 am worship service and a reception with treats and coffee following the service. For those that have expressed interest in joining, Pastor Luke should have reached out to you (or will soon) with more details. If you would like to join, or even if you aren't sure if you are technically a member, please reach out to Pastor Luke or the church office.

Midweek Lenten Services – Wednesdays at 7pm

We continue our journey through Lent by focusing on lamentation during our midweek Lenten services. These services will follow the beloved Holden Evening Prayer liturgy and will be accompanied by a short reading and homily from Pastor Luke on these themes:

- March 6, Laments from the Depths;
- March 13, Individual Lament;
- March 20, Communal Lament.

Soup suppers will be served prior to these services from 6-7pm. All are welcome!



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)

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

Prayer Chain Update

Many thanks to Marcine Lundell for her years of service as the Prayer Chain coordinator! Marcine has moved to Lake City (where she will continue to pray alongside us). Please send her notes of gratitude as you are able.



Deb Stark has graciously volunteered to be our new Prayer Chain coordinator! Thank you, Deb. If you have prayer requests for the church or prayer team, please reach out to her. Deb and Pastor Luke will be working together to empower the prayer ministry at First English to help our community grow in this spiritual practice.



First English Plans “Mission” Trip to Guatemala

How would you like to visit one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, learn from a centuries-old culture and encounter the presence of God in a

new and compelling way? First English is planning a trip to visit the Mission in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala, October 22-29. Cost is \$500 + airfare (typically \$700-900).

The Mission was founded in 1963 in order to address the debilitating effects of poverty among the indigenous Maya people. Current Mission programs include construction, a healthcare system, a pre-k – grade six school, a coffee exporting business, a Women’s Center, Charity program and a Visitor Program that welcomes over 1,000 people a year to learn about local culture and witness the impact of the Mission’s program. The Mission and its programs are run by 120 Guatemalans and the programming is supported by the fundraising efforts of Friends of San Lucas, a Minnesota-based non-profit.

The trip will be led by Pastor Luke and First English member, Bill Peterson. Bill is the recently retired Executive Director of Friends of San Lucas and has made almost 50 trips to Guatemala. The trip is open to people age 18 and up, younger if accompanied by a parent. You should be able to climb stairs and navigate unpaved paths.

We hope this will be the beginning of a partnership between First English and Friends of San Lucas that might lead to future opportunities.

On Sunday, April 14, there will be an informational meeting and PowerPoint about the Mission after the service.



EASTER IS MARCH 31

CCIC Update

The Community Churches Interaction Council did not meet in February. We will host our annual meeting in March where we will vote on some bylaw changes and beginning imagining how this group might better support ministries in Cannon Falls. If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry or have questions about it, please reach out to Pastor Luke.



Help on Sundays!

Help is needed in multiple areas during our services. Consider assisting as an usher, lay reader, communion assistant, or with fellowship afterwards. If you can assist in any of these areas, sign up at the welcome desk on the date you are available.

Questions? Contact the church office at 507-263-3042 or email firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration!

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.

Baptism

CELEBRATION

CALVIN JAY SWANSON was baptized on Sunday, February 11, 2024. He was born on November 3, 2023 to **Amanda** and **Brian Swanson** in Red Wing, MN. His sponsor's are **Chris** and **Kate Nobach** and **Megan Carlson**.

HADLEY JO GREMS was baptized on Sunday, February 25, 2024. She was born on October 27, 2023 to **Carly** and **Trevor Grems** in Red Wing, MN. Her sponsor's are **Adam Wick**, **Andrea Dahle**, and **Becca Schmalenberg**.

COLT JAMES KRUEGER was baptized on Sunday, February 25, 2024. He was born on October 17, 2023 to **Allison** and **Noah Kroeger** in Rochester, MN. His sponsor's are **Andrew Egge** and **Rebecca Marshall**.

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.



Thank You for a Great Chili Cook Off Fundraiser on February 11!

Thank you to all who planned, cooked and tasted at our Chili Cook Off fundraiser on Sunday, February 11.

Participants tasted the various types of chili, and decided with your dollar votes that Tiffany Kiffmeyer had the best chili of the day.

FELC Youth hosted this Chili Cook Off to raise funds so they can join kids from all across the country in New Orleans from July 16-20 for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Over \$600 was raised!





CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Maddie Patterson
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
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Changes Around This Lenten Season

Lent has always felt different to me, heavy. The rhythm of the church year changes as we take time to bring our weariness to God. This means our routines change too. The First English youth have some different activities during these 40 days.

One of these changes revolves around confirmation. Students now join the larger congregation for soup suppers, and have a short lesson afterwards. Throughout Lent we are walking through “why we do what we do in Church”. This series helps kids understand the meaning behind the words we say and actions we perform in Church, and how God works through them to join us. After the confirmation lesson, we have weekly worship, where we recognize our laments before God (please note worship ends at 7:30 pm).

This isn't the only difference that occurs during Lent however. We also have upcoming 1st Communion classes for the fifth graders. Classes this year have been moved forward, and will be hosted after worship on March 10th and 17th, with an optional bread making class, March 24th. The fifth graders will then continue the FELC tradition of having First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Due to spring break, if this does not work for your family, there will be an additional First Communion service on Sunday, April 14th.

Finally, Lent will be brought to a close with Holy Week. While the cross and grave feel a long ways off as we begin Lent, they are coming. We look forward to Jesus' defeat of death and begin to plan those celebrations.

Peace,
Maddie Patterson
CYF Director

CY&F Updates

Sunday School

- The Sunday School has gotten back into a regular routine, with age specific programming for the kids. They hear the Bible story for the day and play a game, do a craft, or do a lesson based on the reading that day.
- Sunday Schoolers also continue to participate in worship through singing for the congregation and shaker hymns.

Confirmation

- Confirmation classes on Sunday morning has concluded. We tried this schedule to see what worked best for families and invited kids to participate in Sunday worship in a different way. Now we will return to our regular confirmation schedule for the rest of the year.
- During Lent, students will join in for soup suppers and have an abbreviated lesson before worship which ends at 7:30 pm.
- Mentor Sundays continue to be a successful addition, giving students a chance to connect with other members.

Milestones/Spotlights

- 3rd Graders and their families will be highlighted in worship spotlights as readers, greeters, and ushers.

ELCA Youth Gathering

- FELC has seven youth registered for the ELCA Youth gathering this year! Registration has now closed.
- We continue to work on fundraising for this trip. The Fat Sunday Chili Cook Off supported this goal.



Shaker Hymn Sundays are so much fun!

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.

May you feel
the warmth of
Jesus's love for
you this Easter.

About the Good Samaritan Fund

The Good Samaritan Fund is a joint effort of area churches (through the CCIC) to support community members with emergency needs. Donate to help your community members today! Any community members can donate to the CCIC Good Samaritan Fund directly.

The Good Samaritan Fund is available to assist Cannon Falls community members with funds for emergencies. Each household may use 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.

All other inquiries for monies should be done through the Public Safety Building - 918 River Rd., Cannon Falls.

Adult Education Opportunities

Nature & Spirituality – Wednesday, March 6, 10 am, First English
Last month, those that attended either of the Nature & Spirituality classes examined what “spirituality” means and how the natural world can help us find meaning outside of ourselves. People, especially youth, tend to identify as spiritual and not religious more and more. And so there may be great benefit in finding language around spirituality, encountering nature in a way that promotes spirituality, and practicing telling stories about how nature and spirituality intersect for us. If you are interested in exploring this more, join us on Wednesday, March 6, at 10am to continue the conversation.

Brewed Theology – Thursday, March 14, 5:30 pm, Tilion Brewing
This month’s Brewed Theology is on theme with our midweek Lenten services around lamentation: “Good Grief.”

Grief can be heavy, painful, hard and exhausting. Can it ever be good? According to Dr. Tina Campbell, “linguists suggest that ‘good grief’ is a euphemism for ‘Good God.’ We believe in a good God who gives us the gift of grief and mourning as a process to heal and achieve a new sense of wholeness.” As a natural response to losses of all kinds, grief is an inescapable part of being human. How could a deeper understanding of what grief is make it easier to endure, or to help someone else who is enduring it? What does our faith tell us about grief?

At this Brewed Theology we will be reflecting on our own experiences of grief and considering how mourning well can help us to live well. Please join us at Tilion Brewing in the back on Thursday, March 14, at 5:30 pm if you are interested in this conversation.

Women’s Bible Study – Tuesday, March 12, 10 am, First English
Please join us as we continue to utilize the Bible study resources from the Gather Magazine. All women are welcome to join! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12 at 10 am.



STARTS SUNDAY, MARCH 10 TIME TO SPRING FORWARD!



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The First English Lutheran Church Council met on February 8, 2024.

The following are the highlights of the meeting:

- Approved January 11, 2024 council minutes.
 - Heard Pastor's Report.
 - Approved Treasurer's Report.
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| January 2024 Income/Expense Report | | |
| Total Income | + 29,218.53 | |
| Total Expenses | - 36,198.73 | |
| January 2024 Balance Sheet Report | | |
| | 1/1/24 | 1/31/24 |
| Checking Accounts | \$ 54,640.74 | \$ 45,405.76 |
| Rooted in Faith Account | \$ 36,359.69 | \$ 38,266.41 |
| Designated Gifts Account | \$ 75,184.78 | \$ 77,978.66 |
- Reviewed the January annual meeting.
 - Held the annual election of officers-renewed Phil Jacobson as President, Dean Kautz as Vice President, Diane Johnson as Secretary.
 - Approved Luke Hollander, Phyllis Althoff, Kathy Ehlers and Phil Jacobson as authorized signatories on financial accounts.
 - Approved merging certain bank accounts together.
 - Discussed issues with the streaming of worship and purchasing a projector.
 - Discussed building usage and would like to encourage non-profit groups to use our facilities.
 - Reviewed Committee Reports.

Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting is **Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7 pm.**

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

FEBRUARY 2024

In Memory of Jan West

Stephen West

In Memory of George Rehm

Lynn and Doug Larson
 Roland and Dort Spillman
 Jim and Babe Nelson
 Elizabeth Fawcett
 LaNor and Brian McDonald
 Karen Coakley
 Charles Priebe
 Steve and Sue Josephson
 Gary and Jean Malzer
 Gyles and Carol Randall
 Dick and Jeanette Sutherland
 Richard and Jane Peterson
 Cathy Rehm
 Frank and Peggy Pichelman
 Glen and Chris Pofahl
 Diane Johnson
 Betty Nelson

In Memory of Delores Rechtzigel

Steve and Deb Gesme

In Memory of Allen (Cy) Chytracek

James and Carolyn Nelson
Elvena Schmugge

In Memory of Loraine Moorhouse

Roland and Dort Spillman
 Bev Stedman
 Jim and Lynette Pagel
 Jim and Jan Edlund
 Theresa Wilson
 Martha McCuster
 Glen and Chris Pofahl
 Sarah and Don Novotny
 Diane Johnson
 Betty Nelson

In Memory of Nancy Kreutzian

Betty Nelson

In Memory of Maxine Roush

Diane Johnson

Cannon Falls

Food Shelf Hours

- 1st Saturday (March 3)
10 am to Noon
- 2nd Thursday (March 7)
10 am to Noon
- 3rd Thursday (March 14)
4:30 to 6:30 pm
- 4th Thursday (March 21)
10 am to Noon

Email

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

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FELC OFFICE HOURS

Regular church office hours are

Monday-Friday,

9 am-Noon, 1-3:30 pm

Closed on April 1

MARCH 2024

MAR 2, SAT

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

MAR 3, SUN

9 am Communion Worship
Sunday School During Worship

MAR 6, WED

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

MAR 10, SUN Daylight Saving Begins

9 am Worship & Shaker Hymn Sunday
Sunday School During Worship
4th Gr Student Milestone

MAR 12, TUE

10 am Women of FELC Meeting

MAR 13, WED

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

MAR 14, THU

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

MAR 17, SUN

9 am Communion Worship,
New Member Sunday
Sunday School During Worship

MAR 19, TUES

10 am CCIC Annual Meeting

MAR 20, WED

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

MAR 21, THU

4:30 – 6:30 pm CF Food Shelf

MAR 24, SUN Palm Sunday

9 am Worship
No Sunday School

MAR 26, TUES

10 am Park Street Apts Bible Study

MAR 27, WED

1 pm Staff Meeting

MAR 28, THU Maundy Thursday

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf
2 pm Worship Service
7 pm Worship Service

MAR 29, FRI Good Friday

7 pm Worship Service

MAR 30, SAT

8 am Altar Guild Easter Decorating

MAR 31, SUN Easter

8 am Worship Service
Easter Breakfast between Services
10:30 am Worship Service



First English Lutheran Church

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Getting to Know You!

Have you noticed all the new faces to First English in the past year? Or are you one of those new faces? Let's share a meal and get to know each other!

Prior to the COVID pandemic, a special dinner group was organized. Interested persons, either as individuals or as a couple, were placed in groups of six to eight people; each took turns either hosting or going out for a meal. If you choose to host, everyone in the group could bring a dish to pass. Keep the planning simple! Each dinner group can meet three to four times each year. The main purpose is to get to know each other beyond the simple "hi there" Sunday mornings.

If you are interested in our revived dinner group, please contact Sue Josephson at 507-301-5465 or 507-263-2607. Then in 2025, persons will be reshuffled into the new groups, with hopefully more people added. We all have stories to tell, so this is an opportunity to share and get to know the people in our community!