



APRIL 2024

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Be a Resurrection People

Do you ever think about just how audacious the claim of resurrection is? From the outside looking in, it might even look naïve to people who are not part of a Christian community. Especially when there is so much public criticism of the church these days. And maybe you even have your own doubts. First off, I hear you and I see you. If nothing else, I hope I have made it clear that it is faithful to question and wonder.

AND it is important to remember resurrection is not just a story we've been told. It's something we experience here and now.


Yes, here and now we experience new life and creation all around us. Not all of us in the same way, or at the same time, but each of us uniquely. When we look back on our lives – we have undoubtedly experienced new life emerging even in the midst of death and grief.

In this Easter season, be on the lookout for new life. Look for the ways God is nudging you to see the world and God's people with grace and compassion. Look for how challenges and even death transform you. Look for blessings in disguise. Look for new life, for we are a resurrection people!

Pastor Luke



**First English
Lutheran
Church-Cannon
Falls**

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New Member Sunday Held March 17

Thank you to everyone who joined us to welcome our new members on Sunday, March 17. If you would like to join, please reach out to Pastor Luke or the church office.

511 W Belle St Cannon Falls MN 55009
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**First English
Lutheran Church**

CHURCH OFFICE

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Phyllis Althoff	Brenda Deutsch
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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Note from the Pastor

The last couple of months have been quite fulfilling for me. The variety of meaningful ministries have me feeling more connected to you all and this community: baptisms, funerals, Bible studies, worship experiences, CCIC work, personal conversations, presentations at "The Flock", basketball games, Brewed Theology, pre-marital counseling, committee meetings, National Youth Gathering meetings, ecumenical and clergy meetings, and more. I am thankful for you all and this church, and I am eager to continue following the Spirit's guidance toward making First English an even more welcoming and vibrant congregation than it already is. Keep showing up, friends. For when we gather, God promises to be present and at work in us.



MILO JOHN ALTERMATT was baptized on Sunday, March 3, 2024. He was born on September 4, 2023 to **Katie** and **Eric Altermatt** in St. Paul, MN. His sponsor's are **Jake** and **Jessica Chapek**.

BLAKELY LURENE NERUD was baptized on Sunday, March 24, 2024. She was born on May 19, 2023 to **Krissy** and **Jacob Nerud** in Rochester, MN. Her sponsor's are **Mark** and **Mikayla McCoy** and **Megan Nerud**.

Upcoming Opportunities

Women's Bible Study – Tuesday, April 9 at 10am.

Nature & Spirituality – Wednesday, April 17 at 10am

Birding Presentation—Sunday, April 7 – Following worship, Pastor Luke will present on his birding trip to Costa Rica. If you are interested, grab some treats and coffee and meet in the Family Room.

Clean Up Day & 124th Anniversary—Tuesday, May 7. Watch for more information.

Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting is **Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7 pm.**

Council Retreat April 13

The First English council will meet on Saturday, April 13, for a retreat. Our primary objective will be to establish how we as a governing body can best support FELC as a vibrant congregation where people are engaged. This time will help us feel more connected as a council, and dream together about who we are as a congregation. After this retreat, I hope we will have a clearer vision of how our structures and priorities can best serve this congregation and community.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Maddie Patterson
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
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Celebrating Easter

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia! The praise of Christ our Lord returns and Lent has seen its last days of the year.

Easter, as always, was a big celebration at First English. The young and old gathered together to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead and hear that Christ is risen. After worship, we gathered together to feast on egg bakes put together by the hard work of the confirmands. Meanwhile, Sunday Schoolers searched high and low to find the hidden eggs and claim their prizes.

Easter has not been the only event we have been planning for though!

Ditch Clean Up. We are still considering weather and working to set a date for our ditch clean-up, but it will take place on one Saturday in April. Keep watching for more information and let me know if you would like to be involved.

Youth Group is starting up this year on Wednesdays at 6:30pm! This is a space for confirmed youth to come hang out at church and ask questions. If you are interested in getting more information about youth group or serving as an adult volunteer, talk to Maddie!

Finally, **Confirmation classes.** We are back to normal and the regular routines which resume on Sunday morning after Easter. Ninth graders will be in the spotlight as they help lead worship on April 7th. And we will have the 2nd grade milestone April 7th, where kids can learn what God's kingdom is as we plant flowers.

Peace,
Maddie Patterson

CCIC March Update

The full Community of Churches Interaction Council met on Tuesday, March 19, for our annual meeting. It now feels like this non-profit is reestablished and ready for action. We spent the better part of our meeting listening to and discussing "dream ideas": ways CCIC can serve the community as an ecumenical body. Many of the asks were to help support and promote existing ministries and activities – e.g. Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Senior Center Trail Ride, an End of Life/Estate Planning seminar co-led with Thrivent and Lundberg Funeral Home, and the Cannon Falls Breakfast Club. Additionally, we hope to get a website up and running this summer. Lastly, we have some bigger dream ideas we investigating like creating a Cannon Falls Habitat For Humanity "Fix-it" Team, a Cannon Falls Life Skills Resource Center, and supporting Cannon Falls affordable housing to name a few. If you have a "dream idea" you would like to present to CCIC, I would be happy to give you a form and discuss it with you.

Pastor Luke

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

MARCH 2024

In Memory of Jan West

Stephen West

In Memory of George Rehm

Marge Barnett
Cathy Rehm
Steve and Deb Gesme
Dar Qualle
Gary and Chris Engstrom
Elvena Schmutge
Kay Sabin
Scott Johnson
Marlys Weber

In Memory of Loraine Moorhouse

Kay Sabin
Jim and Babe Nelson
Karen Coakley
Deb and Lonnie Stark
Dick and Jeanette Sutherland
Marge Barnett
Phil and Terry Ruud
LaNor and Brian McDonald
Kevin and Connie Eggum
Doug and Lynn Larson
Dar Qualle
Christine and Blake Otte
Steve and Deb Gesme
Elvena Schmutge
Debra and Stanley Kjarland
Gail Moorhouse
Marlys Weber
Lyle and Phyllis Wilson

In Memory of Nancy Kreutzian

Kay Sabin
Sandra Erickson

In Memory of Ed Lorentz

Dick and Jane Peterson

In Memory of Eleanor Holt

Marlys Weber

FELC OFFICE HOURS

Regular church office hours are

Monday-Friday,

9 am-Noon, 1-3:30 pm

Closed on April 1

APRIL 2024

APR 1, MON

FELC Office Closed

APR 3, WED

No Confirmation Classes or Wednesday Worship

APR 6, SAT

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

APR 7, SUN

9 am Communion Worship & Shaker

Hymn Sunday

Sunday School During Worship

10 am Birding in Costa Rica w Pr. Luke

APR 9, TUE

10 am Women of FELC Meeting

APR 10, WED

1 pm Staff Meeting

6 pm Confirmation Classes

7:30 pm Wednesday Worship Service

APR 11, THU

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

7 pm Church Council Meeting

APR 13, SAT

9 am Church Council Retreat

APR 14, SUN

9 am Communion Worship & Shaker

Hymn Sunday

Sunday School During Worship

10 am Guatemala Mission Trip Meeting

APR 17, WED

10 am Nature & Spirituality

1 pm Staff Meeting

6 pm Confirmation Classes

7:30 pm Wednesday Worship Service

APR 18, THU

4:30 – 6:30 pm CF Food Shelf

APR 21, SUN

9 am Communion Worship

Sunday School During Worship

APR 24, WED

1 pm Staff Meeting

6 pm Confirmation Classes

7:30 pm Wednesday Worship Service

APR 25, THU

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

APR 28, SUN

9 am Worship

Sunday School During Worship



First English Lutheran Church

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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).

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

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 Mission’s impact. 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 Bill Peterson, a First English member and recently retired Executive Director of Friends of San Lucas. 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.