

THE FIRST EDITION

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

AUGUST 2022

Fool Me Once...

“Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.”

Twenty-four years ago, when I was a brand-new pastor, I made an extremely foolish “rookie” pastor mistake.

It all started in a committee discussion about the worship time for the upcoming Christmas Eve service at the church I was serving. A long-time congregation member—I’ll call her ‘Brenda’—was strongly advocating that we should have our service at midnight, as apparently had been the custom decades earlier (long before I got there). Personally, I didn’t think starting so late was a good idea. Others at the table seemed equally unconvinced.

But then Brenda played a ‘card’ I should have seen coming: Brenda announced, “I’ve talked to a number of people who would really like to see us return to a midnight Christmas Eve service.” I panicked. If midnight was what a ‘number of people’ truly desired, who was I to refuse what they wanted?

Other committee members at this meeting did manage to push the starting time up one hour to 11 p.m., but that, as they say, was that. We scheduled our Christmas Eve service for 1998 to take place extremely late in the evening—again, in an attempt to satisfy the desires of a ‘number of people’.

What I didn’t know—and only learned after the fact—was that the ‘number of people’ who desired a midnight Christmas Eve service was TWO!! Yes, Brenda had talked to a ‘number of people’ (ONE—her husband ‘Bob’!), and they together thought midnight services were awesome!

Thus, Brenda and Bob completely hijacked the Christmas Eve service of 1998! For weeks afterward, I had numerous other church members complain to me about the late start time. It was a colossal mistake on my part. If I had bothered to get more input from others before making a final decision, I would have quickly realized that a late Christmas Eve service was most definitely NOT what the great majority of people wanted.

So, here’s why I tell the story above: When a church is looking for a new pastor, one of the things it needs to guard against is having a small group of individuals skew the process. Which is why the survey process we undertook in July is so crucially important: The survey results will enable our leaders to hear many voices and opinions so that the needs and desires of as many members as possible are taken into consideration when calling First English’s next pastor.

I’m smarter today than I was 24 years ago. Now that I serve in an interim capacity, I am extra-vigilant about making sure that my current congregation considers the input of a wide-range of its parishioners. Because, when many voices are heard, the likelihood that a better call decision is made goes up dramatically. And I want First English to make a better call to a pastor who will serve everyone effectively—not just Brenda and Bob.

Pastor Mike



It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

"It takes a village to raise a child" is a popular proverb with a clear message: the whole community has an essential role to play in the growth and development of its young people. Juggling parental responsibilities while maintaining a career is not an easy thing to do. Not to mention the stress and hardships many children today are already facing — from extensive social media use to disconnectedness and isolation, to other difficulties at home or school. And this was pre-pandemic. While the phrase “it takes a village” is being used at an all time high, a sense of communal society and shared values amongst raising our children may be at an all time low.



According to Wikipedia, this proverb has that belief that an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. The key words are a safe and healthy environment. How can we, as members of First English Lutheran Church, provide our community of children a safe and healthy environment for which they can learn about God’s love? All of us are called, in one way or another, to help our children learn about the values, responsibilities and life lessons of our FELC ‘village’.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Psalm 127:3

In August, many families are thinking about “back to school” for their children. And so are we at First English—back to Sunday School and confirmation classes. Plans are underway for a new school year and we need our village to help in many areas, whether as a mentor, a teacher, or a helper in other various ways. You are urged to be a part of a community of adults supporting a child, and building a robust social, emotional, and faith-filled support system around that child. With these healthy connections, empathy, resilience and faith are natural byproducts which will help a child deal with many other factors in their life as they grow.

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14

Watch for more information where you can help with our children in the upcoming months in our bulletins, emails, or on our website, www.firstenglishchurch.com, or contact our office at 507-263-3042.

(Sources: www.thewriteofyourlife.org, wikipedia.org)



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.

USHER COORDINATORS

January-February-March

Dean Kautz 612-750-1868

dwkandmak@gmail.com

April-May-June

Jim Nelson 507-298-0177

jimbabe4951@gmail.com

July-August-September

Scott & Tesha Johnson 651-258-4452

scottyj@sleepyeyetel.net

October-November-December

Randy Nelson 651-494-8283

rmnelson.cannonfalls@gmail.com

Thank you for your assistance during Worship!



Come August 14 to Love God + Love Others!

On Sunday, July 10, a small group, consisting of various ages, joined in this year's special ministry, Love God + Love Others.

During the evening, participants met a special family from the Ukraine. Nika, her mom, Halyna, and sister Liza, shared their story and how God has been at work in their lives and were given a quilt designed and stitched together by the Love God + Love Others project group.

Come and join us on Sunday, August 14, at 6 pm where we will sing a little, share stories, discuss love and hear an update on Nika and her family.

ALL are welcome! There is no preregistration, sign-in as you arrive. We do ask that children ages 10 and under be accompanied by a caring adult or youth ages 13 or older.

Thank you to Sue Josephson and Kathy Illa for co-hosting these special evenings.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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



...on our YouTube channel & Facebook page
...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 has 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.

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!

Now Taking Requests! Last Joyful Noise Sunday is August 14

The last *Make a Joyful Noise* hymn request Sunday will be August 14.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a favorite hymn or worship song to sing. There were a couple requests that could not be sung because the copyright holders do not give permission to use the song on our livestream. A list of your requests will be saved so we will keep singing your favorites for worship.

To request a hymn (or hymns), filling out a card on the table in the narthex and placing it in the box, or by contacting organist, Deb Stark.



Promises and Gratitude

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.” -

The mission statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

For seven years it has been my joy to be called to lay ministry at First English. My last day at First English is Sunday, August 28. On September 1, I begin a twelve-month internship at First Lutheran Church in Kenyon MN. I will graduate from Luther Seminary in May of 2023, with a Master of Divinity in Word and Sacrament. Following my internship, my hope is to be ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The opportunity to attend seminary fulfills a call that I first heard in high school and began with baptism.

Throughout our lives the promises received at baptism provide a foundation for our faith. God chooses us. God comes to us. God claims us. We live as beloved children of God and through Holy Baptism receive God’s grace and are reborn daily into new life. God’s grace frees us to live our faith through actively loving our neighbor. As Professor Mark Tranvik of Luther Seminary summarizes, “God doesn’t need our good works, but our neighbor does.” We live out our baptismal promises together.

Twenty-five of us recently returned from Summer Festival Camp, held July 17-20 at Gustavus Adolphus College. Every moment of Summer Fest we learned about God, friendships, and what it means to follow Christ. Every moment of Summer Fest we lived out our baptismal promises together. Our keynote speaker talked about our relationship with Jesus as a friendship. One youth reflected that at Summer Fest, “My faith in God has become stronger and I want to get closer to God and start a BETTER friendship.” If I were to summarize seven years of ministry at First English, I would say, “My faith in God has become stronger and I have a BETTER friendship (deeper relationship) with God.”



I want to THANK the People of God of First English -

- For calling me to work with Children, Youth and Family Ministry and for the relationships formed through this call.
- For reflecting God’s unconditional love
- For allowing me space to learn, fail forward, and celebrate how God’s love grows in and through us.

God placed me at First English for a purpose, to learn how to lean back in faith and live into God’s hope and promises more fully, and to claim my call to ordained ministry. Thank you for helping me fulfill God’s purpose.

I hope to see you before I leave and look forward to the Blessing of the Animals during worship on August 28 at 9:00 am. Several of you have asked me to bring our chocolate lab puppy, “Griz” to church, and on August 28, I will!

May you, God’s beloved, continue to live in your baptismal promises. Embrace you are marked with the Cross of

May God’s peace go with you.
Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid

Summer Festival Camp 2022, July 17-20

With deep gratitude, I wish to share these reflections, as written by the youth who attended Summer Festival Camp. Each reflection is a response from several reflection prompts. FYI, several reflections refer to “Club”, which is Summer Fest lingo for worship. We thank you for your prayers, your financial support, and your commitment to the next generation of believers. They are good people and God is preparing them to go out and serve the world. *Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid*

ACTION. What do I want to do with this experience?

- I was having a hard time being able to pray. Then I went to this camp. I am so happy and blessed that I could come to camp. One of my many things that I will take home is praying every day. *Alex*

AWE. Where have I sensed God’s presence?

- I have sensed God’s presence in Club during songs and devotion.
- While we are at Club. *Peyton W.*
- I was amazed by the great music. In Club, I had so much fun singing and dancing to the live band. *Serena*

FAITH. How is my faith being strengthened or challenged?

- I feel my faith got stronger over my week at camp. I learned a lot and one thing I will always remember is that you don’t need to see God to know he is there. I had a really fun time meeting new people and growing in my faith.
- While at Summer Fest we are challenged to ask ourselves questions about God that require deeper thinking and about things we’ve never thought about. *Peyton T*

FEEL. What feelings or emotions have I experienced?

- We are blessed and thankful for you to help us pay for this trip. And we are all having a great time. My favorite part is Club time. *Eli*
- I really had a fun time with everything. *Weston*
- I have had a lot of fun. I have been feeling happy and faithful and I have really enjoyed camp. *Avery*
- I have felt nothing but love and faithfulness this whole camp. *Emma*

HUH? What am I wrestling with or not understanding?

- I don’t understand how God would give us a friend that would die by being crucified, then come back giving us all grace and a friend. It’s a lot. *Lily*

ROLE. What have I been doing?

- I was lucky enough to come to Summer Fest with all my friends. This is my first time at Summer Fest. I have been singing, dancing, swimming, laughing,

and learning about God. And Kris is such a wonderful, talented, and extremely funny person. I am so happy that I got to spend this time with her before she leaves. I feel like such a lucky girl. If you have met Kris before, consider yourself lucky. It’s so sad to see her leave. We love her so much. I have been having such a great time. Summer Fest is a great camp. It is amazing! *Ava*

- I have been participating in camp activities and learning about God. *Claire*

STORY. What experience do I want to remember?

- One experience I want to remember is the messy fight where we were using water balloons and slime. It was fun to run around and play with friends. *Jacob*
 - Something that I will remember is meeting all the new friends that we made, and all the people and friends that we were with. Also, the concerts at Club. *Rylann*
 - During Summer Fest we did a lot of events and workshops. There was music, great food, a very positive group of counselors, and lots of people. Overall, I had a great time and I’m glad I came. *Andrew*
 - When thinking about Summer Festival, I will remember how welcoming and friendly everyone was all throughout the week. *Peyton G*
 - A story I want to remember was the skit where two guys were cowboys, and they were having a water gun fight and it made me laugh. *Abby*
 - I want to remember how I made new friends, how moving the people and music are, the fun and games we had/did, and just how friendly everyone is. I will remember and carry these memories my whole life. *Lucy*
 - I want to remember all our Clubs. *Dawson*
- ### **THINK. What have I been thinking or learning about?**
- I have been learning and thinking about how much God loves us. *Alexa*

Pop-up Youth Choir August 28, 9 am Worship (all ages)

Gather to sing 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) by Matt Redman as the special music for worship on August 28. Text or email Kris and she will send you the lyrics! If you are wondering about this song, you can easily find it on YouTube.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

School Kits and Personal Kits Items Needed

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting items again this fall to assemble school and personal kits, which will be shipped through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR Kits are designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more, providing dignity and hope in the direst situations. You can help now by shopping for the items needed for these kits. Here is a lists of items needed.



SCHOOL KITS

Equip a child with the supplies they need to keep learning, even in a crisis.

- FOUR 70-sheet **notebooks** of wide or college-ruled paper approx. 8½" X 11.
- ONE box of 16 or 24 **crayons**
- ONE 30-centimeter **ruler**, or a ruler with centimeters on one side & inches on the other
- ONE **pencil sharpener**
- ONE blunt **scissors** (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint **pens** (no gel ink)
- ONE 2½ inch **eraser**
- FIVE **No. 2 pencils** with erasers

PERSONAL KITS

Provide much-needed self-care and critical germ fighting tools.

- ONE light-weight, bath-size **towel** (between 20"x40" and 52"x27"), dark color recommended
- TWO or three bath-size **bars of soap** equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE sturdy **comb**, remove packaging
- ONE metal **nail clippers** (attached file optional), remove packaging
- ONE adult-size **toothbrush** in its original packaging



FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

APPLY TODAY FOR THE FELC FOUNDATION UPPER CLASS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP!

The First English Lutheran Church Foundation is offering a **\$500 scholarship in 2022** to graduates of Cannon Falls or Randolph High Schools who are currently in their junior/senior year or graduate-level in college.

The scholarship will be based on the applicant's academic history, church involvement (faith story), and community service.

On-line applications can be found on the First English Lutheran Church website at www.firstenglishchurch.com. Hard copies can be picked up from the First English Lutheran Church office at 511 W Belle St, Cannon Falls, MN 55009, during office hours.

Applications must be submitted by **Monday, August 15, 2022**.

Apply today!



MEMORIALS & GIFTS

JULY 2022

In Memory of Ida Schabert

Betty Nelson
Kay Sabin
Elvena Schmutge
Betty Woodward
Dar Qualle
Jeanette and Dick Sutherland
Jim and Carolyn Nelson
Sarah Novotny
Carol and Leroy Gjemse
Darlene Sundheim

Women's Picnic

August 2, 11:30 am

Hannah's Bend Park

You are invited to a picnic to be held on Tuesday, August 2 at Hannah's Bend Park pavilion at 11:30 am.

Food and water will be provided. This event is sponsored by the Women of First English Lutheran Church group.

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 our best to keep you informed of important notices.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, August 11, at 7 pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Mike Miller 651-210-6650
mikemiller10541@hotmail.com
Vice-President: Phil Jacobson 651-380-3262
pdjacobson@hbc.com
Secretary: Diane Johnson 773-960-5382
dcjohnson1000@att.net
Phyllis Althoff Brenda Deutsch
Scott Johnson Dean Kautz
Danny Meyers Jim Nelson
Jennifer Nobach Robin Stewart
Mike Trelstad

FOUNDATION BOARD

President Emily Spicer Nicole Holz
Vice President Barb Elias Rick Hughes
Secretary Cathy Rehm Elvena Schmutge

CHURCH OFFICE

507-263-3042
Office Hours: M-F, 9 am - 3:30 pm
E-Mail: firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com
Website: www.firstenglishchurch.com
PASTOR: Mike Zaske, Interim
Firstenglish.mike@gmail.com
FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES: Kris Hersgaard Kincaid
507-330-1824 felcyKris@gmail.com
TREASURER: Karen Anderson
651-210-5992 kernie1951@gmail.com
FIN. SEC./ADMIN. ASST.: Kathy Ehlers
507-263-3042 firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com
CUSTODIAN: Carrie Kokkeler
507-302-8386 kokie1@gmail.com
ORGANIST: Deb Stark
651-258-4332 507-649-2733 dstark@sleepyeyetel.net
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jill Serres
507-649-0851 jserres@mac.com
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jane Peterson
507-263-4148 janerichard@mchsi.com
PARISH NURSE: Becky Shepard
507-298-1176 rbrown53@gmail.com

Like Us on Facebook!



First English Lutheran Church-Cannon Falls
Religious organization · 38 likes · 38 follows

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 11 am FELC Staff Meeting 11:30 am Women of WELC Picnic	3 10:30 am Pastors Text Study	4	5	6 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf
7 9 am Communion Worship	8	9 11 am FELC Staff Meeting	10 10:30 am Pastors Text Study	11 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf 7 pm Church Council	12	13
14 9 am Worship 6 pm Love God Love Others Ministry	15	16 11 am FELC Staff Meeting	17 10:30 am Pastors Text Study	18 4:30—6:30 pm CF Food Shelf	19	20
21 9 am Communion Worship	22	23 11 am FELC Staff Meeting	24 10:30 am Pastors Text Study	25 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf 10 am Cannon Rivers Senior Living Service	26	27
28 9 am Outdoor Worship Blessings of the Backpacks & Animals 5:30 pm CCIC Community Table	29	30 11 am FELC Staff Meeting	31 10:30 am Pastors Text Study	August 2022		3 10 am—Noon CF Food Shelf

AUGUST 2022

THE FIRST EDITION

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cannon Falls, MN
Permit 55

