



# THE FIRST EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2023

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## Kicking Off Another Program Year

First English is ready to kick off another program year in style! On September 10, you are invited to show up for worship at 9 am when we will celebrate God's presence in our lives and there will be a special blessing of backpacks and work bags.

Following worship, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall where we will try a ministry fair. Most of First English's active ministries and committees will be represented so you can see what the Spirit is up to at FELC and learn about ways you might get involved. There will be tables set up by the Social, Worship, CYF and Property committees, Altar Guild, Food Bank, CCIC, FELC Support Team, and more. You will learn about how you might participate in the Choir, Bell Choir, Brass, Confirmation, Sunday School, snow removal, worship leadership, etc. And, of course, there will be treats and beverages!

After about 30 minutes of the ministry fair, people will be invited to head outside as we launch Sunday School. This is sure to be a fun party with music, root beer floats, lawn games, and a scavenger hunt.

Additionally, families will be able to register their kids for Sunday School and can meet the CYF volunteers that will be leading throughout the year.

Can't wait to see you there!



**First English  
Lutheran Church**

511 W Belle St Cannon Falls MN 55009  
507-263-3042 [www.firstenglishchurch.com](http://www.firstenglishchurch.com)

## CHURCH OFFICE

507-263-3042

Office Hours:

M-F, 9 am - 3:30 pm

E-Mail: [firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com](mailto:firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com)

Website: [www.firstenglishchurch.com](http://www.firstenglishchurch.com)

PASTOR: Luke Hollander  
507-218-1311

[lukefirstenglish@gmail.com](mailto:lukefirstenglish@gmail.com)

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES:  
Maddie Patterson  
507-384-8317

[Maddiefirstenglish@gmail.com](mailto:Maddiefirstenglish@gmail.com)

TREASURER: Karen Anderson  
651-210-5992  
[kernie1951@gmail.com](mailto:kernie1951@gmail.com)

FIN. SEC./ADMIN. ASST.: Kathy Ehlers  
507-263-3042  
[firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com](mailto:firstenglishchurchcf@gmail.com)

ORGANIST: Deb Stark  
651-258-4332 507-649-2733  
[dstark@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:dstark@sleepyeyetel.net)

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jill Serres  
507-649-0851  
[jserres@mac.com](mailto:jserres@mac.com)

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jane Peterson  
507-263-4148  
[janerichard@mchsi.com](mailto:janerichard@mchsi.com)

## CHURCH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT Phil Jacobson  
651-380-3262  
[pdjacobson85@gmail.com](mailto:pdjacobson85@gmail.com)

VICE-PRESIDENT Dean Kautz  
612-750-1868  
[dwkandmak@gmail.com](mailto:dwkandmak@gmail.com)

SECRETARY Diane Johnson  
773-960-5382  
[dcjohnson1000@yahoo.com](mailto:dcjohnson1000@yahoo.com)

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Phyllis Althoff	Brenda Deutsch
Julie Gergen	Scott Johnson
Danny Meyers	Jim Nelson
Jennifer Nobach	Robin Stewart
Mike Trelstad	

## FOUNDATION BOARD

Barb Elias	Denise Holz
Nicole Holz	Tiffany Kiffmeyer
Elvena Schmutge	Emily Spicer



## PASTOR LUKE

[lukefirstenglish@gmail.com](mailto:lukefirstenglish@gmail.com)

507.218.1311

## New Season, New Look, More Opportunities

Grace to you and peace.

I am ready to kick off my first fall with First English! I love everything about the fall: the cooler temps, the anticipation and energy around a new program year, the sports, and the foods! I am excited about what is happening here at First English and eager to see where the Spirit is leading us.

You are seeing a new look with this newsletter. We are trying something different, and I am hopeful that a shift to more updates on the ministries we participate in will help keep you all more informed and encourage you to participate in ministries that engage you.

I am sure I will learn more about our church and this community this fall. I hope to learn more about what is important to you in a church and what opportunities are ones you might engage with. I know the pandemic put a halt on some of the adult education and spiritual formation opportunities, so I am going to try a few different things this fall and see how they land. See the Adult Education newsletter article for some of the upcoming opportunities.

Pastor Luke

## Adult Education Opportunities

This year, I am going to trial three different adult education/spiritual formation opportunities. I am going to start a Bible study on Isaiah (one of my favorite books in the Bible), explore spirituality and nature, and host a couple of Brewed Theology discussions. These will all be trials as I begin to assess which topics and times work best for our people.

**Isaiah Bible Study** – Our first meeting will be following worship at 10:30 am on Sunday, September 24. We will start by studying the first section described as Proto-Isaiah (chapters 1- 39), which was written by the original prophet Isaiah.

**Spirituality and Nature** – Our first meeting will be Wednesday morning, September 13, at 10:00 am. We will meet at the church and begin by exploring how some of the ways we experience nature might translate into ways we can develop our spirituality.

**Brewed Theology** – The first Brewed Theology event will be some Wednesday in October. Watch for updates. Brewed Theology is conversation facilitation curriculum offering guided discussions on topics where faith and culture intersect. It is developed by a couple of my closest friends.

Pastor Luke



# 2023 OUTDOOR WORSHIP & CHURCH PICNIC

Thank you for joining us at the Outdoor Worship and Congregational Picnic on Sunday, July 30 at East Side Park!



**BRENLEE MAE AUSTIN** was baptized on Sunday, August 20, 2023. She was born on April 24, 2023 to **Madasyn and Trevor Austin** in Red Wing, MN. Godparents are **Aaron Austin, Zach Austin, and Grace Swanson.**

**ARLEN ROY HARTL** was baptized on Sunday, August 27, 2023. He was born on July 3, 2023 to **Jacqueline and Braden Hartl** in Red Wing, MN. Godparents are **Carly Thomas Nelson and Arline Carpenter.**



The FELC Support Team is officially launched! Members of our church are trained and ready to offer our people support in a variety of ways – grief support, visitation, listening ear, etc. Pastor Luke will continue providing pastor care, and this team will help ensure our people can be visited more regularly as needed.

I know we aren't very good at asking for help, but this team is made up of your friends and church family and are VERY WILLING to be a part of your lives. Please reach out to Pastor Luke or Erica Peterson if you are interested in learning more or would like to connect with a member from this team. The members of this team will be published soon, and you can contact them directly as well.



## We Need You!

The FELC Church Choir rehearsals are scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 10 at 8 am, downstairs in the choir practice room.

All are welcome! No prior choir experience needed—we train on the job!

We sing twice a month and on special church holidays. A full-year schedule will be handed out.

Questions: Call or text Jill Serres at 507-649-0851 or email [jserres@mac.com](mailto:jserres@mac.com).

## Like Us on Facebook!



**First English Lutheran Church-Cannon Falls**

298 likes · 321 followers

**Visit our Website for Updates!**

[www.firstenglishchurch.com](http://www.firstenglishchurch.com)

## CCIC Update

What exactly is the CCIC, you may ask. CCIC (Community Churches Interaction Council) is a local non-profit with the mission to promote an ecumenical base within the community of Cannon Falls where the words, actions and love of God are made manifest. Its membership is made up of local congregations from different denominations and other organizations like the Cannon Valley Senior Center. CCIC supports ministries like the Good Samaritan Fund, Feed My Starving Children, and the monthly Community Table free meal to name a few. First English has been active in CCIC since its inception.

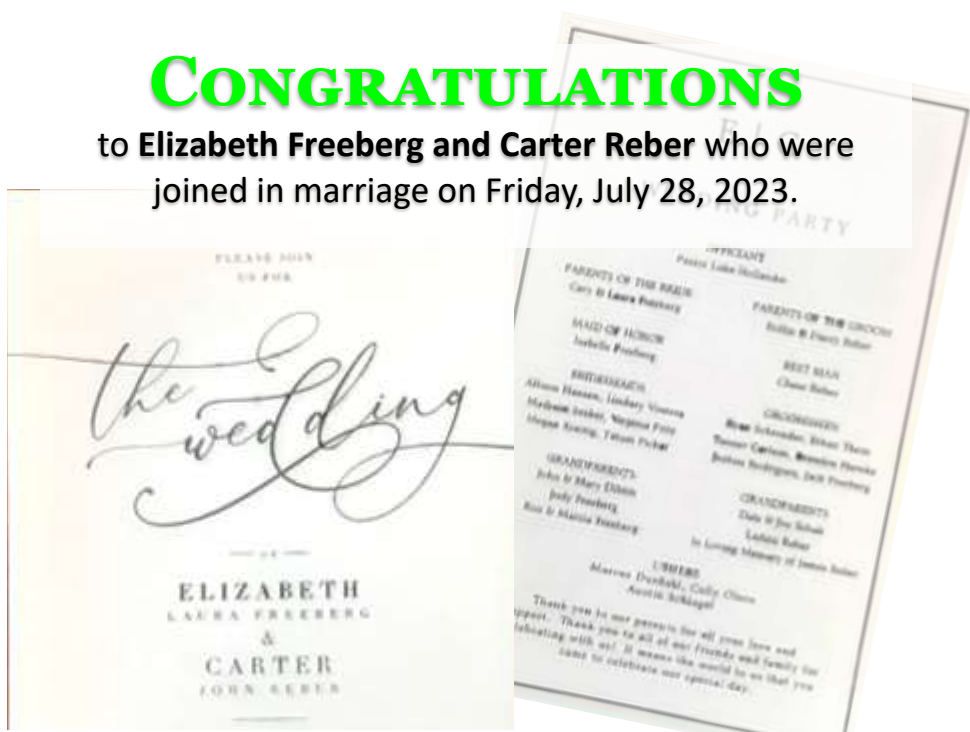
During the pandemic and due to the leadership transitions in recent years at many of the local congregations, CCIC has not been very active of late. Pastor Kira and I thought it would be a natural time to reassess the community's interest in this ministry. At least eight local churches have decided it is more important than ever to come together to do this kind of work. At our last CCIC meeting, we elected new leadership. The new board members are: Paul Jacobson (Chair), Jean Daniels (Vice Chair), Pr. Luke Hollander (Treasurer), and Heather Lee and Kay Sabin (Secretary).

I will do my best to keep the congregation up to date on what the CCIC is up to and let you know how you might get involved. For it to be successful, congregational members are going to have to invest (time and money) into its ministries. Feed My Starving Children is the next major opportunity and it will require many people coming together to make it a success. Please let myself or Denise Jacobson know if you would be interested in getting involved in this.

Pastor Luke

## CONGRATULATIONS

to **Elizabeth Freeberg and Carter Reber** who were joined in marriage on Friday, July 28, 2023.







# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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

## Sign Up Open for Sunday School and Confirmation!

School is just around the corner and so is fall programming! The more things change the more they stay the same, and First English has a year packed full of learning and activities coming up. Starting in September, we will get back into the routine of Sunday School and Confirmation.

This means that registration is now open. Kids who are in preschool through 5th grade can register for Sunday School, which will take place during worship. The 6th through 9th graders can get signed up for confirmation. This will take place on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8. You can find the registration forms and schedule on our website, and get signed up for the year there!

Be sure to stop by our booth for more information on Rally Day , September 10!

Peace,  
Maddie Patterson

## BWCA 2023

Dear congregational members,  
Our youth group recently returned from a trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota. The trip provided us with the opportunity to strengthen relationships, grow in our faith, and appreciate God’s creation. Our group included eight people from three area churches.

We spent the majority of our time deep in the Boundary Waters wilderness on Iron Lake. Days were spent fishing, paddling, swimming and relaxing. Highlights included exploring Curtain Falls, fresh shore lunch meals cooked over an open fire, relaxing evening campfires, and listening to the wolves howl at night.

We talked about the role our faith played in our lives and how we can use that faith to be leaders back home. We also just had fun and laughed.

The group practiced the “Leave No Trace” camping philosophy and even packed out an old rusty depth finder and batteries along with an abandoned frying pan we found.

Our trip would not have been possible without your generous financial support. A special thank you goes out to the Larry Van Guilder family for their generous financial gift to help fund our trips.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and for your financial support. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,  
Grady Meyers, Andrew McGeough, Gavin Moorhead, Micah Nelson, Dan Meyers, Pastor Luke Hollander, Paul Jacobson and Phil Jacobson.



# MEMORIALS & GIFTS

AUGUST 2023

## In Memory of Jan West

Stephen West

## In Memory of William Carlstrom

Jim and Babe Nelson

## In Memory of Lyle Noble

George and Cathy Rehm

Mark and Kathy Illa

Sarah Novotny

Roland and Dort Spillman

Bev Stedman

Stephanie Derby & Scott

Mulholland

Doug and Lynn Larson

Lynette and Jim Pagel

Betty Nelson

Kay Sabin

Steve and Sue Josephson

Denise and Phil Jacobson

Rich and Jane Peterson

Dennis and Jackie VanGuilder

Jim and Babe Nelson

Dick and Jeanette Sutherland

Deb and Lonnie Stark

Dallas and Jan Larson

Todd and Kathy Swanson

Kevin and Beth Nerud

Elvena Schmutge

Sharon Aamodt

Kevin and Connie Eggum

Steve and Deb Gesme

Majorie Barnett

Sharon and Lowell Anderson

Lorraine Moorehouse

Barb Noble and Lynn Swain

Steven Nelson

Paul and Judy Ulland

Roger and Bettie Syverud

Joshua and Amanda Hofstedt

Cynthia Gianoli

Louise and Glenn Schultz

Susan Mack

Bob and Judy Schlekewy

Scott and Brenda Safe

Kimm Epperson

James and Mary Herrick

Janet Scheid

Gretchen & Stephen Rauchwarter

Duane and Carolyn Lindstrom

Richard and Karen Wolter

Lynne Berg

Carol and Glenn Kruckeberg

William and Lydia Midness

*Continued on next page...*



## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### Thank You for Supporting LWR!

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank all of you for supporting their Lutheran World Relief project with items for the school kits. A total of 60 kits were put together!

Next, the committee will be collecting items to make personal care kits, which will then be shipped through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Bring your items to the narthex. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please write *LWR Kits* on check or envelope and place in the offering plate or bring to the church office.

#### PERSONAL CARE KITS

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

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), 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\* *Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.*



## WORSHIP SERVICES



The livestream of our 9 am worship service is available on YouTube via our website, [www.firstenglishchurch.com](http://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.



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The First English Lutheran Church Council met on August 17, 2023. The following are the highlights of the meeting:

- Approved June 8, 2023 council minutes.
- Heard Pastor’s Report.
- Approved Treasurer’s Report.
 

5/31 Gen Fund Balance/Checking Acct	\$ 28,665.55
June Gen Fund Income	+ 17,768.70
June Gen Fund Expenses	- 22,042.36
6/30 General Fund Balance/Checking Acct	\$ 24,391.89
6/30 Gen Fund Balance/Checking Acct	\$ 24,391.89
July Gen Fund Income	+ 17,649.98
July Gen Fund Expenses	- 19,169.99
7/31 General Fund Balance/Checking Acct	\$ 22,281.88
7/31 Fund Balances/Gifts	
Rooted in Faith Fund	\$ 42,263.55
Building Expense Fund	\$ - 4,066.45
Youth Account	\$ 22,258.36
Benevolence/LSS Gifts (June & July)	\$ 3,291.00
Designated Gifts (June & July)	\$ 4,949.10
- Determined to start a task force for nursery/meeting room.
- Reviewed FELC organizational chart.
- Heard update on replacement of lower level north exterior door. Need contractor to install.
- Approved hiring Rahn Safe Tree Service to remove two trees at cost of \$1,000, unless City of Cannon Falls will remove either or both.
- Approved funds from Building Endowment.
- Heard update regarding church envelopes.
- Heard update on a possible church pictorial directory.
- Approved written kitchen use guidelines as presented.
- Heard updates on building scheduling, Church 360 Ledger, new church newsletter layout, and new archive room.
- Determined to purchase of two TV monitors, one for Fellowship Hall and one for nursery/meeting room.
- Heard updates on CCIC group, future Wednesday night Lenten Worship, and September 10 Rally Day.
- Discussed custodial position.
- Discussed donations to the Memorial Fund.
- Heard reports from Committees.

## Next Council Meeting:

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

## 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 Maddie Patterson at [maddiefirstenglish@gmail.com](mailto:maddiefirstenglish@gmail.com).



## OFFICE HOURS

Regular church office hours will resume after Labor Day, September 4.

**Monday-Friday**

**9 am-Noon, 1-3:30 pm**

**Closed on Holidays**

The office will be closed on Friday, September 1 and Monday, September 4.

*Continued from previous page...*

### In Memory of Lyle Noble

Richard and Nancy Houghton  
 Allen and Kay Erickson  
 Brad and Denise Erichsen  
 Deanna Capelle  
 Ronald and Patricia Reinardy  
 Dareld and Eileen Quam  
 Kelly J and Jared Miller  
 Jim and Jan Edlund  
 Richard and Donna Miller  
 Robert and Rebecca Zybach  
 Fred Parduhn  
 Debra Harrison  
 Martha McCusker



# SEPTEMBER 2023



**First English Lutheran Church**

511 W Belle St  
Cannon Falls MN 55009

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U.S. Postage  
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Cannon Falls, MN  
Permit 55

## SEP 1, FRI

FELC Office Closed

## SEP 2, SAT

10 am – 12 pm CF Food Shelf

## SEP 3, SUN

9 am Communion Worship

## SEP 4, MON Labor Day

FELC Office Closed

## SEP 6, WED

10 am Staff Meeting

## SEP 10, SUN

8 am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

9 am Worship

Rally Sunday, Join us after Worship!

## SEP 12, TUE

10 am Women of FELC Meeting

## SEP 13, WED

10 am Spirituality and Nature with Pr. Luke

1 pm Staff Meeting

6:30 – 7:30 pm Confirmation Orientation

## SEP 14, THU

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

7 pm Church Council Meeting

## SEP 17, SUN

Shaker Hymn Sunday

9 am Communion Worship

Sunday School Begins

## SEP 20, WED

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Confirmation

7:30 – 8 pm Wednesday Worship

## SEP 21, THU

4:30 – 6:30 pm CF Food Shelf

## SEP 24, SUN

9 am Worship

10:30 am Isaiah Bible Study

## SEP 26, TUE

10 am Park St Apts Bible Study

## SEP 27, WED

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Confirmation

7:30 – 8 pm Wednesday Worship

## SEP 28, THU

10 am – Noon CF Food Shelf

## FELC WOMEN'S PICNIC

**Thank you to all who joined us for the annual Women's Picnic on Tuesday, August 8 at Hannah's Bend Park.**

The next gathering of the Women of FELC will be held on Tuesday, September 12 at 10 am in the FELC Fellowship Hall. Join them for fellowship and bible study!

