

The Herald

Newsletter of First English Lutheran Church March 2024
1013 Minnesota Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902 * (920) 231-9890 * www.firstenglish.org
Rev. Jonathan Radichel-Wills, Pastor
Worship Service Times: Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM, SPOH 10:30 AM.
Sunday School 9:30AM release from worship
Lent Worship services at 11:00AM & 6:30PM following Soup Supper from 5-6:15

Gain/Loss Report **February 2024**

Baptisms

Ava Marie Gray

Baptized: January 27, 2024

Transfers

Elizabeth Sell

Leon and Gloria Klatt

Deaths

Mary Louise Jones

January 18, 2024



Meditations on an Early Easter

By Pastor Jon Radichel-Wills

“Do not be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised! He is not here.” Mark 16:6

Easter is early this year. I have been hearing that a lot lately. I understand the sentiment. This Lenten season certainly feels much more compressed than it has in previous years. An earlier Easter means an earlier Lent, which means a shorter season of Epiphany. Epiphany is my season of preparation and we had to do double duty this year to get every aspect of Easter prepared in a much smaller window. But I was prepared. I am always prepared.

This reminds me of last year when I often heard the opposite: Easter is late this year. All this means is a short breathing space as we transition from one church season to the next but that small space can make all the difference between early and late. The funny thing is that no one ever says: Easter was right on time this year. This is a joke that I often hear from one of our beloved church members who reminds me with a wink and a smile every time someone emphasizes the earliness or lateness of the season of Easter. I would smile too because she is absolutely correct. No one ever says that Easter arrived on time, even though it always does.

So, I closed my eyes and meditated on when Easter is supposed to be for me deep within my soul. This has nothing to do with the abstract mathematics used to calculate the liturgical calendar. Officially Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the Spring Equinox. If the Full Moon falls on a Sunday, then Easter is the next Sunday. But I don't know what that means, not really. Sometimes this coincides with the Passover, and sometimes it doesn't.

Easter is something found deep within my heart. I remember what Easter smells like and how the air feels on my face and hands. I remember the smell of the air and the emerging scent of crocuses. I remember the lilies adorning the cross and the aroma that fills the sanctuary. It's the dim light of the church as the sun rises on that Easter Day. The flavors of Easter dinner. The drone of the sermon. The enchantment of the choir. The angelic ringing of the bells.

To be honest Easter is right on time when it coincides with my older sister's birthday. Located in the early days of April, right when the weather changes and there is both birthday cake and Easter baskets decorating the house. I am a tiny person in a tiny suit, and I am trying to put on my little tie to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. I am with my family and spring is here and the day could not possibly be more perfect. This is the family of my youth and my family today all at once and the Holy Spirit guides us as we find our seats in God's precious church. That is when Easter is right on time.

Here is the truth, the real truth. Easter is always on time because Easter is always here. Easter is found in our hearts whenever we worship. Easter is present whenever we pray. Easter is here because Easter is real. Whenever we proclaim Christ crucified and risen Easter blossoms and blooms in the very fabric of our hearts, minds, and souls. Easter exists in every moment of our lives.

Did you know that the word Easter cannot be found in contemporary translations of our scripture? The only reference to Easter can be found in the King James Version in Acts 12:4 where the word Passover was mistranslated as Easter. Origins of the word Easter appear to be quite unclear with it likely being a reference to the pre-Christian goddess of spring *Eostre*. What this has to do with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ appears to be a complete mystery. I am also unsure of what this has to do with the Easter Bunny and Easter Eggs. The fact is that so much of our Easter season will always be a mystery and it should be. It is found in the continual revelation of our faith. This means that Easter is always on time. But I don't mind when it is early.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
Martin Luther's Small Catechism

11AM Worship, Neighborhood Center luncheon at Noon
6:30PM Worship, Soup Supper at 5PM

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP 2024
MARCH 23 TO MARCH 31

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, March 23, 5PM
Sunday, March 24, 9AM and 10:30AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY – Thursday, March 28, 2024

12PM, Institution of the Lord's Supper
6:30 PM, Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY – Friday, March 29, 2024

9:30AM, Family Service
12PM, Seven Last Words
6:30PM, Passion According to John

HOLY SATURDAY – Saturday, March 30, 2024

5PM, Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY – March 31, 2024

6AM, Sunrise Prayer Service
9AM, Resurrection of our Lord



EASTER LILIES

Each year we decorate our church with Easter lilies for Easter Sunday. If you wish to order one as a memorial or in someone's honor, please fill out the form below. Return it to the church office along with your payment for each plant.

If you want to take your plant home, you can do so immediately following the 8:00 AM worship service on Easter Sunday.

ORDER FORM MUST BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN March 22nd , 2024

Name _____

Envelope # _____

I would like to order _____ number of plants at **\$20.00** each.

Total amount attached: \$ _____

In memory of/ in memory
of _____

Leave my plant at Church until I pick it up. _____yes _____no

From our Youth

MISSION 3.0

The Youth Group will be raising funds this Lenten season for our local food pantries.

The items below are rarely donated so we thought we'd do our part in changing that.

milk, butter, boxed milk, can openers, stove top stuffing, dish soap, vegetable oil, spices, salt and pepper, tea bags, coffee, sugar, flour, fresh produce, fresh meat, tuna, crackers, feminine hygiene products, bread, eggs, cake mix, frosting.

There are two ways you can help with this mission project:

1) donate items from the above list and place in tote marked Food Pantry located in the church office or kitchen refrigerator

OR

2) attend our soup suppers and place a freewill offering in the basket (preferred option because it's a great time for fellowship)

Freewill offering Soup Suppers will be each week during Lent from 5 - 6:15.

We will make every attempt to offer a gluten free soup/dessert each week but cannot guarantee it.

We appreciate donations of scrumptious desserts. Please let me know if you'd be willing to help out and, if so, what week.

- 2-28 Cheezy Cauliflower and Lasagna
- 3-6 Cheeseburger and Chicken Dumpling
- 3-13 Loaded Baked Potato and Vegetable Beef Barley
- 3-20 Cream of Wild Rice/Chicken and Stuffed Pepper

*****Kwik Trip car wash gift cards will be available to purchase during Soup Suppers as well***
5 count Ultimate car wash cards for \$36. (Savings of \$14)**

ALSO



Please consider donating any Kohl's cash you will not be using throughout the year to Youth Group. We will be using the cash to purchase items for our Christmas families. We've got a nice collection started so far. Let's keep it going.

Thank you!

From our Treasurer

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 24,816.21
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 62,210.76
TOTAL GAIN OR (DEFICIT)	\$ (37,394.55)

Homebound Communion



Have you noticed that there are travel kits with elements for Holy Communion on the altar? Pastor Jon blesses the wafers and juice inside. Then they are taken to the homes of our homebound members whom have requested this means of Grace. They eagerly and joyfully receive the body and blood of our Lord from FELC communion distributors. All present share in portions of the order of service prior to and following communion. A taste of Worship can be brought right into your home, too.

If you or someone you know would welcome this gift brought to your house, apartment or room, please call Amanda in the Church office at 920.231.9890 to make your request. She will arrange for a home visitor to give you a call and arrange a once-a-month visit.



We look forward to staying in touch with you!

Remember Pr. Kristin During Lent

FELC has a noteworthy tradition of directly supporting a missionary overseas and focuses on this sponsorship during Lent. In 2022 we welcomed our new partner in mission work, Rev. Kristin Engstrom. Pr. Kristin serves as a facilitator for leadership development in Zambia in southern Africa. She is called to walk with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia, and specifically,

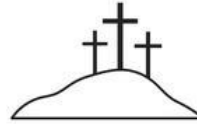
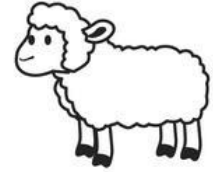


with pastors and lay leaders as they work to strengthen the church and grow in congregational and community leadership.

Check out a brief overview of her work on YouTube at https://youtu.be/QgYS_eoxBwk. During Lent, we focus on Missionary Sponsorship with continued prayers and giving. *Our sponsorship goal for 2024 is \$6000.* Please use the envelope in your Missionary Sponsorship mailing or ones available at the church entrances.

Easter Word Scramble

Unscramble these words



WORD BANK

ATONEMENT

FORGIVENESS

GOLGOTHA

PASSOVER

PILATE

PRAYER

REBIRTH

RENEWAL

RISEN

ROMAN

FV R O N S E E I G S : _____

G H O G T O L A : _____

R T R E I B H : _____

P T L I A E : _____

P E Y R A R : _____

P S E V O A S R : _____

A N N E O T E M T : _____

R O A M N : _____

R E A E W N L : _____

R S E I N : _____



hello March!

March 2024

Neighborhood Center News

**Lunch begins at noon in the First English Lutheran Church Auditorium
1013 Minnesota Street (enter through the 10th Av parking lot) 920-231-9890**

Bring a friend and join the fun! All are welcome. Still the best lunch deal in town
for a \$7 donation. *Reminder that menus are subject to change.*

March 6: Lenten worship service at 11:00 in the sanctuary

Menu: Chicken broccoli rice casserole, assorted relishes, fresh homemade bread,
Tom's butter pecan cake

After lunch: Sheepshead, cribbage, games

March 14: Lenten worship service at 11:00 in the sanctuary

Menu: Shepherd's pie, garden salad, garlic bread, birthday cake

After lunch: Sheepshead, cribbage, games

March 21: Lenten worship service at 11:00 in the sanctuary

Menu: St. Patrick's Day feast with corned beef, potatoes and cabbage,
carrots, soda bread, St. Patrick's birthday cake

After lunch: Sheepshead, cribbage, games



cooked

March 28: Easter games/trivia beginning at 11:30

Menu: : Easter dinner with ham, mashed potatoes with ham gravy, veggies,
rolls, birthday cake

After lunch: Sheepshead, cribbage



****If you would like to donate a cake for a special occasion, please contact Kay at
kayd_54902@yahoo.com or 920.203.4464.**

Please make special dietary requests/needs known by Monday noon.**

If schools close due to weather, so will Neighborhood Center.

Community Outreach Updates

Thanks for Your Community Support

Your offering to the FELC **Restricted Fund** supports designated outreach in Oshkosh. See the ministries currently supported on the Outreach bulletin board above the water fountain by the Minnesota Street entrance.

- *Soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House* continue to be collected on the table next to the basement steps below the church office.
- Thanks to the family of Marge (Rev. Don) Gauerke for their generous memorial for Neighborhood Center programming.



Hot Meal Ministry

Thanks volunteers for your work AND to all for your generous financial support!



Hot Meal Ministry makes and delivers monthly meals for the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Center, the Salvation Army, and sends meal supplies as needed for Lutheran Campus Ministry-Oshkosh.

Volunteers are needed to help cook/deliver meals on the second Sunday of each month. A special thanks to the FELC youth for cooking in February. Supplies are provided and training is available!

Hot Meal Ministry also provides meals for families/individuals who have recent hospitalizations, losses, or just need a comforting meal. Contact the church office at 920.231.9890 or Pr. Jon if you would like to have a meal.

How Can We Help You or Someone You Know?

- *Spring is coming!!* FELC supports programs providing light jackets for families. Our neighbors at Jefferson Elementary are also in need of children's sizes in leggings, sweatpants, and socks. If you have any, please drop them in the Jefferson box in the church office.
- If you know anyone **specifically in need**, please contact the church office or Pr. Jon.
- Basic food supplies are available at Neighborhood Center. Please feel free to utilize the food cart as needed for yourself or a neighbor during Neighborhood Center hours on Wednesdays from 11-1:00 and by appointment.
- Weekly meal bags continue to be available for our neighbors at Jefferson Elementary. . Donations of healthy snacks/100% juice boxes and money are welcomed. Thanks for your support in providing this needed outreach.



Mark Your Calendar for the Following!



Sign-up sheets are available at Neighborhood on Wednesdays and in the church office (920.231.9890) for the **St. Pat's lunch** following Lenten worship on March 21st **AND Easter** on March 28th beginning at 11:30. Bring a friend enjoy the fellowship.



Center
the
dinner
and

GAME NIGHT

Plan to join the fun following the 5:00 worship service on April 13th. Buffet supper will be served (feel free to bring a dish to pass/bingo prize if you wish but not "required") and stay for bingo. Other games will be available!

Plan to attend the
First English Lutheran Picnic
Sunday, June 2nd
South Park Main Pavilion
*Worship-11:00 *Picnic-Noon
*Cornhole Tournament, Bingo,
and Kids Games-1:00



baked

- **A-L** Bring a precut dessert
- **M-Z** Bring a salad/hot dish
- Bring a folding chair if needed for comfort

Burgers, brats,

hot dogs, chips,
beans, veggies, beverages provided by FELC

All graduating seniors (high school and post high school degrees) will be recognized!
Please forward name, photo, school attended, and future plans to the FELC office by 5.12.

Education

Love is in the air! It is all around us. That intense feeling we get when something fills our hearts with joy. God's love for us is not different. Even after sin entered the world, God promised His love to everyone. He promised to never leave us. That He would help us. The ultimate act of God's love for us was sending Jesus. He sent him to die on the cross for our sins. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 God's love for us is unfailing, unrestricted, steadfast and productive. His love is always present. We just need to open our eyes and find it in our everyday lives. Once open we need to abide in His love daily. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." John 15:9-10



Speaking of LOVE, I love that I get to spread the word of God to our young members. Kindness is love! Some days, likely when I should be sleeping, I come up with ideas. This one was no exception. After enjoying a delicious pancake breakfast together why not exchange valentines. What a great way to show our Sunday school friends kindness. It was more than I imagined! I forgot how much I used to love this as a kid. How a simple little treat or card brings so much joy. I have all my cards proudly displayed in my office from all my little friends. I look forward to making this a yearly tradition! Thank you parents for jumping on board and participating! I couldn't do this without your support.

Upcoming Events:

Good Friday Family Service and Easter Egg

Hunt, Friday, March 29th from 9:30 to 11 am.

Vacation Bible School Collaboration Event July 29-August 1 (stay tuned for more details, including ways to volunteer and donate).

Alicia Valdez

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN
CHURCH

29TH MARCH 2024

EASTER EGG HUNT

9:30 AM TO 11 AM

SNACKS - CRAFTS - FUN

SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE EASTER BUNNY

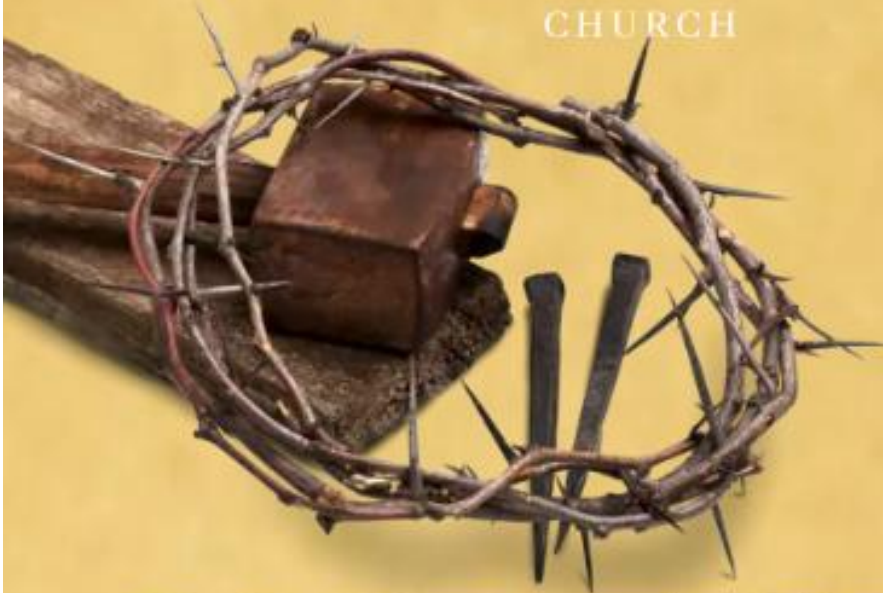
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR
GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY GATHERING





Church House Collection ©

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN
CHURCH



GOOD FRIDAY

Worship

29 March 2024 | Noon & 6:30 PM

Good Friday is a significant day for Christians that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. People gather together on Good Friday to remember and pray, reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice. You are invited to join us on this solemn day.

First English Lutheran Church
Council Minutes – January 11, 2024

Devotions: Mark Boettcher
Servant Leadership Matthew Ch. 20 vs. 20-28

Attendance: Mark Boettcher, Tom Brauer, Sherry Ratchman, Nate Hitz, Janet Zeinert, Julie Gutche, Becky Meissner, Dan Luft, Art Loos, Mary Murken, Karl Kessler and Alicia Valdez (arrived at 7:30 pm)

Staff: Pastor Jon Radichel-Wills, Kay Dobberke Brauer, Steve Seidl

Excused: Karen Frederick

Communications: Received a thank you response from Sharon Larson, Kay Dobberke-Brauer, Don Janke and Greg Johnson for their Christmas gifts. Received a thank you from Coach Ann on allowing the Oshkosh Special Olympics to use the church auditorium for their post bowling party. Received a thank you response from Crossways Camping Ministries for our \$1500.00 unrestricted donation. Received a thank you from Kay Dobberke-Brauer for our generous and continuing support of the ministry and outreach of Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Received a \$325.00 grant from the Dr. Michael and Paulette Olsen Lewis Fund of the Oshkosh Areal Community Foundation.

Received a \$10,000 grant from the Stapel Family Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

Minutes from December, 2023 Council Meeting – M/S/C

Update February 2024 Herald Calendar – Calendar was passed around and updated by council members.

Treasurer's Report from December 2023: M/S/C

- a. Reports - \$3920 was deposited into the Samaritan Fund from Pastor Jon
- b. Invoices - Largest to Smallest
- c. Pay Bills/Designated Funds
 - a. Move \$5000.00 from the trust fund to the designated funds checking account – **M/S/C** (Steve will also get approval from the trust fund)
 - b. Missionary Sponsorship Fund – We pledged \$6500.00 and collected \$4724.66. We need to move \$1775.34 from the general memorial fund to the missionary sponsorship fund – **M/S/C**

New Member/Loss Report:

New Members:

No new member requests to record this month

Baptisms:

Maggie Louise Oswald

Born: Nov 5, 2017

Baptized: Dec 23, 2023

Alexander Thomas Oswald
Born: Sept 22, 2022
Baptized: Dec 23, 2023

Deaths:
No new deaths to record this month

Transfers to First English:
No new transfers to record this month

Staff Reports: M/S/C

Kay Dobberke Brauer

- a. Jefferson School 'Bigs with Badges' 9 students between 2nd and 4th grade will be working with the OPD on Community Service needs. Volunteers are needed in April (will likely be 2 Thursdays) to help clean up the neighborhood.

Pastor Jon Radichel-Wills

- a. Christmas Numbers are in
 - a. 5pm 12/23 40 members
 - b. 9am 12/24 76 members
 - c. 5pm 12/24 235 members
- b. Bibles and Study guides were distributed at these services which was well received.
- c. New Years Eve service and fellowship had a nice turn out. Thank you to Alicia Valdez for planning Noon Years Eve.

Committee Reports: - M/S/C

P&I – Tom Brauer

- a. A condensation line to the boiler was repaired for \$7800.00
- b. The project to fix the Sanctuary panels will start soon. The contractors may have to move some pews which may result in moving one of the 9am services to the auditorium. This bill will be paid from the general operating fund and is being completed by Vande Hey Construction.
Hospitality
 - a. Shrove Pancake Breakfast will be held at 10am on February 11th. Help is needed starting at 8:45am.

Executive Committee:

- a. Mark went over his expectations of council members
- b. We reviewed the 2024 priorities of the Council prepared by Mark which include 6 for the upcoming year.
- c. Review of FELC constitution (this has been tabled until the February meeting)
- d. Special "Congregational Meeting" will be held on Saturday, January 13th, 2024 at 3:00 pm.
- e. "Annual Meeting" will be held on Sunday February 4th 2024 at 10:30 am. This will follow the 9 am service for that day and will be a combined service of Traditional and SOH.
- f. Delegates needed for 2024 (working on dates for these events)
 - a. Oshkosh Conference Assembly – need 2 delegates
 - b. Miravida Living – need 3 delegates, will be held on March 4th at 5:30
 - c. Synod Assembly – need 3 delegates, will be held on May 17th – May 18th
 - d. Lutheran Campus Ministries - will be held March 17th 2024 at 2 pm at

- All Saints Lutheran Church in Oshkosh – need 2 delegates
e. Crossways Camps held in March 2024 – need 2 delegates

Old Business:

No old business to discuss

Proposals:

- a. Women of the church proposal for handling funds
a. This has been tabled until Mark can speak with them to get more information/clarification
Requests for funds from the Oshkosh Conference – **M/S/Defeated**
a. Oshkosh Conference was asking for either \$.50 or \$1.00 per baptized member. We have 851 baptized members. We already give money to this organization in other ways.

New business:

- a. Approve the 2024 Benevolence List (will stay the same as 2023) – **M/S/C**
a. Lutheran Food Pantry
b. Day by Day Warming Shelter
c. Community of Hope Charity
d. Sleep in Heavenly Peace
e. Crossways Camping Ministries
f. Damascus Road
g. Lutheran Campus Ministry – Oshkosh
h. FELC Samaritan Fund
i. ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response
j. Bella Medical Clinic
k. Miravida Living Foundation
l. Take 5 Club
b. Youth Group Synod Gathering
Karen Fredrick would like the church to pay for the entry fees of any youth that would like to attend this gathering 2/16-2/18. The cost is \$249