

The Herald

Newsletter of First English Lutheran Church April 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



Gain/Loss Report

Baptism

Ryann Byrnes

Born: March 3, 2023

Baptized: March 9, 2024

Deaths

None to report

We are Not the World, We are the Kingdom

Meditation by Pastor Jon Radichel-Wills

We are not the world. The world would like for us to think so but people of this world we are not. Just like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our Kingdom is not of this world. We may live in this world, but we are not of this world, as much as the world may try to trick us and tell us otherwise. We are the Body of Christ. This is true now and has always been.

Yet the world creeps in and lures me like a trap. The anxieties of this world become my anxieties as the world attempts to steal focus from what matters most: Jesus Christ crucified and risen. I know this anxiety very well and it comes to the surface with every clank and creak of this old historic building. With every project or expenditure, I am reminded of the future of the church and the size and shape of what that future will hold. I must remember more than anything else that this future is, and has always been, the decision of our almighty God. All I must do is follow God's plan. God will do everything else.

The truth is we are standing within the walls of that once and future moment in God's history and it is within these walls that the future of God's Kingdom prevails. That is because this historic House of God holds within it the nexus points of both past and future. When the things of this world crumble away our worship remains. Worship always remains and thrives.

This is how we remain strong. We are a sanctuary that protects and guards God's chosen children from the things of this world. A mighty fortress is our God, as Martin Luther composed with faith and boldness. This mighty sanctuary is an extension of that fortress. It is a place where the things of this world fear to tread because it is where the Kingdom of God is proclaimed and prophesied.

What makes this mighty fortress so powerful is that it is not a place of perfection. Perfection is a lie that the world uses to distract us from the cross. This church is a place for the sinner and the broken. Perfection has no place here and that is what makes it so sacred. The only perfect one is our Messiah, Jesus the Christ, and he gave of himself freely so we may be healed.

As it says in John 3:16, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." These are words that we know in our very bones, and yet we must pause to understand the layers of meaning Jesus was expressing. When Jesus says the *world* in this context he means more than the insignificant blue dot hurtling through space. Jesus means something far more nuanced and powerful. The Greek word for *world* found in the earliest translation of John's gospel does not simply mean the world. Instead, it means the things of this world that rebel against God. That is the world that our God loves. A world that rebels against him and values their own selfishness over their own faith. That is the world that God loves. This is a world of people who long to be saved even when they don't know it or cannot understand it. It is a world of sinful selfishness and God loves us anyway. God loves us because of it.

When we are within these walls we leave that world behind, or at least as much as our sinful brokenness will allow. And then somewhere there is a moment, however fleeting, that we are not the world anymore. We are God's children made safe in a mighty fortress. We are made safe in a Kingdom that is not of this world, the Kingdom of God. Living in the world but not of it we are an anchor for a world gone adrift. Our sanctuary is a sanctuary where sinfulness and brokenness are welcomed healed and forgiven. We give sanctuary to a world that has lost its way. This is the fortress. We are the fortress. God is the fortress and the gift of faith strengthens all things that are, were, and will ever be within the sacred joy of this eternal house of the holy.

Education

Prayer, we must turn to God in trust. Fast, we must put away our desires for pleasure and distaste for suffering to do good. Give, we need to love people and use things. These three things have been our focus in classes this past month. Although they tend to be our focus more during the season of Lent, why don't we keep that focus all year long? It's easy to spend time focusing on specific tasks during certain times of the year and let them go shortly after the season is over. But these three things can and should carry us through the whole year long. We started out this year with our main focus of how we can let our light shine and prayer. Something so easy to do. You don't have to have gone to seminary to be able to pray. Remember that Lent sermon Pastor Jon gave us? Any of us can pray, at any age or stage in life. But do we? Do we pray only when we need something? Maybe we should pray just to say thank you. And how much do we give? We give offerings and maybe even give food to our local pantry. But what else can we give? Friendship, love, support, our time or maybe even a simple prayer? Can and should it be more than just monetary? These are things I hope our students walk away with this year. If nothing else, I hope they remember to pray, for themselves and each other. I hope they carry these three things with them all year long. After all Jesus did all these things for us just so we can be free of all of our sins. What a glorious gift!

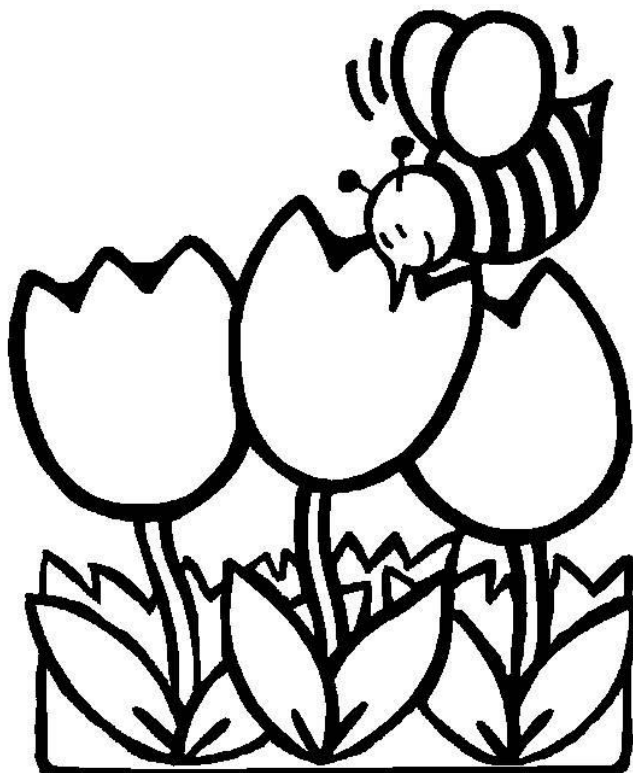
Lastly, a huge thank you goes out to Abbie Kranz for teaching our 5th grade class. She has decided to move on to other things and is unable to continue teaching. we appreciate all she has done and wish her all the best on her next adventures. Also, thank you to Becky Meissner and Art Loos for volunteering to fill in the gaps as we finish out the year. I am so grateful for you both and your willingness to quickly jump in!

Upcoming Events:

Confirmation/Mother's Day Celebration – May
12th - 9 am service

Vacation Bible School Collaboration Event–
July 29 – August 1 (stay tuned for more
information including ways to volunteer and
donate)

Alicia Valdez
920-740-4244
sundayschool@firstenglish.org



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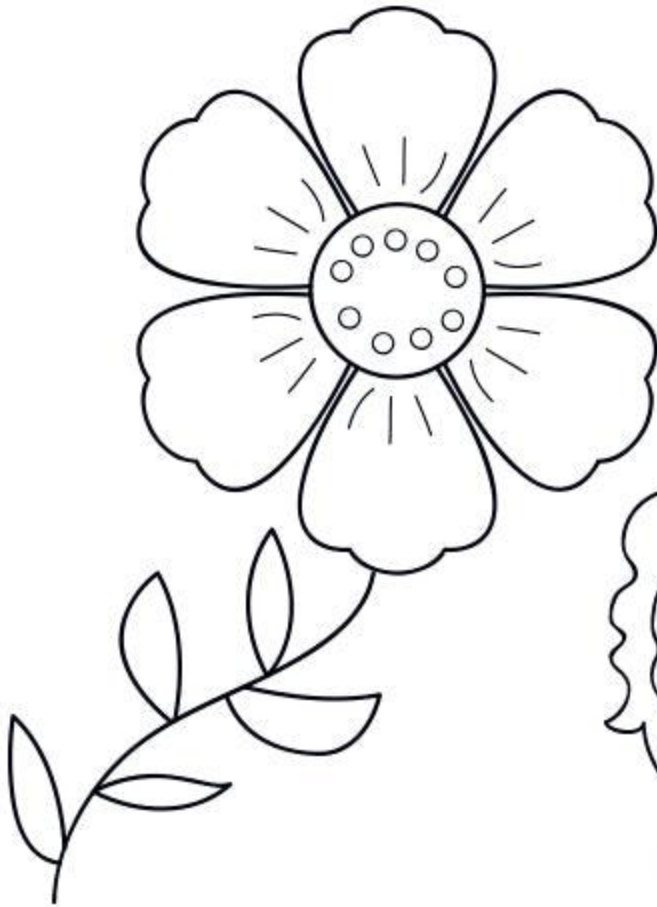
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April 2024 Neighborhood Center News

**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 **suggested \$7** donation. *Reminder that menus are subject to change.*

April 3: Dr. Gerald Hendrickson on “Got pain? COLD LASER CAN HELP!” **at 11:30**
Menu: Meatloaf & cheesy potatoes, peas, relishes, sweet breads, Ann’s birthday cake
After lunch: Sheepshead, cribbage, games

April 10: “Scams and Phishing” by the Oshkosh Police Department **at 11:30**
Menu: Mashed potato bar with all the toppings, salad, assorted bars
After lunch: Sheepshead, cribbage, games

April 17: Bingo beginning **at 11:15**
Menu: Breakfast for lunch-Aunt Audrey’s breakfast egg cake, waffles, fruit parfaits
After lunch: Sheepshead, cribbage, games



April 24: German music with Helmut Pressor beginning **at 11:00**
Menu: Kielbasa and kraut, German potato salad, mixed veggies, fresh baked dinner rolls, double lemon birthday cake
After lunch: Sheepshead, cribbage, games

**If you would like to donate a cake for a special occasion, contact Kay (outreach@firstenglish.org or 920.203.4464). Please make special dietary requests/needs by *Monday noon*.

Community Outreach Updates

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.



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 on the table next to the basement steps below the church office.
- Thanks for the anonymous donations for Neighborhood



collected
Center.

Hot Meal Ministry



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. **A special thanks to the FELC youth and leaders for cooking in March.**

Volunteers are needed to help cook/deliver meals on the second Sunday of each month. 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. **Over 45 meals were provided in March.** Contact the church office at 920.231.9890 or Pr. Jon if you would like to have a meal.

Thank you for generous Missionary Sponsorship Lenten Support



In 2022, we welcomed our new partner in mission work, Rev. Kristin Engstrom. Pastor 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 while growing in congregational and community leadership. Kristin received her BA from UW-Madison M.Div. from LSTC in Chicago. Pastor Kristin made a visit to FELC in September where she preached at all three shared her musical talents in teaching our School “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” in



Pastor and her services, Sunday the about

Chewe language, and updated adults in The Gathering Grounds missionary work in Zambia. **We hope to host her again in 2024.**

FELC is committed to support Pr. Kristin’s work and has pledged 2024. A brief overview of her current work can be seen on YouTube-https://youtu.be/QgYS_eoxBWk. \$6000 in

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.

From our Youth

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our youth in their efforts to raise money for the food pantries. We had a great time doing the soup suppers and we look forward to more projects throughout the year!



We are still taking donations of Kohls cash as well, so if you have any would like to donate, please call the Church office at 920.231.9890. Thank you!

GAME NIGHT

Game night begins following the 5:00 worship service on April 13th. A 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**



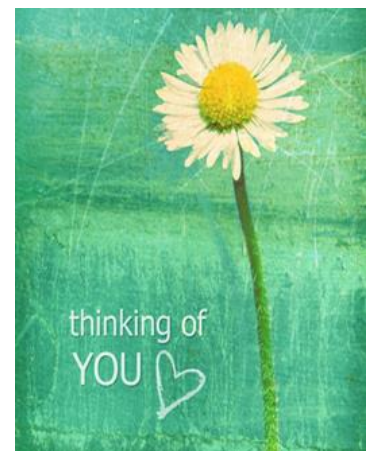
Burgers, brats, hot dogs, chips, baked beans, veggies, beverages provided by FELC

- ***A-L Bring a precut dessert***
- ***M-Z Bring a salad/hot dish***
- ***Bring a folding chair if needed for comfort***
- **Sign-up sheets are available at church entrances and by calling the church office**
- **Volunteers are also welcomed!! See the signup sheet in the church office**

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

A big thank you from the Outreach Team

to all who supplied names, baked, cooked, packaged and delivered the first “Thinking of You” packages. If you know of someone who would like to be included in the next outreach, please forward their names to Kay at 920.203.4464. Those wishing for home communion can also make that desire known at the same number.





THE JELLY BEANS

Red is for the blood He gave,
Green is for the grass He made,
Yellow is for His sun so bright,
Orange is for the edge of night,
Black is for the sins we made,
White is for grace He gave,
Purple is for His hours of sorrow,
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

May every day be Easter in your heart.
May the Joy you feel on Easter morning
be the Joy of each day of your life.

First English Lutheran Church
Church Council
Agenda
Tuesday February 13, 2024

Devotions: Becky Meissner

Serve Matthew Ch. 25 vs. 35

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

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

Excused: Karen Frederick, Mary Murken

Communications: Received a Thank You from Alicia Valdez for the generous Christmas gift. Received a Thank You from Father Carr for our \$200 contribution. Received a Thank You from Lutheran World Relief for our \$5000 donation. Received a Thank You from World Relief for our \$5000 donation. Received a Thank You from Bella Medical Clinic for our \$1000 donation. Received a Thank You from Winnebago Area Literacy Council for our \$5000 donation to assist in teaching the English language services to those in need.

Minutes from January 2024 Council Meeting – M/S/C

Minutes from January 13 Congregational Meeting – M/S/C

Update March Herald Calendar

Treasurer's report from January and paying the bills: M/S/C

- a. January total receipts were \$24,816
- b. General Operating fund has an ending cash balance of \$76,781.
- c. Trust Fund balance is \$75,000
- d. Checking account balance is \$7081
- e. Organ Repair will be needed
- f. We paid \$30,375 to fix the sanctuary ceiling
- g. We bought a new storage shed for \$1590.08

New member/loss report: M/S/C

Baptisms:

Ava Marie Gray Baptized January 27, 2024, Born June 23, 2023

Transfers:

Elizabeth Sell transferred January 23, 2024

Leon and Gloria Klatt transferred January 2024

Deaths:

Mary Louise Jones Died January 18, 2024, Funeral January 26, 2024

Staff reports: M/S/C

Kay Dobberke Brauer

- a. Homebound Outreach – will be delivering meals February 22nd
- b. Picnic – Sunday June 2, 2024. More info to come!

Pastor Jon Radichel-Wills

- a. Stewardship – will be rolling this out to create enthusiasm around the church
- b. Preparing for Wednesday Lent Services
- c. Eater Sunday – there will be a 6am Sunrise service and a combined Traditional and SOH service at 9am

Alicia Valdez

- a. We have about 14 consistent Sunday School kids each week. We just finished our Valentine party which was a hit!
- b. Getting ready for Good Friday Service and the annual Easter egg hunt.
- c. VBS will be held at All Saints July 29-Aug 1. More information to come.
- d. Background checks for volunteers – need to get more information on this as these need to be filled out for any volunteer opportunity.

Committee reports: M/S/C

Music & Worship

- a. Still looking for a keyboardist for the SOH service
- b. Looking into the needs for deaf ministry and what that could look like at FELC
- c. Social Media follow up
- d. Scout Sunday – 5 signed up but only 1 ended up attending. Was still a positive experience and would look at doing it again.

Executive Committee:

Approval to spend \$34 per confirmand for a total of 6 gifts. The total amount would be \$204 plus any shipping/handling and tax on their gift from the Council **M/S/C**

Congregational member reimbursement procedure-Steve

Delegates needed for 2024

- a. Miravida Living 2 delegates needed-3/4 5:30
- b. Synod Assembly 3 delegates needed-5/17-18
- c. Crossways Camping Ministry We have our 2 delegates-3/16 Morning
- d. Lutheran Campus Ministries We have our 2 delegates-3/17 2:00 All Saints
- e. Oshkosh Conference 2 delegates needed-TBD

Old Business:

Review of FELC Constitution

Proposals: M/S/C

Establish Amazon Business Accounts-Pastor Jon

There is an annual fee of \$179 up to 3 users. This would be used to buy items for Education, Outreach and office supplies.

New business:

Review of the Special Congregational Meeting and congregational direction

65 members attended the meeting. There were 21 YouTube views and 4 personal presentations. 66 votes were handed in. 45 voted to stay in the current building. 20 voted to build new. 1 voted for both options.

We own the 9th St property and purchased it for \$180,000. If we sell that property, the money would go back to the Trust Fund, not the general operating fund. We currently rent the land to a farmer and receive \$600 per year in rent. We'll have to start paying property taxes of around \$200 per year.

We also own the 11th St parsonage. We are currently receiving \$1500 a month in rent and pay \$150 a month to a property manager.

We will need to start fundraising soon. There is a plan to meet with the Trust Fund Committee on all of the repairs needed.

Church Picnic-June 2nd Help is needed in the following areas:

- Site & food preparation
- Cooking crew
- Serving
- Greeters/ushers
- Worship service
- Clean up and dishwashing
- Meal delivery

SOH service

The Spirit of Hope Service was started in 2002 and came to the church in 2005. The council is looking for guidance on how to revive this service. There are about 20 consistent members that attend, however, Pastor John has needed help with the music portion for quite some time. We are open to all ideas and suggestions as we'd like to see this service continue.

Close with the Lord's Prayer