



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2023 Newsletter

The Promised Christ Child

Pastor Adam Guthmiller

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth [John 1:14].

The season of Advent marks the liturgical beginning of our *expectation* of the Christ Child – the Messiah who has been promised by God in light of Satan and Adam and Eve being deceived in the Garden. God promises that He will,

“put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel [Genesis 3:15].”

This promise is the *red thread* which is weaved throughout all of Holy Scripture and history since – as the patriarchs and matriarchs of God have been sustained by the hope of a future when the Devil is cast out; Sin is drowned; and Death has been defeated.

The greatness of this *hope* even led Luther to see Eve’s exclamation, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord [Gen 4:1],” as the quick fulfillment of this promise. Luther says, “because of her excessive joy and reverence she was unwilling to call him son but had something greater in mind about him, as though Cain would be the man who would crush the head of the serpent [Luther’s Work, 1:242].” Eve jumped the gun a little – but she “does right in holding fast this way to the divine promise and to her faith in the

deliverance through her son [Ibid].” This is the same hope, expectation, and faith in the future Seed [תְּרֻמָּה, Gen. 3:15] by which all the saints before had been justified and sanctified through [Gen. 15:6; Hebrews 11].

It is not merely an *expectation* of this Christ Child which the Christian Church has to proclaim. We have the fulfillment of this promise, Jesus Christ Himself, the Word who has “became flesh and dwelt among us [John 1:14].” He comes to *make due* on the promise that God had once bestowed upon Adam, Eve, and all sons and daughters after.

The joy of Christmas is not merely placed in a waiting – nor even in falling into bouts of nostalgia of great memories with family and friends – but in the reality that God has truly sent His Son for *us*. That this child “born of the Virgin Mary [Luther’s Small Catechism]” outside of Bethlehem is the “true God, begotten of the Father from eternity [Ibid], and He is *your* Lord.

I pray that you would have “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding [Phil. 4:7]” knowing that the Father has sent His Son; the Jewel of His Crown; the Christ Child; for you.

We look forward to gathering together this December to hear this Christmas story anew – knowing that the Gospel and God are not far off, but have been made near, “*became flesh and dwelt among us [Jn. 1:14].”*

December Birthdays

1-Anthony Cook
Camden Faulds
Alan Spader
Rhonda Youngquist
2-Mike Bosma
Joslynn Kjellsen
3-Albert Iken
Addison Martz
4-Jordan Blind
Casey Sherard
5-Leslie Nelson
Byron Youngquist
7-Carla Cushman
Carmen Kock
Jeff Larson
9-Gayle Hanisch
Gabe Jorgensen
11-Kennedy Garhart
Austin Munce
Nathan Renz
12-Lorna Iken
13-Taylor Hovaldt
14-Christopher Conway
Ezra Roemen
15-Norah Deckert
Colleen Ebsen
Mitchell Rust
LaRon Stoffers
16-Carol Burma
Hayes Hanisch
Bryant Larson
Daxton LeClaire
17-Evan Renz
19-Kevin Kelley
Pam Leisinger
20-Jack Nesseim
21-Elaine Anderson
22-Ashleigh Roemen
25-Holly Doud
26-Diane Abbas
Kaylene Ford
Alex Hanisch
Vickie Munce
27-Colby Reynolds
28-Noah Talatzko
29-Megan Ganschow
Tammy Oltmanns
Ginger Sather
Cory Easter
30-Rita Laumer

31-Elsa Aarbo
Keely Anderson
Marissa Ford
Amy McEntee

December Anniversaries

1-Tim & Jean Reiners
26-Larry & Lynn Adler
27-Russ & Val Wendt

Worship Attendance

November 5th - 102
November 12th - 110
November 19th - 103
November 26th - 69

Acolyte Schedule

December 3rd - Karissa Iken & Adie McVey
December 10th - Alivia Martz & Maren Juffer
December 17th - Evan Crichton & Isaac Vietor
December 24th (5:30pm) - Joslynn Hanisch &
Emma Seykora
December 31st - Sophia Onnen &
Layla Weisenbach

Study of God's Word at FELC

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Luther Hall we have a Bible Study of the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. Join us to hear God's Word! All are welcome!

Semi-Annual Meeting

The FELC Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 14th following the service in Luther Hall. Please plan to attend.

Circle

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 6th with a potluck lunch at noon in Luther Hall. Jean Reiners will have the lesson.

Congratulations

Nathan & Kate Timmerman - married 11/11
Paisley Sue Fitzpatrick - baptized 11/19

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

December 3rd

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

December 5th

7:00 p.m. Health Cabinet
7:00 p.m. Endowment Committee - Library
7:00 p.m. Budget Committee - Room 2

December 6th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Supper
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Grp - 2nd Reformed
7:40 p.m. High Sch Youth Grp - 2nd Reformed

December 7th

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi - Luther Hall

December 10th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word/New Member Recognition
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

December 11th

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Grief Share/Loss of Spouse - Luther Hall

December 13th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Supper
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Grp - 2nd Reformed
7:40 p.m. High Sch Youth Grp - 2nd Reformed

December 14th

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi - Luther Hall

December 17th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program

December 19th

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

December 20th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Supper
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Youth Group Caroling-Meet at FELC

December 21st

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi - Luther Hall

December 24th

No Sunday School
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25th

12:00 noon Christmas Day Meal - Luther Hall

December 27th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study
No Confirmation
No Youth Group

December 28th

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi

December 31st

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
No Sunday School

Financial Information

Finances

November Offerings: \$12,905 was received toward our giving goal of \$20,593. **Thank you for your generous support of First English Lutheran Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

How to Give

You may contribute through the mail using your pre-addressed offering envelopes or mail to PO Box 562, Lennox, SD 57039.

FELC has the option for you to enroll in a **Direct Deposit offering system**. You choose how much, which accounts (General or Building), and how often! If you would like to sign-up for this giving option or have any questions, please contact Gayle at office@felclennox.org.

Venmo payments are accepted as well. To utilize **Givebutter** simply scan the QR Code with your mobile device or type in the link below and it will pull up FELC's Givebutter campaign. Use any form of payment option: Venmo, PayPal, credit card, debit card, ACH, Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Microsoft Pay. Givebutter does add a 3% processing fee + .30

cents per transaction so that 100% of your donation goes to FELC-Lennox.

<https://givebutter.com/Lennox-FELC>

Mission Opportunities

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these [Mark 12:30-31].”

Health Ministry

Please prayerfully consider serving on the Health Cabinet. Notify Laurie Wernke or Gayle Hanisch if you would like to join the Health Ministry team or Chair the Meal Ministry team.

Responsibility of a Health Cabinet member is to pray for the Health Ministry, support and encourage the Health Ministry, help to plan and prepare for events developed by the Health Cabinet team. What is my responsibility as a Meal Ministry Chairperson? You would be responsible to help plan cook dates, e-mail ingredients, communicate with the faith community nurse and members of the team and attend the cook dates and oversee meal assembly. Meals are prepared and delivered. Please feel free to deliver a meal to someone in need. A person suffering from illness, hospital stay, homebound or neighbor with a new baby. Please use the meal sign out sheet attached to the freezer door.

Faith Community Nurse News

A Christmas Day meal to be served at First English Lutheran Church 120 E 2nd Ave Lennox, SD on Monday, December 25th at 12 noon. Please let Laurie Wernke, Faith Community Nurse, know if you would like to donate items, or volunteer. You can reach Laurie at 605-360-5540. Volunteers are needed at 9:30 am to help set up and cook the meal. Volunteers are also needed to help clean up after the meal. The menu will be ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy. If you would like to bring a side dish, salad, or

dessert to share, you are welcome to do so. RSVP to First English Lutheran church 605-647-5140 if you would like to or have any questions. RSVP is not required. Doug and Laurie Wernke will again host the meal. Please join us.

Health Ministry Angel Tree: There will be an angel tree at the church in the social hall. Once the church is decorated, watch for an announcement in the bulletin for the opportunity to help a child or young adult in need. Christ’s love is spread through a gift to the less fortunate. Thank you.

Grief Share will be held Monday Dec. 11th at 4:30pm and will focus on the loss of a spouse. This Grief Share meeting will be the 13th and final meeting of 2023. We will begin a new Edition of Grief Share in January of 2024.

Laurie Wernke RN, Faith Community Nurse, will again be teaching Tai Chi at First English Lutheran Church. Class will begin Thursday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall at 120 E 2nd Ave Lennox. The class will be offered weekly every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. You may ask “What is Tai Chi?” Tai Chi is best described as a meditative exercise. It is easy enough for most all abilities and ages. Tai Chi has been proven to help with relaxation, stress, feelings of well being, improves balance and the physical benefits of exercise. The class is 30 minutes long.

Youth News

Thanks to all who purchased butter braids and made donations to our group, your support is greatly appreciated! December will be busy with cookie baking, caroling and plenty of holiday cheer. Our students will again be baking delicious treats to share with members from both Second Reformed and First English when we go caroling. We will not meet the last Wednesday of the month due to Christmas break. Thank you to everyone for the prayers and support throughout the year, we couldn't have a successful youth group without all of you. Merry Christmas!

December 6—at Second Reformed
December 13—at Second Reformed
December 20—Caroling (meet at FELC)
December 27—no youth group
Grade 6-8 meet at 6:30 p.m. and
grades 9-12 meet at 7:40 p.m.
*Marc Weeldreyer 605-877-5024
*Nicole Winterboer 605-553-0788

Confirmation Decorating Day



Synopsis of November Council Meeting

1. Call to order - Mollie VanMeeteren, also present: Jan Ray, Erin Heibult, Chris Juffer, Ashley Munce, Matt Hanson, Rhiannon Nothdurft, Paul McVey, Byron Youngquist, Pastor Guthmiller, absent Mike Bosma
2. Personal Agendas
3. Devotions: Ashley Munce
4. Visioning; Pastor Guthmiller
5. Prayer for God's Guidance
6. Secretary's report, motion to approve - Jan second by Matt, approved
7. Old Business A. Status of office shelving - COMPLETED!
8. New Business
 - A. Discuss After Prom Party for Ministry of the Month - motion by Ashley, second by Matt, approved; Ministry of the Month selected for December - Joy Ranch; January - Heifer International; February - St. Francis House; March - After Prom - motion by Jan, second by Rhiannon, approved
 - B. Treasurer's Report - Discuss moving items from "Operations"
 - C. Sound System update - new soundboard & 1 amp, second amp needed
 - D. Christmas Day Worship - Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m., no Christmas Day service
 - E. Semi Annual Meeting - January 14th with January 21st as a snow date
9. Reports
 - A. Treasurer - Motion to approve by Bzyron, second Chris, approved
10. Next Council Meeting: December 19th at 7:00pm
11. Devotions at Next Meeting: Byron
12. Communion Helpers: Nov 26th - Paul; Dec 3rd - Jan
13. Money counters: Nov 26th - Paul & Mollie; Dec 3rd - Jan & Matt; Dec 10th - Rhiannon & Erin; Dec 17th - Mollie & Chris
14. Motion to adjourn - Matt, second by Ashley, approved
15. Prayer

December Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	4	5 7:00pm Health Cabinet 7:00pm Endowment-Library 7:00pm Budget-Room 2	6 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Conf. Supper 5:30pm Conf. Class 6:30pm Youth Group - 2nd Ref.	7 7:00pm Tai Chi-Luther Hall	8	9
10 9:30am Worship of the Word/New Member Recognition 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	11 4:30pm Grief Share; Loss of Spouse-Luther Hall	12	13 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Conf. Supper 5:30pm Conf. Class 6:30pm Youth Group - 2nd Ref.	14 7:00pm Tai Chi-Luther Hall	15	16
17 9:30am Worship Service of the Word 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Sunday School Christmas Program	18	19 7:00pm Council Meeting	20 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Conf. Supper 5:30pm Conf. Class 6:30pm Youth Group Caroling - Meet at FELC	21 7:00pm Tai Chi-Luther Hall	22	23
24 No Morning Service No Sunday School 5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 12:00noon Christmas Day Meal-Luther Hall	26	27 1:00pm Wed Bible Study No Confirmation No Youth Group	28 7:00pm Tai Chi-Luther Hall	29	30
31 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship No Sunday School						