



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2024 Newsletter

Lent and the Book of Genesis

Pastor Adam Guthmiller

The last decade of Martin Luther's life saw him devote considerable time and energy towards lecturing on the book of Genesis. He saw it as he saw the entirety of the Old Testament: through the Cross of Jesus Christ. For him it was a book filled with stories of how God *played* with His saints [Luther on God's Play with His Saints by Vincent Kam in Lutheran Quarterly, Jan. 2020] in the midst of their daily lives. Genesis is full of miraculous stories – Creation, the Flood, the sudden appearance of ram on top of Mount Moriah [Genesis 22:13], to name just a few – but more remarkable is how down-to-earth the stories are. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson notes that Genesis contains talk about,

“cattle, breeding goats, planting crops, getting from here to there and back again. Marriage and giving in marriage. Conceiving and bearing children—both good and bad ways to go about getting that done. Meals are eaten and wine is drunk. Households are managed [Luther's Hagiographical Reformation of the Doctrine of Sanctification, Lutheran Quarterly, Jan. 2020].”

There is a normalcy to the lives of the patriarchs and matriarchs of Genesis. And yet, through these stories we see how God preserves, creates, and plays with His saints. Luther comments on Genesis 22 [Sacrifice of Isaac] that “here you see with what unconcern the Divine Majesty toys with death and all the power of death. Here God is playing with His patriarch and his son [Luther's Works 4:115].”

This Lenten season First English Lutheran Church will come together during our midweek services at 7:00 p.m. to hear again the familiar stories of the book of Genesis. We will see and hear how God enters into the daily lives of His saints – those made Holy by His Word of promise – and how He plays with them.

They live lives marked by work, family, vocations, the preparation of meals, the giving of sons and daughters in marriage, children, and even attempting to find a home. Things have changed some since then – technology being chief among these changes – and yet, the basic joys and trials of human life are the same. We will hear anew in these stories how God

“places His own under the cross; and although he delays their deliverance, nevertheless in the end He gloriously snatches them out of their dangers and makes them victors [Luther's Works 2:369].”

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you this day and throughout this season of Lent as we acknowledge, recognize, and confess our sin. We do this always looking towards the Cross of Jesus Christ and the eternal word and promise which has been given to each of us first in Baptism: that “you who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross [Colossians 2:13-14]

February Birthdays

1-Jeremy Weisenbach
Laurie Beth Weisenbach
2-Kim Boe
Bev Kerr
4-Gracen Juffer
5-Chris Juffer
7-Randi Fodness
Jacob Timmerman
8-Brenda Haan
Karson Iken
9-Randy Kuiper
Cara Waggoner
10-Michael Carlson
Andrew Hansich
Shawn Nesseim
Kaysen Plimpton
Isaac Vietor
11-Roger Kock
12-Jane Iken
Tyler Larson
Dan Severson
14-Alexandra Denning
Kinley Glaser
15-Evan Crichton
Tara Drake
Adam Guthmiller
16-Jeremiah McDougall
Rylee Smith
Bobbi Jo Wendt
17-Bree VanMeeteren
18-Derek Evans
Ethan Munce
Catie Sherard
Josh Timmerman
19-Tyler Abbas
Kim Poppenga-Smith
20-Cassidy Bultena
Zach Ford
Peyton Goeken
Mara Hinker
Cade Sherard
Connor Sherard
Nolan Vietor
21-Kyah Fitzpatrick
Katie Fogle
Karston Heibult
22-Willow Benson
Travis Gulbrandson
Josh Jorgensen

23-Jacob Hinker
24-Darvin Abbas
25-Brenda Ferguson
26-Margene Pederson
Orville Wiebers
27-Jordan Fischer
Joshua Fischer
28-Brandon Ferguson
Lori Ganschow
Noah Larson
Kyle Leonard
29-Megan Hinker
Phillip Oligmueller
Sandy Poppenga

February Anniversaries

11-Brian & Patty Klinghagen
13-Travis & Samantha DeJong
14-Jim & Roxanne Severson
21-Matt & Megan Hanson
23-Corey & Ashley Munce
24-Kent & Terri Ann Plimpton

Worship Attendance

January 7th - 88
January 14 - 0 (Church canceled - weather)
January 21 - 86
January 28 - 82

Acolyte Schedule

February 4th - Teagen Sturm & Triston Sturm
Feb. 11th - Hannah Bachmann & Alivia Martz
February 18th - Evan Crichton & Ethan Munce
February 25th - Karissa Iken & Adie McVey

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!

Circle

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 28th at 2:00 p.m. in Luther Hall. Jean Reiners will have the lesson and Marilyn Hoelscher will bring treats.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

February 1st

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

February 4th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion/Lord's Prayer-2nd Grade

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

February 6th

7:00 p.m. Health Cabinet

February 7th

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 (Kids Against Hunger-Sioux Falls)

February 8th

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

February 11th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word

10:30 a.m. Love, INC. Presentation/Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

February 12th

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Grief Share - Luther Hall

February 14th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper

No Youth Group

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

February 15th

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

February 18th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

No Sunday School

February 20th

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

February 21st

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study - Library

2:00 p.m. Circle - Luther Hall

4:00 p.m. 1st Communion Class

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper

6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group - FELC

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service

7:40 p.m. High School Youth Group - FELC

February 22nd

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

February 25th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion/Words of Institution-5th Grade

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

February 26th

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Grief Share - Luther Hall

February 28th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

4:00 p.m. 1st Communion Class

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper

6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group - FELC

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service

7:40 p.m. High School Youth Group - FELC

Financial Information

Finances

January Offerings: \$15,566 was received toward our giving goal of \$14,716. **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. The Meal Ministry team will be cooking meals on Monday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. Please come to help if you are interested in volunteering for this ministry.

Faith Community Nurse News

Grief Share will be offered on Monday, February 12th and Monday, February 26th from 4:30pm - 6:30pm. You may sign up at Griefshare.org or call the church office at 605-647-5140.

Laurie Wernke RN, Faith Community Nurse, will again be teaching Tai Chi at First English Lutheran Church. Class will be on

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the church social hall at 120 E 2nd Ave Lennox. 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. If you have made a resolution to exercise more, here is a chance to learn a new, easy exercise. The class is 30 minutes long.

A special guest will be in Luther Hall after service on February 11th. Please stay for a short presentation by Michelle Paulson, Executive Director of Love, INC. of Greater Lennox and Turner County. Their office is located in the west wing of Faith Presbyterian Church. Their address for correspondence and donations is PO Box 75, Lennox SD 57039.

February is Heart month. How do you keep your heart healthy? Know your numbers: Know what your blood pressure is? The baseline normal blood pressure is 120/80. The systolic or top number represents your heart when it pumps blood out to the body. The Diastolic Blood pressure is the lower number that represents your heart's rest. If either number is too high it is very hard on your heart and other organs in your body. It is important to know your cholesterol also. If your cholesterol is too high it causes cardiovascular disease. The blood vessels in your heart are narrowed by plaque and is one of the causes of heart attack. What can you do to help your heart and blood pressure? Keep active with exercise, eat a healthy diet, and maintain a healthy weight. Eat more fruits and vegetables. Try to limit sugar, salt and fatty foods.

Youth News

We have a busy month ahead in youth group! The winter weather extended our Christmas break by 1 week, so we were grateful to be back together again. On February 7, we have the honor of spending the evening packing lunches for kids in need at Kids Against Hunger in Sioux Falls. We have done this in years past, and it is both fun and impactful to know the hands of our students are helping feed kids from around the world, and sometimes right here at home. There's also a bit of friendly competition to see how our number of meals packed stacks up against previous groups! The youth group will be hosting their soup and pie supper on Sunday, 2/25 from 5:00-7:00 at Second Reformed Church. Chili, chicken noodle, sloppy joes, hot dogs, and of course, dessert will be served for a free-will donation. We will offer drive up/take out and dine in service. This is the youth group's largest fundraiser, and proceeds offset costs of youth events and transportation. Thank you for your support!

Schedule is as follows:

2/7 - Kids Against Hunger

2/14 - Ash Wednesday - no youth group

2/21 - First English

2/28 - First English

Grades 6-8 meet at 6:30 and grades 9-12 meet at 7:40 PM.

Marc 605-877-5024 | Nicole 605-533-0788

Synopsis of January Council Meeting - January 16, 2024

1. Call to order - Mollie VanMeeteren, also present: Jan Ray (remotely), Erin Heibult, Byron Youngquist, Chris Juffer, Matt Hanson, Rhiannon Nothdurft, Pastor Guthmiller, absent Mike Bosma, Ashley Munce, and Paul McVey
2. Personal Agendas
3. Devotions: Byron Youngquist
4. Visioning; Pastor Guthmiller
5. Prayer for God's Guidance
6. Secretary's report: motion to approve - Erin; second by Matt, approved
7. Old Business
 - a. Budget
 - i. Change pastor's salary increase from 2.3% to 3.2%; Change building remodel from \$5,000 back to \$1,200 with capital campaign: Motion to approve - Jan, second by Matt - approved
8. New Business
 - A. Grief Share Funds: Will be receiving \$400 from Sanford Health; requesting remaining \$225 from FELC, for a total of \$625: Motion to approve - Byron, second by Chris - approved
 - B. Projection screen/music on screen/color change - discuss at Semi-Annual Meeting
 - C. Service - standing too long? Discussed
 - D. Mileage and outreach monthly logs - discussed with Pastor
 - E. Hire new cleaning person; job description update - discussed options
 - F. Review job descriptions for cleaning person, pastor, and nurse - need updates
 - G. Gayle's vacation - 2 weeks (starting when?) and 1 sick day per month up to 30 total - motion to approve - Jan, second by Rhiannon, approved
 - H. Organist music before and after service - discussed
 - I. Ash Wednesday is February 14th - Lenten offerings to go towards classroom remodel/combo; motion to approve - Byron, second by Matt - approved
 - J. Sunday school offerings to be kept at \$50 on hand with the rest deposited; motion to approve - Matt, second by Erin - approved
9. Reports
 - A. Treasurer - Motion to approve - Chris, second by Matt, approved
10. Next Council Meeting: February 20th at 7:00pm
11. Devotions at Next Meeting: Chris
12. Communion Helpers: Jan 28th - Erin; Feb 4th - Rhiannon
13. Money counters: Jan 21st - Rhiannon & Byron; Jan 28th - Erin & Ashley; Feb 4th - Rhiannon & Mollie; Feb 11th - Paul & Mike; Feb 18th - Jan & Chris
14. Adjourn
15. Prayer

Synopsis of Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting - January 21, 2024

1. Call to Order - President Mollie VanMeeteren 10:17 a.m.
 - a. Motion to recess - Mollie VanMeeteren, second by Rhiannon Nothdurft 10:18 a.m.
 - b. Reconvened 10:31
2. Opening Devotions - Pastor Guthmiller
3. Approval of the Agenda; motion to approve - Carolyn Carlson, second by Julie Bosma - approved
4. Secretary's Report on the January 15, 2023 meeting; motion to approve - Harold Timmerman, second by John Steever - approved
5. Treasurer's Report; motion to approve - Jean Reiners, second by Joel Laumer - approved
6. Other Financial Reports; motion to approve - Harold Timmerman, second by Art Ringen - approved
7. Presentation/discussion of the 2024 Budget
8. Old Business - None
9. New Business
 - a. Service Concerns Discussed (Projection screen color/standing too much/hiring another organist - Pastor talked about a high schooler who was interested and would be doing some limited playing on a trial basis): Using black and white projection screen was approved by consensus
 - b. Vote on 2024 Budget; motion to approve - Jeol Laumer, second by Jim Oakland - approved
10. Adjournment; motion to adjourn - Gayle Hanisch, second by Joel Laumer - approved
11. Closing Prayer - Pastor Guthmiller

February Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI.	SAT.
				1 7:00pm Tai Chi - Luther Hall	2	3
4 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Comm/2nd Grade- Lord's Prayer 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	5	6 7:00pm Health Cabinet	7 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Conf. Supper 5:30pm Conf. Class 6:30pm Youth Group - 2nd Ref. (Kids Against Hunger-Sioux Falls)	8 7:00pm Tai Chi- Luther Hall	9	10
11 9:30am Worship of the Word 10:30am Love, INC. Presentation/ Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	12 4:30pm- 6:30pm Grief Share- Luther Hall	13	14 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm-6:30pm Lenten Supper No Youth Group 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	15 7:00pm Tai Chi- Luther Hall	16	17
18 9:30am Worship Service of the Word 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship No Sunday School	19	20 7:00pm Council Meeting	21 1:00pm Wed Bible Study - Library 2:00pm Circle - Luther Hall 4:00pm 1st Communion Class 5:00pm-6:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Youth Group - FELC 7:00pm Lenten Worship Service	22 7:00pm Tai Chi- Luther Hall	23	24
25 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Comm/5th Grade- Words of Instit. 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School 5:00pm-7:00pm Soup&Pie-2nd Reformed	26 4:30pm- 6:30pm Grief Share- Luther Hall	27	28 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 4:00pm 1st Communion Class 5:00pm-6:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Youth Group - FELC	29 7:00pm Tai Chi- Luther Hall		