



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2024 Newsletter

The Christian Hope

Pastor Adam Guthmiller

“Hope springs eternal in the human breast...”

It was the 18th century English poet Alexander Pope who made this observation in his *An Essay on Man*. There is – as many people have noted throughout the years – a certain truth to that observation. We often hold onto people, ideas, even sports-teams [I am thinking of our poor long-suffering Minnesota Vikings fans] far longer than what the circumstances would reasonably suggest. But nowhere is this truth more apparent than when the New Year peaks its head from the shadows of Christmas. There is often a sudden, and collective, resurgence of hope which emerges. Resolutions are made. A new start is given and grasped.

This year I will run a marathon!

This year I will control my diet!

This year I will learn to play an instrument!

“Hope springs eternal in the human breast...”

We all know the enthusiasm and hope of the New Year will often fade. Inevitably, any hope which is placed within the confines of our temporal life on earth will be slowly taken from us. “The grass withers, the flowers fade [Isaiah 40:8]” speaks of the stark reality that accentuates our life in this fallen world. Jesus Christ continues preaching on this point when He says His disciples there

and here today, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust, destroy and where thieves break in and steal [Matthew 6:19].” Where then is our hope?

The Christian church is a first place where many of our hopes are placed in the tomb. We are told by Jesus that our worldly riches cannot buy salvation [Matthew 19:24]. We are told that our parents – our family – shall not come to be a barrier between us and our Lord [Luke 14:26]. And we are told that “all who rely on works of the law are under a curse [Galatians 3:10].” The preaching of the Law will *wrestle* away from us all our false hopes.

But the Christian church does merely place our hopes in the tomb – we are given an *imperishable* [1 Peter 4:4] hope. It is hope which does not depend upon our wealth, our family, our good works, our righteousness, or anything else which *marks* our life on Earth. The hope instead is in the promise of the Gospel. That Jesus Christ has – in His Word and Sacrament – given to us His victory, life, and salvation [Luther’s Small Catechism]. This is the hope that we have been given at First English Lutheran Church. That our Lord will remain faithful to His promises.

In Christ,

Pastor Adam Guthmiller

January Birthdays

- 1-Kristi Olson
- 2-Angela Schuyler
- 3-Brooklyn Buehner
 - Amanda Kruse
 - Addison Martz
- 4-Nathan Timmerman
 - Grace Jerke
- 5-LeeAnn Carnes
 - Parker Brewer
- 8-Brinley Benson
 - Krystel LeClaire
 - Jeff Lounsbery
 - Paul McVey
- 9-Mike Fillipi
 - Scott Ford
- 10-Katy Hartman
- 12-Amy Fischer
- 14-Jason Doud
 - Willy Storm
- 15-Joshua Poppens
 - Britain Smith
 - Laura Stoffers
 - Elias Johnson-Youngquist
- 16-Kelsey Fitzpatrick
 - Kendra Stien
- 18-Krista Muller
 - Emma Strand
- 22-Austin Benson
 - Jason Brown
 - Shelby Hartman
 - Kristi Sweeter
- 23-Lori Fillipi
 - Darin Muller
 - Dan Steever
- 25-Karen Bolte
 - Jill Crichton
 - Josh Martz
 - Ashlynn Rust
- 26-Kenzie Hartman
 - Jim VanBockern
- 27-Ian Roeman
- 28-Aria Smit
 - Emery Smit
- 29-Camden Weber
 - Zach Wendt

January Anniversaries

- 1-Tyler & Kayla Andernacht
- 3-Ryan & Misty Weisenbach
- 8-Brian & Lori Spader

- 19-Kevin & Cindy Kelley
- Todd & Leslie Nelson
- 28-Kyle & Stacy Brewer

Worship Attendance

- December 3rd - 104
- December 10th - 127
- December 17th - 132
- December 24th - 52, 132, 52
- December 31st - 66

Acolyte Schedule

- January 7th - Wyatt Crichton & Kobe Glaser
- January 14th - Bergan Musser & Adalynn Nielson
- January 21st - Tori Gerdes & Catie Sherard
- January 28th - Maren Juffer & Zada Storm

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, January 24th at 2:00 p.m. in Luther Hall. Jean Reiners will have the lesson and Carole Musch will bring treats.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

January 3rd

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

January 4th

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

January 7th

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

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

January 8th

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

7:00 p.m. Meal Ministry & Health Cabinet

January 10th

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

January 11th

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

January 14th

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

10:30 a.m. Semi-Annual Meeting/Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

January 16th

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

January 17th

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 Group - FELC

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

January 18th

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

January 21st

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

January 24th

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

2:00 p.m. Circle - Luther Hall

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Supper

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

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

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

January 25th

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

January 28th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

January 31st

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

Financial Information

Finances

December Offerings: \$27,116 was received toward our giving goal of \$29,746. **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 - Loss of Spouse will be offered on Monday, January 8th 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.

Thank you to all who attended and donated their time to help with the Christmas

dinner. Despite the weather, we served 38 people.

Covid, Influenza, RSV, and shingles shots are available at your pharmacy. Ask if they are covered by medicare (most are). If you have a compromised immune system, it would be beneficial to wear a mask again to keep yourself safe from these communicable diseases. Always take extra precautions in the winter months to wash hands and sanitize your hands and shopping carts.

Youth News

Happy New Year! We are grateful for God's many blessings over the past year, and we look forward with anticipation for what is to come in 2024. In December, we celebrated the birth of our Savior by studying the book of Luke and sharing and discussing the wonder of Jesus' birth. We also were busy in the kitchen making Christmas goodies, and then we spent an evening spreading Christmas cheer by caroling around town. We thank everyone for their support and prayers throughout the past year.

January 3—No Youth meetings

January 10—at Second Reformed

January 17—at FELC

January 24—at FELC

January 31—at Second Reformed

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

Meeting Notice

The Lennox Christian Women's Connection will have an organizational meeting on Thursday, January 11th at 1:00 p.m. in the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church social hall. With the resignation of the chair and some other officers, they are gathering to discuss the future of the group. Cynthia Rops Sheppard will be there to represent Stonecroft Ministries, under whose umbrella the group belongs. All women who desire to see the group continue are asked to come to this meeting.

Christmas Program



Christmas Dinner



Angel Tree Distribution



Synopsis of December Council Meeting

1. Call to order - Mollie VanMeeteren, also present: Jan Ray, Erin Heibult, Chris Juffer, Ashley Munce, Matt Hanson, Rhiannon Nothdurft, Paul McVey, Pastor Guthmiller, absent Mike Bosma and Byron Youngquist
2. Personal Agendas
3. Devotions: None
4. Visioning; Pastor Guthmiller
5. Prayer for God's Guidance
6. Secretary's report, motion to approve - Chris; second by Rhiannon, approved
7. Old Business - None
8. New Business
 - A. Discuss need for organists - Brenda gone, Rhonda - 1 service/month; Leslie - 2 services/month. High school student, Zander met with Pastor - may start soon. Putting in bulletin and emailed several colleges to see if music student would be interested.
 - B. New member acknowledgements - Marvella Horstman, Samantha Pugh, Ally Roth, Ethan Roth, Anna Steever, Katelyn Timmerman, and Ryan Weisenbach.
 - C. New vacuums needed for church - motion to approve \$600 - \$700 by Ashley, seconded by Paul - approved.
 - D. Adding two more services to Christmas Eve - 9:30am and 3:30pm services - council approved.
 - E. Approve new budget for 2024 - motion by Chris, seconded by Jan - approved.
 - F. Stewardship - should we start again? - will discuss next month after budget meeting.
 - G. Review deposit procedures - done by Mollie.
 - H. Lay lectors needed for Christmas Eve - Paul will read at 3:30.
 - I. Ushers needed for 3:30pm service - Heibults
 - J. Updating/combining rooms 2 & 3 - Orville/John Steever have looked at project and come up with what will need to be done. Money added to the budget to pay for project.
 - K. Hire new janitor - motion by Mollie to get job description updated and put out to the public.
 - L. Moving MOM for January to the Aaron Ford Family - motion by Mollie, second by Rhiannon - approved.
9. Reports
 - A. Treasurer - Motion to approve by Jan, second Chris, approved
10. Next Council Meeting: January 16th at 7:00pm
11. Devotions at Next Meeting: Byron
12. Communion Helpers: Dec 31st - Erin; Jan 7th - Jan
13. Money counters: Dec 24th - Paul & Mollie; Dec 31st - Erin & Mollie; Jan 7th - Rhiannon & Jan; Jan 14th - Ashley & Rhiannon
14. Motion to adjourn - Mollie, second by Chris, approved
15. Prayer

January Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI.	SAT.
	1	2	3 1:00pm Wed Bible Study	4 7:00pm Tai Chi - Luther Hall	5	6
7 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Youth (6th-12th) Meet in Luther Hall	8 4:30pm-6:30pm Grief Share/Loss of Spouse 7:00pm Meal Ministry & Health Cabinet	9	10 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Conf. Supper 5:30pm Conf. Class 6:30pm Youth Group - 2nd Ref.	11 7:00pm Tai Chi - Luther Hall	12	13
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21 9:30am Worship Service of the Word 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	22	23	24 1:00pm Wed Bible Study - Library 2:00pm Circle - Luther Hall 5:00pm Conf. Supper 5:30pm Conf. Class 6:30pm Youth Group - FELC	25 7:00pm Tai Chi - Luther Hall	26	27
28 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	29	30	31 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Conf. Supper 5:30pm Conf. Class 6:30pm Youth Group - 2nd Reformed			