



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2023 Newsletter

Ephesians and our September Kick

Pastor Adam Guthmiller

St. Paul writes in his letter to “the saints who are in Ephesus [Ephesians 1:1]” to remind them that in Jesus Christ we have “redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses [1:7].” This is *good news* for the Ephesians and for us precisely because of where we find ourselves without the mercy of God. We are,

“dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind [2:1-3].”

Paul reveals to us our true *place* that we find ourselves in this life. It isn’t merely that we are Americans or South Dakotans – though this is true – but that our true location is the grave. We are found *dead in our sins and trespasses* living according only to the passions of the flesh and carrying out selfish desires. There are some who call this freedom – but Paul knows this to be our death. And yet, “even when we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ [2:5]. That we who once were far off with no hope (*no certainty or promise ahead*) and no God, “have been brought near by the blood of Christ [2:13].” This is certainly *good news*.

It is from Ephesians 2:10 that we receive the theme for our upcoming year of Sunday School:

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

I often remind myself and especially our Confirmation students the importance of knowing that we “are God’s handiwork,” as Paul says. As Lutherans we teach and confess this in our Small Catechism when we come to the 3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed and say,

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith [SC Art. III].”

We are completely passive to the righteousness that we are given in faith – and even the good works which proceed from faith are prepared already by God in advance. Martin Luther exclaims in his preface to Romans,

“What a living, creative, active, powerful thing is faith! It is impossible that faith ever stop doing good. Faith doesn’t ask whether good works are to be done, but, before it is asked, it has done them.

We look forward to another wonderful year of our educational programs as we begin Sunday School on September 10th, Confirmation with 7th graders on September 6th, and

Confirmation with 7th and 8th graders on September 13th. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to register your children for Sunday School or Confirmation – I encourage you to do so.

September Birthdays

1-Caden McInerney
Bonnie Sorensen
2-Harold Timmerman
4-Joby Heibult
5-Bob Fylling
Jill Severson
6-Steve Fodness
Trevor Tesch
7-Christina Renz
8-Madison Buehner
Austin Heibult
Bergan Musser
Jenny Nesseim
9-Adam Curtis
Jim Jibben
10-Ellen Curtis
Toni McHale
11-Jeff Korslund
Curt Pederson
12-Paisley Goeken
13-Cory Stoffers
14-Corleen Timmerman
Ben VanBockern
15-Molly Doud
Ashley Munce
Derek Severson
16-Peder Laumer
17-Brian Gulbrandson
18-Danielle Stoffers
19-Jack Curtis
Denise Stansell
Alyssa VanWyhe
20-John Fischer
Kevin Plank
21-Cal Hubregtse
22-Sophia Spader
Janet Ray
23-Andrew Nielson
24-Audra Heidelberger
25-Bobbie Lin Gloe

Mitch VanMeeteren
26-Amy Sather
Mollie VanMeeteren
Wendy Sherard
27-Kobe Glaser
28-Renae Buehner
Hailey Hagedorn
Caden Iken
Paige Parr
29-Stephen Blitzsch
Luke VanMeeteren

September Anniversaries

5-Larry & Kay Jerke
6-Brandon & Brittany Klinger
10-Jason & Holly Doud
13-Brian & Amy McEntee
Roy & Jackie Poppenga
17-Scott & Heather Faber
18-Bob & Christie Fylling
21-Mike & Lori Fillipi
22-Andy & Becky Kuyper
23-Joshuah & Kaylee Stenzel
24-Joby & Erin Heibult
25-Alan & Andrea Ruud
Evan & Cindy Faulds
26-Harold & Corleen Timmerman
27-Tim & Brenda Ferguson
Joel & Lindsay Brewer
30-Zachary & Rhiannon Nothdurft

Worship Attendance

August 6th — 58
August 13th — 96
August 20th — 74
August 27th — 53

Acolyte Schedule

September 3rd - Triston Sturm
Isaac Viotor
September 10th - Austin Heibult
Teagen Sturm
September 17th - Karissa Iken
Addie McVey
September 24th - Adalynn Nielson
Catie Sherard

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

September 3rd

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

September 5th

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

September 6th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Supper - 7th Graders
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class - 7th Graders

September 10th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School Rally Sunday

September 11th

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

September 13th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Supper
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

September 17th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School

September 19th

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

September 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

September 23rd

8:30 a.m./10:30 a.m. Prepare/Serve at The Banquet

September 24th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School

September 25th

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

September 27th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study - Library
2:00 p.m. Circle Meeting - Luther Hall
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Supper
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Financial Information

Finances

August Offerings: \$15,327 was received toward our giving goal of \$16,017. **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>

Study of God's Word at FELC

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

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

Grief Share will be held September 11th and September 25th from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Health Cabinet meeting is Tuesday September 5th at 7 p.m.

September is Fall Prevention awareness. We are not talking about autumn here. It is a bone breaking fall we are trying to prevent.

Accidents do happen but sometimes prevention is the best medicine. Keeping clear pathways in your home is important. Especially to and from the bathroom at night. Anyone can fall but elders are more likely to break bones. Motion sensor lights can help along hallways to the bathroom. Elders are discouraged from using area rugs as they have been identified as a tripping hazard.

Malnutrition awareness month is also in September. It is important to get the right nutrients in the food that you eat. It is helpful to take a daily multivitamin. Remember to pay attention to nutrition labels. There are many foods that have low nutritional value. Fresh foods are best.

Youth News

Rocky Mountain High did not disappoint! To say our students and leaders had an amazing time would be an understatement. Hearts were touched and affected in profound ways—to get to be a part of this encounter with our students is such a blessing.

All of our students, as well as Marc and Julie, got to brave the Poudre River for some white water rafting—an experience none of them will soon forget! We spent our time on campus enjoying the many activities offered—everything from inflatables, 9-square, basketball and volleyball courts, a mechanical bull, even "silent disco" (that one was definitely entertaining to watch!) just to name a few. We also spent one afternoon shopping and touring around Estes Park. All of this among the breathtaking backdrop of the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

Of course, the most powerful part of the experience was the hours spent worshiping along with hundreds of other students and leaders, and the speakers that led the sessions left a deep impression on all of us. The last session was particularly profound—after being led in worship and listening to a teaching about the cross, each individual youth group partook in communion...it was very moving. Many heartfelt, emotional conversations were had in our private youth group time, and lives were no doubt impacted by this experience. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our church family that enables us to go to Rocky. And of course, your prayers were felt in many ways.

Looking ahead, a new school year is upon us and we can't wait to kick off a new season. We will begin our year with our traditional hayride, which will be held on September 13th. Then the remaining September sessions on 9/20 and 9/27 will be held at First English with grades 6-8 at 6:30 and grades 9-12 at 7:40. Thank you all again for your support.

*Marc Weeldreyer 605-877-5024

*Nicole Winterboer 605-553-0788

Serving at The Banquet

First English Lutheran and St Magdalen Catholic Church serve at **The Banquet** Saturday September 23rd. The Banquet is located at 900 E 8th St in Sioux Falls. Volunteers sign up to arrive at 08:30 am or 10:30 am to prepare and serve lunch. Please look for the signup sheet on the office door. We will need 25 -30 volunteers between the two churches. Please feel free to bring tomatoes and produce if you have extra.

Harvest Festival

Harvest festival 2023 will be October 15. Decorating of the chancel area will be done the Wednesday before. If you have produce or fall decoration items that can be used, watch for a time to have them at church. The offering will go toward up-dating and improving the sound system in the sanctuary. As in the past you are asked to bring non-perishable food, paper products, and hygiene items to be taken to The Exchange, Lennox's food pantry located at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. We plan to have confirmation students meet you at the door to take your donations to the front. Following worship there will be a brunch in Luther Hall. Details of that will be published later.

Endowment Meeting

The Endowment Committee will have their quarterly meeting on Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.



Rocky Mountain High



First English Lutheran Church

2023 - 2024 Sunday School Schedule

September

10 – Rally Sunday
17
24

October

1 – 3 rd Graders receive Bible
8 – No Sunday School
15 – *Start Christmas program practice?
22
29 – Rite of Confirmation

November

5 – Apostles' Creed with 4 th Graders
12
19
26 – No Sunday School (Thanksgiving)

December

3
10
17 – Christmas Program
24 – No Sunday School
31 – No Sunday School

January

7
14
21 - Lord's prayer with 2nd Graders
28

February

4
11 - Words of Institution w/5th Graders
18 - No Sunday School
25

March

3 - Benediction with 1st Graders
10
17 - No Sunday School
24 - Palm Sunday
31 - Easter - No Sunday School

April

7
14
21 - 10 Commandments w/3rd Graders
28

May

5
12
19
*Last day of School is May 16

Synopsis of August Council Meeting

1. Call To Order Mollie VanMeeteren, also present: Jan Ray, Ashley Munce, Byron Youngquist, Rhiannon Nothdurft, Chris Juffer, Mike Bosma, Paul McVey, Erin Heibult, Matt Hanson, Pastor Guthmiller
2. Personal Agendas
3. Devotions; Mollie
4. Visioning; Pastor Guthmiller
5. Prayer for God's guidance
6. Secretary's report; Motion to approve, Mike, second Jan, approved
7. Old Business
 - a. Election of Chris Juffer : VP Motion by Mollie, second Ashley, approved Having completed their terms, John Steever, Orville Wieber, Kim Poppenga-Smith and Elizabeth Bachmann are going off of Council
 - b. Status of Office shelving ; no new updates
 - c. Pastor's Insurance; Pastor and Mollie met with ATY and Hahn ins to discuss and settle matters.
8. New Business
 - a. Transfers: Out- Alan and Lynette Fodness to Wet Prairie Lutheran, Worthing SD
 - b. Bank signature card - Remove John Steever add Chris Juffer
 - c. Review Facility Use Agreement for approval Motion by Mike second Paul, Approved
 - d. Verify Gayle's sick leave may be used for vacation - find contract, hiring guide and personnel guide
 - e. Choose Ministry of the Month, September; SS supplies motion by Paul second Jan; approved October :McCrossans, motion by Mollie, second Matt, approved
 - f. Liasons please get updated committee member/ officer lists to Gayle
 - g. Christmas services, 1 service on 24th, 1 on 25th pastor will talk with Leslie
 - h. Contemporary service will be phased out and encourage special music
9. Reports
 - a. Treasurer ; motion to approve - Mike, second Jan, approved
10. Next Council Meeting: September 19th at 7:00pm
11. Devotions next meeting: Rhiannon
12. Communion helpers
 - a. Aug 20th - Jan, Sept 3rd - Rhiannon
 - b. Money Counters; Aug 20th Paul/Jan, Aug 27th Rhiannon/ Byron, Sept 3rd Mollie/
Chris, Sept 10th Erin/ Mollie, Sept 17th Rhiannon/ Mike or Matt
13. Adjourn; motion by Jan second Ashlely, approved
14. Prayer

September Calendar

					1	2
3 9:30am Worship with Communion 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship	4 LABOR DAY	5 7:00pm Health Cabinet 7:00pm Endow- ment Committee - Library	6 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation Supper-7th Gd. 5:30pm Confirmation Class-7th Grade	7	8	9
10 9:30am Worship of the Word 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School Rally Day	11 4:30pm- 6:30pm Grief Share- Luther Hall	12	13 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation Supper 5:30pm Confirmation Class	14	15	16
17 9:30am Worship Service of the Word 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School	18	19 7:00pm Council Meeting	20 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 5:00pm Confirmation Supper 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Youth Group	21	22	23 8:30am/ 10:30am Prepare/ Serve at The Banquet
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