

### **Let us remember in prayer...**

- Kathy Ellis (*recovering at home following foot surgery*)
- Gary Pagel (*at Aspirus receiving rehab*)
- Carol Viegut (*FE member*)
- Dolores Hintz (*residing at Sylvan Crossings – FE member*)
- Kathi (*health issues*)
- Ron Wolfe (*at Gardenside Crossings – FE member*)
- Delbert Barttelt (*FE member*)
- Kathy Lampe (*health concerns – FE member*)
- Marion (*health concerns – Lori Heyne's mother*)
- Roger Schmidt (*health concerns*)
- Sandra (*treatment for cancer – sister of Susan Oberbeck*)
- All those with Covid-19 and their families
- All hospital personnel, medical researchers, doctors and nurses especially Todd Detert, Holli Radtke, Reese Aarthun and Pat Seivert who are members of First English
- Dave (*health concerns*)
- Lorry (*recovering from a fall at home*)
- Kay (*going through some trying times*)
- Our members who are in nursing home/assisted living facilities or homebound
- Bishops Anne (East Central Synod) and Elizabeth (Presiding Bishop)
- Pastor Jack and the Maanoane Parish and our missionary, Pastor Alex

If you have someone you would like included in the prayers, call or email Deb.

### **Remember members of First English serving our country...**

- Erik Larson who is serving in the Navy Reserves
- Patrick Witz who is serving in the Marines
- All the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces

### **Daily Devotion Books...**

for Jan., Feb. and March are available in the church office or in the plastic bin under the carport at the north entrance. We encourage you to pick up a copy for your personal devotion time.

### **ACH Offering Givers...**

The 'special' envelopes for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 are available in the church office or in the plastic bin at the under the carport. In this packet are: *Initial, Food Pantry (Jan. – March), Building Improvements Fund (Jan. – March), Ash Wednesday, and Lent (4 weeks)*. These envelope packets are for those who give their regular offerings electronically and do not receive the full envelope packet. The 'special' envelopes are included in the regular packet.

### **Thank you to all...**

who are faithful in sending in your gifts and offerings. Even though we are not together in person, our ministry at First English still continues. Keep up the good work! We are grateful for your financial support!

### **Christmas Lights...**

Since we are not at church this holiday season there will not be a container for your discarded Christmas lights. Habitat for Humanity will have drop off boxes at many grocery stores and at Wausau City Hall. This is another way that we can recycle, help Habitat and the environment.

### **Singers Needed for the Online Sunday Worship Video...**

The singers provide support on singing the hymns and saying the responses during the video taping of the Sunday worship service. It adds a new dimension to the worship service, and helps us to sing along at home. **Anyone who is interested in singing is encouraged to volunteer.** There will be two singers at each service. We are seated 2/3 of the way back in the sanctuary, one on each side, and we have a microphone in front of us. We wear masks when not singing or speaking responses. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you would like more information, contact Tryphine at [tschruba001@luthersem.edu](mailto:tschruba001@luthersem.edu), or call or text me at 605-880-6013.

### **2021 Stewardship Materials...**

Thank you to all those who returned their 2021 stewardship materials. Your pledges of financial support are greatly appreciated!

### **Reports for 2020 Annual Report...**

are due in the church office **no later than Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please honor this deadline. Any committee or fellowship group is welcome to submit a report. We realize that most committees and groups have not met since March 2020, but you are encouraged to still submit a report, perhaps including plans or encouragement for the year 2021. It is important that we keep in touch with each other and support one another in the ministry of our congregation, especially now as we try to return to 'normal' --sometime in 2021. You may send your report in the mail or drop it off at the office – or even emailing it would be fine. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Deb in the office.

### **Treasure Sale Update...**

We are looking forward to the summer or fall of 2021 – if the COVID-19 pandemic cooperates! **We will accept your donations starting in January so if you have donations for the sale, you may bring them anytime during office hours.** Do you have any Tupperware that is missing a lid, parts, or lone pieces?" We have some and would like to play match-maker. So send us your odds and ends. Also... we could use larger boxes for packing.

**Thanks to everyone!** Any questions? Call Karen at 715-675-7402, LeRoy at 715-848-0266, or Virg at 715-848-1272.

### **First English Corona Gospel Project**

I read of a project in the state of Nebraska called, "The Nebraska Corona Bible." Basically, Nebraskans are asked to copy one chapter of the Bible by hand and send it in. This project is the idea of Rev. Tom Dummermuth from Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln.

And I wondered – could First English do something like this? Monks have been copying scripture for thousands of years. Copying by hand forces us to slow down, reflect and internalize. In a year of fear, chaos and anxiety, we can create some beauty. So ... I am still looking for **four** members of First English to hand-copy one chapter from the Gospel of Matthew. You can use any paper, writing utensil, version of the Bible, etc. that you want. Contact me by email: **reverik23@yahoo.com** and I will assign you the next chapter available.

Together we can create the First English Corona Gospel of Matthew!

**Note: we have all women sign so far! How about some of our male members coming forward? It's not as difficult as you think!**

### **Donations for The Open Door...**

Thank you to all who have given items to the Open Door. Imagine yourself this winter not having warm clothing or a roof over your head. Always needed are:

- **Men's winter jackets, gloves and socks**
- **Hand Warmers**
- **Long underwear**

Items do not have to be new, they can be used and in good condition.

Karen Zumann, Open Door volunteer

### **A Prayer for New Beginnings**

In his book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* (Fortress Press), Walter Brueggemann writes in an Epiphany poem:

... this is a time to be born.  
So we turn to you, God of our life  
God of all our years,  
God of our beginning....  
We dare pray that you will do for us  
and among us and through us  
what is needful for our newness.  
Give us the power to be receptive,  
to take the newness you give ....  
There is a time to be born, and it is now.  
We sense the pangs and groans of your newness.  
Come here now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

How fitting that the Epiphany season and the new year coincide! Epiphany reveals a new King, the beginning of his ministry, his new disciples, his first healings, his “new teaching — with authority” (Mark 1:27). We, too, experience newness, now and year-round. But newness can be tough. So we trust that God, who “[makes] all things new” while banishing “mourning and crying and pain” (Revelation 21:4-5), walks with us in this new year — and always.