

*First English Lutheran Church is
a congregation of the*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

“Sharing the Light of Christ”

STAFF AND CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Erik Olson

Email: reverik23@yahoo.com

Parish Secretary: Debra Kluetz

Email: felc_deb@yahoo.com

Organist/Pianist: Daniel Larson and Hal Osborn

Handbell Choir Director/Thursday Worship

Pianist: Chris Berenz

Senior Choir Director: Alan Sexter

Custodian: Dawn M. Kramer

Sunday School Superintendent: VerJean Detert

Missionary in South Africa: Rev. Alex LaChapelle

Church Council:

Officers:

President: Lette Becker

Vice-President/President-Elect: Reese Aarthun

Past President: Amy Abitz Akey

Treasurer: Jennifer Kroening

Recording Secretary: Joan Heahlke

Council Members:

Sherri Bagby

Cindy Petzke

Karen Briggs

Tryphine Schrubba

Neil Juedes

Pat Seivert

Michael Klapperich

Earl Zabel

Joe Kramer

**Your comments, questions and concerns are important
to us. Feel free to talk to any member of our staff or**

Church Council.

Pastoral Thoughts

By Pastor Erik

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

This is how I ended last January's Pastoral Thoughts: "I hope and pray that the year 2020 will be one where God's presence, love and grace fill your hearts and lives. May we all seek to live out the call of Jesus to Love God with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength and to Love Our Neighbors as ourselves."

I don't have to tell you that 2020 was not the year we expected it to be. Every single aspect of our lives was changed by Covid-19 – work, school, church, leisure, vacation. We dealt with the stress and anxiety and depression brought on by isolation and quarantines and Safer At Home. Sometimes we dealt with that stress well, other times, not so well.

The promise of God is not that things in this life will be easy or light. The promise is that God is with us (Emmanuel) in the darkness and shadows. God is with us in the anxiety and depression. God is with us as we isolate or quarantine to keep others and ourselves safe. God is with us. Emmanuel

And God will continue to be with us as we change the calendar from 2020 to 2021. There is a light at the end of the Covid tunnel with effective vaccines being distributed. But we still have to travel through quite a bit more tunnel. So – Please Be Safe, Wear Your Mask, Wash Your Hands, Keep 6-feet Physical Distance and Stay Home as much as you can. These are all ways we Share the Light of Christ and Show Love to our Neighbors.

And so, I say again: I hope and pray that the year 2021 will be one where God's presence, love and grace fill your hearts and lives. May we all seek to Love God with everything we have and to Love Our Neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor Erik

January Worship...

To everyone who is able to do so, please continue to tune in to our worship services on Sunday morning on our Facebook page on our website (www.firstenglishwausau.org) or on the YouTube Channel.

For those who tune in online, check your email on Friday or Saturday for the 'Order of Worship' so you can follow along with the readings, prayers, etc. If you don't have access to the internet, let Deb or Pastor Erik know and we will mail you a copy of the service to read at home.

We offer online communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

We miss seeing everyone in worship, especially now with the holidays coming up. But even though we are unable to worship together in person, we are still connected with each other in Christ through social media and even copied materials. Join us for worship!



- Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees on a cookie sheet.
- Cool on a rack.
- Freeze what you won't use immediately.

In Sympathy...

We extend our love and sympathy to...

- Nancy Kohorn Henricks on the death of her son, Michael. Michael passed away on Dec. 15, 2020 at the age of 54.
- LeRoy & Eunice Stark on the death of their daughter, Sheri. Sheri passed away on Dec. 19, 2020 at the age of 60.
-
- Kathie Peterson on the death of her brother, Billy Viertel. Billy passed away on Dec. 15, 2020 at the age of 74.

May God comfort these families with peace and hope in God's promise of eternal life.

Online Worship and Holy Communion...



Online Holy Communion is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Below is a bread recipe for you to use ... if you wish.

Communion Bread

1 ½ cups flour
½ cup whole wheat flour
¾ tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
3 Tbsp olive oil
3 Tbsp honey
¾ cup water

- Mix dry ingredients.
- Stir in olive oil.
- Add honey, then water.
- Mix by hand.
- Turn onto a floured surface and knead for a bit.
- Divide and shape into 8 balls.
- Roll or press to ¼ inch thickness.
- Cut a shallow cross through the top.

Gifts have been received by...

Building Fund:

- Benita Flora in memory of her granddaughter, Julie and in memory of Billy Viertel;
- Kathie Peterson in memory of Alan Draeger;
- Dick & Judy Jensen in memory of Benita's granddaughter, Julie
- Sue McKee in memory of Michael Kohorn
- Bob & Pat Seivert in memory of Michael Kohorn
- the members of Charity Circle in memory of Michael Kohorn
- Oren & Cindy Hermel in memory of Alan Draeger and Michael Kohorn
- Larry & Jan Wiederhoeft in memory of Sheri Stark, Michael Kohorn, Alan Draeger, James Kramer, Billy Viertel, and Benita Flora's granddaughter, Julie

First English Food Pantry:

- Lette Becker in memory of Michael Kohorn
- Barry & Bobbie Levine in memory of Sheri Stark
- Bob & Pat Seivert in memory of Alan Draeger

Many thanks to...

- ❄ The great crew who set up the Christmas trees and wreaths in the sanctuary, and to the volunteers who decorated them. A job well done! Thanks to those who will help 'untrim' them as well!
- ❄ Darwin Kufahl for his gift of the wreaths which hang outside on the 3rd Ave. main entrance. It's a beautiful gift, Darwin – thank you!
- ❄ Dan Larson for his gift of beautiful music each week for our Sunday morning online worship and during the Advent and Christmas season. We appreciate you, Dan!
- ❄ Scott Mijal and his trumpet for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship. It's always good to hear you, Scott!
- ❄ Chris Berenz for giving us the opportunity to hear our handbells during the Advent and on the Christmas Eve worship. Beautiful!
- ❄ To those who help make our online worship possible with their gifts of music, both instrumental and vocal and with set-up... to the singers, camera controllers, and to Scott Kufahl for seeing that the PA system is up and running for each service!
- ❄ To Reese Aarthun, her helpers, all Sunday School and confirmation students and their parents for a wonderful Christmas Program! You did a great job!
- ❄ Members of the Altar Guild for their diligence in their work of preparing our altar and chancel area for the holiday season.
- ❄ And last, but not least, to our Men about Church for their dedication in getting tasks done, large or small. You are appreciated!



Thank You...

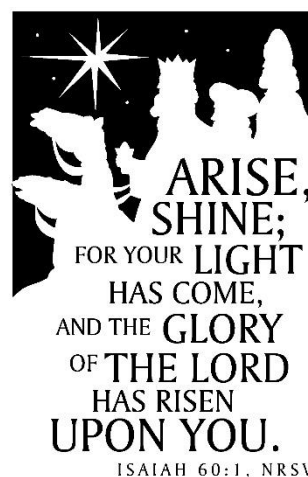
to these members for their purchase of poinsettia plants for our Christmas worship...



The Gift of
Poinsettias

- Erik & Holli Radke, Beckett and Elijah
- Oren & Cindy Hermel in honor of their grandson, Everett Grey Pomranke
- Joan Heahlke in memory of her parents, Wally and Marion Heahlke, and her sister, Alyce Schultz
- Lois Stasko in memory of her parents, Ray & Lila Edwards
- Kathi Bittner in thankfulness for the constant love and caring of her family, Terry, and much love to her daughter, Amber
- Lette Becker in gratitude for family and friends
- Joyce Pagel in loving memory of her husband and son, Jerry and Todd.
- Deb Kluetz in memory of loved ones whom I will hold forever in my heart.

Thank you all for beautifying our sanctuary for our Christmas worship!



The Epiphany of Our Lord – January 6

'The Year of My Wellbeing'

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31a)

The Covid-19 pandemic has endured longer than anyone imagined. It has left us stressed, weary, fearful, frustrated, angry, isolated, and dislocated. We are simply depleted.

Even in normal times, being a good steward of our personal health takes time, commitment and discipline. The pandemic's protracted disruption has made it hard to take care of ourselves at the very time we need it most.

Because it will take months for the Coronavirus vaccine to be widely available, and even longer for "normal" to return, it is wise for God's people to designate 2021 *"The Year of My Wellbeing"* and focus on our health.

Our spiritual, mental, emotional wellbeing are interconnected. Working on any one of them will improve the rest. Working on all of them will help you maintain equilibrium as we live into this new future.

Here are some tips for crafting a wellbeing strategy. Some may seem pretty basic, but we can forget even the most obvious ideas.

- **Ask God for help.**
- **Don't go it alone! Work with friends for mutual support.**
- **Tend to your spirit through Scripture, worship, devotionals, and, most importantly, prayer!**
- **Make quality time with loved ones.**
- **Do something just for you.**
- **Stuck? Talk to a counselor.**
- **Exercise regularly.**
- **Eat healthfully.**
- **Practice stress-reduction techniques.**

The pandemic will end. When it does, we will all be greatly relieved. In the meantime, making 2021 *"The Year of My Wellbeing"* will help you stay strong.

-Rob Blezard Copyright © 2021. Pastor Blezard is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.

FIRST ENGLISH ANNUAL MEETING 2021...

As you read the council minutes regarding the Annual Meeting some of you may rejoice and others may be disappointed. We had hoped for more personal contact by February; unfortunately it doesn't look like it can happen. Based on the situation with the pandemic we will hold the meeting virtually on Sunday, February 28.



If you're already on the email list for the Lantern we will send you an invitation to the meeting. We need a quorum. If you do not want to be invited, please let the church office know. If you have not used Zoom you only need to accept the invitation and follow the onscreen instructions. If you are not on the Lantern email list and would like an invitation, please contact Pastor Erik so that he can invite you to the Annual Meeting.

Voting on council nominations will be done by paper ballot that will be included in the Annual Report that you need to pick up at the church the *second* week of February. There will be a small envelope to put your ballot in and a larger envelope to mail it back to the church. This is a secret ballot and the ballot envelope will be separated from the mailing envelope when counted therefore no one will know how you voted.

Questions regarding the budget or anything else in the Annual Report will be addressed prior to the meeting. This information will follow in the announcements/bulletin throughout January. There will be a time period and names with phone numbers for people who can answer your questions.

*May everyone rejoice in the hope of a
Happy New Year.*

Lette Becker, Council President

Reports for 2020 Annual Report...

are due in the church office **no later than Monday, January 18th**. Please honor this deadline.

Any committee or fellowship group may submit a report.

We realize that most committees and groups

2020 Annual Report



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.

ACH Givers...

The new packets of "special" envelopes for the 1st Quarter of 2021 are available in the church office or in the plastic bin by the north entrance of the church.

Thank You...

to all who have given items to the Open Door! Imagine yourself in this winter weather and not having warm clothing or a roof over your head.

Always needed are:

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

All items do not have to be brand new, but can be used and in good condition.

First English Mission Statement

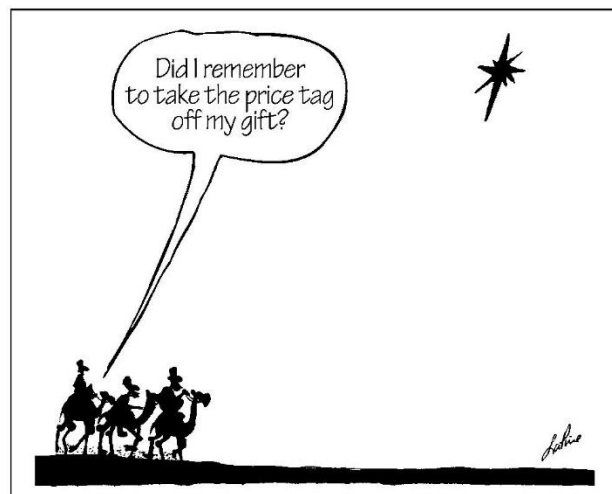
As a community of Christian believers at First English Lutheran Church, our mission is to:

- **GROW** in faith by God's grace through worship and education
- **REACH OUT** in loving service through Evangelism and stewardship
- **ENCOURAGE** and support one another through Christian fellowship



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.



Financial Report...

Month Ending November 2020		
Income	2020 Budget	Actual
From Pledges	\$ 221,833.33	\$ 264,802.59
Other Income	\$ 18,791.67	\$ 10,005.58
Total Income	\$ 240,625.00	\$ 274,808.17
Expenses	\$ 239,985.17	\$ 226,997.43
Balance	\$ 639.83	\$ 47,810.74
Loan Balance:		\$ 97,627.88
Building Improvement Fund		
Building Savings Acct Balance		\$ 10,013.30
Building Fund Acct #2618		\$ 1,500.00
Total of Both Accounts		\$ 11,513.30
Building Fund Acct #2618		
All Building Fund donations are entered in this account before they are transferred to the Building Savings Account.		
Transfers to the Building Savings will be completed in December.		

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 21, 2020 (Virtual Meeting)

Members Present: Lette Becker, Reese Aarthun, Amy Abitz Akey, Sherri Bagby, Jen Kroening, Joan Heahlke, Karen Briggs, Neil Juedes, Joe Kramer, Cindy Petzke, Tryphine Schrub, Pat Seivert, Pastor Erik Olson, Mike Klapperich
 Members Absent: Earl Zabel

Amy Akey led the opening devotions.

Reports:

The minutes of the November 16 meeting were approved via email.

Financial Reports: Jen Kroening advised October and November reports have been approved by the Audit Committee.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erik submitted a written report via email. He presided over funerals for Michael Kohorn on December 15 and Al Draeger on December 20. He provided a Covid-19 update from information posted on Facebook by the Marathon County Health Department--Active cases are down

from last month. The Christmas Eve service will be recorded and subsequently posted on Facebook and YouTube at noon on Christmas Eve Day. The Christmas Day service will be 'The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols' which began in Cambridge, England, at King's College Chapel over 100 years ago. This service will be scheduled to be posted at 6:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. To correct recent audio issues in recording services, a new speaker and mixing board have been purchased. Scott Kufahl will do the installation.

The December 27 service will be provided by the East Central Synod office. Our new Bishop, Anne Edison-Albright, will preach. A recorded and printed service is available.

Pastor Erik is looking at scheduling a week of vacation in January.

Unfinished Business:

Annual Meeting: Discussion was held on when and how the annual meeting could be held. A quorum of 64 is needed. A virtual Zoom meeting will be held on February 28. This will allow time for the financial and other reports to be submitted for the printed Annual Report. The Annual Reports and ballots are expected to be available February 1. Ballots will be included with the Annual Report. Voting will be completed by mail and use a two-envelope system to provide anonymity and security to voting. The Annual Reports can be picked up by members the first week in February. Members names will be on the larger envelope and sufficient ballots enclosed for voting members in the family unit. The subsequent two weeks in February would be designated for members to get any questions answered and ballot(s) returned. Phone numbers and names of people who can be contacted regarding information in the Annual Report will be provided. The February Lantern and Annual Report will be sent out in advance to meet the constitutional requirement of notifying the congregation of the Annual Meeting. This will include a list of potential candidates.

Details on how to attend will be published in the Lantern and bulletin.

Neil Juedes provided an update on candidates. It was determined that three Council members, a Vice President, and a Treasurer are needed. Earl Zabel, Paula Aschbrenner, and Michael Klapperich have agreed to run for the three council member positions. Marla Zumann has agreed to run for Treasurer. We are still in need of a candidate for Vice President. Neil Juedes and Amy Akey will continue to seek candidate(s) for Vice President. Mike Alters has agreed to run for the Endowment Committee position needed.

Members would be asked to return their ballots on voting for approval of the budget, constitutional changes, and election of council members/officers by February 26. The appointed tellers could then tally up the votes and announce the results at the virtual Annual Meeting.

Karen Briggs moved to approve the recommendations for the date of the Annual meeting and procedures as outlined in the discussion above. Motion seconded by Pat Seivert. Motion carried.

New Business:

Constitution Update: Reese Aarthun advised that the changes as suggested by the East Central Synod of Wisconsin are being typed up and should be ready at our next meeting. They will include an amendment to the Constitution By-Laws allowing the congregation to hold meetings by remote communication.

Welcome Basket for Incoming Intern at Waypost:

See 'Endowment Benevolence item Coins for a Cause' below.

Endowment Fund Recommendation: Neil Juedes advised when the Endowment Committee meets, there will be \$10,000 to disburse. He advised he will need a dollar amount from Reese to reimburse her for the money expended for the Sunday School project she is working on.

Budgeted Benevolence Item Coins for a Cause:

Jen Kroening advised there is \$750 to be disbursed. After discussion, Reese Aarthun moved to distribute \$200 to Waypost Bible Camp to sponsor a 'Welcome Basket' for their intern; \$200 to Catholic Charities Homeless Shelter, \$200 to Stable Hands; and \$150 to the Bridge Street Mission. Motion seconded by Tryphine Schrub. Motion carried.

Committee Reports by Council Liaison:

Parish Ed (Reese Aarthun): Confirmation continues on Wednesday nights with Nina Dittmar, Pastor Erik and Reese Aarthun taking turns teaching. The Sunday School Christmas project is moving along. Reese is working to assemble the book for publication and distribution to the students. Pastor Erik will upload the video for viewing. Letters with activities are going out weekly to the children. Reese and Sue Oberbeck will be compiling some crafts for the children to keep them engaged in the coming year.

Stewardship (Karen Briggs): Did not meet. The fall program is complete.

Worship & Music (Tryphine Schrub and Pat Seivert): Did not meet.

Church in Society/Evangelism (Sherri Bagby): Did not meet.

Property (Earl Zabel and Joe Kramer): Joe Kramer advised that Scott Kufahl has a snow plowing company lined up. The cost will be \$100 per time including plowing and salt.

Youth (Amy Akey): Did not meet.

Wages & Policy (Jen Kroening): A meeting will be set up for January.

Fair Stand (Neil Juedes): Did not meet.

Closing Prayer: Amy Akey

Next Meeting: January 18, 2020

Devotions for January: Karen Briggs

Motion to adjourn was made by Tryphine Schrub and seconded by Neil Juedes. Meeting adjourned.

Joan Heahlke, Recording Secretary

For the kids...

Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, _____ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come _____ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear _____ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it _____.

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

_____ PROVERBS 23:4

Answers: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4

A word for the year...

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond. —Janna Firestone

Bible Quiz...

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?



- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)