

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1. Numbers 6	2. Numbers 7	3. Numbers 8	4. Numbers 9	5. Numbers 10	6. Numbers 11
7. Numbers 12	8. Numbers 13	9. Numbers 14	10. Numbers 15	11. Numbers 16	12. Numbers 17	13. Numbers 18
14. Numbers 19	15. Numbers 20	16. Numbers 21	17. Ash Wed. Numbers 22	18. Numbers 23	19. Numbers 24	20. Numbers 25
21. Numbers 26	22. Numbers 27	23. Numbers 24	24. Numbers 25	25. Numbers 26	26. Numbers 27	27. Numbers 28
28. Numbers 29						



**First English
Lutheran Church**

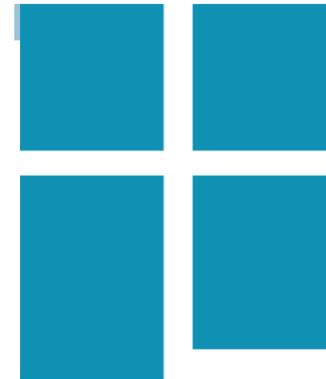
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February 2021

The Messenger

Called by God, we are Christian gathered an sent to serve our church,
community and the world in the name of Christ.

A Message from Pastor Brenda

Dear Friends,

With the Christmas trees and lights coming down, it marks a change in season in the church as well. Along time ago, many places would leave up lights and trees (but take down specific Christmas decorations) until Candlemas. Candlemas is celebrated on February 2 each year. The day is celebrated as a day of renewal, hope, and purification. According to an old Jewish custom, a woman who gives birth to a child will be unclean and homebound for a certain number of days after the birth. The days for this custom differ for the birth of a boy and the birth of a girl.

February 2nd is exactly 40 days after the birth of Jesus Christ and it is on this day that Mother Mary along with Joseph brought forth their newborn son, Jesus, to the Temple. It was at the temple that Simeon held the baby Jesus, he knew that Jesus had come for the salvation of all. Simeon stated that Jesus was "A light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of thy people of Israel.

The light was the inspiration for the celebration with candles. During the early years, people would place their candles outside the church in order to be blessed. They would then carry them in a procession to church in order to imitate the appearance of Jesus in the Temple.

In the United States we usually think of February 2 as Groundhogs Day but there are other names for it as well including "The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple," "Feast of Lights," and "Purification of the Blessed Virgin". While candles are important symbols of light there is another symbol that is associated with the day as well, the snowdrop flower.

The snowdrop flower appears in February and is seen as a symbol of hope of warmer days. There an old rhyme, "The Snowdrop, in purest white array, First rears her head on Candlemas day."

While we may not be blessing our candles in church or have snowdrop flowers peeking through our snow piles, we know that spring is coming and that Jesus is the light of the world.

Pastor Brenda

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Special points of interest

- Lenten Bags with ashes and other devotionals will be available in the office. Please call/email to get one.
- Midweek Lent Services will be Online only. The

A Message from Vicar Andrew

As we head into the Lenten season, I wanted to take the opportunity to invite everyone to join our next iteration of Dwelling in the Word Bible Study. This time we are in the Gospel of John and we'll be reading two chapters a week with a chance to gather together and discuss our thoughts and questions with one another two times a week, Sunday nights at 7:00 and Wednesday nights at 5:00. Let me know if you like to join up and I will email you the Zoom link.

Also, the spring semester for seminary starts this month and one course I will be taking is a course in preaching. So, then, I'd like to invite you all to feel free to give me your feedback on the Sundays I preach. Any type of feedback would be appreciated but I would be especially interested in hearing what the sermon made you think about, what reflections it created.

Blessings and peace to you all in Christ Jesus,
Andrew

Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® have until March 31, 2021, to direct last year's, 2020, Thrivent Choice dollars. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to First English Lutheran Church. Go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. For any other questions give Tim Zauche a call at 608-340-3040.

Help needed:

There are still plenty of open weekends for Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Candle, radio broadcasts and bulletins. If you would like to sponsor any of them, please call 608-348-3022 or email the office at felcoffice@enturytel.net (or sign up on the kiosk).

Altar Flowers Sponsors

February 7- Ralph and Stephanie Bourret

February 14- Ken and Mary Jo Kramer

Radio Broadcast

February 14-Ken and Mary Jo Kramer

A Note from the Council

When we reestablish our annual meeting, there will council positions open. We are looking for volunteers to come forward to fill these positions.

If you would like to help our church and volunteer, please contact Greg Sieckman at 608-778-7242 for more information

We can use help with the making of the communion bread. There is a calendar in the office to sign up to make bread. You can call the office at 608-348-3022 to volunteer, there are many dates open after the first of February. If you need a recipe, we can get one for you.

WHAT DOES ALTAR GUILD DO?

Altar Guild provides the finishing touches to the altar area of the church, so it is ready for service each week.

What are the duties of Altar Guild? Making sure that the correct paraments (Altar Cloths) are in place, dusting the front of the church, setting up for communion when we have regular church services, and other minor duties.

Who is on Altar Guild? Each year people volunteer to serve for a month. There are two or three people assigned to each month. Their work needs to be completed by Sunday morning, but can be done during the week on their schedule.

What is the Altar Guild Coordinator Position? There are two coordinators who work with the group. For the past three years Mary Jo Kramer and Fern Nall have carried out the duties. As coordinator, you sign the volunteers up each year, make sure that the materials for the Eucharist are ready for Sunday, train new volunteers and field other situations that arise during the pandemic times.

Mary Jo Kramer has been the main force behind the scenes ensuring that the committee has run smoothly for many years. She has decided to step down. I have appreciated her knowledge of how things work at First English and will miss working with her. Thank you, Mary Jo, for your service and dedication to Altar Guild and First English.

Since we are confined by the pandemic, responsibilities are less and this would be a good time to step up and find out more about Altar Guild. If you are currently serving on Altar Guild or would like to learn more about volunteering or working as a coordinator, please contact Fern Nall (608)

723-0585 for more information

February Birthdays

Brockman Louise	2/2
Kliebenstein Jeff	2/2
Harrison Jane	2/4
Young Andres	2/4
Harcus Sandy	2/5
Grinde Joci	2/7
Trost Trevor	2/7
Bohlken Edison P.	2/7
Noble Ainsley A.	2/9
Jones Ruth	2/11
McKay Troy	2/12
Grinde Brooke	2/14
Kliebenstein Patricia	2/14
Langkamp Emily	2/14
Dalecki Mike	2/14
Davies Lois	2/14
Pulkrabek John	2/16
Perger Jude	2/17
Bourret Ralph	2/18
Murphree Dave	2/18
Brown Caitlin	2/18
Masbruch Dave	2/19
Masbruch Nancy	2/19
Stark Irene L.	2/21
Weis Grayson M.	2/22
White Josh	2/23
Swenson James	2/25
Swenson Sarah	2/25
Wolhowe Clara I.	2/26
Wyse Jenna	2/27
Wells John	2/28
Wolf Mandy	2/29