



# THE MESSENGER

## First English Lutheran Church

December , 2020

### A Message from Pastor Brenda

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! As you get this newsletter, we will be in the 12 days of Christmas. The world tells us (and all of the Christmas movies and sales flyers) that the 12 days of Christmas are before December 25. In the church we get the privilege of taking intentional time called Advent, to prepare for Christmas. It is the 12 days from Christmas to Epiphany (Jan 6) to celebrate the Christmas Season.

I would encourage you to find ways to celebrate these days. There are many ways we can do this but if you don't have any traditions or need some ideas, I have included some in the newsletter.

*Pastor Brenda*

### Reminders

Don't forget to pick up your poinsettias after Christmas Eve service.

Remember to bring your palms back to the church for us to burn Ash Wednesday.

The annual meeting has been postponed. More information will be coming out in next month's newsletter.



Watch for the Weekly Newsletter that will be coming out in an email in Mid January.

A Message from Pastor Brenda Reminders	1
Message from the Vicar	2
Council Update LCW Thank you 2021 Sponsor sign up sheets Volunteers for bread making	3
Chapter A Day	4

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

On December 14, I saw a video on the news of a healthcare worker receiving the first COVID-19 vaccine administered in New York City. It was a sign that a year ravaged by a global pandemic is beginning to turn the tide. I was struck by how usually at the end of the year we are considering what “resolutions” to do our best to maintain until hopefully at least March. Up until that moment, I hadn’t even thought about what my resolutions might be for 2021. I suppose, in many ways, that is how our lives have been – we can hardly conceive of what we plan to do in a month from the present moment. So much has happened in these last eight months that as the vaccine becomes more wide-spread and we can start to remember again the opportunity to conceive the future on our own terms, the question before us becomes – what kind of future do we conceive now?

The study of psychology, especially around the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, gives us an important point to consider in relation to this question, that is, that as human beings we are not really able to neatly divide between our emotions and logic. In fact, psychology tells us that emotions form the foundation of our reasoning. The events of any given year bring with them many different emotions, but this year perhaps more than others we have felt those emotions in a very acute sense. We have felt anger, frustration, distrust, sadness, grief, despondency, relief, and even hope.

One more point to consider is that because our emotions form the foundation of our reasoning, in our daily processing of our lives the emotions we feel don’t simply disappear when enough time passes. They often compound when we haven’t spent enough time processing them in a healthy environment. With that, I sincerely encourage you to take time at the beginning of this new year to take good care of yourself. May this be a year we extend much grace to one another as we all process and re-orient our lives.

Then, as we turn to this question about the future may we be given God’s grace to grasp both how 2021 is no less uncertain than 2020 was, and that there will always be conflict when we try to conceive the future only on our own terms. We have been faced with a great challenge in this country concerning our ideals of individualism and liberty. The words of Jesus ring out in contrast, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mk 12:31). Beloved, we are changed because of this year. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we present Christ to our community and to one another and by grace that which has been changed can be changed for the good of all, for the realization of God’s kingdom on earth.

The peace of Christ to you,

Vicar Andrew

From the council:

The council was scheduled to meet (still via zoom) on 12/8. Well when that date arrived Centurylink was down & Verizon was having issues. The meeting was postponed to 12/10. When we started that meeting Pastor had no audio & Greg could not get into zoom for some reason. We ran the meeting with Greg on the phone, through Abbie's phone to at least have audio. Pastor used the "chat" function to a degree. The council decided on names to be voted on for the Leila Reiter award. Vicar indicated that they want to get the Harvest House listed for rental starting June of 21. The group he has been conversing with is still interested. Although we have postponed the annual meeting, we still feel it would good to prepare the annual report & have the budget in place. Pastor thoughts regarding a Christmas eve service were agreed with as to having a 6:30 in-house. We need all those interested to sign up & depending on numbers, there will be an alternate time. At the time of writing this the 6:30 is virtually filled. Mission Development met the Sunday before this meeting and approved a number of distributions which will be detailed in the annual report.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & have safe holidays.

Greg

## January Birthdays



Ayres Karl H.	1-Jan
Ayres Olivia L.	3-Jan
Bellmeyer Earle	3-Jan
Benn Zoey M.	3-Jan
Blevins Jauron	3-Jan
Carns Anita	4-Jan
Carns Matt	4-Jan
Christiansen Connor	5-Jan
Cummins Evelyann	7-Jan
Dalecki Brenda	8-Jan
Dalsing Paisley G.	9-Jan
Doeringsfeld Matt	9-Jan
Forseth Cory	10-Jan
Hammermeister John	12-Jan

## THANK YOU THANK YOU

A **BIG** Thank you to Cheri Oftedal for providing all the beautiful homemade Christmas cards that we send out to our shut-ins.

Lutheran Church Women

***The new sponsor sheets for the alter flowers, sanctuary candle, radio broadcasts, and bulletins for 2021 are printed and available for sign up.***

Hammermeister	14-Jan
Hartz Lisa	16-Jan
Hodgson Jessie	16-Jan
Hooks Maxwell	19-Jan
Kasper Katherine F.	19-Jan
Kasper Todd	20-Jan
Kettler Marv	21-Jan
Kilian Karland	22-Jan
Kilian Melissa	22-Jan
Kramer Todd J.	23-Jan
Lange Brian	25-Jan
Pufahl Marcia	25-Jan
Ramel Randy	25-Jan
Reed Creg	25-Jan
Saager-Bourret	26-Jan
Sabatos Kristy	26-Jan
Schambow Debra	27-Jan
Sieckman Greg	29-Jan
Wolff Weston T.	31-Jan

UW-Platteville has a scholarship, the Edith Barth Scholarship, that benefits students who are members of the First English Lutheran Church in Platteville, WI. For more information contact Becky Digman [Office: 608.342.1836](tel:608.342.1836) | [Email: digmanbe@uwplatt.edu](mailto:digmanbe@uwplatt.edu)

There is a weekly sign up sheet for making the bread for Sunday services.

Please sign up and help out. You can also call the church and Vicki will write your name down for the Sunday that you would want to volunteer for.

**Keep up to date with content on our YouTube channel. If you need help subscribing let the office know.**

## Blessing for a Home at Epiphany

*Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother” (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.*

*Twelfth Night (January 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering for a blessing for the home. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 21. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).*

### Greeting

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (*Proverbs 24:3-4*)

### Reading

As we prepare to ask God’s blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (*John 1:1-4, 14, 16*)

### Inscription

*This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance: 20 + C M B + 21*

*Write the appropriate character while speaking the text (**bold**).*

The magi of old, known as C **Caspar**, M **Melchior**, and B **Balthasar**, followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us 20 **two thousand** 21 **and twenty one years ago.**

✚ **Christ, bless this house,** ✚ **and remain with us throughout the new year.**

### Prayer of Blessing

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Then everyone may walk from room to room, blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree.*

## Keeping the Twelve Days of Christmas at Home

Christmas isn't just one day, but a whole season! It lasts twelve days, from Christmas Day to Epiphany (January 6). Keep celebrating! Gather with friends and family, eat cookies, enjoy your Christmas decorations, watch Christmas movies, and sing all your favorite Christmas songs. Song suggestions for each day follow, but sing whichever ones your family likes best.

### **Wednesday, December 26**

Sing "Joy to the world" (ELW 267). Bundle up and go outside to sing. Join your voices with the fields, rocks, hills, and all the earth! Jesus is born, and this is good news for creation. Notice the ways that the world outside is "singing" its praise: listen for birds singing, the sound of the wind through tree branches, and other nature sounds.

### **Thursday, December 27**

Sing "Go tell it on the mountain" (ELW 290). Today the church remembers St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. John's gospel describes Christ as the Word-made-flesh who came to live among us. In Jesus, God comes to us in person to bring us love and light. With John and all messengers of good tidings, we shout from the mountaintop the joyful news that Jesus is born!

### **Friday, December 28**

Sing "O little town of Bethlehem" (ELW 279). Build a fort out of chairs, couches, pillows, and blankets. Make sure there is plenty of room in the inn—fill your fort with stuffed animals, family members, and pets. Light a flashlight, lantern, or battery-powered candle inside your fort and think about Jesus being born among the animals in that little town called Bethlehem.

### **Saturday, December 29**

Sing "O come, all ye faithful" (ELW 283). Jesus is born, and it is a happy morning! Cook breakfast together with your family—something delicious like pancakes or waffles. While you are cooking and eating, talk about your favorite parts of the Christmas season so far.

### **Sunday, December 30**

Sing "Love has come" (ELW 292). Celebrate love today. Call, text, FaceTime, or Skype family and friends who live far away and tell them you love them. At bedtime, bless one another by tracing the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads and saying, "Jesus loves you and so do I!"

### **Monday, December 31**

Sing "It came upon the midnight clear" (ELW 282). At Christmas midnight, the angels welcomed Jesus. At midnight tonight, we welcome a new year. Say a special prayer together tonight. Thank God for the blessings of this past year. Ask God for hope and protection in the new year. Pray for peace and healing for all people, nations, and creation.

### **Tuesday, January 1**

Sing "What child is this" (ELW 296). The church observes this day as "Name of Jesus," because according to Jewish tradition, baby boys received their names on the eighth day of life. Do you know what your name means? Were you named after someone? Do you have a nickname? Remember today that in baptism, you were also given the name "Child of God."

### **Wednesday, January 2**

Sing "Away in a manger" (ELW 277/278). While baby Jesus slept in the manger, his parents, the animals, and even the stars watched him and protected him. Tonight, hang stars above your bed and put some stuffed animals near you to watch you

sleep. Remember that Jesus loves you and promises to guard you, sleeping or waking.

**Thursday, January 3**

Sing "Silent night, holy night!" (ELW 281). Tonight, gather and light as many candles as you can find in your home. Turn off the lights. Notice how the candlelight bounces and flickers around the room. Have a leader say, "Jesus Christ is the light of the world." Everybody else responds, "The light no darkness can overcome." Take turns being the leader.

**Friday, January 4**

Sing "Angels, from the realms of glory" (ELW 275). Have the magi from your nativity set been waiting to come to the manger? Move them somewhere a little closer to the nativity scene, then go outside and look for the brightest star you can see in the sky.

**Saturday, January 5**

Sing "Your little ones, dear Lord" (ELW 286). Collect all the stars you can find in your home—the stars you hung over your bed, star ornaments from the Christmas tree—and place them around your nativity scene. Hang the biggest one over the manger. Now your magi figures will know where Jesus is!

**Sunday, January 6**

Sing "The first Noel" (ELW 300). Have a home blessing. Notice what you are thankful for in each room of your home, and ask for God's blessing ("God, bless our kitchen and the conversations we have there"). Continue the celebration with other Epiphany traditions, like burning pine branches or eating king cake.

Adapted from *Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas 2018–2019* (Augsburg Fortress, 2018) From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com). Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.



## Poinsettias

### In Memory Of

Diana Blindert -----Arnie & Ruth Blindert, Jesse, Joshua, Ember & Esther Brunton  
Louise Brockman ----- Bob Brockman, Robert & Elva Brockman John & Belle Kuster  
Chelle Calvert & Family -----Tom Calvert  
Terri, Sarah & Daniel Ellis -----Dan, Grace, Keith & Barry L. Ellis  
Brooke & Joci Grinde Family----- Erica Brooke Grinde, Jim & Sally Bentley, Anne Grinde & Allen Grinde  
The Hammermeister Family-----Grandpa Koenitz and Arthur & Jim Hammermeister  
Jane Harrison -----Dorothy Forsman and Helen & Maynard Harrison & Jack Tiedemann  
Lila Hensley ----- Harvey Hensley  
Everett & Bette Hooks-----Dale & Frances Bevan  
Eric & Mary Johannesen Family -----Ronald & Nancy Schroeder  
Ken & Jessie Kilian----- Mary Fisher  
Ken & Mary Jo Kramer & Families ---Raymond, Mildred & Carol Bellmeyer and Herbert, Velma & Allen Kramer  
John Klosterman-----Pat Lange, Sally Klosterman  
David & Carolyn Masbruch & Family and Dale & Linda Masbruch & Family-----Clarence & Lucille Masbruch  
David & Carolyn Masbruch & Family and Duane & Laura Burns----- Frank & Florence Burns  
Nancy Masbruch & Ron Fitzsimmons -----Junior, Forrest Ann & Sally Sue, Our Cats  
Jan Poppel-----James Goke & Carl Kase  
John & Jan Poppel-----John & Leona Poppel, Arthur & Frances Goke  
Daniel Sedgwick-----My Grandparents  
Greg & Mary Sieckman -----Frank & Elaine & Allan Sieckman , Bill & Catherine Willis  
John & Ellen Urness-----Our Parents  
Naomi Wells ----- Ron Wells,Sr.  
Laura Wendorff & Harry Kronick-----Roland & Arvilla Wendorff, Hyman & Pat Kronick, Bill Kronick  
Stephanie Saager-Bourret-----Ralph, Stephanie & Kathy Bourret

### In Honor Of:

Nancy Masbruch & Ron Fitzsimmons ----- Henry David. Marvin Gardens, Pedro and Anna B.,  
Our Cats  
Virgil & Marcia Pufahl-----Our  
Family



# First English Lutheran Church

215 W. Pine St  
Platteville, WI 53818

Phone: 608.348.3022  
Fax: 608.348.5511  
E-mail: felcoffice@centurytel.net  
Website: www.felcplatteville.org

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Platteville, WI 53818  
Permit NO. 110

### Mission Statement of FELC

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

Scan to support FELC



Address Service Requested



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### December, 2020

### CHAPTER A DAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Matthew 23	2 Matthew 24
3 Matthew 25	4 Matthew 26	5 Matthew 27	6 Matthew 28	7 Leviticus 15	8 Leviticus 16	9 Leviticus 17
10 Leviticus 18	11 Leviticus 19	12 Leviticus 20	13 Leviticus 21	14 Leviticus 22	15 Leviticus 23	16 Leviticus 24
17 Leviticus 25	18 Leviticus 26	19 Leviticus 27	20 Mark 1	21 Mark 2	22 Mark 3	23 Mark 4
24 Mark 5	25 Mark 6	26 Mark 7	27 Mark 8	28 Numbers 1-12	29 Numbers 3	30 Numbers 4
31 Numbers 5						