

The Messenger

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

A Message from Pastor Brenda

Dear Friends

Growing up Memorial Day weekend meant that summer was coming. We had a week or two left of school and we could start to dream about the things we would do during the summer. Usually, it involved playing with friends outside in the park across the street from my house until late into the evening. While we celebrated the coming of summer in one way, I didn't realize that the church celebrated the coming of summer too.

As the first day of summer, Saint John's Day (June 24) is considered in ancient folklore one of the great "charmed" festivals of the year. Hidden treasures are said to lie open in lonely places, waiting for the lucky finder. Divining rods should be cut on this day. Herbs are given unusual powers of healing, which they retain if they are plucked during the night of the feast. In Germany they call these herbs *Johanneskraut* (St. John's herbs), and people bring them to church for a special blessing.

In Scandinavia and in the Slavic countries it is an ancient superstition that on Saint John's Day witches and demons are allowed to roam the earth. As at Halloween, children go the rounds and demand "treats," straw figures are thrown into the flames, and much noise is made to drive the demons away.

Why do we celebrate John's birth as the coming of the light? His birth is celebrated on the longest day or the brightest time of the year. He was the promised forerunner who was to go before the Lord and prepare his way and to testify to Jesus as the one true light. During his life, John refused our focus on him—for it's not about him. John's whole life as the forerunner calls us to single-mindedly prepare for, proclaim, and praise the purifying "tender mercy of our God" that has come to us in Jesus Christ. For Christ is the promised bright "dawn from on high" who comes to "break upon us" (Luke 1:78) as he is born into our darkness.

So at the brightest time of year in the northern hemisphere, John's birth points us to the one true lights. This summer as you sit around the firepit or bonfire I encourage you to think about John the Baptist and Jesus being the true light of the world.

Pastor Brenda

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Special Point of Interest

- 2021 Church Directory is available at the Church office
- Thank you for your cooperation and quick response to the membership contact information sheets.
- See page 3 for Summer Worship

Scan to financially support



A Message from Vicar Andrew

Greetings FELC Community!

I wanted to give you all an update on the progress of my seminary journey and plans for this summer. As I believe most of you know, I will be continuing serving as vicar at First English while in seminary so unlike a typical internship, my time with you all will continue until I graduate seminary in 2023. I've just completed my third semester at Wartburg and will begin another semester this fall.

During this summer, I will be completing what's called Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) which is a summer-long course where I begin to form and discern my own pastoral identity. It is an intense time for a seminary student as I will be participating in what are called "clinical hours" which are dedicated hours for working in a pastoral setting. This can be a range of settings from a hospital to even a congregation such as First English. I will be getting my clinical hours from three different sites: First English church, Agrace Hospice, and Catholic Charities in Dubuque, specifically with their prison ministry. I will also still be preaching and assisting with worship services.

This summer will likely be a very busy one for myself but with vaccines and warmer weather, I'm hoping to have more opportunities to have face-to-face interactions with you all. My sincere thanks for all your support so far!

Peace,
Vicar Andrew

CAMP INFORMATION

Watch for details on
COVID safe family
camp experience .

*WATCH FOR FUTURE
CORRESPONDENCE
AND CAMP UPDATES.*



SPONSORSHIPS

Help needed:

There are plenty of open weekends for Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Candle, radio broadcasts and bulletins. If you would like to sponsor any of them, please call or email the office (or sign up on the kiosk).

Altar Flowers

June 6 No Sponsorship
June 13 No Sponsorship
June 20 No Sponsorship
June 27 *Jack & Janice Popple*

Bulletins

June 6 *Ken and Mary Jo Kramer*
June 13 No Sponsorship
June 20 No Sponsorship
June 27 No Sponsorship

Children's Bulletins

***Month of June Brooke & Joci Grinde-In Honor of
Tucker & Britton Leix Birthday***

Sanctuary Lamp

June 6,13,20,27 No Sponsorships

Radio Broadcast

June 6 No Sponsorship
June 13 No Sponsorship
June 20 No Sponsorship
June 27 *Tom and Fern Nall*

Note from the Council

The council met May 11th in person which had not been done in quite a while. Below are highlights from the council meeting.

- Vicar Andrew noted that a student has requested to sublet a room in Harvest House for the from June through December.
- Pastor related the issues that are occurring with the sound board for radio recordings. Upon review by the installers, it would appear that replacement of the sound board is in order. Bids are also being taken to install a camera/recording system to improve the YouTube recordings. Watch for Stewardship Committee information about fundraising to defer costs of these projects.
- Discussion was held about the fact that a number of congregations in the area have entered into the call process. Some time was spent talking about how FELC and Pastor Brenda might help with some of their needs. It's unfortunate and a difficult situation for the congregations involved.
- Abbie Ramel spoke about how the camp is still being affected by COVID and will not happen as it usually does. There is discussion about possibly a "family camp" time where pods could be used.

Keep the faith, there's some light coming at the end of the tunnel.

Greg Sieckman,
Council President

Summer Service Worship Updates

Radio Broadcast at 10am and YouTube services will remain the same.

Worship services with singing will be outside from May 23rd on the church lawn, people will need to wear a mask per CDC guidelines.
Be sure to bring your own chairs.

Wednesday night services at 6:30 pm without singing will be in the patio area. According to CDC guidelines, vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask, however unvaccinated people will need to wear a mask.

Bread

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered and made the bread for the services.

- Dates are open after May 26th to volunteer.
- Please call the office at 608-348-3022 to volunteer. If you need a recipe, we can get one for you.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Amy Dalecki	6/1
Elsie Langkamp	6/1
Logan Kruser	6/1
Rita Noble	6/1
Kim Pulkrabek	6/2
Jean Wills	6/3
Paxton Dalsing	6/3
Abbie Ramel	6/4
Todd White	6/4
Easton Langkamp	6/5
Mary Jo Kramer	6/5
Evelyn Benn-Meyers	6/7
Eric Johannesen	6/8
Jen Kasper	6/10
Thomas Christiansen	6/11
Vernon Vradenburg	6/12
Zachary Puls	6/12
Courtney Clark	6/14
Hannah Popp	6/14
Claire Sabatos	6/16
Ella Wolff	6/16
Nicole Statz	6/17
Carrie Puls	6/18
Cindy Schave	6/18
Colton Clark	6/18
Page Leahy	6/18
Paige Wagner	6/19
Mary Baehler	6/20
Emery Ellingson	6/26
Terry Benn	6/27
Linda Hollenberger	6/29
Mary Horne	6/29



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Address Service Requested

June 2021

Chapter A Day

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