



THE MESSENGER

First English Lutheran Church

November, 2020

A Message from Pastor Brenda

Dear Friends,

Greetings! I look forward to meeting all of you in due time. At the time of writing this, I'm not exactly sure of my arrival date, but know we are working on it and it should be middle of the month.

This morning, I pulled the 25th anniversary of the ELCA cup out of the cupboard. The theme was "makes all things new." That could be our theme too. As we begin our ministry together, during a pandemic, all things will be made new or at least not exactly as things have been in the past. I ask for grace. We are trying to make this Advent and Christmas season meaningful. We know that most of the traditions we have are not COVID -19 safe. We will do our best at keeping you safe, while finding creative ways to safely worship. What exactly will this look like? I cannot say because we are still working on these plans but watch for more details soon!

This season, I challenge all of us to find new or different ways to connect with God and with our neighbors. One of the ways, I plan to celebrate the season in a way I haven't ever done before. I registered and will watch Lutheran College's Christmas Concert on my computer. It won't be the same as sitting in the same auditorium with a huge audience and all of the singers. Wartburg College will also have a concert online and more information should be coming out soon on how to watch that one.

This season will be different and isn't how I would have liked to start my ministry with FELC. Usually there would be lunches and coffees and gatherings in groups to meet all of you and to get to know all of you. That isn't a possibility yet. It will take me more time and it will be a slower process but it will happen.

Advent and Christmas won't be the same but we will find ways to celebrate and worship our God and we will find a way to meet each other! We are in this together!

Pastor Brenda

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**NOVEMBER 1ST DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME ENDS
SET YOUR CLOCK BACK!**

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

As we come into the Advent season, I have been reflecting often about how much this season means to us as Christians. It is a time of tradition, of remembered rituals passed down from the saints before us. A season where we first consider our desperate need for God as we wait in despair, then comes the great mystery of the incarnation of God and our despair is turned into hope, into rejoicing.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear,” is how my favorite Advent hymn puts it.

This season comes to us again. But it comes much differently than we have experienced in years past. To be honest though, I'm quite tired of hearing how things will be different. I'm tired of having to find positives within these circumstances that seem to be so relentlessly unavailing. Perhaps you, too, are feeling this way.

If so, then, take heart! Because this is the reality of Advent. We see the world as it is, not as we wish it to be, but in all its terror. We come to this season in a different way, but also perhaps more prepared than in past years.

So, as we come into this Advent season bring all your being, all your sorrow and pain, your frustrations and anger, your loss. Then move into that verse, “O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.”

God is with us as we contemplate this season again. Join me in praying that God would give us the grace to contemplate the fullness of our experiences in a world filled with great tribulation, and that we remember that God's promises are certain in their becoming our reality. God's peace be with you.

-Vicar Andrew

Camp Corner:

Due to all camps being cancelled this summer, we did not take a group to Pine Lake. However, we were able to enjoy some trips down memory lane and few virtual campfires with Fran leading music on our Facebook group.

At this point, we will not be holding our annual Trash and Treasures fundraiser. With social distancing being almost impossible, we have decided to put it on hold for this year. Please hold all donations because we do not have room in the church for storage.

The camp committee did vote to donate \$2,500 to Pine Lake to help with operations cost since we were unable to attend but hold it near and dear to us.

Our tentative dates for camp this upcoming summer are July 25- 30, 2021. This may change, but we do have a week reserved. Look for date updates as we move into 2021.

As we look forward, it may be incredibly difficult to pull off fundraising efforts with all that is going on in the world. With the cancellation of Trash and Treasures, and the uncertainty of making pizzas, our two major fundraisers for this year may not happen. If you feel inclined, please donate to the camp program through FELC. It means a lot to the kids and their families that we are able to keep our costs at about half the price of other camps. Every little bit adds up to a big difference in what we are able to accomplish.

Thank you for all your support of our church camp program. I know a lot of families cannot wait to get back to the fun, faith and fellowship that camp renews within us!

If you have any questions, please reach out to me, Abbie Ramel @ 608-732-0071

Free Luther College Concert

<https://www.luther.edu/christmas-at-luther/>

Join the Luther community on Friday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. CST for the online premiere of *Christmas at Luther 2020: For Everyone Born*

Need a Lift?

Like me, are you tired of being bombarded with finger-pointing, name calling, the blame game? Looking for something more positive and spiritually focused? The Women of the ELCA has what you need. We have current issues of *Gather* magazine in the church office. Every issue is full of thoughtful articles that help us make sense of the world around us, plus a bible study that will make you think and consider. You can stop by church and pick one up, or, if you prefer, we can send it to you. Just call the office and let Susan know.

If you use the internet, the women's website www.womenoftheelca.org has many opportunities to read, consider, and take action. There are videos that go along with the current bible study from the *Gather* magazine, devotional pieces, news about what is going on in the greater church, and ideas for personal growth. Another great website is www.boldcafe.org, where you will find articles written by some of the younger women in the ELCA. There is always something thought-provoking and uplifting. Check it out! You won't be disappointed.

GOOD-BYE

I'd like to thank everyone for making me feel a part of something special these last seven and a half years. I have truly enjoyed getting to know this congregation and will miss you all so much. My last day at First English will be November 6th. I have been offered a position with my former employer, CESA #3, in Fennimore.

Only the best,

~Susan

PLATTEVILLE THRIFT SHOP

Platteville Thrift Shop is looking for a FELC rep to serve on their board. Cindy Martens 2-term service will end on December 31st. This is a great way to get involved in helping others in the community. The shop motto is "A small community helping the larger community". If you are interested, please contact Cindy at 732-4650 or snetram1234@gmail.com

November Birthdays

Klosterman John	2-Nov
Bohlken Matt	3-Nov
Oftedal Cheri	3-Nov
Sedgwick Carol	5-Nov
Becker Breanna	8-Nov
Hooks Bette	8-Nov
Weis Whitney	8-Nov
Chace Gary	9-Nov
Buch Bruce	11-Nov
Hensley Lila	11-Nov
Smith Casey	11-Nov
Wendorff Laura	11-Nov
Ayres Ruth E.	12-Nov
Dalsing Ingrid	14-Nov
Kilian Caroline	15-Nov
Forseth Karen	16-Nov
Walter Cole	16-Nov
Baker Marilyn	17-Nov
Horne Ann	18-Nov
Leix Marta	18-Nov
Wackershauser Joe	18-Nov
Sabatos Dave	19-Nov
Kettler Kelly	22-Nov
Bausch Dennis	23-Nov
Schewe Joy	24-Nov
Sieckman Mary	25-Nov
Hollenberger Earl	26-Nov
Moen Greta	26-Nov
Puls Jeff	26-Nov
Shepard Karen	26-Nov
Popple Jack	27-Nov
Wells Amy	28-Nov
Kramer Addison	29-Nov
Schmoekel Deb	30-Nov

Happy Thanksgiving



LCW "No Show" Bazaar

It will come as no surprise that LCW has decided not to hold its annual bazaar this year. We talked it over among ourselves, and with Pastor Naomi before she left. There is just no way to do that kind of event safely. We need to be good stewards of our members and our community.

The bazaar serves as the main fundraiser for the LCW each year, and most of the funds raised are then dispersed as gifts to FELC, Platteville-area organizations, and the greater community. We are asking our volunteers to consider what their usual donations to the bazaar are: cookies, candy, other baked goods, craft items, salads and other lunch items; and make an equivalent cash donation. We are asking our shoppers and lunch attendees to consider what they usually spend: cookies & candy are \$7 per pound, and a complete lunch costs \$7; and make an equivalent cash donation. Checks can be made out to FELC LCW, and either mailed (215 W Pine Street, Platteville 53818) or dropped off at the church office.

If you are one of Jessie Kilian's mission/fair trade shoppers and would like to continue your support of artisans and craftspeople around the world, you have a couple of options. For those of you who are comfortable shopping online, you will find the beautiful jewelry, scarves, baskets, carvings, Christmas ornaments, and the delicious olive oil and spices at www.serrv.org. If you prefer to shop by mail, or would like help putting together an order, Jessie would love to help you. Give her a call at 348-8479.

Thank you for your support of LCW and its activities. We deeply appreciate it.

MINISTRY HOUSE

After extensive repairs, painting, and cleaning by the Infrastructure Team, the rental house on 170 South Chestnut owned by First English is now ready for occupancy. The Campus Ministry Team targets occupancy to UW-Platteville students with preference to LCM students. The shared space of the house includes an office, living room, meeting room, kitchen, and study, and will be furnished by the church. The bedrooms will be primarily furnished by the tenant. Items still in need to furnish the Ministry House include upholstered furniture, lamps, and a microwave. Please contact the church office if you can help with these items.

ALONE FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER (information from the organizing committee)

It is that time of year when folks are starting to think about Christmas so naturally there have been people asking if we are going to do the Alone for Christmas Dinner again this year. It pains me to say that I don't think it is a wise move to get 200+ people together for several hours to have a dinner. However, the committee has met and we have decided to have the dinner but it will be totally a carry-out meal.

The Carry-Out Dinner will be held as usual on Christmas Day with meals being able to be picked up from 11:00 until 1:00 from Community Evangelical Free Church located at 300 Pioneer Road E. We will be doing deliveries to shut-ins but ask others to pick-up their meals if possible. We will be asking folks to make reservations this year for all meals so we can better plan and not run out of food.

At the end of November FELC will receive a sign-up sheet for members who want to contribute cash, food or labor for the dinner. We are still working on figuring out our needs for food and labor at this time.

Thank you for your support of the dinner. Our committee will be meeting again on Nov. 24 at 7:00 via zoom if you would like to join us. Please let me know so I can send you the link.

Maggie Kleisath
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First English Lutheran Church

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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."*

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Address Service Requested



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

November, 2020

CHAPTER A DAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Exodus 5	Exodus 6	Exodus 7	Exodus 8	Exodus 9	Exodus 10-11	Exodus 12
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Exodus 13	Exodus 14	Exodus 15	Exodus 16	Exodus 17	Exodus 18	Exodus 19
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Exodus 20	Exodus 21	Exodus 22	Exodus 23	Exodus 24	Exodus 25	Exodus 26
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Exodus 27	Exodus 28	Exodus 29	Exodus 30	Exodus 31	Exodus 32	Exodus 33
29	30					
Exodus 34	Exodus 35					