



THE MESSENGER

September, 2020

First English Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Naomi

If 2020 was a math problem:
If you're going down a river at 2 MPH
and your canoe loses a wheel,
how much pancake mix would you need to re-shingle your roof?

Did you come up with an answer?

I hope a smile came across your face---or even a chuckle out of your mouth.

Life is just simply confusing right now. It seems like we have been living in this pandemic, well, forever, not just for six months. We are getting tired of not seeing our friends. We are getting tired of having to think about where we go and with whom we go. And just how many masks do you have by now...and do you know where they are when you need them?

Honestly, I have noticed people are getting a little whiny. Yes, some of you are included in this statement. It is understandable. I get it. We just want life the way it used to be. We don't know how long this will last and what we will look like when the crisis of this moment is over. As one who travels between two communities, I feel like I am physical distancing in two communities---both of which have high incidences of Covid-19. I anticipate Platteville will see a significant spike with the arrival of the University students.

Yes, some churches are meeting in person in their sanctuaries. First English has made the decision to continue the radio broadcast and YouTube worship. We have had a beautiful summer for West Lawn Worship outside. The attendance has been between 21 and 51 throughout the summer. Now conversation is necessary for what to do when it is too cool/cold for outside worship.

The Church Council will discuss this at their next meeting. The question is this, how do we keep people safe at worship in the sanctuary? Please know this, worship will not be like it was prior to Covid-19. You may not be able to worship at your preferred time of week. You may not be able to sit in your favorite pew. You will need to wear a mask throughout worship. You will not be singing. Communion will be served differently. There will be no coffee hour. Every effort will be made to keep you safe. And will this make some of us whiny...absolutely!

God's people of First English, I am confident our God is with us no matter where we worship---in the comfort of our easy chair or in our lawn chair or in a pew. God is present, period. We come together as God's people to have our hearts and souls filled so that we are God's people in the world, a world desperate for words of hope and love and promise.

"For in hope we were saved.
Now hope that is seen is not hope.
For who hopes for what is seen?
But if we hope what we do not see,
we wait for it with patience."
Romans 8:24-25

Blessings to each and every one of you,
Pastor Naomi

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Hello First English Community,

As you may know by now, my name is Andrew Perger and I'll be serving as the collaborative learning student for the duration of my time at Wartburg Seminary, where I'm currently earning my Master of Divinity for ordination into rostered ministry. My title while I'm here will be vicar so you can call me either Vicar, Vicar Andrew, or just Andrew if you'd like. I am married to Rebecca (7 years) and we have two sons Levi (6) and Jude (3); you'll likely see their red hair in church sometime. Rebecca is also the custodian for First English.

To be a part of the collaborative program at Wartburg Seminary means that along with being a student, I'll be working in the church for about 20 hours a week. Though the emphasis of my engagement with FELC will shift depending on my course schedule, for this semester I will be preaching, leading worship and Bible study, offering a devotional, leading campus ministry, whatever else may come up. Starting in fall of 2021 I will be on internship which will be here at FELC. That will also look slightly different than what First English might be accustomed to as it will last 18 months instead of the usual 12.

My schedule for each week will eventually be posted on Facebook and at the church so you all can know when I am available to talk about anything. If you have any other questions please let me know, my email is vicarajperger@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing you all on Sundays, until then peace be with you!

-Vicar Andrew

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The Ingathering of LWR donations will go forward here at First English on the morning of September 25th.

Even though we are living in strange times, the quilters are continuing to make quilts. They already have many, many quilts boxed up and ready to go.

So far, through your generous donations we've been able to assemble over 80 school kits.

Also, a small group of volunteers put together quite a few baby care kits.

So, even though the people of First English haven't been able to gather in large numbers, this ministry continues to be strong. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed, whether it was ironing quilt tops, stitching, assembling, boxing, paying for the truck to take the donations to Madison or donating to the contents of the kits. Thank you!

CHOCOLATE/TEA/COFFEE

The Lutheran Church Women are continuing to stock the shelf outside the church office with all your favorites. Susan is here, at minimum, every morning except Wednesday and you're welcome to stop in and purchase your favorites!



LCW NEWS

The Gather magazine is continuing to arrive. If you would like a copy please stop into the church any weekday morning and pick one up. If you prefer, you can drive up and call and someone will bring it to your car.

CALL COMMITTEE REPORT

“Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.” Samuel Johnson

Greetings Members of FELC –

We have traveled in time more miles than we had initially anticipated when we started this journey in March, 2019. However, as the quote states, great works are performed through perseverance.

You have not heard from the Call Committee for several months, the reason being, just as everything else has been affected by the Covid virus, so has the interest of pastors looking for a call to another parish. Our Call Committee has stayed in communication via email. In addition, Dan Smith, Committee Chair, has maintained contact with Steve Kottke, Assistant to the Bishop over these past months.

We are excited to share that within the past two weeks, we have conducted two recent virtual interviews for our Senior Pastor position. Since, we have scheduled a second in person interview with one of the candidates on Friday, September 5.

Although perhaps not a key component, your Call Committee does have the strength to see this journey to a promising conclusion. We are passionate about the assignment we accepted. Through our individual and joint efforts as well as the Guidance of our Gracious and Loving God, we will succeed in bringing a Senior Pastor to FELC.

Your continued prayers and support are graciously appreciated.
Maxine Lane, On behalf of the Call Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The council met August 11th, via (what has become usual) Zoom.

- As a devotional Pastor read a prayer from Frost: Let Us Give Thanks. We still have reasons for giving thanks.
- The status of rental house occupation still is in question at this time.
- We reviewed Pastor’s contract and decided to extend it for another six months. If it needs to be revised in the future, this is possible.
- Pastor is looking for ideas to restructure services to possibly move inside. Outside is conceivably running out of time. The ideas of adding a different day, or multiple times in order to split the crowd were suggested.
- Funds from the Jack Tiedemann estate were approved for the installation of a hearing loop in the church. The installation will take place shortly.
- Abbie Ramel suggested (and the council agreed) that although we could not get to Pine Lake for camp this year, we should still send some compensation to assist their situation.

Stay well, Greg Sieckman

September Birthdays

Jenkins Collins G.	1-Sep
Helker Kay	2-Sep
Smith Dan	2-Sep
Jentz Wayne	3-Sep
Kramer Kenneth	4-Sep
Andersen Lauren M.	5-Sep
Klinger Mary Lou	5-Sep
Sabatos Katelyn	5-Sep
Weis Brandon	5-Sep
Wills, Darin	5-Sep
Droessler Andrea	6-Sep
Blevins Sarah	7-Sep
Garber Naomi	9-Sep
Kieler Eric	10-Sep
Evanoff Makyla	11-Sep
Carns Brenna	12-Sep
Sieling Wayne	12-Sep
Dalsing Keston	13-Sep
Kramer Logan	15-Sep
Mueller Jason	15-Sep
Droessler Caleb	16-Sep
Moen Troy	17-Sep
Udelhofen Brandon	17-Sep
Carns Wayne	18-Sep
Pick Christina W.	20-Sep
Puls Megan	20-Sep
Sedgwick Roger	20-Sep
Oftedal Katelyn	22-Sep
Jones Joyce	25-Sep
Smith Ashley	26-Sep
Smith Pauline	26-Sep
Williams Dawn	26-Sep
Strange Henry	27-Sep
Chace Susan	28-Sep
Pick Emaleigh	28-Sep



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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.

September, 2020

CHAPTER A DAY

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13 Genesis 14	14 Genesis 15	15 Genesis 16	16 Genesis 17	17 Genesis 18	18 Genesis 19	19 Genesis 20
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