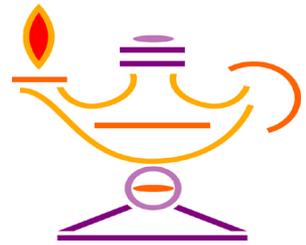


THE FIRST LIGHT

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN 53190



Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We grow together in faith to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and to serve God and neighbor.

April 2021

Re-Gathering Update

The Task Force met in early March and after group discussion as well as review of local/state COVID data, vaccination statistics, Synod information, Pastor Rich's thoughts and review of data collected from staff regarding services, face to face worship and daily work, have forwarded the following recommendations to Council.

Recommendations:

After Easter: (as the Easter plan has been well developed and shared with the Congregation)

1. Parking Lot Services -

- Increase Parking Lot Services to weekly and if demand warrants, more than one per Sunday. **(Every Sunday in April and May, beginning Sunday, April 4th)**
- Change compensation to Michael Inloes or others to provide support for the change.
- Continue this approach until Memorial Day.
- Relax the structure of PLS to allow for folks to be outside their cars/windows down and to bring folding chairs to use on grass areas for seating with the reminder that masks will be required at all times on church grounds and 6ft of physical distance is a must.
- Ask Worship and Music to examine the possibility of reformatting logistics or add a small platform to assist when Pastor Rich is outside with visibility.

2. Online services -

- These services have been a great service to congregational members and we feel they should continue. The quality is excellent and they are a great way to provide support and connection to our congregation without risk.
- Worship and Music should consider maintaining the offering and transitioning to the recording of sanctuary services when we get to that point.

(continued on next page)

3. **Worship Services moving forward -**

- We ask that the Worship and Music committee complete a congregational survey to determine interest and time of church services and format as soon as possible to inform our offerings after May 31st. This has been a pre-pandemic topic and would serve our congregation well in moving forward in developing the "mix" of in person, PLS, online, Summer schedule, etc. The Task Force encourages a very active approach to implementing this survey to anyone that we have contact information via email, phone and mail. In order to retain and return membership to more active participation, no one should be missed in asking for opinion. Our Task Force survey unintentionally missed some people and we would like to share what we have learned to insure full inclusion.
- We recommend that recommendations for summer use of Heart Prairie be on our next agenda.
- Pastor Rich is developing a plan for our confirmands.
- Education of what inside worship will be like (no singing, etc.) is a key to it's success when it begins.
- An HVAC study of air exchange time for the sanctuary (as that can only mechanically done with our air conditioning system) needs to be completed and considered to assist in worship timing in regards to safety consideration.

4. **Near Future**

- We will be meeting in April to review and make recommendations to start using the sanctuary after May 31st. Due to timing and that we didn't have a full committee, we thought that work best be done with all our members (2 were missing from our meeting but a quorum of the group was present!)
- We will examine logistics, cleaning and other safety protocols at that time and forward a revised return to the sanctuary plan.

Submitted by Jan Bilgen—Task Force Chair





- Please remember to use the church PO Box for mail correspondence: **First English Lutheran Church, PO Box 539, Whitewater, WI 53190** If you have your donations sent in through your bank, please contact them to update our address.
- Committee Chairs please remember to turn in your 2021 member lists to the office. It will be entered into the computer and a copy sent back to you and the rest of the committee members. They can be left in the drop box outside the west side door for pickup. Thank you!

In This Issue

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|------|
| • Regathering Update | 1-2 | • 2021 Council | 7 |
| • From the Office | 3 | • Pennies for Poverty | 7 |
| • In Memory Of | 3 | • Lutherdale Bible Camp | 8 |
| • April/May Worship | 4 | • WELCA News | 9-10 |
| • Traveling Light | 5 | • Food For The Spirit | 11 |
| • Family of Faith in Action | 6 | • Worship Information | 12 |



* Bonnie Henry: February 18, 1936—March 16, 2021

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Worship With Us!

Parking Lot Services will be held every Sunday in April and May to allow for the Confirmation schedule.

Register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DABA92BA4FDC61-april>,
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DABA92BA4FDC61-mayworship>

Or Call 262-473-5076 to reserve space



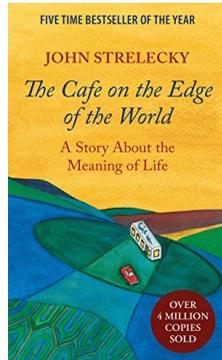
An Easter Prayer

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.

(Newsletter Newsletter, April 2021)

Traveling Light Book Discussion for 2021

So far, the **FELC Traveling Light Book Group** has enjoyed four insightful books! Up next? John Strelecky's "**The Cafe on the Edge of the World: A Story about the Meaning of Life**". This book quickly pulls in the reader as we meet John, on a road trip, when suddenly his phone/navi won't pull up directions. Only 129 pages in length but thought provoking none the less...over 4 million copies sold and translated into forty two languages. Join the relaxed conversation on **April 20 at 7pm**. Led by Karil Bilgen.



Looking for insightful reads that expand your thinking and faith?

These titles are in the queue for 2021...none too long, yet meaningful places to explore.....

“Following Jesus” by Henri J.M. Nouwen A never before published work of inspiration, on the importance of following Jesus in an age of anxiety. (2019)

“Let the Journey Begin” by Max Lucado A devotional of sorts, Max’s essays speak to “finding God’s best for your life”. (2009)

“Inspired” by Rachel Held Evans If the Bible isn’t a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? The author’s quest is to help the reader better understand the Bible and how it is meant to be read. (2018)

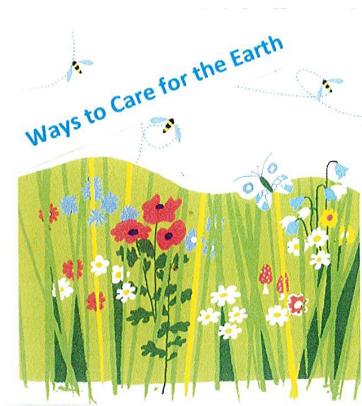
“Hinds Feet on High Places” by Hannah Hurnard A story of endurance, persistence and reliance on God helping us become sure-footed in our faith, as told in an allegory. (1975)

**Join in the conversation various Tuesday evenings throughout the year!!
Led by Karil Bilgen.**

FELC Family of Faith In Action

Earth Day is April 22nd

We're care takers of God's creation every day!
Be on the look out for daily Facebook posts
for simple ideas to conserve Earth's resources
and protect the environment.
Positive, practical and easy to do,
throughout April and May!



Here are the first two weeks to get us started:

- 1-Read all about it** Every time you recycle a pile of papers a yard high, you save a tree from the chop!
- 2-Lusher lawns** Longer grass retains moisture better, so in hot weather let your lawn grow a little longer before you cut it, to avoid brown patches and extra watering.
- 3- Canvas totes** Those plastic bags add up. Bring your own cloth bags when you head out to shop.
- 4-Less speed, more fuel** Attention all speeders!! Driving at 50 mph is 25% more fuel efficient than driving at 70 mph.
- 5-Ride a bike** A four mile trip by bike rather than car, prevents about 15 pounds of air pollution.
- 6-Make the most of your fan** Circulating the air in your home saves on heating and cooling.
- 7-Fly a kite** Get the family outdoors enjoying the power of the wind. You'll get fit, and have fun!
- 8-Hidden charge** If you leave your cell phone charger plugged in all the time, 95% of the energy it consumes will go to waste. So, unplug your charger when not in use.
- 9-Drain busting** Clean your drains with a mixture of baking soda and vinegar in boiling water. No need for chemical cleaners that damage aquatic life. A plunger helps too, of course.
- 10-Up, Up and Away** Use natural latex balloons to adorn parties. They're fully biodegradable.
- 11-Travel Light** Out exploring? Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints.
- 12-Let's hear it for latex paint** Because they're water based, latex paints contain fewer chemicals.
- 13-Visit and buy from the Farmers Market** Well...of course!!
- 14-Reinvent the wheel** If your car's tire can't be fixed with retreading, consider eco-friendly tires that use organic ingredients.

How can I conserve energy around the home—and save money at the same time?

What can one citizen do to help protect the ozone layer?

How can I help to protect the rainforest—the lungs of the planet?

2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Shelly Black | shellymblack5@gmail.com | 402.661.4153 | President |
| Bernie Labovitch | blabovit@gmail.com | 312-560-9164 | Vice-President |
| Carrie Partoll | thos.partoll@sbcglobal.net | 920.397.0490 | Secretary |
| April Furman | akkfurman@yahoo.com | 262-391-2419 | Treasurer |
| Barb Penington | peningtonhb@yahoo.com | 262-473-4128 | Evangelism |
| Suzanne Chenoweth | suznboyz@gmail.com | 262-473-4084 | Social Action |
| Cozette Moffatt | cozette@designsbycozette.com | 608-774-6790 | Thrift Shoppe |
| David Strauss | | 920-568-8608 | Worship & Music |
| Lezlie Oldenburg | lezmes1@aol.com | 608-322-9399 | Stewardship |
| Don Meyer | donaljdjmeyer64@gmail.com | 262-473-2521 | Personnel |
| Dave Koppein | kyleek1400@gmail.com | 262-458-2324 | Building & Grounds |
| Jason Alexander | alexandershawn@att.net | 262.473.3881 | Finance |
| Jarrod Kollwelter | jc_kowfarms@yahoo.com | 262-473-5606 | Education & Youth |
| Paula Olson | paulaolson49@yahoo.com | 507.402.2446 | WELCA |
| Pastor Rich | revcollier@sbcglobal.com | 920-904-4818 | Interim Pastor |

Pennies for Poverty:

With the guidance of WELCA the members of First English Lutheran Church collect pennies and other cash donations to give to a charity that helps women and children in poverty. In 2020 even with our church and Thrift Shoppe closed for most of the year, our members have been faithfully contributing to the “Pennies for Poverty” collection. Thank you for your contributions. In 2020 \$400 was collected and a check was sent to Bethel House in Whitewater. In January and February of 2021 a total of \$79.60 has been collected. If you want to contribute to the “pennies for poverty fund” you can write a check payable to “WELCA” (stands for Women of the ELCA) and mail it to Janna Smith (WELCA treasurer). Her address is 919 W. Charles St., Whitewater, WI 53190. When the First English Lutheran Church and the Thrift Shoppe are open you can put your donations of coin, cash or checks in the “Pennies for Poverty” collection jars. One jar is located in the back of the church on a triangle counter on the right and one jar is on left side of the Thrift Shoppe counter where items are purchased.

Lutherdale Bible Camp

Lutherdale's annual meeting was held on March 7, 2021 in the new Hope Conference Center. The Bible camp has completed its 77th year. First English Lutheran Church was one of the founding congregations in 1944.

The COVID year of 2020 was the toughest Lutherdale has ever experienced, financially. After initially working from home, the camp opened for its summer season in a reduced capacity. Where usually 30 summer staff are employed, only nine were hired. Where usually there are 2000 children at summer camp, last year only 200 children attended Lutherdale.

Nine half week camps were held with a camp counselor and assigned children in their own bubble. There were no cases of COVID-19 or any other illness the entire summer.

The staff thought of new ways to use the camp: renting out cabins to families for personal use, Dinner at the Lake (pick-up), and an outdoor quilt auction.

Financial conditions turned grim in October with four of the year round staff furloughed. The remaining staff had their pay drastically reduced. The Day of Giving campaign was very successful in keeping the camp solvent and paying the interest on the newly completed Hope Conference Center.

With COVID numbers going down and restrictions easing, the camp has held a few quilting retreats and even a church retreat. Many Thrivent members are directing their Thrivent Choice dollars to Lutherdale.

Joy Circle and Peace Circle held their October meeting in the outdoor pavilion on a beautiful fall day. Member churches are encouraged to keep up their benevolence to keep this ELCA camp in business.

WELCA at FELC continues to make four \$100 scholarships available to children from the congregation. In the past both the Thrift Shoppe and the church council have supplied scholarships. **We hope that any child from FELC who would like to go to camp could take this opportunity to discover this beautiful place just 10 miles down the road by the shores of Green Lake.**

One mother wrote this after picking up her two sons from camp last summer:

"This year has been challenging for everyone, and the steps that Lutherdale took to allow camp to open and give kids a little bit of summer joy back will forever be appreciated. One of my boys has been struggling with depression from all of the isolation and change. He was not looking forward to going to camp, but he couldn't stop talking about the past few days when we picked him up."

If you want more information about getting a Lutherdale scholarship, please contact Tammy in the church office.

Janna Smith, FELC voting member at the Lutherdale meeting

Employment opportunities: Lutherdale is looking for a cook. They are also hiring college students to work as camp counselors.



Women of the ELCA (WELCA) News WELCA News from FELC

WELCA's Synodical Women's Organization is sponsoring another book discussion via Zoom. It will be held on Thurs., March 25th, at 7 pm and will last around 90 minutes. We will be reading a fiction book: *Noted!* by Kathy J. Jacobson. Janna Smith will be leading the discussion and the author, who lives within our synod, will also be present. Janna has copies of the book. Regular print: \$9 and Large print: \$7. Please let her know if you need a copy. (smithjanna55@gmail.com or 262-215-6892). If you use *The Word in Season*, Kathy has written the daily devotionals for Feb. 18th – March 3rd.

WELCA COOKBOOK: Our organization, First English Lutheran Church/WELCA is creating a custom, professionally published, cookbook featuring favorite recipes from our members. Money raised will be for our charitable distribution at the end of the year. Please submit 3-5 of your favorite recipes by **May 31, 2021**. We are using Morris Press Cookbook's web site to easily submit recipes online. If you do not have Internet access, our committee can enter them for you. Submit hardcopies of your recipes to:

Carol Haas linkyhaas@gmail.com (715) 216-4229, 1540 W. Via de Roma, Green Valley, AZ 85622 (until mid April), 701 E. Clay Street Unit E2, Whitewater, WI 53190

Ginny Knuteson knutek@cni-usa.com (920) 728-2978, N9217 Duffin Road, Whitewater, WI 53190

Janna Smith smithjanna55@gmail.com (262) 215-6892, 919 W. Charles Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Paula Olson paulaolson49@yahoo.com (507) 402-2446, 281 S. Pine Circle, Whitewater, WI 53190

To Submit Recipes Online:

- Go to www.typensave.com and click 'Login.'
- Enter the User Name: First English
- Enter the password: thyme590 and click 'Submit.'
- Enter your name and email address, then click 'Continue.'
- Click 'Add Recipes' to begin adding your recipes.
- After submitting a recipe, please remember to log out of the website (upper right corner, under Acct #).

Recipe Writing Tips:

- When adding recipes, review the "Tips" and use standard abbreviations.
- Only enter 1 ingredient per ingredient line.
- List ingredients in order of use in the ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., (16-oz.) pkg., (24-oz.) can.
- Write directions in paragraph form, not in steps.
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "Combine flour and sugar." DO NOT use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients."
- Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
- Additional comments about the recipe (history, nutritional data, suggested uses, etc.) are not allowed unless a "Recipe Note" field is visible. Enter extra recipe



Food For The Spirit



Encourage Wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder." For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love."

—Janna Firestone



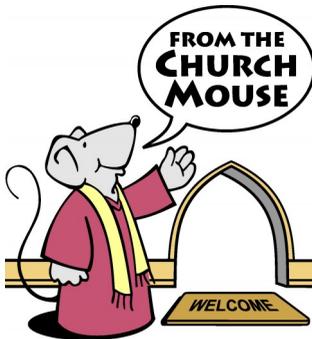
**First English Lutheran Church
PO Box 539
Whitewater, WI 53190**

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Whitewater, WI
Permit No. 79**

**THE FIRST LIGHT is published monthly by
First English Lutheran Church
PO Box 539
401 W. Main Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
Telephone: (262)473-5076
secretaryfelcww@gmail.com
Rev. Richard R. Collier , Interim Pastor
revcollier@sbcglobal.net
Website: firstenglishlutheranchurch.360unite.com**

**Members of the congregation are invited to
submit items for publication before the 15th
of each month.**

Worship Information



- **Website: felcww.org**
- **Facebook:**
<https://www.facebook.com/FELCYOUTH>
- **Cable Channel 990: Daily 9:00am and 12:00pm**
- **Parking Lot Services: Every Sunday in April and May**