

The First Light

April 2024

What's INSIDE

- 2 From Pastor Joseph cont.
- 2 Palm Sunday Photos
- 2 Home Communion
- 3 Bethel House Raffle Fundraiser
- 3 Bassett House Tea Party
- 3 Bassett House Spring Concerts
- 4 Rosaline Sightings
- 4 WELCA Spring Gathering
- 4 Sunday Brunch
- 5 Food & Friends Groups
- 5 Bethel House Donation
- 5 Thrivent Dollars Donation
- 5 Christian Friends Singles Group
- 6 April Calendar
- 7 Birthday/Anniversary Calendar
- 8 Worship information

Worship Information

- **FELC**—Sunday 9:30a every week
- **FAIRHAVEN SERVICES**—Thursday 10:30a Fairhaven, Apr. 25, 2024
- **HISTORIC HEART PRAIRIE** Resumes June 1st, 2024 Sat 5:00p & Sun 8:00a

Online services listed on page 8



Photo courtesy of Michael Inloes

A publication of First English Lutheran Church, Whitewater, Wisconsin

From Pastor Joseph - *Finding the Good* (Square Series – final article)

Well, this is it. We've been on a long journey together already. We're seven months into this article series and I've been with this congregation for about a year and a half. Hopefully, we've been getting to know each other. Hopefully, we've been getting better at listening, sharing, and understanding one another – useful tools in life as well as in our faith journey with God.

To round out our conversation, I think it's important to talk about how we find the good in this crazy thing called life, in our conversations, and in our communities, because ultimately, that's what we all hope for. We want things to be good or at least to get better. It's a little bit ironic that we share this common goal – finding the good – because it seems that all too often, we get seduced into believing that others don't share this same goal.

One of my hobbies for the last thirty-nine years has involved fictional writing. When I was a child and a novice in the hobby, I wrote villains who were evil. They wanted to take over the world, kill and destroy. They had no good in them, no redeeming qualities. One of the beautiful experiences of writing is that you're challenged to always make your writing seem more realistic, more plausible, even if you write science fiction or fantasy, because a good story needs to feel as if there is something real and possible in it.

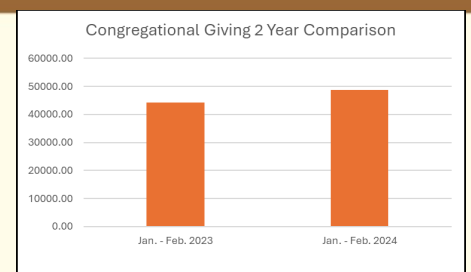
In recent years, I've stopped creating villains entirely. Instead, I write of a world with many different ideas about how to make the world good, and I've found that my audience has often responded with deep appreciation for how real the experience and choices are, faced with realistic characters.

Continued on page 2

Finance

February at a Glance

- YTD Giving as of Feb. 29 = \$48,808
- YTD Budget as of Feb. 29 = \$67,986
- Feb. average weekly attendance = 107



www.firstenglishlutheranchurch.360unite.com

From Pastor Joseph - *Finding the Good* (Square Series – final article)

The point is, we recognize reality in fiction when we see it, and one of the ways we recognize it is when we see antagonists who believe what they are doing is good. In truth, many of the most realistic antagonists in recent books and movies can leave us wondering if we're right to side with the protagonist at all.

The irony is, we often find it all too easy to paint real life human beings as villains and fail to see any good in them at all. Again, our current societal divisions make for a great example. Take a moment and consider how strange it is that we need our antagonists to be at least a little bit good for them to be real, and yet sometimes feel a need label real people as having no good in them at all.

What if we turned that around and invited the realism in our modern story telling back into our real lives and started with the assumption that everyone intends for the world to be good, for their beliefs and ideals to be part of making the world a better place.

We might be tempted to point to terrible examples of evil in human history, and of course, we don't want to start justifying terrible things, but when we start with the assumption that people are inherently good and seeking good, we find, not villains, but people who are hurting and broken. We may even begin to recognize in ourselves that there are parts of us that are in need of healing.

All these tools and techniques lead to the same thing, a view of God's creation as good, and ourselves, all of ourselves, as children and servants in it, striving together to build a better society and a common good, and to look for the places in ourselves and in our world, where healing can happen.

In Hope, Faith, and Love,

Pr. Joseph O'Donnell

Palm Sunday

Otis the donkey, escorted by the Tomomitsu family, was our guest of honor as we celebrated Palm Sunday.

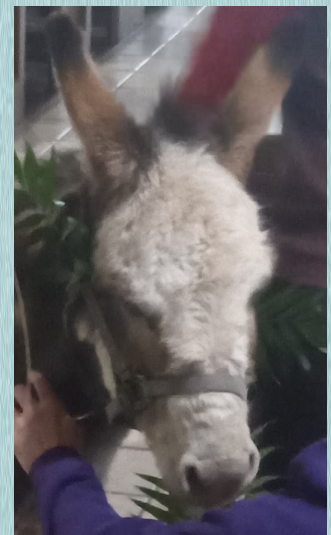


Photo credit the Peningtons, 2024

Home Communion



Due to the declining use and quality of pre-packaged communion service, we will be discontinuing the use of these kits after Easter of this year (March 31, 2024). Those who are homebound or unable to attend church services for other reasons are encouraged to contact the church office and request a Befriender and/or Pastor visits. Both are able to bring communion during a visit.

Spring Fundraisers

2nd Annual Spring Raffle Fundraiser for Bethel House

Wednesday, May 15th

841 Brewhouse, 841 E. Milwaukee Street

Social happy hour: 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

\$20 raffle tickets includes event admission, light appetizers, and one beverage with chance to win one of 5 cash prizes.

Last year's event was well attended and a lot of fun!

Tickets can be purchased from Barb Penington or the First Citizens State Bank or online at Bethel House website.

All event funds will directly support Bethel House's efforts to prevent homelessness in the Whitewater Community through their transitional housing, case management, and emergency financial assistance programs.



Ticket Purchase Deadline April 14

Ladies & Young Ladies Tea Party
at Whitewater's beautiful **Bassett House**
708 W. Main Street
Sunday, April 28, 2024
First Seating 1:00pm • Second Seating: 3:30pm

Adult + Child: \$30
Additional Child: \$10
Single Adult: \$25
6 years & older, please

Proceeds to go to the Bassett House Preservation Fund

Make checks out to **WFWC** and mail to:
Linda Robinson
957 W. Highland Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
or
VENMO Whitewater Federation
Indicate: Name, Address and First or Second Seating;
adult(s) & # children.

For more information:
(803) 727-3675
linrob73@gmail.com
bassetthousewww.org
Like us on Facebook



Bassett House 

Spring Concert Series
708 W. Main Street • Whitewater

Sunday, April 7 • 1:00 PM
Rachel Wood Voice Studio

Sunday, May 26 • 1:00 PM
Robert Gehrenbeck and Sarah Gehrenbeck

TICKETS
Adult: Single concert: \$30 | Series: \$50
Student: \$15 per concert
Child (13 and under): \$10 per concert

To purchase tickets in advance:
Make checks out to **WFWC** and mail to:
Linda Robinson
957 W. Highland Street • Whitewater, WI 53190
or
VENMO Whitewater Federation
Indicate: number of adults, students, or children
For more information:
(803) 727-3675 • linrob73@gmail.com
bassetthousewww.org

All proceeds go to the preservation of Whitewater's Historic Bassett House

 Like us on Facebook

Message Board

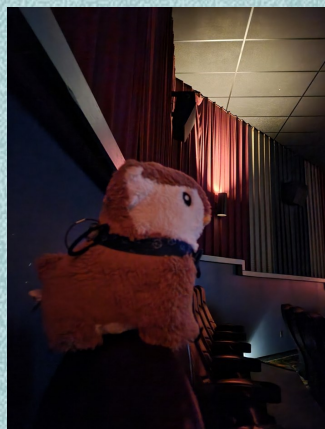
Rosaline Sightings...



Rosaline Celebrates with Joyce & Al Hutchinson at their 50th Anniversary



Rosaline meets other members of our community at the Fuzzy Pig



Rosaline at the Whitewater Cinema

Photo credit Pr. Joseph, 2023

Women, you are invited to attend the 2024 Elkhorn Conference Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, Luncheon to follow

Registration/Refreshments beginning at 8:15 am followed by:
Fellowship • Synodical women's update • Elkhorn Conf. Business Meeting • Worship & Song

Come BLESS with WELCA

Hosted by: Sugar Creek Lutheran: N5690 Cobblestone Road, Elkhorn, WI

Program: Power of Prayer
engaged in hospitality

Presentation by members of
Sugar Creek Lutheran



1 Timothy 5:10 "And is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble & devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds."

**Please wear an apron. If you do not have one, one will be provided. An offering will be collected during worship to be donated to the Lutheran World Relief 2024 Hunger Challenge and the Synodical board. In kind gifts will also be received for Twin Oaks, a local shelter (i.e. paper towels, diapers, detergent, shampoo, body wash, toilet paper & non-perishable food).*

Please bring one salad for every two attendees for the Salad Luncheon.

Please RSVP the number attending from your church group by April 15th to Bonnie Markgraf (262) 903-3011 or email tchiapusio@yahoo.com

See you there!

Elkhorn Conference (South-Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization)

Immanuel Lutheran (Lake Geneva)
Jefferson Prairie Lutheran (Poplar Grove, IL)
Christ Lutheran (Sharon)
St. Luke's Lutheran (Rome/Sullivan)

Faith Evangelical Lutheran (Walworth)
First English Lutheran (Whitewater)
Williams Bay Lutheran (Williams Bay)

Sugar Creek Lutheran (Elkhorn)
Trinity English Lutheran (Fort Atkinson)
St. John's Lutheran (Johnson Creek)

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Is again being served at First English (Fellowship Hall) on Sunday, April 14, following the worship service and compliments of our Evangelism Committee. The brunch is open to everyone and is free of charge--all the food and tableware is provided! University students and visitors are especially invited to come!



Message Board

Food & Friends Groups

(Formerly known as Round Robin Dinners)



What: It's a time to gather with other FELC members to get to know them better with good food.

Who: YOU and/or your family

Where: The Host's choice (home or not)

When: Gather at least ONCE in April, May, or June (the host will contact you)

Why: For food & friendship & fun

How many: Only from 6-10 people

How do I sign up: Contact Suzanne Chenoweth; suzandboyz@gmail.com or another Social Action member or sign-up [here](#).



March 4th,

Bethel House drop off.

Photo credit Tricia Borchardt



A Thrivent dollars donation of \$105 was received in memory of Amelia Jane Strand-Butler who passed away on 3/30/2022

\$543 Thrivent donations total have been received so far for 2024!

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS SINGLES GROUP

We are a social and recreational group for divorced, widowed, and never married singles over 55. We will meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 2p.m. at Culvers Restaurant, 1414 W. Main St., for dessert or a meal. Beginning April 6th.

We will also meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at China House Restaurant, 1128 W. Main St., at 1p.m. for a meal. This is a cash only restaurant. Other activities will be planned. For more info., please call John Hoffman at 262-949-1619. *Upcoming Saturdays:*

April 6, 2p.m. Culvers

April 20, 1p.m. China House

May 4, 2p.m. Culvers

May 18, 1p.m. China House

June 1, 2p.m. Culvers

June 15, 1p.m. China House

First English Lutheran Church

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Whitewater, WI 53190

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THE FIRST LIGHT is published monthly by:

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

Worship Schedule

Worship at FELC ~ Sunday 9:30a.m.

Worship at Heart Prairie ~ June 1st—Sept. 1st, 2024

- 5:00p Saturdays
- 8:00a Sundays

Worship At Home:

- Website:
www.firstenglishlutheranchurch.360unite.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FELCYOUTH>
- Cable Channel 990