



First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



The Parish News

**Rev. Paul E. Kaldahl,
 Jr. Pastor**

**Bonnie Kabrick
 Director of
 Christian Education**

**Carolyn Blau
 Organist**

**Karen Hargens
 Kristin Kaldahl
 Bethany Matthias
 Keyboard Players**

**Julie Moran
 Office Manager**

**Leah Kreutner &
 Tammi Dickman
 Preschool Directors**

**Ruth Obermeier
 Preschool Secretary**

**Don Conlon &
 Cindy Kunzmann
 Custodians**

**Sunday
 Worship Services
 8:00 & 10:45 A.M.
 Fellowship
 9:00 A.M.
 Nursery 9:15-Noon
 Sunday School &
 Bible Classes
 9:30-10:30 A.M.**

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 Website —
 www.spencer-
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**E-Mail —
 felcoffice@smunet.net
 Preschool
 (712) 262-3699**

Inside Out Transformation!

Dear friends and family of FELC, Jesus desires to transform souls, and He does that from the inside out! Jesus always works from the inside out! First, He cleanses our souls by the redeeming power of His blood, and then He begins to work in our lives by teaching us to sanctify (to set our lives apart from the world that we might be dedicated to serve God throughout each and every day) our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to transform your heart and soul — the very inner core of your being.

The fruit of this transformation **will be seen** on the outside of your life — the way you live. However, as you try to change your outside actions, (usually by sheer will power) you will eventually fail and find yourself going back to the same old sinful habits that flow so naturally from your sinful heart. **Galatians 5:19-21**, “**The ACTS OF THE FLESH are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**”

But, when you allow the Holy Spirit to work on your heart and soul through the transforming power of God’s Word, then the presence of God will transform your inner core, and you will bear fruit (over time), fruit that will last. **Galatians 5:22-25** “**But THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**”

The Apostle Paul writes the words printed above as a helpful list of obvious characteristics and activities on the outside of our lives that indicate what is happening (or not happening) on the inside of our lives. The first list, when seen in my daily living, indicates that my sinful nature is in control on the inside. The second list, when seen in my daily living, indicates the Holy Spirit living well in my inner being.

Every now and then find myself battling with a sense of being overwhelmed, frustrated (usually with myself but sometimes others), my fuse gets shorter and I become more reclusive. These spells almost always coincide with less personal prayer, worship and contemplation on scripture. This “spiritual laziness” works against joy, peace and patience in my life.

Whenever I find myself having these “spells” that flow so naturally from my sinful nature, I deliberately make myself pray. I open God’s Word. I force myself to do the things I know my flesh should be doing to develop a closer relationship with Jesus my Savior. And behold, the Holy Spirit comes to assist my heart and soul, because

He is faithful and will always come to be my counselor, my comforter, my strength, and my guide.

So, I simply asked the Holy Spirit, "What is going on in the inside of me that is producing the bad fruit on the outside of me?" And, do you know what I sense He says to my heart during those moments? He advises me, "Pastor Kaldahl, you are too self-reliant. This ministry (and your life for that matter) are not run by your power and strength. Effective ministry does not happen through the power of your might and skill — but by mine."

Zechariah 4:6, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

You see, the Lord needs to lovingly transform my heart, mind, body, and soul! The Holy Spirit must work powerfully on my inner being — because I have a such powerful sense of self-reliance! This spiritual defect resides deep within my sin nature, and this sin nature of self-reliance leaves no room for God to enter into my soul so that He can help me when I need it the most! It is no wonder I grow frustrated and begin to feel overwhelmed!

So, the Holy Spirit has me on a journey. He humbles me. He drives me to the cross of Christ for forgiveness, healing, love and correction to my well entrenched sense of self-reliance. I am a work in process! This is just one example in my life of how God, by His Spirit, is transforming me from the inside out! I am so glad He is not content with my attempts at outward performance but truly cares about the transformation of my heart!

How about you? What transformation is He brewing up inside your soul? And, are you ready to receive the transformational journey He will take you on as He works on you from the inside out so that the "Fruits of the Spirit" might be evident in your life?



Thursday, February 2, 2017
Esther Guild— 9:30 a.m. at FELC
Naomi Guild—1:30 p.m. at FELC
Sarah Guild—7:00 p.m. at FELC

**Lutheran Women's
 Missionary League**

Discipleship

Week	Attendance			Communion			Offering	Sunday School	
	Early	Late	Total	Early	Late	Total		Kids/Adults	Offering
Jan. 1	101	58	159	97	55	152	\$ 6,321.00	No Sunday School	
Jan. 8	138	118	256		—		\$ 9,893.00	42 / 58	\$ 15.00
Jan. 15	152	109	261	114	91	205	\$ 7,863.00	32 / 74	\$ 8.86
Jan. 22	106	107	213		—		\$ 4,581.00	22 / 57	\$ 10.56

	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
Income	45,563.39	34,003.53	38,107.26	37,065.84	32,468.56	68,668.45	\$ 467,360.65
Expenses	34,483.39	41,217.20	39,065.28	42,022.69	45,238.16	32,346.10	\$ 478,009.54
Gain (Loss)	11,080.00	(7,213.67)	(958.52)	(4,956.85)	(12,769.60)	36,322.35	(\$ 10,648.89)

Youth and Family Life

Dear FELC Family,

“First English is such an active church” is the comment I recently heard from some Spencer high school parents after I answered their question about where I am employed. What a great comment to hear about First English’s reputation in the community! It is great to know that many community members see us as an active, vibrant congregation. I also hear many good comments concerning the friendliness of our congregation and how our members help others feel comfortable and welcome. Some of our newer members have remarked how much they appreciate being a part of a church family who really cares and is so centered on God’s Word.

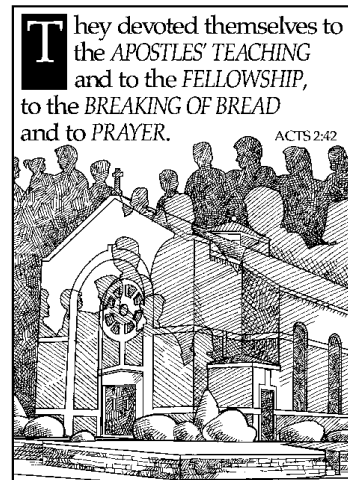
I know from my active involvement in area youth ministry events that our youth ministry here is also considered strong. I know that we offer a wide variety of activities to help meet the varying needs of our youth members. In fact, many times I find myself running really hard and fast to keep a step ahead of everything that we do. But I see this challenge as a good problem because it means we are active and that our youth ministry is alive and well. The same can also be said for many of our other ministries as well – such as our small group Bible studies, service groups, GIFT midweek, Young Adult and Family ministries and so many other ministries that I cannot even begin to mention them all.

I can honestly say that though I stay very busy with all of the ministries we do, I am grateful that our ministries demand so much attention! In fact, every one who is involved in any of our ministries knows that these ministries take much time and effort. Yet we all know that the payoff is worth it because we are not only growing in our own faith but also hopefully helping other people grow in their faith. That is what these ministries are really about – fulfilling Christ’s great commission to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

What sweet law and gospel is spoken in that command from Christ! What a great commission for all of us to fulfill! In this way, we are all part of the royal priesthood of believers who have been called to fulfill His mission – a mission that we will never complete. So even though many of our ministries here might be continually growing in strength, our mission here on this earth will be never be complete. At times, that may seem overwhelming to us all, but we can look at this mission as a wonderful opportunity to serve our Savior and King and to respond to His love with a thankful heart.

The power of Christ’s love in our lives is so beautifully explained in one of our youth group’s favorite songs. It is a dynamic Christian song that they chose to sing during our upcoming LYF Valentine dinner; it is called, “In Christ Alone.” The whole song continually reminds us of what it means to be loved by Christ. I share the words of the last verse with you because they bring me comfort and reassure me of His active presence in our lives. I hope that these words will sustain you as well. Let us never forget that who strengthens us... it is He

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home –
Here in the pow’r of Christ I stand.



February, 2017

G.I.F.T. Growing In Faith Together



THEME / SNACK

February 1	Make A Joyful Noise	Bring a Musical Instrument	Bugles	Katie Koenecke
February 8	Crazy Tie Night	Wear a Crazy Tie or Scarf	Sunflower Seeds & Raisins	Stephanie Zahrt
February 15	No G.I.F.T.	Parent Teacher Conferences		
February 22	Breakfast Club	Wear PJ's	Grapes & Ritz Crackers	Becky Norgaard

Menu

Bible Verse

February 1	Sloppy Joes, FF, Orange & Chocolate Cake	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
February 8	Chili, Corn Muffins, Carrots & Celery, Lemon Cake	1 Corinthians 10:4
February 22	Hard Boiled Eggs, Bacon, Cinnamon Rolls, Banana	Genesis 1:16

DESSERT PREP

	<u>PREP ITEM</u>	<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>
February 1	Chocolate Cake	Lezly Boblit (4)
February 8	Lemon Cake	Deb Clem (4)



KITCHEN ASSISTANTS

February 1	Amber Jones, Lora Elsenbast
February 8	Deb Clem, _____

Kitchen Assistants, please plan to be here to help at 5:00 p.m. and stay until clean up is complete.

Class	Parent	Parent	Elder	Class	Parent	Parent	Elder
Feb. 1	T. Wempe	B. Norgaard	_____	Mar. 8	R. Wassom	Hoffman's	K. Steffen
Feb. 8	M. Schauer	K. Nolin	J. Enderton	Mar. 15	T. Wempe	K. Unger	_____
Feb. 15	D. Wassom	N. Staedtler	T. Hoffman	Mar. 22	R. Warburton	M. Warburton	T. Hoffman
Feb. 22	P. Salton	Video/Game Night		Mar. 29	T. Wempe	N. Staedtler	_____

*Confirmation
Chaperones*

February, 2017

**First English Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017**

Members present: Steve Hallgren, Kay Wilson, Tim Hoffman, Priscilla Nagel, Barb Muetzel (for Bonnie Ewoldt), Deb Hinkeldey, and Jeff Chalstrom

Opening Devotion – none, Pastor absent

Secretary's Report: A motion made by Priscilla and 2nd by Deb to approve Dec. 15th minutes

Treasurer's Report: Read by Kay Wilson. A motion was made by Jeff and 2nd by Barb to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay bills

Financial Report:

General Fund at 1/19/2017

Ck. Book Balance	\$101,049.87	
Dedicated Funds	67,977.90	(\$50,000 for west drive & parking lot paving)
Memorial Funds	5,556.00	
Tax Liabilities	<u>2,568.89</u>	
Available Funds	\$ 24,947.08	

Preschool Fund at 1/19/2017

Ck. Book Balance	\$ 49,509.07	
Dedicated Funds	10,877.23	
May, 2017 Prepaid Tuition	<u>6,400.00</u>	
Available Funds	\$ 32,231.84	

IGLLS Building Fund at 1/19/2017

Ck. Book Balance	\$ 187,993.76	
LCEF Loan Balance	\$2,003,791.18	

IGLLS Board report: No report, Leonard absent

Board reports:

Elders: Tim Hoffman reported that Bonnie is out due to surgery. The Board approved PTO for Pastor K. in January and February. The Board decided to do the reenactment of Last Supper during Maundy Thursday service in 2017. It will be the reenactment only and not the dinner. Currently there are 9 elders and the Board is looking for 3 more.

Trustees: Jeff Chalstrom reported there is a transition in the Board of Trustees. There are only 2 active members. If anyone is willing to step forward and serve as a church trustee, please contact Jeff Chalstrom. January 28th & 29th the Trustees will replace the lights in the sanctuary. If anyone can help please show up as the trustees need help moving pews and assisting with replacing the lights.

Education: No Report

Youth: Written report submitted by Bonnie K. She indicated the Board of Youth is welcoming Kris Unger, Libby Stricker, and Shari Dorman to the board in 2017. Super bowl subs are currently being sold. No apologies event is Wednesday, January 25th. Kenny Bishop is leading Wednesday night while Bonnie is gone. The youth group voted to cancel Valentine Dinner this year.

Finance: The board meets every week. One member is currently absent. Jo Gonnerman fills in for vacancies.

Christian Outreach: No Report

Christian Life: Barb Muetzel was present for Bonnie Ewoldt but has no report

Assimilation: Had 1 new baptism on January 15th. Pastor K finished adult education class. Assimilation Sunday is set for January 29th in which 6 new members will be welcomed to the congregation. The board will not meet in February.

Pastors Report: None – not present

DCE Report: Written report submitted by Bonnie K. She indicated she had surgery this past week and will be gone for at least two weeks. Keith McCloud is covering Sunday morning Bible classes for Bonnie.

Old Business:

After continued discussion by the council, it was moved by Jeff and 2nd by Kay to authorize the payment of \$125,000 from the IGLLS Building Fund checking account balance to pay on the loan principal. This will leave a checking account balance of \$62,993.76 Furthermore, it should be noted the Church Council wishes to establish a policy to maintain a 6-month balance (approximately \$60,000) in the checking account and any excess funds should be used to pay off the principal balance.

New Business:

- 1) The Board committees need to have appointed chairpersons identified for 2017 and seek new members if needed.
- 2) A Church policy states committee members are to have a term of 3 years with a chairperson serving for only 1 year. Currently several of the Church boards have members that have served more than 3 years. This may be a hardship for finding volunteers willing to serve if all members who have served longer than 3 years are no longer able to serve. The Church Council recommends reviewing its by-laws or church policies to review this clause, especially as it pertains to the Board of Finance.
- 3) A discussion was held about having a Christmas committee again at FELC.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Super Bowl Gathering at Camp Okoboji on February 5th

Camp Okoboji will once again be hosting a Super Bowl gathering in the Bethel Retreat Center. Come any time after 3:00 P.M. for pre-game fun and fellowship. Please bring snacks to share and your own beverage. It is helpful to call (712) 337-3325 and let the camp office know if you will be attending, but not necessary. Bring your family and your friends.



Groups are Needed to Serve Lenten Meals – Mid Week Services will be held on Wednesdays during Lent. We need groups to sponsor meals on March 8, 15, 22 and April 5. These meals are great fundraisers so if your group is interested in serving one of the meals please contact the church office.

Updating Contact Information – If you have changed your address, phone number or email address in the past year please contact the church office with the new information. Thank you. Julie

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions - It's time to renew your subscription or begin a new one. Our new subscription year begins with the May, 2017 issue. Please use the envelope in your packet marked for the Lutheran Witness and make your check payable to First English Lutheran Church. The cost this year is \$22.75 per subscription of 12 issues. Subscriptions need to be in by February 22, 2017. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you.