



First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



The Parish News

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

**Bonnie Kabrick
Director of
Christian Education**

**Kristin Kaldahl
Carolyn Blaue
Organists**

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

**Julie Moran
Office Manager**

**Tammi Dickman
Preschool Director**

**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.**

**1311 E. 18th Street
Spencer, IA 51301
(712) 262-5598 Phone
(712) 262-8396 Fax
Website —
www.spencer-church.com**

**E-Mail —
felcoffice@smunet.net**

**Preschool
(712) 262-3699**

“Man is Small—God is Great”

Dear Friends and Family of FELC,

Mankind has always been so very proud, thinking that we are responsible for so many things. We saw this human pride played out in the Old Testament event of the Tower of Babel. Humanity thought they could build a tower tall enough to touch God. Humanity has always thought more of ourselves than we ought. Humans take credit for so many things that should be given to God's credit. Humanity brags about all advancements that we have made or discovered that have made our lives on this earth easier. Self-importance takes a lot of energy. It can be very lonely, too. And, can you imagine the responsibility? It's up to man to cure disease, feed the world, save the planet, conquer death and explain the horrific things that happen in life?

No thanks. I'd rather take comfort in my Lord who sustains and blesses life even as He does so through guiding the gifts, knowledge and discoveries in His creation. There's a divine hand in invention. And when things don't go so well, He's always there to lift us up. That's because God is big and His love is mighty.

We're small. Scripture tells us that our lives are barely a breath. Yet, God thinks we're worth saving. Do you give a thought to the millions of microbes on the surface of your skin? Not likely. But our Lord is mindful of every sparrow and flower, as Scripture tells us. How much more mindful is He of we who are the crown of His creation numbering in the billions? So mindful, He came to rescue all of us.

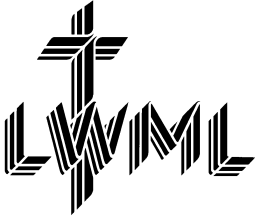
And to do that, He made Himself small like us. He was born a baby. Imagine, the Almighty God of the universe laying there in a manger on a bed of straw. Imagine Him once more nailed to the cross. Not a giant. Not a superman. Not a "god" to be feared. Jesus from Nazareth born of woman, conceived by the Holy Spirit, healing the sick, comforting the forsaken, dying for the sins of the world. God became man to rescue us from our smallness; that is, our self-importance, our sin.

God continues to come to us in small ways. In the bread and wine of Holy Communion. In the sermon on Sunday. In the love we share in His name. Maybe this is why God is so often overlooked in our world of big discoveries and grand performances. But we can't all fly off into outer space or fit on the stage. But we can look at the stars and marvel at the work of God's hand and know that He left His heavenly throne to come down where we are. We can believe Jesus will raise us up on the last day to share forever in the glory of Heaven. Heaven is an infinite dimension of unfathomable love. It's very, very big. God fills it, but as His love is equally big, He makes room for us.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Kaldahl

August, 2017

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



Monday, July 31 at 1:30 p.m. — Topic, Page 16, Summer Quarterly, "Life Is God's Kingdom"

Thursday, August 3rd

9:30 Esther Guild at FELC, Hostess—Ellen Essick, Topic—Linda Tewes
Roll Call - Fact About Iowa

1:30 Naomi Guild at FELC, Hostesses—Dixie Rigby and Janice Breidinger
Topic—Shirley Roghair Roll Call - Vacation Highlight

Dear FELC ladies, Our LWML groups did not meet in July, but we don't want you to forget to consider joining us on August 3rd, to share God's Word and to enjoy food, fun and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. (See meeting times above)

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US !!!
Christian Growth rep., Shari Crew

We're a faithful and very friendly group, from different walks of life.
We each have trials of our own and we all feel stress and strife.
But, we serve our Savior wrapped in the love of fellowship and prayer.
We study God's Word, and sing His praise,
for each other we truly care.
Though we all have different personalities,
our purpose is one and the same;
to serve Christ by serving others, to bring glory to His name. (SC)

35th Ordination Anniversary - First English Lutheran Church cordially invites you to join us in celebrating the 35th anniversary of Pastor Mike Sharp's ordination into the holy ministry. We will celebrate on **Sunday, August 6, at 9:30 am** – just before our Sunday Bible Class begins. We will have cake and a short time to present gifts and cards to Pastor Sharp. If you cannot be present for the celebration, please send your expressions of appreciation for his ministry in cards, letters and gifts to First English Lutheran Church, 1311 E. 18th St., Spencer, Iowa 51301, and we will make sure Pastor Sharp receives them on that Sunday.

Dear Friends of First English, You are cordially invited to the installation service for Rev. Michael Sharp at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newell, Iowa. The service will take place on **Sunday, August 20th at 3:00 p.m.** Your presence

Discipleship

Week	Attendance			Communion			Offering	Sunday School	
	Early	Late	Total	Early	Late	Total		Kids/Adults	Offering
July 2	115	79	194	103	65	168	\$ 8,109.00	3 / 50	\$ 0.00
July 9	128	92	220		—		\$ 7,122.00	6 /	\$ 1.00
July 16	130	115	245	103	101	204	\$ 9,321.00	13 /	\$ 4.00

	March, '17	April, '17	May, '17	April, '17	May, '17	June, '17	2017 Year-to-Date
Income	36,896.78	44,846.94	38,815.20	44,846.94	38,815.20	30,568.00	\$220,262.92
Expenses	38,896.35	37,948.28	44,889.32	37,948.28	44,889.32	35,356.35	\$250,991.74
Gain				6,898.66			
(Loss)	(1,999.57)	6,898.66	(6,014.12)		(6,014.12)	(4,788.35)	(\$ 30,728.82)

August, 2017

Youth and Family Life



Dear FELC Family,

Back in May, I began describing the role of the DCE in the church setting. Today, I plan to continue that description in an effort to help members better understand the role of a DCE. Of course, as you can imagine, the roles of the DCE will vary greatly so I can only explain more about my role here at FELC.

As I stated previously, I serve as a DCE generalist so I serve in many different capacities in comparison to a DCE specialist. Also, as I said in May, my main role as a DCE here at FELC is ministry to our youth. At our church, this role includes prep, implementation, and follow-up on 8-12 youth events each month. This includes Bible studies, servant events, fundraisers, mission trips, ushering, fellowship events, and National Youth Gatherings. As Pastor or any leader in the church can attest, Bible studies and events take more preparation time than many people realize so youth ministries consumes a good portion of my time.

Besides leading youth ministries, I also serve on several boards and committees. I work in an advisory capacity with the Board of Education, Board of Christian Life, Board of Christian Outreach, Board of Assimilation along with other committees. Since Christian Education is the second priority in my job description, I spend more hands-on time assisting with this ministry especially when we are short on volunteers. This includes but isn't limited to a special focus on VBS, Sunday School, Rally Day, and children's Christmas program.

With the Board of Christian Life, I strive to support the ministries and events they offer for the congregation in whatever capacity I am able since I am to serve in the staff advisory capacity. I applaud their efforts to provide Bible studies, prayer vigils, Christmas cards for the military, fellowship activities, and special events for our congregation just to name a few.

With the Board of Christian Outreach, again I serve in an advisory capacity. However, I also work to involve the youth and families in the outreach ministries of our church when appropriate. So in my capacity as DCE, I tend to be involved in the hands-on ministries offered through this Board. As you may know, this Board focuses on serving others in our church, community and world. Examples include serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls, Flagfest Parade float, gift baskets, missionary support, fundraisers, and other efforts. Again, I applaud the efforts of those who serve and work to assist where I am able.

Additionally, I strive to offer age-specific and spiritually enriching opportunities for families. It has been a challenge to find young families willing to serve in a leadership roles in ministries for their peers as most young families are simply too busy to do so. However, I am working to find time in my own schedule to lead some shorter small group Bible studies as smaller commitments seem to work better for busy families. As FELC's DCE, I also oversee our Sunday morning childcare with the support of the Elders. I also strive to serve as a support and resource to volunteers on any of these Boards including aiding with behind-the-scenes support such as mailings, advertising, recruitment, and just general help as needed. This year, I am working more with Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School to offer more children and family ministries not only to our members but to the IGLLS families as well.

As a DCE, there are also administrative & general office duties, Parish Newsletters to write, one-on-one ministries which need attention, and a host of other responsibilities too numerous to mention. Last but not least, part of the job as a DCE also involves working with district ministries as well. As such, I serve on the Iowa District West Junior Youth Gathering Leadership Team where I create and lead one of the sectionals for the Junior Youth Gathering. On the district level, I also serve as the Chairperson for our district's DCE meetings. So short, I usually have a lot of irons in the fire at the same time but that comes with the DCE generalist role.



A few years ago there was a television program called "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" that was a great success. People watching at home could participate as they attempted to answer the questions put to contestants who used lifelines to win money, even as much as a million dollars.

Money gets people's attention. Unfortunately, our attraction to and interest in money makes it one of the most powerful forces in our lives. We live in a consumeristic and materialistic world which has lost its moorings. Money has become the solution to every problem. To fix what is wrong, our culture simply says, "Throw money at it."

As God's people, how important is money to us? How important is it to us to be millionaires? The high esteem in which our society holds money is in contrast to Jesus' view of money and things. Money was important in Jesus' time, but Jesus called a wealthy farmer a "Rich Fool" because he hoarded it for himself. He didn't see his wealth or his ability to gain riches as God's gift. Jesus said, *"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions"* (Luke 12:15). The Rich Fool died suddenly, leaving behind all he'd labored over and worshipped. Jesus concluded the Parable of the Rich Fool by saying, *"So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God"* (Luke 12:21).

What does the phrase "rich toward God" mean? It means that Jesus has first place among our priorities and that we serve and honor Him only. It means that, although we have money and use money, we don't love money or worry about it. It means that we *"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to [us]"* (Matthew 6:33).

If God chooses to give us a million dollars, He will also grant us the strength, wisdom, and ability to use it to His glory, and that's His final answer.

Stewardship Advisors August, 2017



1531 Edgewood Drive
Milford, IA 51351
E-Mail : info@campokoboji.org
Phone: (712)337-3325

Calendar of Events

- Aug. 6-11 Family Retreat II
- Aug. 6 9:30-1:00 Omelet Breakfast
- Aug. 11-13 Hispanic Family Retreat
- Aug. 20 7th Annual Golf Outing

Thrivent Choice Dollars Available!

You may have noticed a \$50 addition to your Choice Dollar availability. This **'Summer of Impact'** program will run until Aug.31 or until \$8 million has been designated. Please check your Thrivent portal and support your favorite charity THIS MONTH! Of course, we encourage you to support Camp Okoboji. Thanks!

Chapel gets Stained Glass Windows

Four (4) Stain Glass windows were recently installed in the Refuge Chapel. They were designed and created by Bogenrief Studios in Sutherland IA. They are a moving and colorful addition to the Chapel and serve as visual reminders of our Faith and Salvation in Christ Jesus.

Several more windows await sponsors. Call the

camp office to inquire.

7th Annual Camp Okoboji Golf Outing

You are invited to participate in the 7th Annual Golf Outing for Camp Okoboji at Okoboji View Golf Course. The festivities start at 1:00pm with a shotgun start. It is 18 holes with four person best-shot. There will be a steak dinner and prizes at 5:00pm!

This is an excellent opportunity to show support for Camp and The Annual Fund while relaxing and enjoying a round of golf, a great meal, lots of prizes, awesome fellowship, and fun!

There is a Parent/Child (Ages 10-17) discount! Child Fee: \$35. Are you a first time participant? You get a special Gift Package! Tell your friends about this awesome opportunity.

The contest includes: \$10,000 Hole-in-One Contest on Hole #6 (Must be witnessed by our observer and in writing by the entire foursome) Closest to the Pin on Initial Drive on #11, Closest to Pin from Off the Green on #18, Longest Putt Made on #3 (all will have a male and a female winner!) Special 19th Hole Chipping Contest.

All golfers will receive 18 holes of golf with a cart, a sleeve of golf balls, a certificate to redeem for a free golf club, and chances to win other prizes.

**Join Our
Golf Outing**



August, 2017

**Church Council Minutes
Thursday, July 20, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

Members present: Mark Nothwehr, Pastor Kaldahl, Barb Muetzel, Priscilla Nagel, Ashley Olberding, Deb Hinkeldey, Keith McCloud, Tim Hoffman, Jeff Chalstrom, Steve Hallgren, and Bonnie Kabrick.

Opening Prayer at 7:05 p.m. by Pastor Kaldahl

Secretary's Report: Deb Hinkeldey reported that a correction should be made to the June 2017 minutes - there were 5 baptisms in May, and all were children; no adults. A motion made by Tim Hoffman and seconded by Jeff Chalstrom to make said correction and approve June minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Mark Nothwehr.

General Fund at 7/19/17

Ck. Book Balance	\$64,159.12	
Dedicated Funds	69,914.11	(\$50,000 designated for west drive & parking lot paving)
Memorial Funds	764.00	
Tax Liabilities	203.48	
Available Funds	(\$ 6,722.47)	

Preschool Fund at 7/19/17

Ck. Book Balance	\$ 47,012.50
Dedicated Funds	9,294.73
Available Funds	\$37,717.77

IGLLS Building Fund at 7/19/17

Ck. Book Balance	\$ 73,489.89
LCEF Loan Balance	\$1,301,669.60

Motion was made by Priscilla Nagel and seconded by Tim Hoffman to approve treasurer's report. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills - Owe \$1,331.86 for our congregation's support of Lutheran Hour Ministries for the year. Motion was made by Keith McCloud to pay this bill. Jeff Chalstrom seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

IGLLS Board Report: Leonard Langner - No Report

Board of Elders : Tim Hoffman

- Planning a reception for Pastor Sharp's 35th anniversary on August 6th
- Unity Sunday/Rally Sunday scheduled for August 27th

Board of Trustees: Jeff Chalstrom

- Removed old campground remnants
- Continue to work on the bell tower
- Fixed downspouts
- Approved purchase of wax machine
- Light bulbs are being ordered for projectors as they are due to be replaced
- New fire alarm has been installed

Board of Education: Ashley Olberding

- We currently have 34 four year olds registered for next year and 27 three year olds.
- We have hired Logan Egland for a 3 yr. old teacher and Rachel Gonzales as a 4 yr old teacher. Tammi Dickman will also be a 4 yr old teacher and director. We are currently interviewing for a 3 yr. old aide.
- We are continuing to look for help with the Sunday school. We continue to look for a Sunday School Superintendent and a couple teachers. We are also looking to find some co-teachers to help with the time commitment of teaching or as director.
- VBS was a success. Had 93 kids register for VBS. Things seemed to go well. Breakfast and lunch seemed to be appreciated. Suggestions for next year would be to have it shorter each day and more days. Having VBS in the morning seemed to work well as long as we can find enough volunteers.

- Starting to work on Rally Day materials and looking for ideas on ways to possibly change Sunday school to get more involvement from kids and volunteers.

Board of Youth: Bonnie Kabrick

- Krista Determan is currently in Hong Kong helping to teach VBS
- Jr. and Sr. Youth will take a trip to the Grotto next week
- Creation Museum trip has been cancelled
- “Pen Paul” program is going to start this fall
- Considering changing youth program names and activities to appeal to more youth

Board of Finance: Priscilla Nagel

- Continue to count each week
- Sent out mid-year statements

Board of Christian Outreach - Keith McCloud

- Did not meet this month
- Participated in fundraiser for Krista Determan

Board of Christian Life - Barb Muetzel

- Hosted a Progressive Picnic on Saturday, July 15th. 31 guests attended. The event began at church with prayer by Pastor Kaldahl. We then carpooled to Kaldahl’s for appetizers, to Roti’s for salads, and Langner’s for the entrée of grilled burgers and brats. We ended the evening at church with a closing devotion and dessert. The Board thanks the hostesses who opened their homes to us and others who helped provide food for the meal.

Board of Assimilation - Deb Hinkeldey

- Did not meet this month
- Two baptisms scheduled for this month

Pastoral Items:

- Currently preparing for fall classes
- will be on vacation Sunday, July 23 through Friday, July 28

Director of Christian Education Items: Bonnie Kabrick

- Currently planning out activities for the semester
- Trying to schedule one youth event per month; working to partner with IGLLS on these events
- Looking into possibility of volunteer coordinator to help with finding volunteers to help with youth events
- Bonnie will be on vacation Saturday, July 29 through Sunday, August 6

Old Business:

- 125th Anniversary - Celebration of 125th Anniversary and Reformation tentatively being planned for October 29th. Pastor Ron Meyer and son Jeff have been secured as speakers and will have one service. Executive committee will meet to plan details.
- Board Appointments - discussed the possibility of going to “coordinators” for some boards.

New Business:

- Fall voter’s meeting has been moved to October 22nd. Motion made by Tim Hoffman to set meeting time for 1:00 p.m. Jeff Chalstrom seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with Lord’s Prayer.