

First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



“O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”
Psalm 95: 1-2

Our November 2020 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-3911 FAX: (419) 738-8893
Website: www.myfelc.org
E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meet our staff...

Pastor

Vicar Deb Monnin..... deb.monnin@myfelc.org 937-726-0579

Church Secretary

Hilary Roeger wapakelc@bright.net 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary

Georgeann Stienecker... .. nksoccer@nktelco.net..... 419-305-5066

Treasurer

Susan Miller sugartime@bright.net..... 567-356-1844

Organist/Pianist

.....

Custodian

Brenda Shoffstall..... shoffstall08@yahoo.com..... 419-233-1956

Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult sugartime@bright.net..... 567-356-1844

Georgeann Stienecker, Bells... nksoccer@nktelco.net 419-305-5066

Niki Oren, Youth..... niki_oren@hotmail.com..... 567-712-8674

Jennie Grundey, Children jckline@bright.net..... 419-773-9113

Church Council

Jim Bartholomew..... Jim.Bartholomew@hitmet.com 419-303-0580

Jim Bowen..... michellebowenmichelle@gmail.com 419-234-1849

Bailey Van Meter..... Youth Representative.....

Chuck Curry curry074@umn.edu 763-312-9217

Cari Frame, cari_183@hotmail.com 419-230-9261

Ryan Schneider..... schneider.425@gmail.com 419-302-7145

Rebecca Van Meter rgvanmeter@yahoo.com..... 419-230-4979

Jeff Ritchie jritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Denise Kantner jadak@bright.net..... 419-738-8289

Webmaster

Dave Curry dlc@bright.net 937-307-8596

FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jim Bowen
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	Jim Bartholomew
Evangelism	Rebecca Van Meter	Denise Kantner
Finance	Brian Van Meter	Ryan Schneider
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	
Social Ministry	Niki Oren	Rebecca Van Meter
Staff Support	Jim Zwiebel	Cari Frame
Stewardship	Co-Chairs	Chuck Curry
Worship & Music	Cyndi Zwiebel	Jeff Ritchie



2019 Noisy Offerings

<u>Month</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount Collected</u>
January 19 th	God's Storehouse	\$106.52
February 16 th	Kids Against Hunger	\$696.31
March 15 th	Wapak Loaves & Fishes	No Service
April 19 th	Kids Against Hunger	No Service
May 17 th	Auglaize Crisis Center	No Service
June 21 st	Kids Against Hunger	\$10.80
July 19 th	Compassion International	\$53.78
August 23 rd	God's Storehouse	\$79.66
September 20 th	Wapak Loaves & Fishes	\$129.99
October 18 th	Operation Shoebox	\$121.63
November 15 th	God's Storehouse	

A message from Vicar Deb...



“The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” John 14:26-27

These were the comforting words Jesus shared with his disciples the week before a large change, the week before Passover, a traditional Jewish celebration and holiday, and before he was to be crucified. Jesus knew that the traditions of the Jewish people would not be the same, that they would not gather together as family the same, that the world would not be the same. Jesus is comforting us with his words of peace and with his assurances that God is with us always.

We too, in this month of November are living through a changing time. The season is changing. We will soon need to be wearing coats and hats all the time, football is over and basketball will soon begin (we hope). We are planning worship, family “gatherings” and other significant events, while living through this pandemic. We want to keep people safe, but we also realize how important fellowship, family and hugs are. This year we know that our treasured traditions will be different.

The good news is that God is with us, the Holy Spirit is working within us, and Jesus is going before us showing us the way.

Thank you for being creative, calm, and cautious as we figure this out together! We are worshiping God together, online and in the sanctuary. We are strengthening our minds with school online or in person. We are holding Sunday School and confirmation classes in safe ways. We are connecting with our loved ones and with our church family. We are being creative about how we celebrate Thanksgiving together and with our families.

Do not let your hearts be troubled! For the Holy Spirit lives within you and the peace of the Lord is with you always.

Thanks Be to God! Amen.
Vicar Deb

First English's Stewardship Corner: where are is the Holy Spirit working in our community?

Thank: Thank you to all the young people who made worship extra special on October 11! We are energized with your gifts!

Tell: Thank you for supporting Vicar Deb as she continues to progress towards being a fully ordained Pastor. Vicar Deb was officially "Entranced" into the path for Ordination by the Synod in October. This is an important step which signifies that our Synod and the ELCA support Vicar Deb in her calling to be an Ordained Minister.

Ask: what is life giving and what are you lamenting as the Holy Spirit works in you. How might God be calling you to share your gifts with others? What is God leading you to leave behind?

Support: Please prayerfully consider donating to the crisis center as they collect for people in need.

Service: Who have you missed seeing in worship, or visiting with after worship? How might you send them a note or give them a call and ask how you can be praying with them?

Prayer: Pray for our government, community and church leaders to be called forward and faithfully elected to lead for 2021.

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of November:

November 1 st	Available
November 8 th	Available
November 15 th	Available
November 22 nd	Available
November 29 th	Brian, Rebecca, Bailey and Eli in loving memory of our grandparents, Bill Whipple, Lloyd and Lois Schwieterman, Robert Tomlinson, and Marilyn Van Meter and in thanksgiving of the lives they lived. And in honor of Jean Tomlinson and Joyce McDainel for the blessing they continue to be on us.

Altar Candles for the month of November:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God
by Sharon Veit
in memory of her son, Michael, and her parents', Ned & Gusta Hoegner.

Altar Flowers and Altar Candle Calendar are ready for volunteers to sign up for 2020. Please make sure to check your calendars and volunteer to help with flowers and/or candles. Sign up in church or call church to sign up. Thanks in advance for volunteering!

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
9/10/2020	18	55	\$4,955.00	\$98.00
10/11/2020	21	71	\$2,806.00	\$143.00
10/18/2020		43	\$1,860.00	\$113.00
10/25/2020		44	\$2,672.00	\$63.00

Ministries in Action

	November 1st	November 8th	November 15th
Acolytes	Carly Craft	Matt Kline	Makenzie Schneider
Lector	Luke Kline	Bailey Van Meter	Makayla Frame
Pew Straightner	Brenda Shoffstall	Brenda Shoffstall	Brenda Shoffstall
Ushers	Joe Morey Katie McCullough Jim Zwiebel Ken Frame	Dave Krites Phil Valentine Brian Van Meter Jim Bartholomew	Rollie Kent Jon Schmidt
Worship Assistant	Makayla Frame	Susan Miller	Jenny Grundey
Organist	Darla Frame	Karen Luginbuhl	Karen Luginbuhl
Vicar/Pastor	Vicar Deb Monnin	Pastor Melodi Hagen	Vicar Deb Monnin

	November 22nd	November 29th
Acolytes	Josh Tabler	Logan Meyer
Lector	Chuck Curry	Chris Nagel
Pew Straightner	Brenda Shoffstall	Brenda Shoffstall
Ushers	Bob Shenk Matt Ronan Frank Heffner Ned Kirby	Jim Kantner Ike Schnell Steve Stienecker Richard Yocum
Worship Assistant	Lisa Kirby	Deanna Ronan
Organist	Susan Miller	Darla Frame
Vicar/Pastor	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin



The Word of God

These are the lessons and gospel readings for the next two months. We provide them for you...to read at your leisure, to prepare your hearts for worship, to study the Word of God throughout the coming weeks. If you are unable to be in church, to worship with us, please know that you remain in the hearts and the prayers of God's people at First English Lutheran Church.

Sunday/ Holiday	Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel Reading
November 1 st	Revelation 7: 9-17	Psalm 34: 1-10, 22	1 John 3: 1-3	Matthew 5: 1-12
November 8 th	Jonah 3: 1-10	Psalm 107: 15-21	none	Luke 19: 1-10
November 15 th	Jonah 2: 1-10	Psalm 107: 8-15	none	John 5: 2-12
November 22 nd	Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20- 24	Psalm 95: 1-7a	Ephesians 1: 15-23	Matthew 25: 31-46
November 29 th	Isaiah 64: 1-9	Psalm 80: 1-7, 17- 19	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9	Mark 13: 24-37
December 6 th	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3: 8-15a	Mark 1: 1-8
December 13 th	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24	John 1: 6-8, 19-28
December 20 th	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16	Luke 1: 46b-55	Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-28
December 24 th	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
December 27 th	Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4: 4-7	Luke 2: 22-40

Our Prayer Corner

Those who would love a visit or a card...

The Gardens: Brenda Lippincott
The Manor: Jim & Evelyn Reinhart, Dick & Jean Chenoweth, Shirley Schroeder
Roselawn Manor: Anna Binkley
At Home: Tooty Fritz, Corky Slife, Dorothy Dickman, Betty Hague

We especially remember in our prayers...

Tracy Anderson, Rita Barrera, Olivia & Calvin Binkley, David Blackburn, Sandy Brady, Marge Cabrera, Dick & Jean Chenoweth, Melinda Colvin, Tracy Cook, Cory Crawford, Cathy Francis, Leota "Tooty" Fritz, Gary Geren, Anna Stienecker Good, Family & Friends of Linda Goodwin, Deana Kramer, Tandy Laman, Rex & Brenda Lippincott, Jose Lison, Jeff Meyer, Julian Perez, Collin Rambin, Rachel Richeson, Shirley Schroeder, Chad Scully, Corky Slife, Tom Stachler, Carlie Tester, Grace Thompson, Seth Thuman, Family & Friends of Nancy Van Skiver, Luis Villegas, Jeremy Welker, Janet Winkler and Cyndi Zweibel.

We remember in our prayers...our military serving at home and abroad and their families; police officers, firefighters & EMTs & their families; our veterans & their families; and our college students.

We remember in our prayers...our college students: Amanda Bailey, Daniel Hunt, Gabe Kentner, Taylor Fisher, Katie Ronan, D.J. O'Neill, Haley Schattschneider, Cameron Bowersock, and Morgan Fisher.

If we are missing anyone in our prayer corner, please call or email the office and let us know. If there is anyone who wishes to be removed, please do the same.



FELC News and Events...

Funerals

We extend our deepest sympathy and love to the family and friends of *Nancy Van Skiver*. Her family gathered to on her on October 25, 2020.

We extend our deepest sympathy and love to the family and friends of *Linda Goodwin*. Her funeral will be held on November 2, 2020.

ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Personal contact information...if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m.	Adult Studies in person and if needed via Zoom
10:00 a.m.	Worship in person and online www.myfelc.org

Online worship services will be available on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. The office will email link for services or go to www.myfelc.org.

At Home Communion Visits: If you or someone you know would like Vicar Deb to serve you communion at home please call the office and Hilary will add you to their list.

Adult Sunday School is meeting in the parlor at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. We are currently studying the book of Esther. We would love for everyone to join our discussion and fellowship. Please contact Rebecca Van Meter if you are interesting in joining us via Zoom or Facetime. All are welcome!

Crisis Center

On the 1st Sunday of every month, we are donating collected foods to the Crisis Center Shelter in Wapakoneta. For November, we are collecting **basic needs**, and will be collecting your donations through, Sunday, December 6th, when they will be delivered to the shelter. Thank you for supporting this awesome outreach and ministry.

Men's Night Out will be meeting at Inn Between on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00 pm.

Ladies Night Out will be CANCELLED until the first of the year and then committee will re-evaluate.

Bell Choir has been suspended for the remainder of the 2020 year.

NWOS Virtual Autumn Gatherings

The Synod has been hosting virtual Autumn Gatherings this year via Zoom. This is a chance for you to learn about what is happening in the Synod and interact with Bishop Daniel and staff. If you have not been able to attend the ones in October, there is one remaining on Thursday, November 5 at 9:00 pm. Please call the FELC office or look on Facebook for the zoom link.

Decorating: Christmas is coming and we need your help to decorate the church. Please reserve the date: **November 22** after church. We appreciate anyone who is willing to help. Let's make our church beautiful this Christmas. It will be something to look forward to. Thank you.

Miracle Meal: Due to the danger and restrictions of the CO-VID-19 health crises we are canceling the Miracle Meal set for this December. We truly apologize for any disappointments or inconvenience this might cause but for the safety of all those involved we think this is best. We will be picking up where we left off next year December 13th. If there are any questions or concerns please contact Rollie Kent [419-738-2764] email: rkent1@woh.rr.com

The Worship and Music Committee is asking for help in providing special music for our Sunday worship services. This can be either instrumental or vocal and can be with recorded accompaniment. Right now our services are lacking music, so if you or someone in your family (age doesn't matter) would like to help with this please contact Susan Miller to schedule a Sunday when you can provide special music. Susan can be reached by phone at 567-356-1844 or email her at sugartime@bright.net. We all look forward to having more music in our worship services. Please share your talents in praising our Lord.

Ladies Choir will be cancelled until further notice. Any questions please contact Susan Miller.

Wapak Loaves and Fishes resume carryout meal service. Meals need to be pre-ordered by calling 567-204-6708 by Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. of the actual Thursday meal. Pick up will be in alley at rear of FELC fellowship hall entering from Blackhoof St. from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Church Envelopes: The 2021 church boxed offering envelopes will be available outside the chapel Sunday, December 6th. If you prefer to receive boxed envelopes and did not, write your full name and address on the cards provided and place in the basket. A boxed set of envelopes will be provided. Envelopes are placed in the pew racks for your convenience, include your full name and fund designation. If you wish to sign up for the Simply Giving program return the two-sided form to the church office. All contributions will be entered into the church data base and you will receive your yearly tax statement in January. Georgeann Stienecker, FELC Financial Secretary, nksoccer@nktelco.net

Youth Needed The youth will be assembling Advent calendars for homebound members on **November 8th** immediately following the worship service. Many hands will make the work go quicker.

Advent Calendars The children of all ages, we are all children of God, are invited to stay after church on **Sunday, November 29th** for our annual Advent calendar making event. The meal has been cancelled, but fun and fellowship has not. Rebecca will work her hardest to make this a Covid-19 safe event. Please contact Rebecca if you have health concerns about attending this event but would still enjoy making a calendar at home or having an advent calendar made for you.

Wapakoneta Drive Through Nativity - Saturday, December 12, 6-8 pm. Trinity and First English youth will be participating. We will share more details when we get them.

Cookies, cookies, cookies...everyone enjoys a cookie or two. Please consider baking and donating your favorite cookies, or purchase and donate your favorite cookie, for Wapak Loaves & Fishes, we are hosting on November 19th. Thank you.

Notice Regarding Singing: We will be singing in worship on November 8 and December 13. We will sing one verse of each hymn and we will sing Holy, Holy, Holy. We ask masks be kept on for the duration of the service. For the rest of the month we will worship as we have been. We will have special music, but no congregational singing. Thank you for your understanding and prayers as we move forward together.

During our Christmas service, we will plan on having quite a bit of instrumental music, and a soloist or two, but at this time we will not have any congregational singing.

Tuesday, Nov. 3rd "Day of Prayer" Our synod prayer team could not host a synod day of prayer this year, therefore Pastor Melodi and Vicar Deb are inviting you to join them in prayer for unity, healing, and hope on voting day, Nov. 3rd. Pastor Melodi and Vicar Deb will be fasting from the news, work, and food to simply pray with you for our church, community, nation, and world. We will be praying on the hour from Noon to 7 pm, and will also be prayer walking around the block of Pearl/ Perry/W. Mechanic/ Blackhoof St.

in Wapakoneta Anyone is welcome to come and walk and pray in person or follow their journey live on Trinity-Moulton's Facebook page.

Notes from members and others...

We appreciate your generous contribution to the **Family Life Center of Auglaize County**. we acknowledge, with sincere thanks, your donation. It will continue the work of the Center as we work very hard to meet the growing needs of our county's young mothers and fathers through education, resources and care. We are excited to see the ways God will use this money to further His kingdom.

On behalf of the **Loaves & Fishes Advisory Board** I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your generous donation to support our weekly meal ministry. Your support is a real blessing to this ministry and our community for which we are very grateful.
Sincerely, Sharon Campbell, Treasurer

COVID-19 Guidelines for all Activities at First English Lutheran Church

At its June 8th meeting, Church Council approved a set of COVID-19 guidelines for activities at FELC and a special set of guidelines related to our worship services. When Council passed these guidelines, it was noted that they would periodically be reviewed and updated if necessary. The process of reviewing the COVID-19 guidelines began in late September and early October, and updated guidelines were submitted to Church Council for approval on October 18th. Council has approved these new guidelines and they are published below for your review. I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the key changes.

The updated COVID-19 guidelines remove the prohibitions on acolytes and the passing of the peace in our worship service. These changes reflect early exceptions made to the original COVID-19 guidelines that have been common practice at FELC for several months. The role of acolyte was changed slightly in order to comply with the other COVID-19 guidelines and the passing of the peace is now a non-contact and stationary acknowledgement of the members of your church family. Similarly, since Sunday School has resumed, the language indicating that it was suspended was stricken from the new guidelines.

The updated guidelines also remove the recommendation that committees and organizations conduct their activities remotely whenever possible. We believe that groups can safely hold meetings at the church if they adhere to the social distancing and masking protocols currently in place. Many of us have become more accustomed to meeting in person and are choosing to hold our meetings at the church, usually with some kind of accommodation to allow for remote participation. I would like to highlight here that, not only is it important for groups to follow the social distancing and masking policies during their meetings, but it is also extremely important that their use of FELC facilities is reported to Brenda Shoffstall so that she can ensure that the facilities are properly cleaned and ready for the next group to use.

The last change I would like to highlight concerns the prohibition on congregational singing. After much prayerful consideration, research, and discussion on this matter, the special committee charged with drafting and updating the COVID guidelines did put forth, and Council did approve, an update to the guidelines that removes the prohibition on congregational singing. This means that we can expect worship services to start incorporating some singing of hymns and liturgical responses in the coming weeks. The details are not yet solidified, but you can expect the incorporation of singing to happen very gradually and it will not occur at every service. For instance, instead of reciting *Holy, Holy, Holy* as we have been every week, we may choose to sing it some weeks and we might also add in a verse or two of a familiar hymn.

In addition to this gradual and deliberate approach, there are some conditions that must be met to ensure the safety and comfort of the congregation; facial coverings must be worn while singing, congregants must be socially distanced, the congregation

will be notified prior to any service when singing is planned, participation in singing will be completely voluntary, and participants will be invited to sing or hum along quietly.

The members of Church Council and Vicar Deb recognize that the addition of congregational singing, even in the very measured and restrained manor that we are planning for FELC, could prove upsetting for some of our members. We invite you to share any concerns or suggestions that you may have regarding singing or any of the other changes made to the COVID-19 Guidelines with Vicar Deb Monnin, Council President Ryan Schneider, Council Vice President Rebecca Van Meter, or myself.

Prayerfully and humbly submitted,
Chuck Curry, Council Secretary

COVID-19 Guidelines for all Activities at First English Lutheran Church

1. Individuals should remain at least six feet from people from outside the individual's household to the extent feasible. An individual's household is defined loosely as those persons with whom you have regular close contact with outside of church.
2. When seated, rows of chairs will be organized so that there is six feet of space between rows and six feet of space between households. In the sanctuary, every other row will be closed and congregants are expected to maintain six feet of space between households.
3. Those individuals who pose the greatest threat to others are asked to not attend events at FELC. This would include:
 - A. Persons who are sick, not feeling well, or have experienced a fever greater than 100.3 in the last 3 days
 - B. Anyone who in the past 14 days has had close contact with someone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19.
4. Persons age 65 or older or have underlying health conditions or do not yet feel comfortable in communal settings may choose to worship or participate using other accommodations that we make available, such as livestreams and recordings.
5. Anyone who attends activities at FELC are required to wear a face covering or mask while indoors. Children two years old or younger should not wear a mask. Vocal soloists and speakers may remove their masks when engaged in their respective activities, but will need to maintain 12 feet of distance from others.
6. High-touch areas will be sanitized after each activity at the church and hand sanitizer will be made available at multiple locations throughout the building.
7. Areas of the church may be blocked off to reduce the need to disinfect them or because they have not been disinfected since their last use. Please do not enter these areas unless it is absolutely necessary.
8. All facility usage must be reported to Brenda Shoffstall at (419) 233-1956 to ensure the proper cleaning and disinfecting of these spaces.

9. Access to church facilities will be limited to a short time before and after a scheduled event.

Additional COVID-19 Guidelines for Worship Services at First English Lutheran Church

1. Congregants are expected to limit movement in the sanctuary and overflow area during worship. Children will receive the children's message from their seats. Lectors will be provided a microphone and will deliver the readings from their seats.
2. Offering trays will be placed at the back of the sanctuary and overflow areas.
3. The following activities are suspended until further notice:
 - A. Large singing or performance ensembles
 - B. Infant and toddler nursery
 - C. Fellowship time, potlucks, and shared meals
4. Greeters will be positioned to allow for proper social distancing and will engage in non-contact greetings.
5. Ushers will dismiss the congregation systematically to avoid congregating in the hallways and common areas.

News and Events from our Council and Committees

FELC Church Council Meeting Minutes September 20, 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Council President Ryan Schneider.
 - 1) Members present were Jim Bartholomew, Chuck Curry, Denise Kantner, Cari Frame, Jeff Ritchie, Ryan Schneider (President), and Rebecca Van Meter (Vice President)
 - 2) Also in attendance were Vicar Deb Monnin and Susan Miller (FELC Treasurer)
2. Opened with prayer by Vicar Deb Monnin
3. **Business of the Church:**
 - 1) Secretary's Report
 - a) No minutes for August Council meeting or Congregational meeting at this time. These will be sent out as soon as they become available.
 - 2) Treasurer's Report
 - a) All pledges for the HVAC project were received
 - b) The church finances are in pretty good shape at this time
 - 3) Financial Secretary's Report
 - a) This report was not available and will be sent out to Council following the meeting
 - 4) **Motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Rebecca Van Meter and seconded by Denise Kantner. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Pastor's Report:**
 - 1) Vicar Deb was granted SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister) approval and may now preside over communion, baptisms, weddings, and funerals
 - 2) Vicar Deb and Pastor Melodi Hagen have begun leading Catechism instruction
 - 3) Vicar Deb has begun visiting members in need, getting to know our members and praying with them. She will begin communion visitations immediately.
 - 4) Please reach out to Vicar Deb or call the church office if you would like to receive a visit, communion, or a phone call
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - 1) Evangelism/Outreach - Denise Kantner, Council Liaison
 - a. No report at this time
 - 2) Worship/Music – Jeff Ritchie, Council Liaison
 - a. We will return to weekly communion effective immediately
 - b. We will only have one Christmas Eve service
 - c. Thanksgiving service is cancelled
 - d. We will hold midweek Advent services via Zoom
 - e. Full committee report published below**
 - 3) Christian Education/Youth – Jim Bartholomew
 - a. Group will meet September 29th

- b. Catechism has resumed, Vicar Deb and Pastor Melodi are leading it
- c. Plan to resume Sunday School in October
- 4) Staff Support – Cari Frame
 - a. No report at this time
- 5) Social Ministry – Rebecca Van Meter
 - a. No report at this time
- 6) Life/Fellowship – Tracy Anderson
 - a. Trick or Treat cancelled
 - b. Breakfast with Santa cancelled
 - c. **Full committee report published below**
- 7) Building/Property – Jim Bowen
 - a. HVAC project has commenced and is going well. The office units are fully operational.
 - b. Committee met on September 6th to tour the property and point out items that will require attention.
 - c. **Full committee reported published below**
- 8) Finance – Ryan Schneider
 - a. Discussed next steps for Howard Craig Memorial
 - b. Plan to meet with Thrivent representative to discuss long-term planning and fundraising practices
 - c. Koneta Fire Fund still has funds. These funds are no longer need by the original recipient and we are unable to trace back the funds to the original donors.
 - (1) **Motion** made to move these funds (\$300) to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund by Chuck Curry, Cari Frame seconded.
 - (2) **Motions carries unanimously**
 - d. Signature authority for Superior Credit Union checking account is outdated
 - (1) **Motion** to remove Rex Lippencott, Becky Dicus, and Neil Brady and add Brian Van Meter as signatures for FELC’s checking account at Superior Credit Union made by Denise Kantner, seconded by Jim Bartholomew.
 - (2) **Motion carries unanimously.**
 - e. **Full committee report published below**
- 9) Stewardship – Chuck Curry
 - a. Committee met via Zoom on August 28th
 - (1) Committee decided to draft a letter to the congregation to be mailed out
 - (2) Chuck Curry agreed to draft the letter
 - b. **Full committee report published below**
 - c. Discussed contents of finished draft letter to the congregation
 - (1) FELC has experienced a significant drop in giving
 - (2) FELC benefitted from reduced expenses and salaries
 - (3) FELC has increased reserve funds

(4) Expenses will begin outstripping receipts starting in September if giving does not increase. Opportunities to cut expenses are limited outside of reduced programming.

10) Youth – Bailey Van Meter

- a. Erb's Chicken Dinner youth fundraiser scheduled for October 11th, tickets sales have begun and tickets cost \$9 each
- b. Youth Sunday, youth led service scheduled for October 11th
- c. Upcoming youth activity day planned at KC Geiger Park with FELC and Trinity youth groups

11) **Motion** to approve Committee Reports made by Jeff Ritchie, seconded by Jim Bartholomew. **Motion carries unanimously.**

6. Old Business:

- 1) Dayton Property Update (undeveloped commercial lot at the corner of Needmore Rd. and Old Troy Pike in Dayton, Ohio)
 - a) Property is currently listed for sale by owner (FELC) by means of a plywood sign.
 - b) Residential property adjacent to FELC's Dayton property is for sale. Seller had contacted FELC about the possibility of selling our properties together, but has since rescinded this proposal after consulting with a real estate professional.
- 2) Property insurance
 - a) Task of reviewing and renewing FELC's property insurance has been referred to the Property Committee
- 3) Howard Craig Fund Update
 - a) Finance Committee provided a report on actions taken on this matter in the full committee report that is published below

7. New Business:

- 1) Discussion regarding the transition team and next steps
 - a) The Northwest Ohio Synod has indicated that the FELC Transition Team still has a role to play, albeit modified, in the Joint Ministry relationship. There are tasks that need to be completed by the Transition Team to support Vicar Deb, but neither FELC nor Trinity leadership has received any specifics from the Synod at this time.
 - b) Chuck Curry agreed to reach out to the Northwest Ohio Synod for more information and to schedule a meeting between Synod representatives and members of the FELC Transition Team.
- 2) Planning for the December Congregational Meeting
 - a) 2021 Budget
 - i) Committees are encouraged to begin planning for 2021 now

- ii) Budget proposals should be submitted to the Finance Committee by November 5th, 2020
- b) Nominating committee for elections for congregational council
 - i) Rebecca Van Meter and Chuck Curry agreed to serve on the Church Council Nominating Committee to fill planned vacancies for next year.
 - (1) **Motion** made to approve Rebecca Van Meter and Chuck Curry to serve as Church Council's Nominating Committee was made by Jeff Ritchie and seconded by Cari Frame.
 - (2) **Motion carries unanimously.**
 - ii) If you are interested in serving on Council and/or would like more information about serving in this capacity, please reach out to Rebecca or Chuck.
- c) Kantner Scholarship Fund
 - i) Requests received from Vicar Deb Monnin and Chuck Curry for Diakonia courses offered by the Southwest Conference of the Northwest Ohio Synod. Requests were for \$385 each to cover the costs of registration (\$25) and courses (\$360) for the 2020-2021 Diakonia program and is renewable for up to one year.
 - (1) **Motion** made to approve Kantner Scholarship requests from Vicar Deb Monnin and Chuck Curry for Diakonia courses made by Denise Kantner and seconded by Rebecca Van Meter.
 - (2) **Motions carries, Chuck Curry abstained.**

8. Items for the Good of the Church

- a) Nothing presented at this time

9. Next meeting: October 18, 2020 Immediately Following Worship

10. Meeting adjournment

- a. **Motion** to adjourn made by Rebecca Van Meter and seconded by Jim Bartholomew.
- b. **Motion carries unanimously.**

Minutes recorded and submitted for Church Council approval by Chuck Curry

Full Committee Reports published as approved by Church Council

First English Lutheran Church
Worship & Music Committee Minutes
September 14, 2020

Those attending the meeting through zoom were: Vicar Deb Monnin, Char Curry, Darla Frame, Jenny Grundy, Susan Miller, Rebekah Nelson, Niki Oren, Brenda Shoffstall, Georgeann Stienecker and Cyndi Zwiebel. Council Liaison Jeff Ritchie also joined.

Vicar Deb opened the meeting with asking everyone to share their highs and lows of the day. She then offered scripture and prayer.

Budget concerns with subs organist schedule:

- Georgeann had concerns about the amount we were paying subs with budget concerns.
- Rebekah said a lot goes into the practice before hand getting reading for the service.
- Much discussion followed.
- Rebekah said she didn't think she should get paid her regular salary when she wasn't playing. She is willing to have the subs paid out of her salary. She will write a letter to the committee stating this. This letter then will be shared with staff support so her contract can support this change.

Outdoor worship:

- Outdoor worship will be at Veterans Park on September 27 at 10:00 A.M.
- Darla already checked the power at shelter house.
- Jeff will make sure we have speakers so everyone can hear with social distancing.
- There will be music-VanMeter's have a keyboard.
- Because there will be singing there needs to be a reminder to social distance 6' and wear your mask.
- There will be communion.

Ushers and greeters:

- Darla said we need to have a head usher so they can coordinate the ushers to make sure we always have two ushers.
- Georgeann will call a couple ushers to see if she can line one up.
- Committee agreed during this time we will use an usher as a greeter.

More Liturgy in service:

- Deb would like to add more liturgy to the service. Committee told her to try it.
- Prayers of Intercession – Once a month confirmation class will write them and Deb will write her own.

Midweek advent services:

- We will zoom these. December 2, 9, 16 and 23rd.

Finding more special music:

- Jenny and Niki will ask kids if they will sing at home and record it. They need to send it to Dave so he can include it in the service.
- Susan will keep a master schedule. This will start October 4. Brenda said not to include October 11 since that is Youth Sunday.

Worship assistants:

- Darla wanted to know if she should continue with worship assistants.
- The answer was yes.

Thanksgiving Service – Yes or No

- Committee voted no

Christmas Eve changes:

- Due to Covid we will only have one service. It will start at 9:15 with special music and the service will start at 9:30. It will be live streamed.

Communion every week again:

- Deb said we will now be able to have communion every week. She is able to do it now.

Other:

- Deb wanted to know if she could change the bulletin cover. Committee told her to go ahead.
- Deb asked if we had any special traditions. This is what the committee decided on All Saints Day. We would list all the names in the bulletin as usual but we would only read those that passed in the last year. Fifty-year members will be recognized on All Saints Sunday.
- Sunday after Christmas we usually have a hymn sing and scripture reading. This year we will have the music played since we can't sing.
- We will use one Acolyte until the end of the year.
- Jenny and Niki will try to get creative with a Children's Christmas Play this year. It might not be live.

There being no further business Deb closed with the blessing.

Next meeting: December 7th.

Submitted by: Char Curry

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

On August 28th, Brenda hosted a joint fellowship meeting along with a retirement party for Chris. Attending the meeting were Char Curry, Darla Frame, Chris Nagel, Deanna Ronan and Lisa Kirby.

We discussed how the pandemic has affected so much of what Fellowship tries to do for our church. No funeral dinners, or any fellowship refreshments or dinners doesn't leave a lot right now for us to do.

We decided to cancel our trick or treat night which was always a lot of fun.

We then discussed Breakfast with Santa which is what we really look forward to doing all year. We very reluctantly all decided to cancel the 2020 Breakfast With Santa and we will hope for next year.

We then had a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded and all agreed. Brenda Shoffstall- Chair Tracy Anderson- Council Laision

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday. September 6, 2020

Brenda, Dave, Sara, Ned, Chad, Chuck and Vicar Deb met and had a very productive meeting. We discussed the HVAC work going on at the church and then went on a walking tour around the church with the following items looked at:

1. Tile crack in back foyer- not any worse
2. Masonry tuck points along Mechanic Street
3. Outside sidewalks that have raised up and are a tripping hazard. Dave is going to grind the bad parts down
4. Black handrail on Mechanic Street door entrance that is coming loose from the brick
5. Black railing along the south alley will need to be sandblasted and repainted in the spring.
6. Small replacement of plywood on east flashing
7. Looked at west wall that Marc had repaired. Its holding its on but Chad will measure the wall and keep an eye on it moving in
8. Discussed removing air conditioners on east wall of church. Miller Masonry is giving a bid to replace bricks and inside blocks but for now going to put 3 covers on the ones that allow cold air in.
9. Church Council has referred the matter of the Dayton property to our committee. We discussed the current status of the property and opportunities to sell the property or to generate revenue from the property. Currently taxes on maintenance of the property costs us \$3000.00 annually
10. We then went to the Sanctuary where the guys replaced the high side bulbs.

Meeting was then adjourned

First English Luther Church
Finance Committee Meeting
August 27, 2020

Members present: Ryan Schneider, Brian VanMeter, Vicar Monnin, Susan Miller, Georgeann

Stienecker

Vicar Monnin opened the meeting with prayer and highs and lows of your day.

Next church council meeting September 20, 2020

Old Business:

Capital Campaign – Brian will contact Thrivent to set up a meeting with Church Council, Finance committee, and Stewardship committee to get advice regarding beginning a Capital Campaign at this time. If so what is the process for such a project? Property committee has submitted the following long-term projects: new roof, mortar repair, tuck point.

Howard Craig Fund – Finance committee will be handling the fund. Georgeann is to assemble a packet for Brian in order to meet with Bob Shenk regarding dissolving the Howard Craig Fund. The packet is to include a copy of the original Endowment, a list of entities included in the disbursement clause, a letter from each entity accepting the complete dissolution of the fund, and the minutes from the Church Council requesting the dissolution. All 2019 disbursements have been sent.

New Business:

Council updates:

Dayton Property – The Property committee has taken over this task.

PPE Loan – Hold off using the money until Susan gives us a report on salaries and utilities during September 2019 to December 2019. We will use the 8 consecutive weeks that will most benefit the church. We will use approximately \$2,256.00 weekly. Vicar Deb Monnin will begin receiving a salary on September 1, 2020.

Current Expenses vs Current Giving:

The Stewardship committee is sending out a letter to the congregation explaining the current giving vs expenses situation. Georgeann is to contact Brenda Shoffstall, chairperson of the Stewardship committee, to forward the Finance committee's suggestion that a stamped addressed envelope be included in the letter that will be sent out in September.

The Finance committee suggests that an article regarding giving vs current expenses be included in the church newsletter.

Social Ministry request:

The committee is requesting the use of the canceled Miracle Meal budgeted funds of \$250 for a donation to the newly formed Family Life Center. The Finance committee voted to approve this transfer of funds. The donation will be presented at the September 6, 2020 church service.

Other:

The 2021 budget needs to be set with consideration to the COVID situation. Committees will be asked to submit their requests.

The Finance committee agreed to close out the Koneta Fire fund of \$280 and place this amount in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Of the current amount in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, \$300.00 is to remain in the fund and the remainder is to be transferred to the Youth Account as per Pastor Neil's request upon his retirement.

The church Mastercard will include the following users: Susan Miller, Hilary Roeger, and Brenda Shoffstall.

Reinvesting Endowment Funds – Vicar Deb will be giving us information as to how Trinity Moulton currently uses a co-op plan. The funds are currently in a savings account.

Pastor Neil Brady's retirement gift of approximately \$300 is to be paid from Memorial Funds. Brian requested Susan to close out as many small funds as possible to pay this bill.

Endowment Fund reorganization at Superior Bank – the following people need to be removed from the access account: Becky Dicus, Rex Lippencott, and Pastor Neil Brady. Names that need to be added to the access account: Susan Miller, Brian VanMeter,

_____.

Kantner Scholarship – Georgeann is to contact Perry Kantner to request updated contact information and discuss if we can support Vicar Deb's schooling at Luther Seminary with the interest available at this time. Ask if we can use any of the original \$30,000.00 principal if the need arises. Current amount in the fund is \$35,684.26. Next disbursement to Trinity Seminary is in 2022 if we do not use it for Vicar Deb.

Next Finance Committee meeting: TBD

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

On Sunday August 23 Stewardship did a zoom meeting. Attending were Char Curry, Denise Kantner, Cyndi Zwiebel, Georgeann Stienecker, Chuck Curry and Brenda Shoffstall. Susan Miller, our Treasurer also came into the meeting to give us an idea of our financial status as of now and in the future.

We agreed with the pandemic continuing, it complicates things. After much discussion, we all decided to have Chuck compose a letter to the congregation explaining our thanks for what everyone has done to keep our church thriving but at the same time, our future needs.

Brenda will be reaching out to a couple other churches to look at the possibility of adding payments options on our web page that would be different than simply giving program.

Upon approval of Chuck's letter, they will be mailed out to our congregation.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: TBD

**Christian Education – Youth Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 29, 2020**

Christian Education

The meeting was opened with a short devotional and prayer from Vicar Deb

In attendance: Niki Oren and Jennie Grundey via Zoom and Vicar Deb Monnin, Brenda Shoffstall, and Rebecca Van Meter in person.

20/21 Confirmation/Catechism Classes

- Update – the 2020/2021 classes are going well. They are currently studying the Creeds in the joint class with FELC and Trinity youth.
- Advent Services – Vicar Deb is organizing the Advent Service, she is still in the early planning stages and is planning on the youth helping her with the services. We discussed ideas with Vicar Deb for these mid-week worship services.
- Confirmation of Baptism 2021 date – Vicar Deb will talk with Pastor Melodi about when this year's studies is planned for be complete so that FELC can schedule the Confirmation of Baptism worship service.

Sunday School

- Sunday school for the youth will begin on Sunday, October 18, 2020. Niki and Brenda will alternate the High School/Middle School class and Niki will be looking for volunteers for the younger grades. Niki will start sending our reminds to build the excitement
- Christmas Program – Niki will be working on a Christmas play for the youth that they will video their part at home, individually or with their family, it will then be pieced together by our church's audio/visual team. The video will then be shown as the worship service on Sunday, December 20, 2020. Niki will send her rough draft to Jennie for advice and approval.

Advent Devotionals

- We discussed how Advent and Lenten Devotionals were done in previous years. Vicar Deb will be looking at ideas and deciding if this is something she would like to continue.

Youth

On the calendar

Youth Sunday: October 11th worship service

Chicken Dinners: October 11th after church

High School/Middle School event at Brenda's: October 24th at 3:30pm

Homebound advent calendars: November 8th after church

Youth advent calendars: November 29th after church

Live Nativity: December 12th from 6-8pm

Camp

- Rebecca will be handling camp for Summer 2021, all will help her if/when needed
High School/Middle School Retreat
- We discussed a possible retreat in the spring of 2021. This will replace the old confirmation camp with a hs/ms mixed event. The committee currently feels the best location for this event would be at FELC. In the future we will need to decide on the goal of the event; a. fun and fellowship, b. fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth, c. fun, fellowship, spiritual growth and service. We will also need to decide if this will be a joint event with Pastor Melodi and whether youth will be allowed to bring friends to the event.

Next meeting: November 17, 2020 at 6pm

Vicar's Report, October 2020

"To you O Lord I lift up my soul! Show me your ways, O Lord and teach me your paths."

Psalm 25

Thank you for walking with me as we worship and learn together!
Let us focus on our way of being. How are we called to be together?

My SAM appointment is to provide spiritual leadership and guidance to you in worship, in teaching, and in shepherding member needs.

1. Spiritual leadership and care of the congregation, family, and self
 - Provide direction and leadership for worship services. Listen and take input from the worship and music committee, and from other feedback. I'm beginning to adjust the worship by adjusting the prayers, and some of the spoken words. Please do give me feedback.
 - There is no community midweek thanksgiving service this year.
 - Advent services will be done through Zoom or FB live with the catechism youth.
 - There will be one Christmas Eve Service with special music starting at 9:15 pm and worship starting at 9:30
2. Supporting and caring for members in need and working with small groups
 - Connect with catechism youth and lead confirmation classes with Pastor Melodi. She's teaching the first month of classes, I'll be teaching the next month. We have 10 youth from First English and 4 from Trinity.
 - Call or visit members in need, provide a listening ear and the God's healing hand:
 - Called and prayed with several members
 - Served Home Communion and visited with First English Members. Some decided that they could come back to worship.
 - Participated in several small group meetings as we prepare for Advent and the congregational meetings.
3. Education:
 - Touch base with Pastor Melodi - 1-3 hrs per week
 - Diakonia - Finished Old Testament Course on October 11. Will Start Christian Doctrine Course on October 20.
 - Entranced into Candidacy for Ordination, October 1. Submitted Application for Luther's MDivX program. Interview to be scheduled for Jan, offer of admittance expected Feb 2021

FYI - Office hours: Generally in office on Monday Mornings and Wednesday Afternoons. I work from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays, unless needed in the office. Home visits are typically done on Mondays and Wednesdays. Always available via phone!

Thank you for your prayers, support, input and advice, Vicar Deb.

~ November 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ALL SAINTS DAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	2	3 12:00pm Day of Prayer	4 6:30pm Confirmation	5 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 9:00pm NWOS Autumn Meeting	6 7:30pm N/A	7
8 23 PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Pastor Melodi Hagen Assemble Advent Calendars	9	10 6:00pm Men's Night	11 6:30pm Confirmation	12 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	13 7:30pm N/A	14
15 24 PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin 11:30am Council Meeting	16	17	18 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30pm Confirmation	19 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes FELC HOSTING	20 7:30pm N/A	21
22 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin Decorate Church	23	24	25	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	27 7:30pm N/A	28
29 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin Assemble Advent Calendars	30	TENTATIVE			SCHEDULE	

~ December 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE		1	2 7:00pm Advent Worship	3 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	4 7:30pm N/A	5
	6 2 ADVENT SUNDAY Congregational Meeting 9:00am Adult Sun Sch 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	7	8	9 7:00pm Advent Worship	10 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	11 7:30pm N/A
13 3 ADVENT SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	14	15 6:00pm Men's Night	16 7:00pm Advent Worship	17 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	18 7:30pm N/A	19
20 4 ADVENT SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30am Council Meeting Vicar Deb Monnin	21	22	23 10:00 am Quilting Group	24 CHRISTMAS EVE!	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! 7:30pm N/A	26
27 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	28	29	30	31		

