

First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Mark 1:3

Our December 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 Roegerwapakelc@bright.net 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary

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

Treasurer

Susan Millersugartime@bright.net..... 567-356-1844

Sunday School Superintendent

Niki Orenniki_oren@hotmail.com..... (567) 712-8674

Custodian

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

Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adultsugartime@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, Childrenjckline@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 Currycurry074@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 Meterrgvanmeter@yahoo.com..... 419-230-4979

Jeff Ritchiejritchie002@woh.rr.com 419-296-3794

Denise Kantnerjadak@bright.net..... 419-738-8289

Webmaster

Dave Currydscy@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	\$43.00

A message from Vicar Deb...



“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” John 1:6-9

John prepares the world for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. We too are in a time of waiting and of preparing. John brings hope into the world when he testifies to the light, when he tells all that the light is coming into the world. John brings us hope now, just as he did then.

In normal years, we are hustling and bustling and preparing for Christmas. We prepare with food, gifts, and family. We prepare by lighting the advent wreath in worship and at home. We prepare so much we wear ourselves out.

This year, though is different. Our traditions are being revised and adjusted. Our worship is different. We are more careful about who we see and where we go. We feel like we are in a perpetual state of preparation and waiting. Waiting on things to return to normal. Waiting for the time when it's safe to be out and about without worrying.

When we feel like we are stuck waiting, we are reminded of John's witness and hope. John comes to tell us about the light that is coming. The light which comes to everyone, bringing warmth, love, and eternal peace, is coming. John brings us hope, hope in Christ our Lord and Savior.

In our time of waiting, we prepare. We light candles on the advent wreath, an unbroken circle of greens, a symbol of everlasting life, a crown of Christ.

As we wait, as we work through our new way of being, we adjust and change our traditions. We won't see as many people, we won't be celebrating in big groups. We actually might have time to pause, to reflect, to just be in the light.

We meditate on the light and week by week, the light becomes brighter.

So, as we wait for the Christ Child, rejoice in your new ways of being, and know the True Light is coming into the world!

Thanks Be to God! Amen. Vicar Deb

First English's Stewardship Corner:

Where is the Holy Spirit working in our Community?

Thank: Thank you to all who made Advent calendars for the shut in's. Vicar Deb will be delivering them as she visits with those who cannot go out.

Tell: We are able to safely Christmas Carol with our youth this year on December 6. We will be caroling in family bubbles and will stay back when we sing. Please let us know if you'd like us to come to your house to carol.

Ask: What traditions are evolving this year? What is life giving and what is sapping your energy. Live in the light of life and hope!

Support: We will be participating in the Wapakoneta Live Nativity on December 12. Help us portray the story of the wise men! See Rebecca Van Meter or Vicar Deb for information.

Service: How can you share the light of Jesus with others this season? Who could use a phone call or card. Who can you be praying for?

Prayer: Please pray for a safe, light filled Advent and Christmas season for all.

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of December:

December 6 th	Patti Braun and Family In honor of Courtney & Trevor Randolph first wedding anniversary.
December 13 th	Jennie Grundey
December 20 th	Chris Nagel
December 24 th	Marsh Jackson In memory of Charles Jackson
December 27 th	Available

Altar Candles for the month of December:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God
by Marsha Jackson.

Altar Flowers and Altar Candle Calendar are ready for volunteers to sign up for 2021. 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!

Ministries in Action

	December 6th	December 13th	December 20th
Acolytes	Luke Kline	Eli Van Meter	Ben Tabler
Lector	Maeson Roode	Makenzie Schneider	Chuck Curry
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	Jennie Grundey
Organist	Karen Luginbuhl	Darla Frame	Bailey Van Meter
Vicar/Pastor	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin

	December 24th	December 27th
Acolytes		Maeson Roode
Lector	Maeson Roode	Luke Kline
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	Darla Frame	Darla Frame
Organist	Rebecca Nelson	Rebecca Nelson
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	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel Reading
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
January 3 rd	Jerimiah 31: 7-14	Psalm 147: 12-20	Ephesians 1: 3-14	John 1: 10-18
January 10 th	Genesis 1: 1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19: 1-7	Mark 1: 4-11
January 17 th	1 Samuel 3: 1-10	Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6: 12-20	John 1: 43-51
January 24 th	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10	Psalm 62: 5-12	1 Corinthians 7: 29-31	Mark 1: 14-20
January 31 st	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8: 1-13	Mark 1: 21-28

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
11/1/2020	15	49	\$2,795.62	\$98.00
11/8/2020	12	48	\$2,140.00	\$53.00
11/15/2020	24	43	\$1,497.00	\$148.00
11/22/2020		43	\$1,300.00	\$35.00

FELC College Students and Military Members

Our Evangelism/Outreach Committee is bringing back our ministry for college students and military members. It is our hope our congregation participates in this ministry, through cards, letters, and other forms of support. These young people remain a vital part of who we are as a congregation and as a people of God. Let us come together to remind them we think of them often and pray for them daily.

If your college student or military member is not listed, it means we have not a current address for them. Please contact the office so we may include him/her in our ministry list.

Amanda Bailey
16501 Blank Pike Road
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Preston Shannon
16427 Easy Street
Kettlersville, Ohio 45336

Cameron Bowersock
745 Pleasant Ridge Ave. Box # 353
Columbus, Ohio 43209-2427

Morgan Fisher
202 West Eighth Avenue Rear
Columbus, Ohio 43201 (last year college)

Taylor Fisher
706 Murray Street
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895 (last year College)

Daniel Hunt
14254 Infirmary Road
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Gabe Kantner
251 North Main Street #3571
Cedarville, Ohio 45314

D.J. O'Neil
116 West Washington
Athens, Ohio 45701

Katie Ronan
620 Offenhauer East 2
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-4001

Haley Schattschneider
21 Vaughns Gap Road #J150
Nashville, Tn 37205



Our Prayer Corner

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

The Manor: Jim & Evelyn Reinhart, Dick & Jean Chenoweth, Shirley Schroeder

Otterbein

at St. Marys: Dorothy Dickman

At Home: Tooty Fritz, Connie Link, Brenda Lippincott, Corky Slife, Betty Hague

We especially remember in our prayers...

Darlene Adams, Shannon (Linda Brown's neighbor), Tracy Anderson, Rita Barrera, David Blackburn, Sandy Brady, Melinda Colvin, Cory Crawford, Michelle Ewald, Gary Geren, Makayla Jenkins, Deana Kramer, Chris Krites, Carlie Tester, and Seth Thuman

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, Preston Shannon, 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...

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 interested in joining us via Zoom or Facetime. All are welcome!

Christmas Giving Tree: The lists have been hung but we realize with Covid many congregation members are choosing to stay home. If you would like to purchase gifts for our children this year, you can call the church office to check if gifts are still needed and add your name to an item. If you would like to make a monetary donation, Teresa Fisher will shop for gifts. Please send money to church, marked for the Giving Tree program. If you need Teresa Fisher to pick up gifts please contact her at 419-236-5628. Any questions please contact Teresa Fisher. Thank you to you all ... even with Covid, I know we can help make all the kids have a wonderful Christmas.

Our **Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2020** immediately following our worship service. All are welcome to attend and participate. We will have zoom phone or video available if you would like to participate from home.

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

Christmas Caroling: We will be caroling to our homebound members on December 6th from 5:30pm to around 7:30pm. **All are invited** to join us on this Covid-style caroling. This year we will meet at the church to find our schedule of stops. Families are asked to ride together and when we arrive, we will stay with our family groups while spacing out from other families in yards. This event is very appreciated by our homebound members and very fulfilling for the carolers. Please join us in making a joyful noise.

Men's Night Out will be meeting at Astro Lanes on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 pm.

Wapakoneta Drive Through Nativity will take place on December 12th. Our church will be the 7th scene, the wisemen as told in Matthew 2:1-16. If you are interested in helping please contact Rebecca Van Meter or Vicar Deb. If you would like to drive through and view the nativity, you are to start at Wapak Naz between 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Santa Drive Thru: On Saturday, December 19 from 9:00am-12:00pm, FELC will be holding a Santa Drive thru in the alley at south entrance, starting off Blackhoof Street and will be by reservation only. There will be Santa and Mrs. Clause, and some of our characters from our breakfast. They will be passing out gift bags for the kids. Please call 567-712-8674 to reserve your spot. We are asking for small personal donations to go to the Crisis Center.

Youth Christmas Program will look a little different this year, but we are all excited that this tradition can still go on. This year we will be producing the very first ever Youth Christmas Movie! We will be showing this on December 20th during the worship service.

Advent Prayers: Our church will be posting a pray on Facebook each day during Advent. Please **pray daily with us as a united church body** and share the prayers so others can be praying with us. *1 Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people.*

Crisis Center

Each week we will be collecting food for the center, and then on the 1st Sunday of every month, we will be donating the collected food to the Crisis Center. This month we are collecting **basic need** items, which will be delivered after **Sunday, January 3rd**. We are also collecting fresh fruit and produce each month, but ask that these items are only donated on the first Sunday of the month. Your donation can be placed on the counter in the church library or on the counter at the top of the basement steps. If you are

unable to attend church you can contact Denise Kantner, 419.236.9205, and she will coordinate a porch pick-up of your items. If leave her a message or text, please let her know your name and address and when the food will be ready for pick up.

Current basic need items include: juice, coffee, boxed potatoes, ravioli/spaghettios, grape or strawberry jelly, cake, cookie, or brownie mixes, frosting, tuna, Mac and Cheese, Hamburger Helper, snacks (cookies, chips, fruit snacks), spaghetti sauce, pop tarts, pizza kits, taco kits, pears, pineapple, peas, carrots, parmesan cheese, mayo, hot cocoa mix, cereal, shampoo, hair conditioner, baby lotion, hair brushes, rinse aid and dishwasher liquid, antibacterial hand soap, 13 gallon unscented trash bags, paper towels, fast food gift cards.

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.

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.

Quilting Group has been cancelled until further notice.

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.

Notice Regarding Singing: We will be including more music into our worship in Advent and Christmas but will not be singing as a congregation. 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.

MS & HS Youth Group: In January after the holidays Brenda & Niki are planning to have 2 movies, one for the Middle Schoolers and one for the High Schoolers. More details on movie night will be in January newsletter and future bulletins. Happy Holidays!

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.

Notes from members and others...

Thank you for your generous donation. We appreciate your support that helps us to serve those in our community needing a hand up. THANK YOU

Appreciatively yours, God's Storehouse Board of Trustee



News and Events from our Council and Committees

FELC Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 18th, 2020

Council members present: Jim Bartholomew, Chuck Curry, Cari Frame, Denise Kantner, Jeff Ritchie, Council President Ryan Schneider, Council Vice President Rebecca Van Meter

Also present: Vicar Deb Monnin, Susan Miller (to present the Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports)

1. Call to order by Council President Ryan Schneider
2. Open with devotion and prayer - Vicar Deb
3. Business of the Church:
 - a. Secretary's Report
 - i. Reviewed meeting minutes from September 20, 2020 meeting. Made several friendly amendments to correct spelling errors.
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Reviewed ledger for August and September
 - c. Financial Secretary's Report
 - i. Reviewed previous two month's transactions and checking account balance
 - d. **Motion** to approve Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report, and Financial Secretary's Report made by Denise Kantner and seconded by Rebecca Van Meter. **Motion carries unanimously**
4. Vicar's Report:
 - a. Continued participation in small group activities and visitation with members to get to know FELC members and to provide opportunities for the members to get to know Vicar Deb, ask questions, and provide feedback
 - b. Planning for remote midweek Advent services and our live Christmas Eve service and related activities
 - c. Catechism teaching with Pastor Melodi is going very well
 - d. Vicar Deb is generally in the office on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, works from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and is always available by phone
 - e. The full Vicar's Report was published in the November newsletter.
5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Evangelism/Outreach - Denise Kantner, nothing to report
 - b. Worship/Music – Jeff Ritchie, nothing to report
 - c. Christian Education/Youth – Jim Bartholomew
 - i. Sunday School has resumed
 - ii. Christmas program planning has begun, general plan is to make a video and play it at Sunday worship

- iii. Full minutes from 9/29/2020 meeting published in the November Newsletter
 - d. Staff Support – Cari Frame, nothing to report
 - e. Social Ministry – Rebecca Van Meter, nothing to report
 - f. Life/Fellowship – nothing to report
 - g. Building/Property –
 - i. Brenda provided a written maintenance and janitorial update
 - 1. HVAC project is complete
 - 2. Brenda is cleaning and painting the Sunday school rooms
 - 3. A major roof leak was discovered in the transition space between the Fellowship Hall addition and the Chapel.
 - 4. It is time to renew our contract for snow removal services at FELC. We have received a bid from Krites Excavating who provided this service for FELC last year. The proposed pricing structure is the same as last year.
 - h. Finance – Ryan Schneider
 - i. Deadline for 2021 budget requests has been determined to be November 5th
 - ii. The committee plans to meet the week of November 8th to work out the details of a proposed budget for 2021
 - i. Stewardship – Chuck Curry, no update
 - j. Youth – Bailey Van Meter
 - i. Youth event planned for Saturday, October 24th
 - ii. Youth will participate in a Live Nativity with Harvest Baptist
 - iii. Youth will be making advent calendars for our shut-ins and others
 - k. **Motion** to approve committee reports made by Jeff Ritchie, seconded by Jim Bartholomew. **Motion carries unanimously.**
- 6. Old Business:
 - a. Dayton Property, no update
 - b. Property insurance, no update
 - c. Howard Craig Fund, no update
- 7. New Business:
 - a. PPP Loan Repayment Update
 - i. FELC received information from Minster State Bank regarding forgiveness and repayment of the PPP loan
 - ii. Response requested within six months of the date that the loan was signed (June 7th, 2020)
 - b. Election of Council Secretary
 - i. President Ryan Schneider opened the floor for nominations
 - ii. Rebecca Van Meter nominated Chuck Curry for the position of Council Secretary. Jeff Ritchie seconded the nomination of Chuck Curry.
 - iii. No other nominations.

- iv. Nomination of Chuck Curry as Council Secretary carries. Chuck Curry abstains.
- c. COVID-19 Working Group Updates
 - i. Chuck Curry presented proposed updates to the COVID-19 guidelines for activities and worship services at FELC.
 - ii. Recommendation from the floor to amend the updated Guidelines to strike the existing prohibition on Passing of the Peace as this practice is continuing in a modified fashion utilizing non-contact greetings of peace and welcome
 - iii. Recommendation from the floor to correct wording and spelling in the revised guidelines
 - iv. **Motion** to approve the revised COVID-19 guidelines as amended by Council made by Cari Frame and seconded by Rebecca Van Meter. **Motion carries unanimously.**
- d. Joint Ministry Committee Updates
 - i. The Joint Ministry Committee composed of Vicar Deb, Pastor Melodi Hagen, and lay representatives from FELC and Trinity Moulton met to discuss how the Joint Ministry Agreement was progressing and being received among the two congregations. The committee's general sense was that both congregations seem to be faring well and that Vicar Deb's ministerial leadership has been well received.
 - ii. Jerry Sawmiller (Trinity) and Chuck Curry (FELC) have agreed to prepare a Joint Ministry update to the congregations of FELC and Trinity Moulton for inclusion in the congregations' annual meeting packets.
- e. Update on Organist/Pianist Position Search
 - i. A search committee has been formed to fill the organist vacancy
 - ii. This committee plans to meet on October 22nd
 - iii. Worship and Music will be scheduling substitutes organists and pianists until a permanent replacement is found
- f. Request to make payment to St. Paul for use of dumpster
 - i. FELC has an agreement with St Paul UCC for use of their dumpster.
 - ii. FELC makes annual payments of \$250 for this privilege, but no payment has been made for 2020.
 - iii. **Motion** to approve payment to St Paul UCC for \$250 for use of their dumpster for calendar year 2020 made by Denise Kantner and seconded by Cari Frame. **Motion carries unanimously**
- g. Request for updating internet service for fiber optic service
 - i. David Curry has requested permission to negotiate fiber optic internet service for the church from TSC, our current internet provider
 - ii. The updated service would cost approximately \$20 more per month. FELC would not be responsible for any of the costs related installation

of the fiber optic cable and FELC volunteers will handle the task of running the necessary cables inside the building with donated materials

- iii. The updated internet should enhance our streaming capabilities and provide faster internet service to our staff and guests
- iv. **Motion** to authorize David Curry to negotiate with TSC to upgrade FELC to fiber optic internet service made by Rebecca Van Meter and seconded by Denise Kantner. **Motion carries unanimously**
- h. December Congregational Meeting
 - i. A congregational meeting is scheduled for December 6th
 - ii. At this meeting we will request congregational approval for FELC's proposed 2021 Budget and our nominees to serve on Church Council next year
- i. Communication plan
 - i. Council discussed ideas for improving the flow of communication from committees to council and from council to the congregation.
 - ii. Council also discussed options for publishing committee reports and minutes beyond the newsletter. The general concern is that our church newsletter content is currently dominated by meeting minutes.
 - iii. Council has determined that this issue warrants further discussion and planning and will be addressed at upcoming Church Council meetings.
- 8. Next meeting: November 15, 2020 Following Worship
- 9. Blessing: Vicar Deb
- 10. **Motion to adjourn** made by Cari Frame and seconded by Rebecca Van Meter. **Motion carries unanimously.**

Evangelism/Outreach and Social Ministry Committee Meeting Sunday, November 1, 2020

In attendance: Mary Ann Thomas, Denise Kantner, Brenda Shoffstall, Cari Frame, Vicar Deb Monnin, Chuck Curry, Niki Oren, and Rebecca Van Meter

Evangelism/Outreach Committee Current line item balance: \$408.99 of \$450
We will request \$350 from the finance committee for the 2021 fiscal year for the Evangelism and Outreach Committee and \$200 for the Quilting Ministry.

Visitation Team

Team has been sending out cards and calling homebound and nursing home bound members. No financial help is needed, as of now, members of the team have been buying their own cards to send.

Middle School Meals

Packing 35 weekend meals a week. Rebecca will check with Georgeanne to make sure we are being reimbursed for this year's meals.

Crisis Center food collection

Rebecca will rewrite the newsletter/bulletin announcement to list to include basic need items. Rebecca will also work to create a digital advertisement that the IT guys can use each month. We will advertise that we can pick up items from porches, if members who are homebound or not in-person attending would like to help donate. Denise will be the contact person. We will do a basic needs drive every quarter.

January – Drinks, shelf stable juices, coffee, hot cocoa

February – Hamburger Helper, taco and pizza kits

March – Basic needs

April – Cookie, cake, and brownie mixes

May – Kid friendly foods, peanut butter, Mac&Cheese, etc.

June – Basic needs

July – Mexican

August – Boxed potatoes and canned veggies and fruits

September – Basic needs

October – Italian

November – Non-food needs, toiletries and kitchen

December – basic needs

Reach out to families no longer attending

We want to reach out to members who are not currently attending church in-person worship and let them know we miss them and hope all is well with them. Brenda will organize this. Vicar Deb would like a card this month, a follow up call in a few weeks, and the offer of communion to these members.

Bring a friend to church Sunday (\$150)

Cancelled for 2020, we will try again in the second half of 2021

Welcome/Guest gifts (\$100)

We have plenty and Brenda is watching for guests. No money need for 2021 for this ministry.

School Supply Distribution (\$200)

Vicar Deb will check with the ministerial association.

Quilting Group Current line item balance: \$168.84 of \$200

Going well, group is small, but passionate. Will request line-item of \$200 for this ministry for 2021.

Family Life Center

We will continue to support them by asking Stewardship Committee to include this as a noisy offering for 2021. During its noisy offering Sunday we would like to remind the congregation about this ministry in the town and offer them to take home the bottles to fill for the FLC.

Social Ministry Committee

We will request \$1600 from the finance committee for the 2021 fiscal year for the Social Ministry Committee. We will use this money for (projected) Kids Against Hunger (\$250), Loaves and Fishes (\$250), College/Military Pals postage (\$350), Bingo at the Acres (\$250), Miracle Meal (\$250), and Operation Shoe Box (\$250). This is a change from \$1700 last year to \$1600 this year.

Kids Against Hunger Current line item balance: \$250 of \$250

Connie is still handling this for 2021. The current date for this event is June 12, 2021.

Loaves and Fishes Current line item balance: \$0 of \$250

No needs from the committee. FELC's next meal night is Nov. 19th.

College/Military Pals Current line item balance: \$35 of \$200

We didn't do a fall 2020 pal's mailing. Char will be asked if she will gather names and address of college student and military members.

Bingo at the Acres Current line item balance: \$400 of \$500

The committee decided that since we couldn't help with Bingo at the Acres since March we will donate \$300 of our remaining \$400 to the activities department at the Acres. Brenda will deliver the check and check to see how we can help them, or if they need any supplies.

Men's night/Women's night/Couples night/Young adult night/Silver Club

We will ask that all of these nights, since the goal of them is fellowship and not ministering, be moved to the fellowship committee.

Miracle Meal Current line item balance: \$0 of \$250

Cancelled for 2021.

Thanksgiving Community Meal

No help is needed for the 2020 community meal.

Operation Shoe Box Current line item balance: \$250 of \$250

New Ideas?

Christmas Gifts (Evangelism and Outreach)

Teresa Fisher has agreed to organize our Angel Tree this year. We will advertise left over tags through Facebook or church email to help those attending online participate in the program.

Fire Pup (Evangelism and Outreach)

We received a request from the Fire Department to help sponsor the Fire Pup Program. We will use Evangelism and Outreach money to sponsor 50 kids at \$150.

Advent (Social Ministry)

Chuck, Rebecca, and Vicar Deb will organize a daily prayer Advent "calendar." We will start on November 29 and run through Christmas.

Next meeting: Rebecca will send out dates in January. We will plan to meet again in January or February.

Vicar Deb's Report

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3

Thanks be to God!

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.
 - Confirmation classes are going well. There will be no formal classes in Advent, but rather the youth will lead the advent worship.
 - There will be one Christmas Eve Service with special music starting at 9:15 pm and worship starting at 9:30

 - How are we called to minister to our neighbors? Especially those outside of First English? How can we be using our resources and talents?
2. Supporting and caring for members in need and working with small groups
 - 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. I will be distributing the advent calendars to the homebound in November.
 - 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 Christian Doctrine Course on November 16. Will start "Faith In the American Context" on Dec 1
 - 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 all day. 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.

~ 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 10:00am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin 5:30pm Christmas Caroling	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 9:00am Santa Drive Thru Reservation only!
20 4 ADVENT SUNDAY Youth Christmas Program 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30am Council Meeting Vicar Deb Monnin	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE!	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm N/A	26
27 1 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	28 Newsletter Deadline	29	30	31 Happy New Year's Eve! OFFICE CLOSED		

~ January 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE					1 Happy New Year! OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm N/A	2
3 2 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Pastor Melodi Hagen	4	5	6 6:30pm Confirmation	7 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	8 7:30pm N/A	9
10 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	11	12 6:00pm Men's Night	13 6:30pm Confirmation	14 4:30pm Community Loaves& Fishes	15 7:30pm N/A	16
17 2 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin 11:30am Council Meeting 12:00pm Blood Drive	18	19	20 6:30pm Confirmation	21 4:30pm Community Loaves& Fishes	22 7:30pm N/A	23
24 3 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27	28	29 7:30pm N/A	30
31 4 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	TENTATIVE SCHEDULE					

