

First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



“But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”
Isaiah 40:31

Our February 2021 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

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

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

Jennie Grundey, Childrenjckline@bright.net..... 419-773-9113

Church Council

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Dave Clift.....right_guy12@hotmail.com 419-231-9800

Teresa Fishertatmfisher@bright.net..... 419-236-5628

Makayla Frame Youth Representative.....

Webmaster

Dave Currydarcy@bright.net 937-307-8596

A message from Vicar Deb...

“Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.” Psalm 25:5

I have never been a person who waits well. If there's a slow down or traffic jam on the highway, I look for a different route so that I can avoid it. I'd much rather drive several miles out of my way than sit in the jam. When I'm waiting at the doctor's office or when I waited to pick up the girls from something, I'd often have a book or knitting or something to do. It's hard for me to sit still. How about for you?

Sometimes, in my anxiousness and need to be busy, I try to fix or resolve the situation right there. Often times, this causes a bigger issue and it ends up becoming worse, and many involved become frustrated.



But God invites us to be with him when we have to wait. God invites us to be with him when we are anxious or worried or frustrated. God invites us to be with him when we are in something tough or hard to work through.

When we pause, and ask the Lord to lead and guide us, the path becomes clear. Sometimes it takes a day or two, sometimes it comes after a walk, sometimes it comes in the still of the night. Often, the struggle becomes easier to work with immediately.

As we enter Lent, we prepare ourselves for Jesus' resurrection, we prepare to meet the risen Jesus. Some years we give up something (like chocolate), some years we strive to improve our bodies (and promise to exercise more). This year, consider practicing sitting in the silence of God, and listening for God to lead you.

Often times when things are wacky or when you are in a jam of some kind, just taking a minute to pause and to ask God to help and guide you, gives a bit of peace. Just that pause, and a short prayer, "Oh Lord, show me the way," is enough. God's love comes through, the path becomes clear, and you will be renewed in God's new creation.

God is there, waiting with you and with me, and God will lead you and me to the next new thing. Take a moment each day and practice with me.
Amen. Vicar Deb

First English's Stewardship Corner:

Where is the Holy Spirit working in our Community?

Thank: Thank you for supporting Vicar Deb as she prepares for Seminary. First English will be Vicar Deb's internship site. We look forward to learning together.

Ask: As you pray with your prayer partner, Ask: How are you really doing? How am I really doing? God, how am I doing?

Support: Pray for the leaders in our church, nation, and world. Pray for unity and for for peace.

Service: How might you reach out to those in the community who may need to hear a friendly voice, to receive a nice card, or who may need a helping hand?

Prayer Practice: Spend 5 minutes in silent prayer. Pick a prayer partner and practice praying in silence at the same time each day.

Prayer

This month we are focusing on silent prayer. Silent prayer is an ancient practice where we sit in silence and listen for God. When we are in silence and listen for God, the path becomes clear, and God brings us peace.

Prayer is a practice, and it is helpful to practice with a partner. Pick a friend and pray with them on the phone, in person, or separate, but at the same time each day or week. Check in with them and see how they are doing. Ask: How are you really doing? How am I really doing? God, How am I doing?

You are welcome to join us as we pray together on Wednesdays. Pastor Melodi and others pray at Trinity, Moulton at noon on Wednesdays and Vicar Deb will be praying at First English at 5:30 on Wednesdays. We typically meet for 45 min to an hour and share our Highs, Lows, God moments, and then pray. Come and pray with us! Come when you can - every week or once a month or just when you can.



FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee

Chairperson

Liaison

Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	Rebecca Van Meter
Evangelism		Denise Kantner
Finance		Cari Frame
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	
Social Ministry	Niki Oren	Teresa Fisher
Staff Support	Jim Zwiebel	Chuck Curry
Stewardship	Brenda Shoffstall	Dave Clift
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Eric Wisener



2021 Noisy Offerings

<u>Month</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount Collected</u>
January	God's Storehouse	\$9.00
February	Kids Against Hunger	
March	Wapak Loaves & Fishes	
April	Mercy Unlimited	
May	Auglaize Crisis Center	
June	Kids Against Hunger	
July	Compassion International	
August	Shop with a Cop	
September	Angel Tree	
October	Operation Shoebox	
November	Wapak Loaves & Fishes	
December	Auglaize County Council on Aging	

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of February:

February 7 th	Available
February 14 th	Available
February 21 st	Available
February 28 th	Available

Altar Candles for the month of February:

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

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

	February 7 th	February 14 th	February 21 st	February 28 th
Acolytes	Maeson Roode	Josh Tabler	Eli Van Meter	Luke Kline
Lector	Chris Nagel	Luke Kline	Jon Schmidt	Connie Krites
Pew Straightner	Brenda Shoffstall	Brenda Shoffstall	Brenda Shoffstall	Brenda Shoffstall
Ushers	Katie McCullough Jim Zwiebel	Dave Krites Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher Luke Kline
Worship Assistant	Makayla Frame	Chuck Curry	Ken Frame	Susan Miller
Organist	Darla Frame	Susan Miller	Bailey Van Meter	Greg Tabler
Vicar/Pastor	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
01/03/2021	20	43	\$5,410.50	\$113.00
01/10/2021	16	61	\$2,685.00	\$53.00
01/17/2021	23	54	\$7,401.00	\$258.00
01/24/2021	16	57	\$1,280.00	\$53.00

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	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel Reading
February 7 th	Isaiah 40: 21-31	Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9: 16-23	Mark 1: 29-39
February 14 th	2 Kings 2: 1-12	Psalm 50: 1-6	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	Mark 9: 2-9
February 17 th	Joel 2: 1-2,12-17	Psalm 51: 1-17	2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
February 21 st	Genesis 9: 8-17	Psalm 25: 1-10	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
February 28 th	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22: 23-31	Romans 4: 13-25	Mark 8: 31-38
March 7 th	Exodus 20: 1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1: 18-25	John 2: 13-22
March 14 th	Numbers 21: 4-9	Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2: 1-10	John 3: 14-21
March 21 st	Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Psalm 51: 1-12	Hebrews 5: 5-10	John 12: 20-33
March 28 th	Isaiah 50: 4-9a	Psalm 31: 9-16	Philippians 2: 5-11	Mark 14:1 – 15:47

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, Tracy Anderson, Rita Barrera, David Blackburn, Sandy Brady, Melinda Colvin, Cory Crawford, Michelle Ewald, Gary Geren, Makayla Jenkins, Deana Kramer, Chris Krites, Connie Link, Susan Meyer, 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.



Notes from members and others...

FELC Family,

I would like to thank you for sending me an Amazon gift card. It will definitely be useful with school supplies. I also want to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers while away at school. Thank you again.

Stay safe and God Bless, Cameron Bowersock

Bless your heart for being so nice!

Dear FELC,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful Christmas present! It was a surprise to me. I will put my amazon gift card to good use. Thank you all so much. I am blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Love, Kaitlynne Ronan

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

The Christ child brought the promise of everlasting hope to a world that was yearning for the long-awaited Messiah. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Today, people around the world still need to hear His Gospel message: that eternal hope can only be found through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is the Good News our teams are bringing to people in more than 100 countries worldwide as Samaritan's Purse meets the needs of victims of war, poverty, disaster, disease, and famine. I am deeply grateful for your gift and prayers for our ministry. As you celebrate the birth of the Savior this Christmas season, may the peace of Jesus Christ reign in your heart and life. Thank you, and may God bless you.

Sincerely, Franklin Graham

Thank you FELC and the Kantner Scholarship fund for covering the tuition on my Diakonia courses. These courses help strengthen my knowledge of the ELCA of Lutheran doctrine, and on ministering to others. Our last course was on the history of the Lutheran Churches in America and this course is on Communicating the Gospel. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Vicar Deb Monnin

We would like to thank Georgeann Stienecker for the many years of leadership that she gave to First English as our bell choir director. Georgeann has officially retired from directing the bells as of January 1, 2021. We will miss hearing your faith come through the bells, Georgeann! Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for First English.

FELC News and Events...

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. Youth & Adult Class in person and if needed via Zoom
10:00 a.m. Worship in person and online www.myfelc.org

COVID-19 has forced us to change the manner in which we gather and worship. A complete list of our COVID-19 guidelines can be found in the office and around the building. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

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 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!

Men's Night Out will be meeting on Tuesday, February 9th, details TBA.

Noisy Offering for the month of February: KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations accepted during the entire month.

Join us for **Ash Wednesday worship** at 7pm on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. We will be worshipping together with St. Mark's and ?? for Ash Wednesday, Maunday Thursday and Good Friday.



Please join us for worship on **Wednesdays at 7pm during Lent** online or in person as we pray together in worship. Look for more information in the bulletin and website.

We will be celebrating Easter online and in person on **Easter Sunday, April 4th**. Worship will be held at 8am and 10am. Please join us as we celebrate and worship our Lord Jesus Christ together.

Wapak Loaves & Fishes has resumed carry out meal services again. Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Please remain in your vehicle and the meals will be brought to you.

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 **Hamburger Helper, Taco & Pizza Kits** items, which will be delivered after **Sunday, March 7th**. 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.

Unstaffed nursery rooms available. If you wish to nurse or take your young child out of worship, please know there are two spaces currently available to you. The church parlor and the smaller south side room, just through nursery, are both available for your use. Church provided toys are limited at this time, so please feel free to bring in your own toys. You can join worship through your phone or tablet by scanning (with your camera) the QR code to the right to access FELC's website. FELC offers free WiFi, the password is **firstwifi**. If these two spaces are not sufficient to permit adequate social distancing or meet the current need for such space, please reach out to Rebecca Van Meter so that more space can be made available. **All are welcome** in our worship services, including nursing mothers and fussy babies.



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.

Youth Mark Your Calendar: Planning is in the works for a middle school and high school retreat to be held at FELC on March 19th-20th. Be watching and listening for more details.

Summer Camp at LMC An email has been sent by Rebecca Van Meter containing Summer Camp 2021 information. If your youth is interested in summer camp and you didn't receive the email or have questions, please contact Rebecca Van Meter. You need the code from the email to register your child for camp.

Personalized Envelopes are still at the back of the church to pick up or please pick up during the week, Monday-Friday 9am-12pm.

Announcements from Council

Notice of Annual Meeting

On Sunday, February 14, 2020, we will be conducting our regular bi-annual meeting following worship to complete the following agenda items:

- a. Review, discuss, and approve the 2020 annual business reports
 - Council report
 - Financial Secretary report
 - Treasurer report
- b. Review, discuss, and approve the 2020 committee reports
- c. To review, discuss, and approve FELC's continued participation in the Shared Ministry Agreement with Trinity Lutheran Church Moulton to provide pastoral coverage at FELC and to raise up a new pastor in Vicar Deb Monnin
- d. Other business for the good of the church

Voting members of FELC may participate in person at the church or remotely through Zoom videoconferencing. We will send a reminder email on Friday, February 12th with instructions for participating in the Annual Meeting through Zoom. If you do not currently receive church correspondence via email and wish to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office.

March Newsletter deadline is February 22, 2021. Please have everything submitted to Hilary by email, wapakelc@bright.net. Thanks in advance.

FELC's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan has been forgiven. FELC has received notice that our PPP Loan that provided \$20,212 in assistance to pay salary and utility expenses has been completely forgiven. This means that FELC will not be required to repay any of the principle or interest of our PPP loan. Thank you to everyone who helped FELC complete all of the applications and documentation required to participate in the PPP Loan program and to request forgiveness for the loan!

The "COVID Committee" has been dissolved effective January 16, 2021. In April, 2020, Church Council created an unnamed *ad hoc* committee to draft a plan and a set of guidelines for reopening FELC. This committee, often referred to as the "COVID Committee," successfully navigated the difficulties and uncertainties associated with reopening our church for live worship and other activities in the midst of a pandemic. In the past several months, we have all become much more knowledgeable about and comfortable cohabitating with this virus, and it seems less necessary to have a special committee to advise Church Council on these matters. Going forward, Church Council will handle all matters pertaining to our COVID policies directly. At this time, there are no changes to the COVID guidelines and all current policies remain in effect. Thank you to everyone who served on this special committee for undertaking this massive effort on behalf of FELC during a time of great need!

Meeting minutes will no longer be published in the FELC Newsletter. Starting in March we will no longer be publishing meeting minutes for Church Council or our FELC Committees in the newsletter. Minutes will instead be filed with the Church Secretary and will be available to you upon request (emailed or printed). Instead of official minutes, Church Council and our committees will be asked to share a few highlights from their most recent meeting and these highlights will be published in the newsletter. This change will provide more timely and relevant information and help us to reduce the size of the newsletter.

Council processed a request for change of membership. FELC received a request to withdraw membership from the following members: Matthew W. Kentner, Bridget M. Kentner, Gabriel B. Kentner, and Abigail N. Kentner. Council has approved this request to withdraw membership effective January 17th, 2021.

Church Council has adopted a sexual harassment policy for FELC. At our January 17th meeting, Church Council adopted a sexual harassment policy. Prior to this action FELC did not have any formal policy concerning harassment. The ELCA requires us to have a sexual harassment policy in order to be considered an internship site for seminarians like Vicar Deb. The new policy appears in its entirety in the February Newsletter and is effective immediately.

POLICY AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT

First English Lutheran Church (FELC) of Wapakoneta, Ohio is committed to providing a professional work environment free of discriminatory intimidation or harassment. In keeping with this commitment, FELC maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual harassment. This policy applies to all of FELC's employees, as well as FELC's pastor(s), intern, all ministry leaders, and all members and constituents. Furthermore, it prohibits harassment in any form, including verbal, physical, and visual harassment.

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, making unwanted sexual advances and requests for sexual favors where either (1) submission to such conduct is made an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decision affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. The pastor(s), intern, employees, ministry leaders, lay members or constituents who violate this policy will be subjected to discipline.

The Congregation Council will designate one or possibly two persons as congregational officers who will be responsible for handling harassment and discrimination complaints and investigations.

Any person who believes he or she has been harassed by a pastor, intern, co-worker, ministry leader, member, constituent or any representative of FELC should promptly report the facts of the incident or incidents and the names of the individuals involved to the designated congregational officer(s). Allegations involving any person rostered in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be reported to the synod. Concern and complaints should be lodged without fear of reprisal. The designated congregational officer(s) will investigate all such claims and take appropriate disciplinary action.

Any person that believes that they are the victim of a sexual crime is encouraged to report the incident directly to law enforcement.

If you have questions concerning this policy, please feel free to contact the pastor, the president or the designated congregational officer(s) at your convenience.

This policy was adopted by the First English Lutheran Church Council on: 01/17/2021

News and Events from our Council and Committees

Council Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2020

1. President Ryan Schneider called meeting to order

- a. Quorum established by six members of Church Council being present; Chuck Curry, Cari Frame, Denise Kantner, Jeff Ritchie, Ryan Schneider, and Rebecca Van Meter.
- b. New Council members approved at the December Congregational Meeting with terms beginning January 1st, 2021 were also present; Dave Clift, Teresa Fisher, Lisa Kirby, Eric Wisener, and Makayla Frame (Youth Representative).
- c. Also present, Bailey Van Meter, Youth Representative, Susan Miller, FELC Treasurer, and Vicar Deb Monnin.

2. Vicar Deb opened with devotion and prayer

- a. Examine Practice
 - i. Where are you seeing God, in your personal life and/or at church?
 - ii. What is causing you stress or anxiety, in your personal life and/or at church?

3. Business of the Church

- a. Secretary's Report
 - i. Revision to approved August Congregational Meeting Minutes
 1. **Motion** to amend August Congregational Meeting Minutes previously approved by Church Council to correct mistakes regarding the wording of motions made during the course of the meeting; motion made by Chuck Curry and seconded by Rebecca Van Meter. **Motion carries unanimously.**
 - ii. December Congregational Meeting Minutes
 - iii. November Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Reviewed November Ledger with Treasurer Susan Miller
 1. Checking Account balance is currently at \$68,789.59
 2. Scheduled payment to Trinity Lutheran Church as part of the Shared Ministry Agreement was missed, so a double payment was made in November.
 - ii. Our annual financial audit will be conducted in March
- c. Financial Secretary's Report
 - i. Fund Summary November
 1. FELC received financial gives toward current expenses of \$11,502.62.

2. FELC received benevolence and memorial gifts totaling \$2,094.00.
- d. Vicar's Report
- i. Vicar's Report – Vicar Deb Monnin
 1. Home visitations by Vicar Deb, with or without communion, can be requested by contacting the church office 419-738-3911.
 2. FELC will need to complete an application to become a Luther Seminary internship site so that Vicar Deb may serve as our SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister) while participating in the MDivX Program at Luther Seminary.
 3. Vicar Deb is currently available in the office on Mondays and Wednesday afternoons for office hours. Vicar Deb is also available by appointment and can always be reached by phone.
 4. A complete Vicar's Report was published in the January Newsletter.
- e. **Motion** to approve these reports as presented made by Jeff Ritchie and seconded by Denise Kantner. **The motion carries unanimously.**

4. Committee Reports:

- a. Evangelism/Outreach - Denise Kantner, Liaison. Nothing to report
- b. Worship/Music – Jeff Ritchie, Liaison
 - i. Full minutes from 12/7/2020 Meeting published in the January Newsletter
- c. Christian Education/Youth – Jim Bartholomew, Liaison.
 - i. Full minutes from 11/17/2020 Meeting published in the January Newsletter
 - ii. Currently planning for a spring middle school and high school retreat
 - iii. High School Bible Study grouped planned for Saturdays
- d. Staff Support – Cari Frame, Liaison. Nothing to report
- e. Social Ministry – Rebecca Van Meter, Liaison. Nothing to report
- f. Life/Fellowship – Cari Frame, Liaison. Nothing to report
- g. Building/Property – Chuck Curry, Liaison.
- h. Finance – Ryan Schneider, Liaison. Nothing to report
- i. Stewardship – Chuck Curry, Liaison. Nothing to report
- j. Youth – Bailey Van Meter, Youth Representative
 - i. Drive Thru Breakfast with Santa was successful
 - ii. Youth participated in the drive thru live nativity organized by Harvest Baptist Church
- k. **Motion** to approve committee reports as presented made by Cari Frame and seconded by Rebecca Van Meter. **Motion carries unanimously.**

5. Old Business:

- a. PPP Loan Forgiveness Update - Schneider
 - i. FELC has received notice that our request for PPP Loan Forgiveness was approved and FELC has received complete forgiveness of the loan principle and accrued interest.
 - ii. Thank you to everyone who worked to encourage FELC's participation in the PPP loan program and who spent considerable time completing the necessary paperwork to apply for and receive forgiveness of this loan! What a blessing your efforts have born on behalf of our congregation!
 - iii. FELC will be required to keep all documents pertaining to the PPP Loan for six years. Hard copies and electronic backup of all documents have been placed into secured storage.
- b. Communication plan and repository for agendas and minutes.
 - i. These efforts will continue into 2021.
- c. Dayton Property, no update at this time.
- d. Organist search, no update at this time.
- e. Howard Craig Fund, no update at this time.
- f. COVID-19 Guidelines
 - i. Expected to meet soon to discuss possible revisions related to public and private events held at FELC.
- g. Property insurance renewal, no update at this time.

6. New Business:

- a. Annual Reports
 - i. Committee and financial reports are due to the Church Secretary by January 17th, 2021.
- b. Election of officers for 2021.
 - i. The following members were nominated by members of the 2021 Church Council for the offices of Council President, Council Vice President, and Council Secretary:
 1. President, Chuck Curry
 2. Vice President, Rebecca Van Meter
 3. Secretary, Denise Kantner
 - ii. Each council member accepted their nominations and will serve in these roles from January 1st, 2021 to December 31st, 2021.
- c. Council Retreat
 - i. The executive team will begin planning in earnest for a Council Retreat to be scheduled some time in February, 2021.
- d. Installation of new council members will take place during worship on January 10, 2021.

7. **Items for the Good of the Church**

a. No additional items were raised at this time.

8. **Next meeting:** January 17, 2021, Immediately Following Worship

9. **Blessing:** Vicar Deb

10. **Motion to adjourn** made by Bailey Van Meter and seconded by Denise Kantner.
Motion carries unanimously.

Faithfully submitted by Chuck Curry, Council Secretary.

Youth retreat planning meeting 1/12/2021

In attendance: Vicar Deb Monnin, Brenda Shoffstall, Niki Oren, Cari Frame, Jennie Grundey, and Rebecca Van Meter.

During this meeting we decided that we would include both high school and middle school youth, and that we will allow youth to bring a friend. We also decided that we will be inviting Trinity Moulton to join us. During lessons and discussions, and some other times during the event, youth will be separated by high school and middle school. At night we will have four sleeping areas, separating boys and girls and high school and middle school youth.

Ideas for doing Mission work were, highway trash pick-up, KAH (although the current KAH date won't work), working the Postal Food Drive at God's Store House, if the date permits, helping at the fairgrounds, or finding a project we can do at the church so we would not have to worry about travel and weather.

The theme "Love Your Selfie" was chosen. We will be working to find a movie and theme song (preferably both secular). We decided on the verse Ephesians 2:8-10, discussed many activities, and got really excited for this event!

A date of March 19th or 20th was chosen, as long as it continues to work for the sports schedule. We decided on an about 24 hour retreat, just one night.

Food, locations in the church that we will use, who will do what, and what the schedule of events will look like was not talked about.

Current concerns include: Cell phones, Youth who have cars/making sure no one leaves
Mask wearing, Behavior Contract

Submitted by: Rebecca Van Meter

Vicar Deb's Report

January 2021

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak for your servant is listening'” 1 Samuel 3:10

This year we are focusing on prayer and are starting with silent prayer, listening to God and to one another. As we start the meeting today, and as we talk with God daily,

Ask: How are you really doing? How am I really doing? God, how am I doing?

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've adjusted the prayers, the worship order, and some of the spoken words. Thank you for helping with Advent and Christmas worship. I'm starting to plan for Lent. Please do give me feedback and input.
 - Confirmation classes are going well. There were no formal classes in Advent, but rather the youth lead the advent worship. Thank you for supporting the youth! We are studying Luther and the reformation this month.
 - We are doing joint Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday worship with St. Mark, and possibly. We will host Ash Wednesday worship here.
 - Pastor Melodi and I will be recording short videos and posting them to FB weekly...focusing on the prayer practice of the month. We will be centered on "Praying on the way for Christ to make us well," using the Bible story in Luke 17:11-19.
 - 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
 - Paused Home Communion for the time being, but will deliver Home Ash kits for Ash Wednesday.
 - Participated in several small group meetings as we prepare for 2021 and for Lent.
3. Education:
 - Touch base with Pastor Melodi - 1-3 hrs per week

- Diakonia - Studying "Faith In the American Context" through Mid January
- Entranced into Candidacy for Ordination, October 1. Accepted into Luther's MDivX program in January. Currently working to be "paired" with First English for my internship site. First English will be submitting an application to be an internship site, with Pastor Melodi as my supervisor. I'm talking with Luther on these details more on Friday, Jan 22.

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. Always available via phone!

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

~ February 2021 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation	4 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	5 7:30pm N/A	6
7 5 EPIPHANYSUNDAY 9:00am Youth & Adult Sun Sch 10:00am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	8	9 6:00pm Men's Night 6:30pm Christian Education Meeting	10 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation	11 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	12 7:30pm N/A	13
14 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY ANNUAL MEETING 9:00am Youth & Adult Sun Sch 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Lenten Worship	18 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	19 7:30pm N/A	20
21 1 LENT SUNDAY 9:00am Youth & Adult Sun Sch 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30am Council Meeting Vicar Deb Monnin	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Lenten Worship	25 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	26 7:30pm N/A	27
28 2 LENT SUNDAY 9:00am Youth & Adult Sun Sch 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin						

~ March 2021 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Lenten Worship	4 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	5 7:30pm N/A	6
7 3 LENT SUNDAY 9:00am Youth & Adult Sun Sch 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	8	9 6:00pm Men's Night	10 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Lenten Worship	11 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes FELC HOSTING	12 7:30pm N/A	13
14 4 LENT SUNDAY 9:00am Youth & Adult Sun Sch 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	15	16	17 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Lenten Worship	18 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	19 Youth Retreat 7:30pm N/A	20 Youth Retreat
21 5 LENT SUNDAY 9:00am Youth & Adult Sun Sch 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin 11:30am Council Meeting	22	23	24 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Lenten Worship Newsletter Deadline	25 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	26 7:30pm N/A	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Youth & Adult Sun Sch 10:00 am Worship Service Vicar Deb Monnin	29	30	31 12noon Prayer at TM 5:30pm Prayer at FELC 6:30pm Confirmation with Adult	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	
8:00am & 10:00am Easter Sunday						

