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First English News

www.firstenglishlutheran.org

We are People of God who Gather to Worship, Grow in Faith and Give to Others

Cruzando! On a journey with Jesus

You may remember seeing a gaggle of our youth (and a few of us who are young at heart) gathered at the front of the sanctuary during worship a few weeks ago. We were hard to miss — each of the 45 of us was decked out in a bright orange tie-dyed shirt.

We were about to embark on a 26-hour bus ride to San Antonio to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We knew that we were in for a wonderful experience. We had hopes and dreams of what we might find. But we had no idea that we were going to have a powerfully transformative experience in the middle of a hot Texas summer.

The theme of the gathering was Cruzando: Journey with Jesus. Cruzando is Spanish for “crossing.” The idea is simple enough and was apparent each time our big bus crossed a state border.

But there was something much more powerful at work as we explored the countless boundaries that keep us separated from one another and from God. We listened to re-



nowned speakers like Tony Campolo and Jim Wallis, who reminded our youth that they can choose lives that will make a difference for their fellow human beings — and themselves.

But even more powerful were people such as Emmanuel Yeboah, a man born in Ghana with a physical disability who, nevertheless, rode a bike across his country to raise awareness of people too often left behind; Francis Bok, who suffered enslavement in his native Sudan for 10 years, but clung to his faith in God's mercy and grace; and Yessenia Vazquez, who escaped her abusive home in Guatemala and braved the difficult journey to a better future in the United States. Each of these young people was faced with a seemingly insurmountable boundary.

INSIDE

To read more about the adventures of First English youth at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Texas, see Page 10.

Each chose to believe that a better future lay on the other side and dared to cross over. Our youth were inspired by their stories and with God's grace, they will lead lives dedicated to crossing boundaries and knocking down the walls that keep others trapped.

But Cruzando also points to the crossing undertaken by God through his Son, who crossed the boundary from divine to human and suffered a literal crossing that was his death. In his death and resurrection, we find ourselves granted and called to new life. In Jesus, we find our boundaries already crossed, the walls between us already knocked down. In Jesus, we trust the promise that even in our failings, God will create a new world in

(See **CRUZANDO**, Page 2)

Worship

First English announces transitions in staff

With the departure of Interim Pastor Vicki Fink at the end of August, a congregational meeting to act on the Council's recommendation to extend a regular call to Pastor Dave will be scheduled early in fall.

In other matters:

- Phil Barnett has been hired as the new Director of Music. He and his wife, Debbie, and son, Sam, 5, will be moving from Fort Collins, Colo., where Phil has been the Director of Music at the First Presbyterian Church for 12 years. He will begin at First English in September.

- The Call Committee is interviewing candidates for the third pastor position. Following the self-study recommendations that shift non-pastoral responsibilities to lay people, this position likely will be part-time.

Congregational Growth

New Member Sessions to be held in September

New Member Sessions will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 18, in Room 110 at the Downtown Site and Sept. 25 in the North Site Sanctuary.

These two evenings provide a way to review the basics of faith. If you have been worshipping at the Downtown Site or the North Site and are interested in joining First English, please contact the church office to RSVP. Child care is available.

Farewell planned for Pastor Vicki

Pastor Vicki's last Sunday at the North Site will be Aug. 20 and her last Sunday at the Downtown Site will be Aug. 27.

Plans are underway to thank her for the three years of interim ministry at First English.

Pastor Vicki's favorite hymns will be shared, along with a special coffee hour on Aug. 20 and 27.

A small luncheon reception will follow the 10:45 a.m. service at the Downtown Site on Aug. 27.

A memory book and a basket for

Congregational Life

greeting cards you may wish to share will be at both sites on her last Sundays.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with these events, please contact Jean Monson in the church office or call Kirsten Owens at 920-749-9205.

CRUZANDO: We cross new borders every day

(From Page 1)

which the pain and suffering felt so profoundly in this world will not only come to an end, but will be transformed into joy.

As we traveled back to Wisconsin, we brought with us a sense that God is calling and enabling us to participate in his great work, doing our part to knock down the barriers that prevent us from knowing and loving one another.

At First English, we continue to live a life of Cruzando. We cross new borders each day. New pastors and staff members join our ministry, while others move on to new ventures.

New ways of doing things are explored. The gifts that God has granted each of you continue to reveal themselves as you find yourselves called to leadership and service. Perhaps we thought

that someday life at First English would feel "settled" again (if ever it was). But God does not call us to where we already are. Our God is the God of Cruzando, crossing the boundaries of sin and death that separate us from him and calling us to cross the boundaries of racism, hunger, war, poverty and oppression of every sort that keep us separate from one another.

As we prepare to cross the boundary from summer to autumn, we are reminded that there is still much to do in this little corner of the kingdom of God.

We also are reminded that God already is in the places we are called, that we may travel there together with certainty that God will use us to proclaim the message of the cross of Christ.

— *Pastor Dave*

Congregational Life

Committee to survey members 50 and older

The Planning Committee for the 50+ Ministry Inventory will be surveying First English members who are 50 years of age and older.

The purpose of the survey, which will be conducted in October, is to find out what kind of programs could be developed at church to benefit not only this age group, but the entire congregation.

Look for more information about this project in the September newsletter and announcements.

Free organ recitals scheduled in August

The Lunchtime Organ Recital Series announces the following performances at 12:15 p.m. For information on the free events, call 920-734-3762.

Tuesday Special Aug. 1: Lawrence Memorial Chapel, 500 E. College Ave., Appleton. Kathrine Handford.

Aug. 2: Memorial Presbyterian Church, 803 E. College Ave., Appleton. John Skidmore.

Aug. 9: St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 1617 W. Pine St., Appleton. Mark Sikkila.

Aug. 16: First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, 200 Church St., Neenah. Nancy Siebecker.

Aug. 23: First English Lutheran Church, 326 E. North St., Appleton. Daniel Schwandt.

Aug. 30: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 200 N. Commercial St., Neenah. Marillyn Freeman.

Parent and Student Orientation set for Sept. 13

It is time to begin another exciting, educational and spiritual year of confirmation for all students in Grades 7 through 9.

A Parent and Student Orientation meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Downtown Site.

Seventh-graders and parents will meet in the Choir Room and eighth- and ninth-graders and their parents will meet in the Fellowship Hall. You will receive a Confirmation Handbook and the schedule for the year.

New this year: Everyone will

attend mini-volunteer training sessions to learn more about how confirmation students may assist during worship.

There also will be a review of the 2007 Faith in Action Time & Talent form and booklet. We will answer any questions you may have, so please make every effort to attend.

During the school year, confirmation classes will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Downtown Site, followed by Seraphim Choir practice from 8 to 8:45 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Tree of Life Prayer Retreat set for fall in Appleton

Tree of Life Lutheran Prayer Retreats is a new ministry in partnership with the East Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The series of eight retreats over a two-year period offers a way to be intentional about our relationship with God and seek insight into who we are and how we might more fully serve the mission of the church.

“Claimed by God’s Love” is the

theme for the first retreat offered by Tree of Life Lutheran Prayer Retreats to be held on Sept. 22-24 at Monte Alverno Retreat Center, 1000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton.

The cost is \$140 for the weekend, which includes room, meals and the retreat program.

For more information, contact Pastor Vicki Fink at 920-720-9886, Jennifer DeNetz at 715-258-7688, or visit www.ecsw.org and click on “Tree of Life Lutheran Prayer Retreats.”



BACK TO SCHOOL SALE \$1

First English members **get \$1 off** each \$5 purchase at ECHOES.

VISIT US SOON!

ECHOES Gift & Thrift, 1320 W. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton

Coupon good through Aug. 31, 2006

Congregational Life

Very Special Arts Choir to begin fall session

The Fox Valley Very Special Arts Choir is for adults with and without disabilities. The choir, which is sponsored by Very Special Arts Wisconsin, was started by the Kennedy Foundation, which created Special Olympics.

The choir rehearses from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 5, at the Thompson Community Center.

They will be joining choirs from across the state on Sept. 17 to sing the national anthem at the Badgers football game. They also perform at several community events during the year.

The second session begins in February and ends with a concert in May.

For more information, call VSA director Tiffany Vollrath, at 920-303-9567 or First English member Nancy Strebe at 920-739-5817.

Save on merchandise with ECHOES coupons

If you own an Entertainment book and have registered your card on line, check out the ECHOES coupon at www.entertainment.com for 20 percent off any purchase up to \$25. Print the coupon and bring it to ECHOES Gift & Thrift at 1320 W. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton. Store hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday.

Faith in Action Volunteer Fair set for Sept. 17

The annual Faith in Action Volunteer Fair will be held between the worship services at both sites on Sunday, Sept. 17.

The fair is a great way to learn about the many opportunities at

First English. Members will be able to review the updated Faith in Action booklet and the Time & Talent form.

Consider volunteering for at least one area this year. Training and instruction are available.

Worship in City Park on Aug. 6, 20 and 27

What a wonderful summer it has been for worship in City Park. If you have not attended this service, bring your lawn chairs and worship on Aug. 6, 20 and 27.

Be sure to thank the volunteers listed in the bulletin who help set up the park for this worship service. There will be a strong need for volunteers next year.

Tailgate party set for Timber Rattlers baseball fans

The annual First English Timber Rattlers Game & Tailgate is Thursday, Aug. 17. The T-Rats are hosting the Peoria Chiefs at 7:05 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 and are available at the church office and in the Gathering Area before worship services at both sites.

Tailgating begins at 5 p.m. at Fox Cities Stadium, on the east side of the parking lot, adjacent to U.S. 41. The meal begins at 5:30 p.m. with an opening prayer.

Make-your-own sub sandwiches will be provided for the tailgate. Plan on bringing a dish to pass, your beverages and lawn chairs.

Acolyte program to include high schoolers

Traditionally, the acolyte role has been handled by confirmation students. Beginning in fall, this role will include high school students and be expanded to all worship services at both sites.

Each worship service will have different needs for the acolytes. The goal is to have more youth

involved in worship volunteer roles.

Look for more information about the acolyte program in upcoming newsletters, confirmation training sessions and high school Sunday School classes.

Learning

Study Lutheran basics with Pastor Vicki

A study will be held to review what it means to be Lutheran. This review is great for lifelong Lutherans and an easy way for others to get a foundation they may have missed. The study will be facilitated by Pastor Vicki at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 8, in the Office at the North Site.

Tuesday bag lunch topic focuses on God's work

Bring a bag lunch, take time for conversation and study the Old Testament from noon to 1 p.m. on Aug. 8 and 15 in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site. Pastor Vicki will facilitate the study, which will reflect on God's work in our lives.

Grief support group meets at the Downtown Site

The Grief Support Group is open to everyone — First English members and nonmembers — who is experiencing grief resulting from any type of loss, especially the death of a loved one. The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the Lounge at the Downtown Site.

Scrapbooking, stamping sessions set for Aug. 11

A free scrapbooking and stamping session will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 11, in Room 110 at the Downtown Site. RSVP to Cindy at 920-836-3008. Please bring a nonperishable food item that will be donated to a charity.

'Moral compass' gives direction to our lives

Learning Ministry Team Spotlight

It is a wonderful gift from God that he has planted our family here at FELC.



I believe one of the most important tasks I have in my life is to provide a consistent model for my children so they have the faith tools to lead a Godly life and make choices that reflect God's will for them.

Worship, followed by Sunday School, helps to give our family the support we need to do just that.

To me, worship involves actively participating in the hearing of the Word and responding to the spirit of God. It is the consistent nature of the message each week that sustains and helps my faith grow.

Participating in Sunday School provides reinforcement of the message. Our Sunday School curriculum offers faithful, relevant and exciting ways for children to learn and retain the knowledge that can grow their faith.

Since life is full of challenges and choices, I need a moral compass with which to live. I think we all need that. Our worship experiences with consistent attendance at Sunday School helps to give my family, particularly our children, the knowledge of how God is working in their lives.

Our community of believers is a great support to me that allows me to live out my faith and teach by *doing*, not just *saying*.

— Cheri Dworak,
Learning Ministry Team

Students prepare for Holy Communion

Instruction for children ages 8 and older that prepares them for participation in the sacrament of Holy Communion is scheduled from 4:30-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26, and Thursday, Sept. 28, in Room 012 at the Downtown Site.

The students will study with Pas-

tor Dave and Anita Damon and share a meal together both days.

Parents are asked to call the church office to register their child.

The parent orientation meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, in Room 110 at the Downtown Site.

Getting married? Get started in the right direction

The next "Getting Married, Getting Started" session will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 16 in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site. Lunch will be provided.

Couples planning to get married in January through June of 2007

should plan to attend this session.

The sessions are geared toward helping couples plan their ceremony and learn more about the wedding coordinator ministry.

For couples getting married in July through December of 2007, the session is set for Feb. 10, 2007.

Learning

Getting Ready for Sunday looks at upcoming texts

The *Getting Ready for Sunday* study will gather from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28 in the Lounge at the Downtown Site. The focus of conversations, which will be facilitated by Jerry Anderson, will be lectionary texts for the coming Sunday.

Please come as often as you can. The texts for August are:

Aug. 6

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Aug. 13

1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

Aug. 20

Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Aug. 27

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Next Judith Circle meeting will include potluck meal

The *Judith Circle* Bible Study group will meet for a potluck meal at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 1, in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site.

Next baptismal workshop set for Sept. 11

Baptism is God's gift of love and hope. All families seeking to have their child baptized should plan to attend a baptismal workshop.

The next workshop is at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 11, in the Lounge at the Downtown Site. Please RSVP by calling the church office and indicating if child care is needed.

Additional workshops will be held on Nov. 13 and Jan. 15, 2007.

Whether or not you already have had a child baptized at First English, please plan to attend a workshop before scheduling a baptism. We welcome you to attend one of the quarterly workshops before your baby is born.

Registration open for Lay School of Ministry

Enrollment is open for the Lay School of Ministry.

This monthly Friday and Saturday two-year program is sponsored by the synod to equip lay people for ministry in their church and community.

Classes are held from September through May at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Combined Locks. Assistance is available for a portion of the tuition.

For information, call Anita Damon at the church office.

Vacation Bible School offering fun adventures

Students attending Vacation Bible School, which is being held at the North Site from July 31, through Aug. 3, are learning that God's love is kind, caring and forgiving and that God's love is forever.

Immersed in the theme, Son Treasure Island, students participate in Bible games, Bible story adventures, music time and out-

door games.

Skits relating to each day's lesson help the children learn a new verse from Corinthians each day.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make VBS a success and to friends who donated snacks.



Quilters return to sewing after Labor Day

Quilting begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 11, in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site. Quilting supplies include old sheets, pillow cases, bath towels,

mattress pads, curtains, drapes, fabric and clean used clothing. New quilters are welcome — you don't even need to know how to sew!

Learning

Sunday School teachers prepare for Rally Sunday

All Sunday School teachers will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 23, in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site to pick up teacher's guides, class lists and to prepare for Rally Sunday, which will be held on Sept. 10. Child care will be provided. Thanks for blessing our faith community with the gifts you share as a volunteer in our learning ministry!

Third-graders, parents to attend Using My Bible

Third-graders will receive a Bible from the church on Rally Sunday, Sept. 10.

Third-graders and their parents will come to the altar as the congregation prays for God's blessing.

To prepare for this special event, all children from both sites entering third grade, along with a parent or parents, are asked to attend Using My Bible class at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 29, in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site.

Additional Youth Ministry training scheduled

Adults who will be working as Sunday School teachers, confirmation leaders or supervising youth activities should attend a training session either at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2, in the Office at the North Site or at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 23, in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site.

Registration open for Sunday School

Sunday School begins Sept. 10. Students who were in Sunday School last year are automatically promoted to the next grade, unless parents notify the church office of a change. New-student registration forms are on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area at either site or visit www.firstenglishlutheran.org and click on "Learn" to download a registration form.

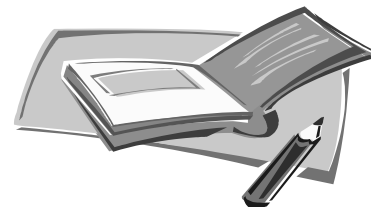
Downtown Site

Children ages 3 through kindergarten meet in a traditional teacher/child classroom.

Grades 1-3 participate in the Rotational Model Sunday School, where each week they learn a lesson either through art, drama, temple or video lessons.

Grades 4-12 learn lessons based on the Bible texts read in church on Sunday, so attending worship and Sunday School as a family and talking about what was learned in church and Sunday School is important for this age group.

Choir for children in kindergarten through Grade six also meets on Sunday mornings.



North Site

Children ages 2-3: Parents with children ages 2 or 3 by Sept. 1 attend class together in the nursery, learning stories and songs so they can recite them together at home.

Children ages 4 and 5 and Grades 5-6 meet in traditional teacher/child classes.

Grades 1-4 participate in the Rotational Model Sunday School, where each week they learn a lesson either through art, drama, temple or video lessons.

Grades 7-12 learn lessons based on the Bible texts read in church on Sunday, so attending worship and Sunday School together as a family and talking about what was learned in church and Sunday School is important for this age group.

Choir for children ages 4 through Grade six also meets on Sunday mornings.

Sunday School teachers needed

Sunday School teachers play a vital role in the lives of our youth by creating faith connections. The first day of Sunday School is Sunday, Sept. 10. Please pray about becoming part of the teaching team. Call Anita Damon at the church office to talk about ways to help weekly, twice a month, or occasionally.

At the Downtown Site, teachers

are needed for:

- 3 year-old class
- Shepherds - Grades 1 and 3
- Temple Teacher - Grades 1-3

At the North Site, teachers are needed for:

- 3 year-old parent/child class
- 4 year-old class
- Kindergarten class
- Drama Rotation Teacher
- Jr. High Teachers

Outreach & Social Ministry

Adoptive Parents Support Group meets Aug. 23

The Adoptive Parents Support Group will meet before Wednesday night worship, from 6 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 23, in the Office at the North Site.

The casual, friendly group supports those considering adoption, those already in the adoption process and parents with adopted children. Free childcare will be provided.

For information, call Sarah Miles at 920-993-0525.

Fair-trade coffee brewing despite stiff competition

The coffee commodity market has been volatile for the last year. The spike in prices last spring and the small jumps since then have resulted in the resurgence of coffee intermediaries – those who suddenly appear when the prices rise. They are creating stiff competition for the cooperatives and it has been stressful waiting to find out if we're going to get beans. But thanks to our long-term relationships with the co-ops, we've been able to get the coffee we need.

Meanwhile, the Equal Exchange roasting team has kept our drum roaster rolling at full speed day and night over the past few months in an effort to meet the ever-increasing thirst for java.

Lutheran World Relief will be selling and serving coffee on **Sunday, Aug. 6.** Your continuing support of this worthwhile project is greatly appreciated.

Bethel Series Bible Study resumes in September

Bethel is a two-year overview of the Bible — from Genesis to Revelation — that helps participants better understand God's plan from the beginning.

The Bethel Series is taught in six 7-week semesters.

First English members who have completed the Old Testament in semesters 1 through 3 will begin the New Testament in semester 4 at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13, with Mary Catterton instructing.

First English members who have completed semesters 1 and 2 will finish the Old Testament in

Learning

semester 3 at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 11, with Mary Vandenberg instructing.

If you have participated in all or part of the Bethel Series and would like to join either group, call the church office and the staff will have someone contact you.

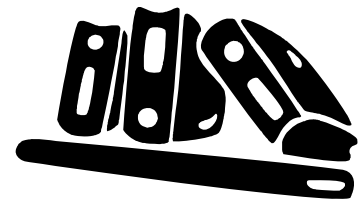
Both classes meet at the Downtown Site. A \$15 fee to cover materials for the fall semester can be paid the first night of class.

Study seeks to help women discover God's grace

A new 10-week Bible study, *My Secret Loss: Finding Life After Abortion*, is being offered from 7 to 8:30 p.m. beginning Thursday, Sept. 14, in the Lounge at the Downtown Site.

The study will be led by Sheila Luck, author of "My Secret Loss: Finding Life After Abortion."

The study is for women who have developed regret and deep, heartfelt pain after an abortion, as well as to help others develop a greater understanding of their loved one's pain, so that they can show their daughter, sister, mother or friend God's love and mercy.



The purpose of the study is to help women discover God's loving grace and healing touch.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Free child care is available by calling the church office.

Please stop by the church office to purchase the specially discounted \$10 book in order to read the introductory materials before the first meeting.

Outreach & Social Ministry

First English is helping to rebuild homes and lives in New Orleans. Anita Damon, Kris and Kaylin Helm, and Alysson Orsted, went to Louisiana from June 16-24. Below is Alysson's account.

The devastation was terrifying. Roofs were blown off and covered by blue tarps. When the bus went on an overpass, the neighborhood below was a sea of blue tarps. Houses were in shambles; every possession lost.

The stories we heard were heartbreaking:

A lady came by the church we were staying, asking if there were any extra clothes. She only had two pairs of clothes.

A man with both legs amputated told of his struggle to safety. His wheelchair had been damaged by the water. His son came to get him, but they didn't have a car, so they couldn't get to the bus station safely. Many people also were rushing to the station. The police told his son to hot-wire any car in the street and get to safety.

Yet through this devastation and despair I saw God's love at work.

These people have been through many more horrifying situations than just the aftermath of Katrina, yet they continue to survive and keep their faith that God will provide. As our bus traveled down the road the locals would wave to us, knowing our purpose. While our group took on challenging tasks, there were no complaints. We were there to help and enjoyed the difference we were able to make.

Outreach & Social Ministry Team defines goals

The major responsibilities of the Outreach & Social Ministry Team are to:

- Educate the congregation on social ministry concerns.
- Activate the congregation and offer opportunities to serve the needy.

To carry out these responsibilities, the Ministry Team will focus on one churchwide ministry each month. We would like to involve every member in at least one of the following activities for Lutheran World Relief. In August, the focus will be school kits. In September, we will concentrate on layettes. World hunger will be emphasized in October.

August: School Kits

While the Sunday School especially will be involved in making these kits, we would like everyone in the congregation to use their time, talent, and treasures to provide these supplies to children returning to school after the disruption of war.

Members can bring selected items from the following list or make a financial contribution to "LWR School Kits" for the committee to purchase the needed supplies to complete these kits. Our goal is to complete 150 kits this year from First English. Donations of the following school supplies will be collected in the school desk in the Gathering Area at both sites during August:

Supplies needed for each kit:

- Two 8½-by-11-inch spiral notebooks (150-200 pages of ruled paper)



- One blunt scissors
- One ruler marked with inches and centimeters
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser
- 1 box of 16-24 crayons
- Six new, unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors

The supplies will be packed in a cloth bag sewn by First English members. Volunteers are needed to sew the school bags. Patterns and fabric will be available.

September: Layettes

These items can be new or gently used. While cleaning your closets, check to see if you have any of the following items that will be collected in the bassinet in the Gathering Area at both sites during September:



Supplies needed for each kit:

- Two shirts or Onesies, size newborn to 24 months
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two wash cloths
- One bath-size bar of gentle soap in its original wrapping
- Two diaper pins

Bring one item or the items for an entire kit. A financial contribution to "LWR Layettes" also can be used for the committee to purchase the additional items to complete these kits. Our goal is to ship 250 completed layettes in October.

Youth

Youth inspired during trip to San Antonio

As we wrapped up the week in sweltering San Antonio, I couldn't believe the numerous adventures we had as a group and as individuals. The first and probably most interesting was the mode of traveling. Cramming 45 people on a bus is one thing, but adding 26 hours on top of that and you've got enough entertainment for days (literally).

As we discovered San Antonio we traveled to the Alamo and gained appreciation for its history and the famous Davy Crockett. Also, we enjoyed the air-conditioned café, where we spent most of our time eating, and the river walk, which consisted of upscale restaurants, exotic flowers and water fountains. We also got a taste of culture at the market where we bought native clothes for the fiesta. Another adventure was our service, which was assembling hats for children with leukemia. We also participated in activities and classes at the convention center.

Although we were moved by the different lifestyle (especially the heat), we were all caught off guard by the worship in the Alamo Dome. Not only were we exposed to 16,000 others celebrating God and his works, but a variety of speakers who lit our dusty candles. I was amazed at how much these people could do and have done.

(See *TRIP*, Page 13)

First English members active in stewardship

Did you notice how many articles there were in the July edition of "First English News" that related to stewardship? Stewardship was all over the place, including articles on:

- Volunteering at ECHOES.
- Volunteering at the Lichosik Benefit.
- Volunteering in youth ministry.
- Seeking Sunday School teachers.
- Thanking members for supporting needy children in Iraq.
- Participating in the American Cancer Society's Sole Burner.
- Planning property improvements by the Support Ministry Team.
- Traveling to New Orleans to assist with rebuilding efforts.

The one headline that included "stewardship" corresponded to an article about planning and deciding ahead for your financial giving.

All the articles were about stewardship, for they were all concerned with how we use the

Support

resources God has entrusted us with: resources of time, ability and money.

Stewardship has to do with volunteering in the congregation and the community and helping others who are in need — close to home or far away. It has to do with taking care of what we have. And it has to do with our financial resources.

The time, abilities and money God gives us continue to belong to God. In the last analysis they are not ours. We are simply entrusted with their management. That is what stewardship is all about: the way we manage God's resources in our lives.

The last "First English News" was a story of God's resources being managed by a grateful people. An exciting story it was and is!

Mo joins staff as Confirmation Coordinator

Andrew "Mo" Moscinski joined the First English staff as Confirmation Coordinator, where he will serve youth and families of confirmation students. Mo is the former program director at Imago Dei Village, Crossways Camps.

He and his wife, Whitney, live in Appleton with their 10-month-old daughter, Grace Elizabeth.

He is a full-time teacher at Johnston Elementary School in Appleton, serving students with

disabilities. He also coaches athletics at Roosevelt and Wilson middle schools.

Mo has traveled to South Africa for mission work in conjunction with a Bible camp and churches.

He enjoys "humor, rubber chickens and Twinkies while reaching youth and families with the gospel of Christ." He also is a "self-proclaimed Apple computer geek." You can contact Mo at 920-268-8170 or by e-mail at amo30@mac.com.

Trip: We make it happen

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For example, Emmanuel Yeboah rode across Ghana to show that his disability (he was born without a portion of his leg) made him no different from anyone else. A woman, Dr. San Juana Mendoza Bruce, works as a charity doctor serving the poor throughout Mexico. These people have accomplished their shining ambitions that God has set forth for them, and it was breathtaking listening to them and feeling their passion penetrate within us. Just listening to them makes me think of the endless possibilities God has in store for all of us and how much we can contribute. We can't watch the world happen, we need to make the world happen and be part of that change today.

— God Bless and Orlando,
Alicia Brinkman

90+ Birthday

- Emma Malueg - Aug. 9
1917 N. Clark St., Appleton, WI 54911
- Melvin Jensen - Aug. 25
1500 W. Lindbergh St.,
Appleton, WI 54914

Anniversaries

- David and Vicki Fink celebrate
30 years on Aug. 7.
- Lou and Kay Chicquette celebrate
30 years on Aug. 14.
- Frank and Marlene Haas celebrate
50 years together on Aug. 18.
- Milton and Lois Schreiner celebrate
55 years together on Aug. 19.
- Jon and Becky Stellmacher celebrate
30 years together on Aug. 20.
- Ronald and Marilyn Sternagel celebrate
45 years together on Aug. 20.
- Ken and Margie Reinholz celebrate
35 years together on Aug. 23.
- Clarence and Joyce Hagen celebrate
55 years together on Aug. 24.
- Dick and Joan Schroeder celebrate
50 years together on Aug. 25.
- Douglas and Susan Meyer celebrate
25 years together on Aug. 29.

First English committed to intern program

First English Lutheran Church is one of a few congregations with a specific ministry for college-age adults. This is a lost group of members in most churches. This is a lost group of young people on most college campuses. This message comes out many, many times in our summer studies and discussions with the interns.

There is a very strong sense of gratitude from all of the interns for the opportunity to not only have the time to learn from Pastor Dave and seminary student Ben Cieslik, but also to pass on what they learn to the young people they work with and to share stories with the older members during their visits to shut-ins.

The study time every Wednesday morning allows the interns to discuss the readings from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's books, "Life Together" and "Prayerbook of the Bible," but also many issues so important to young adults today. The impact of these young people spending a summer becoming more confident in their walk with God is seen in many ways as they go out to do the ministry assigned to them. But the results of this time together will continue to have an effect on the lives of the interns and those they touch.

Youth

Every Monday and Thursday, a large group of kids gathers at area tennis courts. Will these kids be better tennis players after this summer? Who knows? But we do know that every lesson begins with a devotion led by an intern. It is a powerful message for kids to see these interns making a choice to be involved in their church after high school.

Continuing this commitment to our young people by supporting the Summer Intern Program is the most generous and caring gift that we can provide.

Our interns live out the First English mission statement: "We are people of God who Gather to Worship, Grow in Faith and Give to Others." Lives were touched within our First English walls. The interns plan and participate in worship, grow in their faith, encourage the faith lives of others and serve the community at various facilities, including Brewster Village, the LSS Edgewood Group Home and Fox Valley Lutheran Homes. Thanks be to God for these young people who have shared their gifts!

Official Acts

Baptisms

- Logan William Rabas, baptized on July 2.
- Evelyn Rose Jelinek, baptized on July 9.
- Kate Marie VanderLoop, baptized on July 16.
- Sarah Gabrielle Hoffman, baptized on July 30.
- Lily Kay Sommer, baptized on July 30.

Weddings

- Sid Seehawer and Linda Lane, married on July 1.

- Scott Strand and Cindy Thorson, married on July 1.
- David Boldt and Ellen Titkowski, married on July 8.
- Adam Palm and Laurie Wendt, married on July 8.
- Nathan LeDuc and Jennifer Quistorf, married on July 8.
- Russ Smith and Michelle Terrell, married on July 29.