

JULY 2006

INSIDE

• Vacation Bible School begins July 31 / 6

Ministry Teams

Congregational Growth

New Member sessions set for Sept. 18 and 25 / 2

Congregational Life

Tree of Life Lutheran Prayer Retreats offer time for renewal / 3

Learning

Training sessions set for volunteers who work with youth / 4

Outreach

First English helps rebuilding efforts in New Orleans / 7

Support

Support Ministry Team reports plans for property / 10

Worship

Enjoy a meal before Wednesday Worship at the North Site / 9

Youth

Group departing for Texas July 4 / 10

First English

News

www.firstenglishlutheran.org

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

It's time to say, 'Goodbye'

When I was interviewing for this position in fall 2003, I met the staff. One of the members of the staff, Julie Doerfler, asked me what I thought would be the hardest part of this work. The words popped out of my mouth without thinking: "Leaving would be the most difficult part of my work," I said.

During the interview process we went over it several times. We conferred with the Transition Team and the consultant who was hired. The key elements of the job were to provide continuity, to be flexible — and then to leave. Leaving will mark the end of the transition time.

My last Sunday at the North Site will be Aug. 20, and my last Sunday at the Downtown Site will be Aug. 27.

While change always will be part of life, ending the interim and

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you ... and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God."

— Colossians 3:16-17

finding your stride for ministry for the long haul is next on the agenda. So how do I say, "Goodbye?"

I want to extend my thanks to you. I have been especially encouraged by your attentiveness to my preaching. Our worship life together became a dynamic corporate prayer that sustained me through the ups and down of all the changes. It also has been an honor for me to share the joys and struggles that many of you have experienced over the past several years.

Serving as your pastor in times of sickness, difficulty and death has created a bond that I

will hold in my heart forever. I'm also grateful — as strange as it may sound — for the challenges that presented themselves while I was pastor here. I get invigorated by problem-solving, and I love creating new and improved ways to do things. We have had many projects that taxed us in that way and with good results — thanks be to God!

Good things happen when God is active among us. I have sensed the power of the Spirit in my time at First English. Every blessing in Christ be with each of you. God's continued guidance and grace be yours.

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you ... and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God"

— Colossians 3:16-17

Pastor Vicki Fink

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 learn, review the basics of faith and help you to find out where you fit in with the ministries of First English. If you have been worshipping at the Downtown Site or the North Site and are interested in joining First English, we look forward to seeing you at both sessions.

Please contact the church office if you plan to attend and to RSVP for child care.

Ministry Teams to meet August 1 at the North Site

Ministry Teams will not meet in July. The teams will gather at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, at the North Site.

Libraries offer great titles for summertime pleasure

Check out Christian books, an extensive list of children's titles, biblical resources, devotional books, biographies, fiction, videos, CDs and a DVD archive of past worship services in the church libraries.

If you would like to give a gift to the library, look at the cards in the basket for the Wish List.

These gifts could be given as memorials or in honor of birthdays, baptisms and anniversaries.



Enjoy an organ recital during your lunch hour

The Lunchtime Organ Recital Series announces the following performances at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.

For information on the free events, call 920-734 3762.

July 5: First Congregational Church UCC, 724 E. South River Street, Appleton. Mary Kay Easty.

July 12: Holy Cross Catholic Church, 309 Desnoyer Street, Kaukauna. Jared Stellmacher.

July 19: Faith Lutheran Church, 601 E. Glendale Ave., Appleton. Robert Unger.

July 26: First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, 200 Church St., Neenah. Jeffrey Verkuilen, AAGO.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer at ECHOES during sidewalk sales

Along with the lazy days of summer comes sidewalk sales at ECHOES Gift & Thrift, 1320 W. Wisconsin Ave., on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29.

We need help during this sale and when we gear up for back-to-school needs. Consider helping during this busy turnover period.

Store hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Here are some of the benefits

you will experience as a volunteer at this special outreach ministry of First English:

- Work side-by-side with other church members and the interns.
- Help grow the store, plus introduce First English to our customers.
- Explore the power of volunteering as a family.

To learn more, call Jean Monson at the church office or call Kathy Hoffman at the store at 920-882-8172.

Congregational Life

Organizational meeting set for Timber Rattlers game

The annual First English Timber Rattlers game outing is set for Aug. 17.

Tickets will be available later this month.

An organizational meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on July 12 in the Office at the North Site.

Kudos to picnic committee for successful June event

The church picnic is always a day to remember and this year was no exception.

Hats off to picnic committee members who created lots of wonderful fellowship for First English.

The gunnysack races and root beer floats brought back great memories.



Volunteer efforts key for Worship in the Park

If you have not attended the 9:30 a.m. service at City Park yet, bring your lawn chairs and worship in the park on July 2, 9 and 23; and August 6, 20 and 27.

Thanks to the many volunteers, sound technicians and interns who set up this service. When you receive your next Faith in Action Time & Talent form, consider volunteering to set up the park in 2007.

Lichosik Benefit exemplifies 'Giving to Others'

The theme of the Jack Lichosik Benefit that was held at the North Site was "Giving to Others."

And that's just what many volunteers, family and friends did on June 17 as they helped with Jack's benefit.

A big thank you to employees of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and First English summer interns and volunteers for contributing their time and talents at the event, including First English member,

Karie Sager, who was instrumental in organizing the benefit.

The Appleton Operations Center and South East Outagamie Chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans also provided volunteer hours and matching dollars to the benefit.

Project Bridges was another sponsor of the event.

Thank you to all who attended, volunteered or made a financial contribution.

Take time out for inspiration and renewal

Tree of Life Lutheran Prayer Retreats is a new venture that provides time apart for prayer.

The retreats offer 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 or visit www.ecsw.org and click on "Tree of Life Lutheran Prayer Retreats."

Women's retreat scheduled for Pine Lake Camp

The theme of a women's retreat at Pine Lake Camp Aug. 18-20 is "Boundless Love."

Pastor Jo Ann Faboe, from Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison, is the guest pastor.

Enjoy a weekend of study, prayer, reflection and fellowship.

The weekend begins with registration at 4 p.m. Friday and ends with lunch on Sunday.

The cost is \$80. Registration deadline is July 20. Register to Kathy Holat, 625 N. 104th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53226.

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 July 10, 17, 24 and 31 in the Lounge at the Downtown Site. The focus of conversations will be lectionary texts for the coming Sunday.

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

July 2

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

July 9

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 16

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 23

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 30

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

Task force creates youth ministry handbook

Ministry with youth, children and their families at First English Lutheran Church is a dynamic team effort. It takes the efforts and dedication of many people — staff members, parents and volunteers — to carry out this ministry. We are here to help all members grow in their faith and take their place in our congregation and world as those who proclaim and embody the love of Jesus Christ.

The goal at First English is to insure that every classroom- and church-sponsored activity is a safe place where youth feel special, cared for and loved. That's why a task force has been working on a Youth and Children's Ministry Handbook of policies and procedures for two years.

The handbook covers a wide range of issues, including accident reporting; medical emergencies; group and individual safety and security matters; and a system for background checks for volunteers and staff.

Training session offered

The team also has developed a training session for volunteers

Youth Ministry Training

What: Youth Ministry Training

When: 8 p.m. July 12
or 8 p.m. Aug. 2

Where: North Site Office

Information: Call Anita Damon at the church office.

and staff working in youth and children's ministry. Summer interns received the handbook and training. Background checks were completed on all interns. Similar training will be provided for all staff and volunteers working with youth this fall. 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, July 12, or at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2. Both sessions will be held in the office at the North Site after the worship service.

— Sheila Luck,

Youth and Children's Ministry Handbook Task Force member

A Prayer for Those Passing on Faith and Those Receiving it

*Grant to the children of the world, dear God,
this gift above all, that as they grow in strength and knowledge,
they also may grow in grace and enter into their heritage of faith in you.
Grant to all who seek to pass on faith a lively sense of your love
and a willingness to impart it. So may we all, young and old,
walk with Jesus as children of our Loving Creator. Amen.*

Learning

Bible Study to focus on discerning God's will

Discerning God's Will Bible Study will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, in the Sanctuary at the North Site. The study, which will be facilitated by Pastor Vicki, will focus on discerning God's will in our lives and making the right decisions.

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 July 11 and 25 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 meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 19 and Aug. 16 in the Lounge at the Downtown Site.

Next Judith Circle meeting will include potluck meal

The *Judith Circle* Bible Study group will not meet in July. The next study will include a potluck meal at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 1, in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site.

Sunday School teachers create faith connections

Nearly 100 volunteers are needed each year to teach Sunday School and Confirmation classes. At the Downtown Site, most grade levels have two classrooms of students. There is one classroom at the North Site.

Please help to create faith connections with your youth by serving as a teacher, team teacher, shepherd or music leader this fall.

There are ways you can help weekly, every-other week or monthly. Your help is needed, so please volunteer this month for the following fall Sunday School teaching positions:

Teachers receive complete lesson plans, including Bible background and step-by-step directions. Staff positions are open

for 3 year-olds through Grade 12.

Shepherds for grades one through three build one-on-one relationships with the children. No lesson planning is required. You will talk to the class and take them to worship. The week's lesson is taught by a rotation teacher.

Substitute teachers can request to teach their favorite grade. All lesson plans are provided.

Music leaders are needed for the first 10 to 15 minutes of the class to teach songs, help celebrate birthdays, share prayers and welcome visitors.

Please pray about becoming part of the teaching team at First English.

To volunteer, call Anita Damon at the church office.

Hey, kids: Register for day camp at Plamann Park

It's fun to play in God's great outdoors!

Youth entering grades 1-6 this fall can explore Kid's Travel Guide to the Armor of God Day Camp, which meets from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 10-13 at Plamann Park.

Youth will be hiking, swimming,

singing, learning and praising God.

Bring a lunch. Cost is \$20 per student.

Register in the summer activities registration form on the youth bulletin boards at both sites or go to www.firstenglishlutheran.org. Financial assistance is available by calling the church office.

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.

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

Thank you for supporting needy children in Iraq

Thank you for donating toys, toothbrushes, toothpaste, clothes and candy for orphan children in Iraq. Steve Herb, who is serving in Iraq, will deliver the package to the children. Steve is the nephew of Wayne and Joan Witt.

'Daily Discipleship' study available online

Hearing God's word daily is an important part of your faith journey. For personal study or group study, check out the online lectionary Bible study, "Daily Discipleship," provided by the ELCA at www.elca.org/evangelism/dailydiscipleship. Reflect on the text with a spouse, family member, co-worker, friend or others and explore how to follow Christ daily.

Scrapbooking, stamping sessions set this summer

Free scrapbooking and stamping sessions will be held July 14-15 and Aug. 11.

Friday sessions are from 6 to 11 p.m. Take advantage of the two-day July event where you can participate Friday night and return on Saturday to continue your projects. All sessions will be held in Room 110 at the Downtown Site. Call Cindy at 920-836-3008 to reserve a spot. Please bring a nonperishable food item that will be donated to a local charity.

Next baptismal workshop set for July 10

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, July 10, in the Lounge at the Downtown Site. Please RSVP by calling the church office and indicating if child care

is needed.

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 sets sail for Son Treasure

Vacation Bible School will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, July 31, through Thursday, August 3, at the North Site.

The theme is Son Treasure Island, which creates a fun and exciting island atmosphere where children will have a great time singing, creating crafts, eating snacks and playing games. But more impor-

tantly, they'll discover the treasure of God's amazing love.

The free VBS program is for children ages 3 through Grade six. Register on the summer activities registration form at both sites or go to www.firstenglishlutheran.org.

Our daily offerings will support five children in India through the Project Education India program.

Volunteers sought for Vacation Bible School

Help is needed to prepare children's snacks and/or provide snack donations for Vacation Bible School. Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Areas at both sites.

Please bring snack donations to the gifts table or kitchen at either site by Wednesday, July 26. Please label the donations, "Vacation Bible School."

Outreach & Social Ministry

Therapy addresses Attachment Disorder

Lutheran Social Services has a new program serving children and their parents or caregivers who are struggling to form healthy and nurturing relationships. The LSS Attachment Therapy Program provides hope and recovery for children struggling with Attachment Disorder. The ability to establish an enduring connection between a child and parent or caregiver early in life influences every aspect of the child's development. Children experiencing Attachment Disorder do not respond well to traditional parenting or therapy, since both rely on the child's ability to form relationships and to internalize the values of their parents. The therapy approach provides a corrective emotional experience and creates a foundation for a healthier attachment between child and parent.

For more information, contact LSS at 920-734-9171.

Adoptive Parents Support Group meets July 26

The Adoptive Parents Support Group will meet before the Wednesday night worship, from 6 to 7 p.m. on July 26, 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.

First English helps rebuild lives in New Orleans

Nancy Allen and Diane and Phil Putzer joined 23 people from several congregations last month on a mission trip to New Orleans. The trip was organized by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Neenah. What follows is their story:

We met many wonderful new friends and will cherish our memories for a lifetime.

We worked amid 90-degree temperatures with almost 100 percent humidity and all the water and Gatorade we could drink.

There were two showers for 14 women who slept on cots in one room. A group of 38 people from Iowa City also arrived.

What will remain in our hearts, however, are the stories of the people – flood victims and relief workers.

We worked on the home of Leona, a longtime member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, our sister congregation. Damage to her home was considered minimal, since it only had eight inches of flooding. All flooring and the bottom four feet of dry wall and insulation had to be removed from the first floor of her home. The kitchen and bathroom were completely gutted. We insulated and started dry walling her home.

Leona's daughter, Darian, left New Orleans the weekend before Katrina hit to celebrate a friend's birthday in Dallas. She stayed there until the first week of October. She normally leaves her vehicle at the airport, but a friend insisted on giving her a ride, so her SUV was destroyed in the four feet

of floodwater in her neighborhood. When we saw Darian's townhouse, it had been completely gutted and was ready for dry wall. The roof also had to be replaced.

Some of our group went to gut out a house that belonged to the mother of an electrician who helped out at Bethlehem Lutheran. Because of the mold and other contaminants, each person wore disposable coveralls and a respirator.

We tried to get to the work site by 6 a.m. to get started when it was fairly cool. Even so, we worked in 10-minute shifts. One group would go in with crow bars and sledge hammers and pound on walls and ceilings for 10 minutes. Then they would come out and the other group would go in with shovels and garbage cans and scoop up debris. We only worked until around 11 a.m. or noon, because the conditions were overwhelming. It took three mornings to completely gut the home.

After homes are gutted, they are inspected to see if they can be safely rebuilt. If they must be torn down, it costs homeowners \$6,000 for a demolition crew to do the gutting. So our crew saves the homeowner \$6,000 by completing the first step of the process!

If the home is safe to rebuild, the mold must be removed and the house is inspected to make sure it meets air quality standards.

We drove to our other sister congregation, Grace Lutheran Church, and walked around the neighborhood amid silence – no laughter from kids running around and no lawn mowers.

(Continued on Page 8)

Outreach & Social Ministry

50 First English members join Sole Burner team

Thank you to all First English members who participated in or donated to the American Cancer Society's Sole Burner, which was held on May 13.

First English had a team of 50 runners and walkers who joined with more than 6,300 other participants in the fundraiser.

The event raised more than \$280,000 for the fight against cancer.

Next year, the event will mark its 25th anniversary. It will be held on May 12 and will be the 11th year of involvement for First English. We would like to have a team comprised of members from all past teams. That means we would have a team of almost 250 runners and walkers!

Thanks again for your support this year and in the past, and please consider joining us next year!

– Sole Burner team captains

*Rich Erickson and Robin Ermer
and the American Cancer Society
team strider, Gary Akgulian.*

Lutheran World Relief Coffee available July 9

Lutheran World Relief coffee, tea, hot cocoa, baking cocoa and candy bars will be on sale at both sites on Sunday, July 9.

Regular coffee is \$6 per 12 oz. bag, and decaf is \$7 per 12 oz. bag. Tea is \$3 per box of 25 bags. Hot cocoa is \$5 per 12 oz. can. Baking cocoa is \$5 per 8 oz. can.

Relief efforts continue in New Orleans

(From Page 7)

Watermarks on most of the homes were about halfway up the first floor windows or higher.

One home already was torn down. Many homes were for sale without any repairs being made.

There were a few Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers in front of some homes that were being refurbished.

We spoke with one homeowner who said that he and his wife evacuated to Houston and had been living in an apartment that his wife's employer rented for them. Unfortunately, the employer is not returning to New Orleans, so his wife now is unemployed.

We also encountered two sisters, 76 and 82, who were cleaning their home. They had tubs of bleach water on the porch and were disinfecting silverware. The woman who lived in the home had her car all packed and gassed up and was ready to evacuate, but her sister said, "This will only be three or four days, so let's just leave your car here and it will be fine." The car stayed and all the items in it (including wedding photos) were destroyed. She had recently lost her husband.

We met Pastor Ed, the director of Lutheran Disaster Relief's Camp Atonement. He had come to New Orleans from Birmingham, Alabama, two weeks after Hurricane Katrina because he had a tree cutting business. While he was staying at Camp Atonement, the camp director left to become the assistant emergency director of Louisiana and the assistant director left to enter a seminary. He agreed to become the new camp director.

His wife and three daughters moved from their home to an RV on the camp grounds.

He says they'll likely be living there from two to five years.

The camp staff houses and prepares breakfast and supper for up to 150 volunteers each week.

The camp cooks in June were a young couple from UW-Stevens Point. The husband had just graduated, and his wife will get her diploma in a year.

They came to New Orleans after graduation to help out. That's how they became the camp's cooks.

You'll be hearing stories from other members of First English who have gone on subsequent mission trips to New Orleans.

How can you help?

To help the relief efforts of our sister congregations in New Orleans:

- Attend the BBQ cookouts before the 7 p.m. Wednesday night worship services at the North Site. All proceeds from the cookouts will be forwarded to our sister congregations in New Orleans.
- Help cover the costs of the mission trips by sending donations to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial St., Neenah, WI 54956. Include "Multi-Mission trips" on the check memo.
- Help support the operation of Camp Atonement by sending donations to Lutheran Social Services, 1001 W. Esplanade, Kenner, LA 70065. Note Camp Atonement on the check memo.
- Send gift cards for Sam's Club, Wal-mart, Home Depot and Lowes to Pastor Ed Brashier, c/o Lutheran Disaster Response, 6500 Riverside Drive, Metairie, LA 70003.

Support

First English receives gifts to support ministries

- Gifts have been given in memory of Harold Prausa from family and friends for the ministry of First English.
- Gifts have been given in memory of Russell Diehl from family and friends for the Organ Fund, for Musikgarten and for The Arthur Krempin School of Music & Art.

Worship

First English thanks organist Chris Forslund

First English extends a hearty thank you for the talents and inspirational music ministry of Chris Forslund, who resigned as organist the end of May, citing increased work responsibilities.

We wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Worship in the park at City Park in Appleton

Worship in the park is set for 9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 2, 9 and 23; and August 6, 20 and 27.

On Sundays when 9:30 a.m. worship is in City Park, coffee hour will be held indoors after the 8 a.m. worship service.

Worship at the North Site on Sunday and midweek

Summer worship at the North Site is 9 a.m. on Sundays and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. A fellowship BBQ meal is served before worship from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. every Wednesday.

Good stewardship starts by planning ahead

When do you decide how much you are going to put in the offering plate each week?

- When the offering plates are being distributed and you look into your billfold or purse to see what you can spare?

- When you get out of the car and get the envelope ready before you get to church, making sure you have enough left for that stop at the store after church?

- When you sit down at the kitchen table on Saturday night and look at the checkbook and decide what you can afford?

If any of these scenarios sounds like you, you've got some work to do on your stewardship!

Consider these words from Paul in 2 Corinthians 9 (Translated by "The Message"):

"Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving."

Good stewardship is intentional. It is planned ahead of time. First English Lutheran Church is not out to twist your arm into giving or to loosen your purse strings with sob stories.

First English Lutheran Church

wants to help you grow in your stewardship. You can grow in your stewardship by planning what you are going to give ahead of time, committing yourself to a goal and sticking to it.

Call it a pledge, call it an estimate of giving, call it a statement of intent ... make that commitment and stick with it. This is how you can grow in your stewardship.

"Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving."
- 2 Corinthians 9

Sometimes people try to weasel out of making a commitment by saying, "I don't know how much I'm going to make." Fair enough. That's true for some people. So don't make it an exact dollar figure. Make your commitment a percentage of your income. (The Biblical model is 10 percent, the tithe.) If you face some kind of catastrophe during the year and are not able to

keep your pledge, let the church know and everything will be fine. (Interestingly, enough people who cannot make a pledge to the church because they don't know how much they're going to make often are able to buy or rent houses and/or cars without worrying about making that commitment!)

As Paul says, take plenty of time to think it over and then make the kind of decision that will make it possible for both you and God to delight in the giving! If you're making your decision on Sunday morning, you waited too long.

— Pastor Steve McKinley

Nominations Committee seeks nominees for Council

The Nominations Committee is working on a slate of nominees for Council elections at the annual meeting in January 2007. To suggest a name, contact Judy Snavelly at snavelly@athenet.net, or call her at 920-749-9303.

Youth

Group ready to depart for National Youth Gathering

Forty-four youth and adults will leave First English on July 4 for San Antonio to participate in the 2006 ELCA National Youth Gathering. They will be joining thousands from across the world to better understand how to walk with Jesus.

The ELCA has set up a prayer ministry so congregations can pray for the people at the gathering. To sign up for a half-hour time slot, go to www.elca.org/gathering/prayer. Please keep this group in your prayers:

Leah Barton	Mike Hennessey
Amanda Behrent	Julia Hujet
Kyle Bemis	Nik Jackson
C.J. Boettcher	Emily Jahr
Kathy Boettcher	Lisa Jahr
Alicia Brinkman	Brian Kafura
John Brinkman	Jenny Krasin
Angela Bub	Pastor Dave
Cindy Cieslik	Mallory Nimis
Jeff Cieslik	Sonja Olson
Meghan Cieslik	Alysson Orsted
Libby Dahms	Brooke Propson
Bruce Doerfler	Phil Putzer
Julie Doerfler	Heidi Schreiner
Rebecca Eder	Kari Swanson
Molly Ford	Mike Truby
Jake Gosz	Olivia Truby
Katie Griggs	Alex Van Maren
Alyssa Haberland	Kathy Van Maren
Hailey Hackbarth	Ross Van Maren
Ted Hagen	Spencer Wentland
Alaina Hanstedt	Paul Winter

Support Ministry Team offers property overview

The Support Ministry Team includes the following subgroups: Finance, Property Oversight, Stewardship, and Time and Talent.

The Finance Subgroup reported that our offerings are 13.2 percent ahead of last year, but in May, fell short of our contributions by approximately \$3,000.

Property Oversight is working on various issues, including:

- Tuck-pointing and painting the exterior of the Downtown Site facility.
- Refurbishing and expanding the parking lots at both sites.
- Installing new railings for the stairs at the Downtown Site.
- Installing interior lighting at the North Site.

The Strategic Master Plan, which was finalized for the Downtown Site, prioritizes repair and maintenance for the next five years. A plan for the North Site will be developed next.

The Property Oversight Subgroup is looking for new members, especially representatives from the

Support

North Site. If you are interested, contact John Zweig at 991-1417. He can be reached by e-mail at jzweig@new.rr.com.

The Stewardship Subgroup has worked for several months to finalize plans for Consecration Sunday in November.

We will follow the program we used in 2005, with some revisions. The subgroup developed a Stewardship Management Philosophy and Policy in response to requests for special contributions for missions and special fund appeals. The policy was approved by the Support Ministry Team. Special contribution appeals not detailed in the approved budget will require approval of the Support Ministry Team, according to the new policy. For a copy of the policy, go to www.firstenglishlutheran.org, call John Zweig at 991-1417 or contact him at jzweig@new.rr.com.

Ecumenical worship to share hope and peace

First English youth and friends are invited to enjoy fellowship and dialog with Ramallah folk dancers at a special ecumenical event on Wednesday, July 19, at the North Site.

The dancers are members of the Al Raja Palestinian Folkloric Dance Troupe. Al Raja means hope.

The dancers are Christian and Muslim teens from the Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah. The school is a ministry

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The Arthur Krempin School of Music & Art is a sponsor of the group.

The students are eager to meet the people of northeastern Wisconsin.

Plan to attend a teen reception with games and a picnic at 3 p.m. A 7 p.m., an ecumenical worship will be held for people of all ages.



Congratulations, Esther, on your 100th birthday!

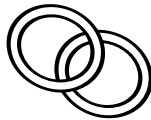
Esther Kranzusch turns 100 years old on July 31. Esther lives at 2600 S. Heritage Woods Drive, C123, Appleton, WI 54915

90+ Birthday

- Walter Schewe - July 3
1001 S. East St., Apt. 6
Appleton, WI 54915-2263
- Thelma Mulder - July 5
10618 Spicewood Trail
Boynton Beach, FL 33436-5054

Anniversaries

- Gary and Julie Schaefer celebrate 40 years together on July 2.
- Charles and June Hoepfner celebrate 64 years together on July 4.
- Daniel and Julie Beyer celebrate 25 years together on July 11.
- Kenneth and Beverly Behrent celebrate 57 years together on July 16.
- Stephen and Diana Klatt celebrate 35 years together on July 16.
- David and Susan Savage celebrate 30 years together on July 27.



Council Minutes

Congregational Council June 20, 2006

In old business, the council:

- Accepted the recommendation of the Call Committee to extend the call to Pastor Dave Lyle to a regular and permanent call with an additional compensation adjustment. This item will be presented to the congregation in September.

Other items:

- 35 youth and 10 adults will attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in San Antonio in July.
- At the Synod Assembly in Appleton in June, Bishop Jim Justman was re-elected for a six-year term and Sue Swanson of First English was elected to the Synod Council.
- On the financial side, Treasurer Mike Lokensgard reported that the year-to-date regular offerings are slightly short of the projected budget, but substantially ahead of last year. He also noted that ECHOES revenue is down. The Outreach and Social Ministry Team and Don Monson are reviewing the issue and investigating options.
- This year there are 23 interns, financed with carry-over funds from last year. An initiative is un-

derway to review and refine the purpose of the intern program, define funding options and determine a selection process for interns.

- Support Ministry chairman John Zweig said the Stewardship Management Philosophy and Policy Report was approved by the Support Ministry Team.

- The Property Oversight Ministry Team is reviewing the first five years of the North Site building. The team also is evaluating the problems, including the lighting, and is studying whether the church will be able to recover the cost of any repairs.

- Fred Hauser explained the role of the newly constituted Presidents' Council as an advisory group for the lead pastor. It is a continuation of the Transition Team. Fred also announced that Kirsten Owens and Diane Bemis will chair the Farewell Committee for Pastor Vicki.

- Pastor Detweiler reported that the first candidate for the director of music position has been interviewed. Another candidate will be interviewed on July 8 and 9. He noted that Chris Forslund has resigned as organist.

Official Acts

Baptisms

- Aidan Robert Townsend, baptized on June 4.
- Emma Mae Wollner, baptized on June 18.
- Megan Paige Kuehnl-Sheldon, baptized on June 25.
- Caleb Jon Meyer, baptized on June 25.
- Katherine Ann Jensen, baptized on June 25.

Wedding

- Matt Shudy and Mary Zimmer, married on June 3.

Funeral

- Helen Meyer, on June 16.