

SEPTEMBER  
2006

## INSIDE

• Book Club selects title for Sept. 25 discussion / 5

## Ministry Teams

### Congregational Growth

Ministry Team looks at how we welcome people / 2

### Congregational Life

Prayer Ministry expanding the way we pray for others / 3

### Learning

First English offers a variety of ways to study the Bible / 6

### Outreach

Take time to listen to God at a prayer retreat / 10

### Support

Sign up for activities at the Volunteer Fair set for Sept. 17 / 7

### Worship

More volunteers needed next year to set up City Park / 11

### Youth

Musikgarten program nurtures children's musical abilities / 12

# First English

## News

[www.firstenglishlutheran.org](http://www.firstenglishlutheran.org)

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

## All members of First English are ministers

A team of three pastors has been working at First English for most of the past few years. While this has been the desired pattern, there have been only two pastors for long stretches in the recent past. It looks as if we may go through the fall with just two pastors. This may be a blessing in disguise.

### Church is shifting toward lay leadership

The congregational self-study recommended that First English move toward a "discipleship" model of ministry, where lay people take up many of the responsibilities formerly fulfilled by pastors. We have been moving in that direction.

Ministry Teams make most of the decisions about their area of responsibility. The Resource Director oversees finances and support staff. The Communications Coordinator oversees the written announcements and is working with others to upgrade the Web site, church signs, and provide devices for the hearing-impaired. The Director of Music will oversee the music program at both sites. Lay people contact

visitors to the North Site and are becoming involved in that process at the Downtown Site. We are developing a lay-led prayer ministry. We have lay wedding coordinators who work with couples planning to get married at First English.

### Pastors focus on worship, preaching

All of these responsibilities were formerly pastoral. Shifting these tasks has freed the pastors to concentrate on worship leadership, preaching and pastoral care. We are creating new opportunities to care for our members by providing workshops for couples preparing for marriage. There also are baptismal workshops. We are involving more lay people in ministry with older members as "Special Friends" and as those who take Holy Communion to shut-ins. The group working on caring ministries is talking about the importance of a Parish Nurse.

### Selection process time-consuming

Most congregations our size with two sites have two full-time and two part-time pastors.

(Usually the second part-time pastor is available only on Sunday mornings.) Leaders at First English want to use available resources wisely and make sure that our needs fit with the gifts of the candidate they recommend for the second Associate Pastor. That process takes time. It may take until after the beginning of the new year.

### Pastor to preach, preside twice a month

Our need for a third pastor is primarily to have someone to preach and preside twice a month. In congregations of our size, most pastoral care is provided by lay people, not by the pastors. We are blessed with a competent, caring staff and capable, willing volunteers. It may be the Spirit's work that calling a third pastor is taking longer than we thought. We may find that we are not as dependent on pastors as previously thought, and that our ministry in Christ's name is being carried out by you, the baptized ministers of First English Lutheran Church.

In Christ,

*Pastor Detweiler*

## Congregational Growth

### Sponsor a new member joining First English

First English members are needed to welcome and sponsor new members joining First English in September.

Sponsors of a new family in our congregation attend the New Member Session from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25, at the North Site. Previous sponsors have found it rewarding to meet new members as they enjoy hors d'oeuvres and share stories in class. Sponsors also have the option of welcoming the new member by attending the Oct. 1 service where the new member will be received, and contacting the new member at least once within the next six months. Please call the church office to help build this faith community as a New Member Sponsor.

### New Member Sessions to be held in September

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

Other sessions include Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, 2007.

## Wear name tags to build new friendships

### Ministry Team Spotlight

How do we welcome each other at First English, a church which historically has been known as the "Welcome Place"?

That question came up during a recent meeting of the Congregational Growth Ministry Team. Although we introduced ourselves to the new team members who joined our group, in about an hour we had forgotten their names. So it became apparent that we really need to focus on how we welcome each other!



### Name tags help connect members with each other

For several weeks after Pastor Detweiler began his ministry here in February, we wore name tags to welcome and learn more about each other. But many members have stopped wearing them. Why don't we use them all the time? It would help us find out who worships with us so we can share the greater belief of God, who knows each of us better than we know ourselves. By welcoming others we are being good servants to those we meet.

### Offer the Peace to worshipers gathered to glorify God

In addition to wearing name tags, we now "Offer the Peace." When Pastor Detweiler offers the peace, I am impressed that he starts in front of the church and walks to the back. How do you offer the peace? Do you stay where you are, or do you take a few steps to extend a peace offering to those who share in God's word and worship?

### Greet members after service to build new friendships

What do you do after church? Do you explore new relationships? Have you considered getting out of your comfort zone to welcome new members and members you may recognize, but don't know their name?

### Getting involved at church proves rewarding, satisfying

Another way to welcome simply is to get involved and stay involved. Joining ministry teams is a way to welcome others, to get to know others and to build a bridge of friendship in God's world.

I am amazed at how many people I have come to know through my involvement in Parish Choir, as an usher, and, more recently, as a council member. I have forged many new friendships and have extended my welcome to people I never knew ... even after being a member for more than 20 years!

### Make an effort to welcome people throughout the week

So here is my challenge for you: How will you welcome? Will you extend your welcome to the Gathering Areas and beyond church? Will you ask someone to join you in worship? Will you share a prayer, lend a shoulder for someone to lean on or offer a much-needed hug?

Every day, God touches our lives. How will you touch the lives of those you meet? Please share your welcome with others at First English and in the community. Touch a life, much as God touches and watches over us daily.

— Jeff Diehl,  
Congregational Growth  
Ministry Team member

## Congregational Life

### First English extends thanks to Pastor Vicki for her service

Members of First English thanked Pastor Vicki Fink for her three years of interim ministry at First English on Aug. 20 and Aug. 27, her last Sundays.

Pastor Vicki's first Sunday was Dec. 7, 2003, and she provided leadership for the Worship, Outreach & Social Ministry and former Life & Growth ministry teams. A special coffee hour was held on Sunday, Aug. 20, at the North Site, with Fred Hauser providing a heart-felt temple talk. A special day of music, fellowship and a luncheon followed 10:45 a.m. worship on Sunday, Aug. 27, at the Downtown Site. Thank you to Austin Boncher for arranging the special music that was provided during the services and to the Farewell Committee, chaired by Kirsten Owens and Diane Bemis.

### First English Timber Rattlers Tailgate scores home run

First English Timber Rattlers fans enjoyed a great evening of fellowship at Fox Cities Stadium on Aug. 17, thanks to the organization committee. A big thank you to Dennis and Cheri Paisar, Linda Schraa and Dean Haas for taking charge of this annual activity.

### Scrapbooking and stamping sessions set for Sept. 15

Free scrapbooking and stamping sessions will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 15, in Room 110 at the Downtown Site. RSVP to Cindy at 920-836-3008. Bring a nonperishable food item.

## Discover the power of prayer in your life

### Ministry Team Spotlight

The Prayer Ministry Task Force has been looking for ways to actively encourage and promote prayer at First English.

By being open and responsive to the working of the Holy Spirit, we pray that God's love, guidance and healing power would be released for the benefit of all members and the community.



### Submit prayer requests to Prayer Chain members

Do you have prayers of healing, grief, support or thanksgiving? The Prayer Chain is available and ready to take your prayers. Submit prayer requests to First English prayer chain members Annette Ford (920-749-0757), Lorraine Moore (920-749-0058) or Esther Pask (920-739-6978). They will take your prayer requests and will be the first of many who will be praying for your needs.

### Your prayers can be included in Prayers of the Church

Members can be included in the Prayers of the Church which are read during worship services and printed in the bulletin announcements by calling Jan Sommerfeld at the church office.

Do you have relatives or friends who are serving in the Armed Forces? Submit their names to Jan Sommerfeld at the church

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."*

*- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19*

office or by e-mail at jan\_sommerfeld@tds.net for inclusion in the prayers printed in the bulletin announcements.

### Plans are in the works for e-mail prayer chain

Plans also are underway to begin an e-mail prayer chain. If you are interested in becoming a contact person for either the phone prayer chain or upcoming e-mail prayer chain, please call Jean Monson at the church office.

### Workshop, prayer group to help develop our faith

Other exciting additions to the prayer life at First English will include a *Prayer 101* workshop on Saturday, Dec. 2, facilitated by Rudi Pakendorf. This workshop is an introduction to prayer and will cover how we pray and ways that we can use prayer to develop our faith. The Prayer Ministry Task Force also will be looking at adding a weekly prayer group. Call Jean Monson for more information on the *Prayer 101* workshop or the weekly prayer group.

— Ellen Evensen,  
Congregational Life  
Ministry Chairwoman

## Congregational Life

### Very Special Arts Choir ready for another season

The Fox Valley Very Special Arts Choir is for adults with and without disabilities. The choir rehearses from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 5, at the Thompson Community Center.

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

### Adoptive Parents group to meet at the North Site

The Adoptive Parents Support Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 27, in the Office at the North Site.

Free childcare will be provided.

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

### Grief Support Group to meet at Downtown Site

The Grief Support Group, which is open to anyone in the community who is experiencing grief resulting from any type of loss, will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20, in the Lounge at the Downtown Site.

### Senior Ecumenical Potluck set for Sept. 21 in Neenah

A Senior Ecumenical Potluck will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21, at Congregational United Church of Christ of Neenah-Menasha, 1511 Nicolet Blvd., Neenah.

Bring a dish to pass. Call the church office at 920-725-4873 by Tuesday, Sept. 19, to register.

## Join the family fun at Crossways Fall Fest

Crossways Fall Fest will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at Crossways Pine Lake Camp near Waupaca.

Activities include a craft sale, quilt auction, bakery, games, scarecrow building, face painting and a pie-eating contest. A 5-K Fun Walk/Run will be held at 9:30 a.m. Get

sponsors and join the fun as an individual or as a family. Take a stroll around Pine Lake Camp and raise money! An auction at 11 a.m. features dozens of quilts, wall hangings and crafts.

For directions to the camp, visit [www.crosswayscamps.org](http://www.crosswayscamps.org).

## 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 Saturday, 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.

Couples getting married in July through December of 2007 can attend the September 2006 session or a session that will be held on Feb. 10, 2007.

## Confirmation students, mark your calendars

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 their parents will meet in the Choir Room and eighth- and ninth-graders and their parents will meet in the Sanctuary. 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

## Learning

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.

## Learning

### Ministry Teams to gather day after Labor Day

Ministry Teams will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5, in the Sanctuary at the North Site.

### Synod program prepares lay people for 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.

### 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 Sept. 12 and 26 in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site. Pastor Detweiler will facilitate the study, which will reflect on God's work in our lives.

### Third-graders to receive Bible on Rally Sunday

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. Meet in the Gathering Area before worship.

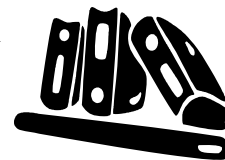
## October Book Fair to benefit church libraries

The First English Lutheran Church Library Committee is sponsoring a Book Fair at both sites on Sunday, Oct. 8 and Sunday, Oct. 15.

Many great books will be on display beginning Oct. 1. Orders will be taken Oct. 8 and 15. Think ahead to Christmas, birthdays and other occasions.

Augsburg Fortress is furnishing the books and donating a copy of those on display at both sites, so

our libraries will benefit when you purchase books.



### Book Club selects 'Gilead'

September's Book Club selection is "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson. Participants will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25, in the Gathering Area at the North Site.

All adults who enjoy reading and good conversation are welcome to come.

## 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.

## New study explores God's grace, healing power

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 so you can read the introductory materials before the first meeting.

## 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 Sept. 11, 18 and 25 in the Lounge at the Downtown Site. The study will not be held on Sept. 4.

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 to discuss the following texts:

#### Texts for Sept. 10

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

#### Texts for Sept. 17

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

#### Texts for Sept. 24

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

### 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 Pastor Dave and Anita Damon and share a meal 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. RSVP to the church office for child care.

## Study the Bible in a variety of venues

First English offers many different formats to read the Bible and learn about God's love. Among them are:

- **Adult Learning Hour**

Learn how to hear God's voice during Adult Learning Hour, which will meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 221 at the Downtown Site and at 9:45 a.m. in the Office at the North Site, beginning Sunday, Sept. 10. It doesn't matter if it's your first or 101st time in a Bible study group, everyone is welcome at the sessions, which run through May 20.

Come as often as you can.

- **Women's Circles**

Women's Bible studies are a great way to connect every month. Circles are monthly Bible studies in which women gather to explore faith topics and meet new friends. Discussions include articles published in "Lutheran Woman Today" magazine. September's study is "Hope in God in Times of Suffering." Visit [www.lutheranwomantoday.org](http://www.lutheranwomantoday.org) to view the complete session. Subscribe to the magazine at 800-328-4648.

Upcoming circles:

**Judith Circle** meets at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5, in the lounge at the Downtown Site.

**Sarah Circle** meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Call 920-739-7972 for directions to the host home.

**Miriam Circle** meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Call 920-733-1039 for directions to the host home.

- **Wednesday Study**

A study of the book, "Traveling Light," by Max Lucado, begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 27,

in the Lounge at the Downtown Site.

Lucado shepherds readers through the beloved 23rd Psalm, leading them beside the still waters of quiet reflection and using familiar verses to walk through an inventory of emotional and spiritual baggage.

Lighten your load as you step ahead in faith. Donna Bub is the facilitator.

- **Thursday Study**

The purpose of studying Isaiah and Timothy 1 and 2 is to help us see God's love in our world and inspire us to take part in God's mission of love to the world.

The study, which meets weekly beginning Thursday, Oct. 5, is from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the lounge at the Downtown Site.

The study is open to men and women. Barb Mattheis is the facilitator. Books are available the first day of class.

- **Early-morning study**

Enjoy a cup of coffee and visit the *Women's Early Riser's Bible Study* from 6 to 7 a.m. beginning Thursday, Sept. 14, in the Lounge at the Downtown Site. The study, "Listening to God, a Guide to Discernment," focuses on how we know that God is calling. Annette Ford is the facilitator.

- **Bethel Series**

*Bethel Series* 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.

(See **STUDY**, Page 7)

## Learning

### New task force forming to show appreciation

A new task force is forming to develop innovative ways to show appreciation for volunteers serving the Learning Ministry at First English.

The task force will meet two-three times during the school year. The first meeting will be held in October.

The estimated time commitment on the task force would be about 4-6 hours.

Barry and Lisa Hoff are coordinating the effort.

### STUDY: *Bethel Series* offers overview of Bible

(From Page 6)

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 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.

## Find out how you can make a difference at church

Members and guests of First English can learn more about volunteer opportunities available at church at the Volunteer Fair on Sunday, Sept. 17.

The festivities will include hand-outs, maps, drawings, snacks and prizes.

Take this opportunity to visit the many booths and discover exciting new volunteer opportunities. "Veterans" will be on hand to answer questions about key responsibilities and time commitments. Take advantage of the morning by introducing yourself to someone new.

The updated 2007 Faith in Action" Time & Talent form will be available, along with this year's volunteer catalog.

Consider volunteering for at least one new area for you or your family in the upcoming year. Training and instruction are available.

### Take an inventory of your spiritual gifts

If you are interested in finding

## Support

out what your spiritual gifts are, visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org), select "evangelism" under selected topics, click on "assessments" and select "Spiritual Gifts."

The survey, which can be completed at your computer, consists of 60 brief questions and determines what your skills and gifts are.

Hard copies are available by contacting Jean Monson at the church office.

First English staff recently completed this assessment and found it helpful.

The Time & Talent Subgroup would like all members to consider volunteering for at least one new area for the next year.



## Sunday School begins Sept. 10 at First English

Sunday School begins Sept. 10. At the Downtown Site, classes begin at 9:30 a.m. At the North Site, classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

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

## Learning

are on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area at either site or visit [www.firstenglishlutheran.org](http://www.firstenglishlutheran.org) and click on "Learn" to download a registration form.

## Support

### Hearing assistance available during worship

Hearing assistance systems recently were purchased by First English and installed at both sites by John Dougherty.

Hearing-assist devices are available to use during the worship services. At the Downtown Site, ask an usher for a personal receiver. At the North Site, ask a sound board technician.

Please return the devices to an usher or sound board technician after the service.

These devices are compatible with hearing aids equipped with a neckloop and T-coil switch or an induction earphone. If you have a pacemaker or have other medical issues, consult a physician before using this device.

Please report static or other issues you may have with the devices to Jan Sommerfeld at the church office.

### ELCA funds relief efforts in Sudan after tsunami

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has given \$200,000 for humanitarian relief in the Darfur region of western Sudan and has given \$1 million to rebuild homes in Indonesia as that country recovers from the Christmas tsunami of 2004.

The ELCA could do that because of your faithful giving. As you give regularly to First English Lutheran Church, you make it possible for the ELCA to do such great things around the world. Hurting people thank you for your giving.

## Give thanks with your time, talents and offerings

After you've had dinner at George's Steak House, Good Company, Applebee's or Lombardi's Steak House, you probably add 15-20 percent to the bill for the tip.

"Tip" is derived from "To Improve Performance." If you're like me, you usually pick out a round number that represents between 15-20 percent of your bill.

But, much to the consternation of my family, there have been times when I have left a tip much smaller than that, as a reflection of my unhappiness with the service. Once or twice I have been so appalled by the service and the behavior of the server that I have left only a small token amount.

Leave nothing and the server might think you just forgot. Leave \$1, and the server will know you were very unhappy.

### The offering we give to God is not a tip for good service

Tipping is an accepted social practice. But sometimes I worry that there are people who view their giving to the church like giving a tip to God for good service. If I feel like God has been particularly good to me this week, if the weather was good, and the work wasn't too much of a hassle, and I've been feeling good, and the Packers are playing well and the kids stayed out of trouble, I'll give generously.

But if God has not served me well this week, if it rained every day, the boss was grouchy, and my bum knee has been killing me, and we got called in for a meeting with the teacher and maybe, just



maybe, Brett Favre really is over the hill, then the church better not count on me to put much in the offering plate.

It's no way to run a railroad, a church or a life. That offering you put in the plate, mail to the office or transmit via the Simply Giving electronic funds transfer is not a tip. It is your commitment made out of gratitude to God in thanksgiving for the gifts that surround you and hold you up every day.

### Learn how to use your gifts at the Volunteer Fair Sept. 17

There are gifts that you have that no one else at First English Lutheran Church has. How will you use them to the glory of God? The third annual Volunteer Fair is Sept. 17. That will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how you can make your gifts part of the mission of First English.

— Pastor Steve McKinley

Pastor McKinley is a retired minister and author. He will be preaching at the Downtown Site on Consecration Sunday, Nov. 5. You can call him at 651-452-2353 or contact him by e-mail at smckin1050@aol.com.

## Outreach & Social Ministry

### Ministry Team collecting layettes for needy families

The Outreach & Social Ministry Team is focusing on one ministry each month. The team would like to involve every member in at least one activity for Lutheran World Relief. In September, the team is collecting:

#### Layettes

The following items can be new or gently used. Please place them in the bassinet in the Gathering Area at both sites:

#### 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

A financial contribution to First English Lutheran Church, noting "LWR Layettes" on the memo area of your check, also can be used for the committee to purchase additional items to complete these kits.

### Find baby sweaters at local rummage sales

To help meet the goal of 250 layettes for LWR, volunteers are needed to go to rummage sales near their home on Fridays or Saturdays in September to purchase baby sweaters. Sign up at the layette display in the Gathering Area at either site and you will be contacted and given the address of a sale near your home.

## Hurricane Katrina sparks new spirit of giving

*Members of First English helped 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 a story from Kris.*

Out of the devastation from Katrina comes renewal — renewal of the human heart and soul. For the hundreds or possibly thousands of people from across the country who have come together because of Katrina, I feel there is a new spirit of giving and receiving in this country. The lives of all of these people have been forever changed, changed in ways that touch the very heart of faith and trust in God. By spending time in New Orleans, my faith is once again renewed, and I know that God will provide and bring new hope to all those who have been affected in some way by Katrina.

I feel blessed to have been able to travel to New Orleans with my daughter and 20-plus strangers, who now are my friends, and to give my time and energy to more strangers who also are my friends. If not for Katrina, I would have never known any of these people the way I do now. I can't help but think of all the good that has and

will come from Katrina.

I believe that I gained far more than I gave, and my life has been blessed because of this trip. I know how thankful the

people we helped are. I sent a note and a picture to Leona (owner of the home we worked on) about a month after our trip. After she received it, she called me to thank me for the card and told me how much it touched her. She also said, "I have never had so much help from anyone in my life, especially from strangers."

This is quite a statement because as I learned about Leona's life, I know that she has had more than her share of trials and difficulties to overcome.

It has been one year since Katrina hit and great progress has been made. However, there is still much to be done. I hope that this work will continue in New Orleans and elsewhere in the Gulf with many new faces bringing hope and renewal to those in need.

— Kris Helm



## Therapy addresses Attachment Disorder in kids

The Lutheran Social Services Attachment Therapy Program provides hope and recovery for children struggling with Attachment Disorder.

Children with this disorder do not respond well to traditional parent-

ing or therapy. This 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.

## Outreach & Social Ministry

### Supplies still needed to reach school-kit goal

Spiral notebooks, rulers and 2½-inch erasers are the items most needed to reach the goal of 150 school kits to send to needy children around the world through Lutheran World Relief.

Please bring these supplies to the school desk in the Gathering Area at either site. Thank you to the sewers who soon will have 190 cloth bags completed.

### Quilting group to gather at church after Labor Day

Quilting begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 11, in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site. Quilting needs include old sheets and 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.

### Publication lists activities at community center

"Senior Bridges," a monthly publication that lists activities at the Thompson Community Center, is available in the Gathering Area at both sites.

Activities at the Appleton facility are open to the community.

### ECHOES announces new store hours

ECHOES Gift & Thrift, an Outreach Ministry of First English at 1320 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton, is closing at 5 p.m. on weekdays. Store hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Take time to listen to God at a prayer retreat

If God were trying to tell you something, would you know? Take time to rest and pray at "Claimed by God's Love," the first of eight prayer retreats offered by Tree of Life Lutheran Prayer Retreats 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](http://www.ecsw.org) and click on "Tree of Life Lutheran Prayer Retreats."

## ECHOES states mission, seeks volunteers

The Outreach & Social Ministry Team is developing a mission statement for the First English Lutheran Church resale store. The latest draft follows:

"ECHOES Gift & Thrift is an outreach ministry of First English Lutheran Church that gives back to the community by offering benevolence funding and quality, low-priced resale items to our customers in a Christian environment. We provide exceptional customer service and show sincere appreciation to our volunteers, who are the cornerstone of this lay-led ministry."

Does this mission statement strike a chord? Do

you, as a First English member, feel there is a need within the community for this type of outreach effort? Would you consider volunteering at the store to assist this ministry? If you would like more information, call Jean Monson at the church office, call Kathy Hoffman at ECHOES at 920-882-8172 or complete the form below and return to the church office.



### Volunteer at ECHOES!

Volunteers are needed for coverage of store hours. A number of our summer volunteers are heading back to school and we need additional volunteers. Complete the form below and place it in the offering basket or call Kathy Hoffman at 920-882-8172 or Jean Monson at the church office.

Yes, I am interested in volunteering this fall at ECHOES.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Worship

### North Site worship times resume to regular schedule

On Sept. 10, the regular worship hours of 8:30 and 9:45 a.m. will resume at the North Site. Sunday School also begins at 9:45 a.m.

### Free CPR training available for First English members

CPR-defibrillator training sessions will be held for ushers, North Site welcome hosts and anyone involved in worship services who would like to learn how to respond to emergencies that may arise during worship services.

The free sessions will be conducted by American Red Cross instructors from 6 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 6, in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site or from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7, in the Nursery at the North Site.

For spot availability, call Jean Monson at the church office or e-mail her at [jean\\_monson@tds.net](mailto:jean_monson@tds.net).

### More volunteers needed for worship in the park

Another wonderful summer of 9:30 a.m. worship at City Park has come to an end.

As we look to next year's worship in the park, a larger setup and takedown crew will be needed. Consider volunteering for this role at First English to make next year's worship in the park a reality. Indicate your interest on the 2007 Faith in Action Time & Talent form that will be distributed on Sunday, Sept. 17, at church or contact Jean Monson at the church office.

## Support Fair Trade by purchasing LWR coffee

Lutheran World Relief is a leader in the faith-based Fair Trade-Equal Exchange.

LWR has worked with Equal Exchange for almost a decade to make Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa and sugar available to Lutherans in the United States through the LWR Fair Trade Coffee Project.

Since 1986, Equal Exchange has led the country in Fair Trade, supporting small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

By purchasing 100 percent of their products according to Fair Trade standards, EE helps impoverished farmers build a better future for their communities.

Organized as a worker-owned cooperative, Equal Exchange is a for-profit company with a non-

## Outreach & Social Ministry

profit mission, proving that Fair Trade is a viable, self-sustaining business model.

Through Fair Trade, farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust — all elements missing in the conventional coffee market.

With your support, farming communities invest in education, health care and environmentally-sustainable farming techniques.

For more information, visit [www.lwr.org/coffee](http://www.lwr.org/coffee).

**The next sale will be Sunday, Sept. 10, at both sites.**

## 50+ Discovery provides glimpse into your future

First English is offering an opportunity for members age 50 and older to participate in 50+ Discovery, a research tool that gives participants a snapshot of the future.

This Senior Ministry Inventory, which will be conducted in October, will provide an assessment of what you will need to lead an independent, healthy lifestyle.

This ministry project consists of 174 questions designed to help you anticipate your future needs. You will receive a confidential, personal report that will help you:

- Anticipate your future health and financial needs
- Discover community resources

- Maintain your current standard of living

There is a \$12 processing fee for each inventory. All information is confidential. Individual reports will not be given to congregations or used by any third party.

First English Lutheran Church will receive an anonymous summary report of all the inventories completed in the congregation. The statistics in this report will be used by the Congregation Council and Ministry Teams to prepare budgets, define ministries and develop programs that meet the needs of the congregation.

This project is co-sponsored by the ELCA. Look for more information in weekly bulletin announcements.

## Youth

### Habitat for Humanity shed build a success

Thanks to Rich Erickson, summer interns and the junior high Adventure Campers for building a shed at a Habitat home. See their work at 501 E. Murray Ave., Appleton.

### Prayer partners needed for eighth-grade students

Each year, First English members volunteer as prayer partners for a confirmation student.

As eighth- and ninth-graders are put to the challenge of learning about their faith, they need your prayer support. This year, we need prayer partners for eighth-grade students. If you would like to pray regularly for one confirmation, call Anita Damon or Julie Doerfler at the church office.

### Salvation Army requests donations of cereal

First English was designated the "Cheerio Church" by the Salvation Army because of an on-going need for breakfast cereal. Please bring a box of cereal to church at either site. Look for signs where your donation can be placed.

### First English volunteers needed at Salvation Army

Adult volunteers from First English are needed from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, beginning Sept. 7, to prepare and serve meals at the Salvation Army.

Sign up on the bulletin board at the Downtown Site or on the kiosk at the North Site. For information, call Julie Doerfler at the church office.

## Join the Fox Cities CROP Hunger Walk

The motto of the 2006 Fox Cities CROP Hunger Walk, "We walk because they walk," refers to 840 million people who go to bed hungry every night. They are people just like you, but because of poverty, they must walk to accomplish the most basic tasks.

They walk for food, water and firewood; to escape violence; to seek shelter; to farm their fields; to find employment; and to go to school.

A CROP Walk is fun, but it also is an opportunity to learn what millions of people have to do each day just to survive – walk. When

you walk in a Crop Walk, you walk with the world.

Please join members of the First English team to walk in this year's CROP Walk. Sign up in the Gathering Area at either site.

This 3-mile walk (there also is a 1-mile or 6-mile option) will take place at 1 p.m. at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 803 E. College Ave., Appleton, on Oct. 8.

Meet in the Gathering Area at the Downtown Site at 12:15 p.m.



## Explore the exciting world of music with children

Musikgarten is a music and movement program that helps to nurture children's inborn musical abilities.

The program, which is sponsored by The Arthur Krempin School of Music & Art, is a great way to have fun with the entire family. You don't have to have a great voice to have fun in Musikgarten — you just have to want to have fun!

New parent orientation is at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25, in Room 220 at the Downtown Site. The fall semester begins Oct. 3. Information and registration forms are in the Gathering Areas at both sites and at the church office.

For information, call Musikgarten instructor, Traci Diehl, at 920-757-6176.



### Musikgarten programs:

- Babies (Birth-16-months): 9:30 -10 a.m. Tuesdays
- Toddlers (16-months-3 years): 10:15-10:45 a.m. Tuesdays; 6-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
- Musik Makers (5-7 years): 6-6:45 p.m. Tuesdays
- Sibling Class: 5-5:45 p.m. Tuesdays

## Special congregation meeting set for Sept. 24

A special congregational meeting will be held at noon on Sunday, Sept. 24, at the North Site to call Pastor Dave Lyle to a permanent call as a member of the pastoral staff and to change the process of electing council members. The current by-laws, along with the proposed changes, follows:

### By-laws Congregation Council Chapter 12 B 12.02.

The nominating committee shall prepare the ballot for election Congregation Council members. The ballot shall include a minimum of 4-7 nominees. Members of this congregation who are eligible shall be asked by this committee to permit their names to be placed on the official ballots. ~~which shall be mailed to all members eligible to vote. The ballots are to be returned by mail or may be deposited in a receptacle to be placed in the church for that purpose, two Sundays before the scheduled annual meeting. The ballots shall be tabulated by the Nominating Committee, which shall report the results of the election to the congregation. It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to assure that each member only votes once.~~ Nominees will be solicited in June with biographical information sent to the congregation by Dec. 1. Voting will take place at the annual meeting in January.

### 90+ Birthday

- Florence Scharmann - Sept. 6  
921 W. Bell, Appleton, WI 54914

### Anniversaries

- Walt and Milly Rugland celebrate 45 years together on Sept. 2.
- Peter and Mary Vandenberg celebrate 35 years together on Sept. 4.
- Gary and Nancy Strebe celebrate 30 years on Sept. 18.
- Gary and Kathy Larson celebrate 25 years on Sept. 19.
- Robert and Judith Schabo celebrate 40 years together on Sept. 24.

## Council Minutes

The Congregation Council met July 18 and August 15.

At the July meeting, the Council received a report from the Nominating Committee and discussed the protocols for the Committee going forward. It agreed with the recommendation that there be no fewer than seven Council candidates for five positions and confirmed the process to be followed that candidates are recommended by the Committee, approved by the Council and then five are elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

In other matters the Council noted:

- A permanent outdoor sign is ready to be constructed at the North Site.
- Consecration Sunday is set for Nov. 5.
- 34 youth and 11 adults attended the San Antonio youth assembly.
- Weekly giving is 11 percent ahead of last year, but lags the budgeted increase of 17 percent.
- Agreed to review ECHOES' status in fall after a full year in the new location.

At the August meeting, the Council was invited by Call Committee chair Dick Gamble to discuss the issue before the Committee with respect to the two affordable options for the third pastor position.

One option is an every-Sunday, partial-week experienced pastor, the other is an every-Sunday, all-week, recent seminary graduate. The Committee has interviewed a candidate with respect to each option. Discussion was far ranging; the Committee was encouraged to maintain regular reports to the congregation as it resolves the issue.

The Council also:

- Congratulated Pastor Vicki on a successful interim call at First English.
- Set Sept. 24 for a Special Congregational meeting to call Pastor Dave Lyle to a permanent call as a member of the pastoral staff and to change the process of electing Council members.
- Reviewed financial reports.
- Heard testimonial reports from two interns.
- Noted that the staff will have a retreat August 21 and 22.

## Official Acts

### Baptisms

- Lily Kay Sommer, baptized on Aug. 6.
- Gillian Saoirse Wilson, baptized on Aug. 6.
- Jayda Angeline Missall, baptized on Aug. 6.
- Maxxon Davis Missall, baptized on Aug. 6.
- Andrew William Jalousynski, baptized on Aug. 27
- Palmer William Monsen, baptized on Aug. 27.

### Weddings

- Eric VanderWielen and Kellie Bruch, married on Aug. 12.
- Dan Austin and Dana Sommerfeld, married on Aug. 12.
- Travis Moore and Lindsey Lewis, married on Aug. 19.
- Mark Lund and Taya Knaak, married on Aug. 26.
- John Kohlman and Andrea Steele, married on Aug. 26.