



First English News

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

JULY 2009

INSIDE

Congregational Growth

New Member Workshops / 2

Congregational Life

Join the Couple Prayer Series / 2

Youth & Family

Summer programs / 5

Learning

Prepare for fall learning time / 7

Outreach & Social Ministry

LWR coffee and the Tour de Revs / 8

Support

May offering / 8

Worship

Interim pastor update / 12

50+

August barbeque / 13

Health

Walk to Hawaii / 15

Praying together in our family of faith

What is important to you in your faith? More and more my answer to that question would have to be prayer. As I have the opportunity to be with people who are going through heartache over illness or the death of a loved one, family struggles, money concerns, or uncertainty about the future in general, it matters very little what I say. It matters a great deal that I pray. This is one of the reasons that I am increasingly supportive of the opportunities that our congregation will be providing to learn more about prayer. You don't need prior Bible knowledge and you don't need to be an expert to take advantage of these options. Just come expecting to learn and grow!

Couple's Prayer Series: Give your marriage a 500 times better chance of avoiding divorce - start praying together as a couple. This series will give you a jump start, providing skills on how you go about praying together, and how you do it in a way that

doesn't feel threatening. Look for more detailed information in this newsletter on page 2.

Walt Wangerin Prayer Series: Next fall this ten week video series will be offered on Wednesdays, and will give people a chance to learn about and discuss simple, common-sense elements of prayer. Pastor Wangerin shares inspiring personal stories to bring prayer to life. Even if you can't make the entire series, come join us for as many nights as possible.

What else? The Congregational Life Ministry Team is discussing many prayer options including ministering to those desiring prayer after the services, praying in a group for congregational needs, and possibly beginning either a "Befrienders" or "Stephen's Ministry" group. If you are intrigued or interested by any of these ministries, please tell someone on the Congregational Life Ministry Team.

Blessings,

Pastor Mary

SUMMER WORSHIP North Site

• Sundays

Summer Worship at the North Site is at 9 a.m. through Sept. 6. (Downtown Site services remain at 8, 9:15 and 10:30 a.m.)

• Wednesdays

Midweek worship at the North Site is at 6:30 p.m. during the summer. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and gather around the campfire afterward!

Worship in the park

Worship at City Park at 9:15 a.m., weather permitting, is on the following Sundays:

- July 12 • Aug. 2
- July 19 • Aug. 9
- Aug. 16

Music ministry

If you would like to provide special music for one of the park services, contact Melissa Moll in the church office.

Congregational Growth



2009 New Member Workshops at First English

If you would like to join First English, you are invited to attend a one-evening New Member Session from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the Downtown Site on **Sunday, July 19**.

If this July evening does not work for you, in September/ October you are invited to attend a three-part New Member Session from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Downtown Site on the following dates:

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Wednesday, Oct. 14

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 either one of these New Member Sessions. Please call the church office at 920-733-2303 if you plan to attend and to RSVP for child care.

Congregational Life



Lunchtime Organ Series

Don't miss these two upcoming Lunchtime Organ Recital Series concerts:

- Mark Paisar
Wednesday, July 29, 12:15 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Neenah
- Don Verkuilen
Wednesday, August 5, 12:15 p.m. at the FELC Downtown Site

The Couple Prayer Series

The "Together with Jesus" Couple Prayer Series for engaged or married couples is a six-week, one-evening-per-week experience in shared faith developed and offered with three significant facts in mind.

- 1.) The projected divorce rate for U.S. married couples is roughly 1 divorce in every 2 marriages.
- 2.) 2002 nation-wide research showed that married couples who attend church together weekly have a divorce rate of just 1 divorce in every 6 marriages.
- 3.) A 1980 nation-wide study showed that married couples who attend church together weekly and who also pray together daily experience a divorce rate of just 1 divorce in every 1,105 marriages.

This means that couples who attend church together weekly and who also pray together daily in their own comfortable way have a 50,000% higher chance to enjoy a happy, life-long marriage than the average couple in our nation today, including Christian couples. (Divorce projections for Christian couples married today stand at 48-52%, varying slightly by denomination.)

At The Couple Prayer Series, you'll hear more about the compelling case for daily Couple Prayer and experience first-hand how you, too, can safely and peacefully share Couple Prayer with your spouse in ways that will dramatically enhance your faith, your marriage, and the faith and well-being of your entire family.



- **Where:** First English Lutheran Church – North Site.
- **When:** Wednesday Evenings, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. or 7:30-9:00 p.m. July 15 – Aug. 19.
- **Who:** All married, engaged or committed couples.
- **Registration:** Call the church office at 733-2303.
- **Fee:** \$10 per couple for print materials.
- **Child care:** will be provided for a nominal fee.
- **What:** Some couples who have attended this series want to tell you about it:

"The Couple Prayer Series was such a blessing to us both. It was fantastic."

"The examples of how to pray are priceless. We'd never have known where to start on our own."

"This was awesome. To come together with God as a couple surpassed any expectations we had."

"I got closer to my wife, to God, and to Jesus."

"Nothing we've ever done has made the difference this has made in our lives. It's tremendous."

Congregational Life



Wedding Ministry Annual Review

The Congregational Life Ministry Team will begin reviewing the Wedding Ministry at First English Lutheran on an annual basis. Beginning this August, the wedding guidelines, handouts, fees and workshops will be reviewed. Emilie Larson will be leading the 2009 review which will consist of 3-4 meetings from August through late September. Some research and project work outside the meetings will be needed. If you are interested in working with Emilie on this project, please contact Jean Monson in the church office or by calling Emilie direct at 810-0815.

“Getting Married, Getting Started” session

For those couples getting married in 2009 and 2010, you will be asked to attend the next “Getting Married, Getting Started” session on Saturday, September 19 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site. This session will assist you in planning your ceremony you will also learn more about the wedding coordinator ministry and meet other couples who are also getting married at First English. Please RSVP in the church office.



Successful Church Picnic

Sunshine, smiles and fellowship were obvious at the May 31 church picnic. The event was a wonderful way to kick off summer activities and thank teachers for their valuable commitment in 2008-2009. The event was also a way to introduce and welcome the 2009 summer interns. A dedicated crew of key volunteers helped make this a memorable event. When you see them, remember to thank Deni Lundwall, Elizabeth Hensel, Margaret Zweig, Cathy Jokela, Ross Larson, Ellen Evensen, Jeff

Boettcher, Bob and Beth Eick plus the National Youth Gathering adults & students. In addition, multiple other volunteers assisted on the day of the picnic, by helping with games & activities, donating food or helping set up, serve or clean up. Thank you all. Over 300 people attended this always popular annual event. See you next year!



What has happened that would make God smile?

At the Renewing Congregations Workshop, attended by twenty-three from First English, Pastor Dave Daubert asked the question, “What has happened that would make God smile?”

- Picture God smiling to hear Julia Hujet, on her first day as a First English Summer Intern say, “Today I started the job I’ve dreamed about since I was in elementary school.” Yes, God is raising up leaders through summer ministry.
- An ECHOES customer said, “I just love shopping at this store because everyone here welcomes my children. No matter what day I come to the store, the people who are working always are friendly and kind. It makes me want to come here more often.”

Pastor Dave Dauber said at the East Central Synod Assembly, “God’s church does not have a mission. God’s mission has a church. God has a plan. And . . .

you’re it.” We (the church) are it. Tell the stories you experience of people equipped by the Holy Spirit to live as disciples every day. People equipped to be the church, to do the work of the church.

You are invited to capture and share your moments, events, ministries or testimonials that would make God smile. These will be included in future newsletters. Please take a few minutes and send them to adamon@felc.com or send a note to Anita Damon in the church office. Thank you.



Congregational Life



Monthly Women's Bible Studies

Women are invited to visit a Bible study, "Mary: A Woman For All Seasons," which looks at three seasons in the life of Mary: 1) the annunciation, 2) kinships, friendships and holy encounters and 3) Mary among the disciples.

•**The Judith Circle** does not meet in July, but will meet for a potluck lunch and study on Tuesday, August 4, at noon in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site.

•**The Miriam Circle** meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, at Anita Damon's home, 1106 E. Byrd St., Appleton. Call regrets only 920-739-8788.

Ministry Team Reminder

A friendly reminder that ministry team will NOT be meeting in July. Teams will again meet on Tuesday, August 11 at the North Site. They will begin the evening meeting together in the North Site Gathering Area at 6:30 p.m. Ministry team meetings will be held at the North Site from August - December 2009. Note that the December meeting is the first Tuesday of the month (Dec. 1).

Scrapbooking Session

Free scrapbooking and stamping sessions are held monthly. The next session meets Friday, July 10 from 6 to 11 p.m. in Room 110 at the Downtown Site. Please RSVP to Cindy at 920-836-3008 to reserve a spot. Those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for a local charity. Hope to see you there!

Summer play group to visit Appleton parks

Join other young parents from First English as they explore a variety of Appleton parks this summer with their children. There's no need to RSVP, simply meet in the pavilion area of each park at 9 a.m. Please note: Children must be accompanied by an adult and each family should bring their own refreshments.

Saturdays at 9 a.m.:

July 18: Pierce Park;
1035 W. Prospect

Aug. 15: Erb Park;
1800 N. Morrison St.

Wednesdays at 9 a.m.:

July 8: Peabody Park;
601 N. Green Bay Road

July 22: Alicia Park;
1302 W. Cedar St.

Aug. 12: Jones Park;
301 W. Lawrence St.

Aug. 26: Colony Oaks Park;
801 N. Briarcliff Drive



Church Library News

Books for your summer reading

Come to your church libraries for many choices for your summer reading. Continue to grow spiritually. The authors will guide you in responding to God's call to serve and to witness at home, in the neighborhood, in the workplace and at church.

These books will be on the display tables for the month of July :

- "Celebrating the Rest of Your Life," by David Yount. (248.85) As you age, Yount believes your life should expand, not contract, and your spirit should grow.
- "The Confident Christian: Seeing with the Eyes of Faith," by Dr. Gary L. Harbaugh. (248.4) The author helps you discover ways in which you are already a confident Christian and areas in which you can further develop your faith.
- "Morning B.R.E.W.," by Dr. Kirk Jones.(248.3) A guide to creating your own morning devotion. "Use his words to jump-start your day with gusto and grace!"

- "LifeKeys," by Jane A. B. Kise. (248.4) Discover the richness of all that God made you to be.

- "People of Purpose: 40 Life Lessons from the New Testament," by Robert Driver-Bishop.(225.9) The author provides concrete examples of what it means to practice the Christian faith.

- "Unfettered Hope," by Marva J. Dawn. (261) A call to faithful living, this book gives clarifying, energizing, necessary words for Christian understanding and obedience.

NCLA meeting

The Fox Valley Chapter of the National Church Librarians Association invites you to their fall meeting on Saturday, October 3, at Ascension Lutheran Church, 2911 Libal Street, Green Bay. Amy Vanden Plas from Butterfly Books, DePere, will bring books and share reviews on the theme, "Shelf 13 - What's On It for Kids?" and will talk about children's books and DVD's on the topics of addiction, adoption, death, divorce, handicaps, illness, multicultural understanding and step-parenting.

Learning



Daily Bible Connections

1.) "Daily Discipleship," a free study guide based on the Sunday gospel lesson, is available on the bulletin board and online at www.elca.org.

2.) "Taking Faith Home," a resource with family conversation starters, prayers and Bible readings, available on the bulletin board.

The July lectionary texts are listed below.

July 5 - 5 Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 12 - 6 Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 19 - 7 Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26 - 8 Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-19

Ephesians 3:13-21

John 6:1-21



Fall learning time registration

Learning Time for children and adults begins Sunday, September 13 and Wednesday, September 16. Classes at the Downtown Site begin at 9:15 a.m. Classes at the North Site begin at 9:35 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 are on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area or visit www.felc.com and click on "Youth Programs." Then scroll to "Children's Learning Hour," for the link to download a registration form.

The Downtown Site has classes for ages 3 (by Sept. 1) through high school. At the North Site parents with children ages 2 or 3 by Sept. 1 attend class together in the nursery, and there are classes for ages 4 through high school.



Preparing for Learning Time

Pray... The entire congregation is asked to pray for God's guidance and discernment for those being called to teach classes this fall and for those involved in seeking the teachers and leaders. Approximately one hundred volunteers teach or assist with confirmation classes, Sunday School, Wednesday KidsLife and Adult Learning. How can you help meet this need? Everyone can find a role as teachers, team teachers, parent helpers, supply organization, room decorating, substitutes or office support. There are ways you can help weekly, every other week or monthly with the age-level you prefer. Teachers receive complete lesson plans with step by step directions to teach. Please prayerfully consider walking alongside students as they learn and explore their faith.

We are in need of teachers at the Downtown Site for the 3 year old and 4 year olds classes, Grades 3, 4, 7, 8 and high school. At the North Site, teachers are needed for Grades 1-4 and high school. Call Donna Haberland or Anita Damon in the church office. They'll help you explore ways to serve.

Vacation Bible School

Discovery Canyon Vacation Bible School meets August 3-6 from 9 a.m. to noon at the North Site. VBS is for youth ages 3-Grade 6. Daily themes are Rejoice, Pray, Ask, and Tell adults and high school or middle school youth volunteers are needed to supervise the kids as they experience the music, games, crafts, Bible story, nature and snack activity times. Please contact Donna Haberland in the office to volunteer. Register students on the summer activities registration form at both sites or go to www.felc.com.

Baptismal workshop set for July 7 at North Site

The next Baptismal Workshop is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, at the Downtown Site in room 110. Please RSVP by calling the church office and indicating if child care is needed. Even if you already have had someone baptized at First English, please plan to attend a workshop before scheduling a baptism.

Learning



Have you thought about attending the Lay School of Ministry this coming fall?

Registration for the Lay School of Ministry of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin is now open for the 2009-10 school year (September - May). Participants meet once each month on Friday evening and Saturday morning for two years. Seminary professors, pastors and lay leaders lend their expertise to foundational studies in Biblical Theology, Church History, Systematic Theology, Worship and Spiritual Formation.

First English can provide scholarships toward the \$400 tuition. Books cost \$150. This is an excellent opportunity for theological learning and skill enhancement for service as congregational care givers, educators, and worship leaders. For more information, contact Anita Damon in the church office.

Support



Weekly Offerings

May 2009

Weekly

Budgeted: \$21,539

Collected: \$16,555

Month to Date

Budgeted: \$107,695

Collected: \$82,775

Year to Date

Budgeted: \$473,858

Collected: \$404,412

Short: \$69,446

LWR coffee project supports global neighbors

In response to the difficulties faced by millions of small coffee farmers throughout the world, Lutheran World Relief launched the LWR Coffee Project; a way for Lutherans to take action to alleviate poverty in developing countries.

LWR launched the project in 1997 with Equal Exchange, a fair-trade organization committed to paying farmers a fair price for their crop. Through fair trade, farmers earn enough to cover their production expenses and also gain access to much needed preharvest financing. The fair trade model also assists farmers in developing ecologically friendly practices such as organic and shade-grown agriculture.

By making a simple change from conventionally traded coffee to fairly traded coffee such as Tanzanian Jubilee or any of the 100-percent fairly traded coffee available through LWR Coffee Project, Lutherans can make a big difference in the lives of small coffee farmers. Development through fair trade is more

Outreach & Social Ministry



sustainable than just the provision of aid. The impact is able to be seen sometimes slowly, but surely.

Because coffee farmers on Kilimanjaro have very small farms (usually a half acre to two acres) that produce 100 to 200 pounds of coffee, even drinking one cup of fair-trade coffee can make a difference for them.

Real people stand behind the contents of your coffee cup. The LWR Coffee Project allows Lutherans to develop a stronger link to small-scale farmers around the world. The LWR Coffee Project includes fairly traded tea and hot cocoa, too. Thank you for your generous support and we will see you again on



Lutheran World Relief
COFFEE PROJECT

Tour de Revs

Keep your eyes and ears open as we "roll out" more information about the Tour de Revs. Can you imagine covering 13,000 miles in 100 days on a bamboo bicycle built for three? That is what these three pastors from the eastern US are doing on their way to the National Assembly in Minneapolis. They are using this event as a mission to fight world hunger; all money raised will go to ELCA World Hunger. The North Site of FELC will be their 61st stop on August 12. We will be host-

ing a synod wide event including a companion bike trip for the last leg of their ride into town, and worship at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in being part of the planning details, contact Pastor Mary at the church office.



Outreach & Social Ministry



Habitat for Humanity help

Thanks to all of you who are taking part in the Habitat for Humanity/ Thrivent Builds work project this summer. If you are still interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Cathy Leinum at 734-7746.

Mission opportunities

If you would like to participate in a mission opportunity this summer, consider joining Our Saviors Lutheran Church as they travel to help clean up after floods.

- July 17-26
Cedar Rapids, IA - \$175
- August 5-9
Fargo, ND - \$100

These prices include meals, lodging, and transportation, and will be adjusted to fit the days you can attend. Please contact Alley Shepeck at ashepeck@our-saviors.org.

Our missionary in Costa Rica

Chelsy Luck, daughter of Wayne and Shelia Luck, has returned for a fifth time to Sarchi, a small community in Costa Rica to do mission work in the church and community. Chelsy will graduate next spring from UW La Crosse with a major in Recreation Management. She has already started a recreation program for the church youth in hopes they will invite unchurched friends to participate and enjoy the Christian environment. Chelsy has an interest in further mission work and serving the underprivileged. Please pray for Chelsy's safety and her success in helping young people to become followers of Jesus Christ. Look in the August newsletter for an update on her ministry there.

Relay for Life

The Heart of the Valley Relay for Life will be held on Aug. 7 - 8, from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. at Little Chute High School at the athletic field. The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is the world's largest not-for-profit fundraising event.

Relay for Life brings together more than 3.5 million people to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and empower individuals and communities to fight back against this disease. Relay brings people together from all walks of life to raise much-needed funds and awareness. No matter who you are, there's a place for you at Relay.

Outreach & Social Ministry



Give a gift to the American Cancer Society and keep the fire of hope burning with a luminaria in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten the disease.

There will be Relay brochures in the gathering areas at both church sites. Please pick one up and join the fight. For more information call Mary Feller at 749-9537.

Bread for the Journey

The Worship and Music Ministry Team has been working to lift up the seasons of the church. On Pentecost Sunday, volunteers spoke the text in different languages. Interpretive dancers set the tone for the celebration of Holy Trinity Sunday. A Seeds of the Kingdom theme carried through the lectionary texts in June. On June 14th the Worship and Learning Ministry teams presented a special children's sermon during which the children were given seeds to plant. This growing process will help them understand the connection between growing plants and growing faith.

Bread is a common theme in the lectionary texts for July 26th through August 23rd. The Outreach and Social Ministries and the Worship and Music Ministry teams would like to bring this theme to life with two activities:

On Saturday July 25th and Saturday August 1st, we will be offering a lesson on baking communion bread.

All are welcome! Please contact the church to express your interest in joining us. Watch the bulletin for more information.

August 23rd will be a Bread for the Journey bake sale. Proceeds from this sale will be shared between Leaven and the Food Pantry of the Fox Valley. Please call the church and volunteer to bake bread, quick breads, muffins or rolls.

Help bring our Sunday lessons to life by incorporating them into your daily lives!



Council minutes: May 26, 2009

Present: Mike Lokensgard, Ellen Evensen, Steve Uslabar, Amy Henderson, Dan Baumbach, Jeff Diehl, Dean Haas, Gordy Jeppson, Kathy Larson, Dana Olson, Dong Pham, Jeff Picken, John Zweig, Pastor Bauer, Pastor Dismer

Excused: Mark DesRochers

Guest: Bishop Jim Justman and Diane Putzer

I. Devotions: Dan Baumbach

Discussion with Bishop Justman regarding Interim Options

Bishop Justman addressed the Council, and distributed copies of a document entitled The Call Process of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, which highlights the most commonly asked questions regarding interim periods. Bishop Justman suggested the congregation be given this information to better understand the protocol for hiring a full time interim pastor. There are at least three possible interim candidates potentially available; two are local East Central Synod candidates. Job descriptions and expectations should be established before interviewing. Bishop Justman suggests that the process begin as quickly as possible if the Council hopes to have someone in place by mid August.

II. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 28 regular and the May 19, 2009 special Congregation Council meetings. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Ministry Team Reports.

A. Support.

1. Diane Putzer reviewed the Support Ministry Team recommendation to the Council regarding an anonymous bequest given to FELC.

2. The following motion was made and seconded: That FELC use a recent anonymous bequest to reimburse the Trust for expenses incurred to support and pay the FELC mortgage, to pay off the operating line of credit, and deposit the balance of the bequest in the Capital Appeal Fund. Extensive discussion followed. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Outreach and Social Ministry.

1. The following documents were submitted to the Council: Mission Trip Sponsorship Request, written by Mike Lokensgard, FELC Gift Policy, and a letter submitted by Chelsy Luck explaining her mission trip with a list of budgeted items and their cost.

2. A motion was made and seconded to approve Chelsy's request using spend-down funds established to support mission and outreach activities of FELC members. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously. Donations received to support Chelsy's mission trip will be deposited to the Adella Schultz World Mission Fund.

3. The Gift Acceptance Policy was recently amended to address requests of this nature going forward, in order to assure that particular missions have been reviewed and approved by the ministry team to which the mission most closely relates.

C. Congregational Life.

1. The request for to annually review wedding policies and procedures was referred back to Congregational Life.

IV. Treasurer's Report. Steve Uslabar submitted Treasurer's Report to the Council for May 26, 2009, 2009 Weekly Offering and FELC 2009 Budget Summary. Steve noted that of our 1330 FELC families, 461 have committed to the FELC mission. 60% of the congregation commits at a level below \$5 per week. Expenses continue to be below budget, but well beyond income. The actual shortfall is \$89,716, which includes a carry over of \$39,000 from 2008.

V. Executive Committee Report. No meeting was held.

VI. Pastor's Reports. Pastors Bauer and Dismer submitted written reports. Pastor Dismer noted that Pastor Bob Herder will preach at the Downtown Site on July 26 and Pastor Dick Schroeder will preach on August 9, 2009.

VII. Old Business.

A. Interim Task Force recommendation. A motion was made and seconded to ask Bishop Justman to proceed with contacting candidates who would be available to serve as interim pastor for FELC. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously. John Zweig will send a copy of the Lead Pastor job description to Council members in order to establish guidelines for interviewing candidates. The Council is asked to establish questions to ask the candidates and send those questions to Amy Henderson to compile.

B. Report/Update on ongoing issues.

1. Personnel Matters. John Zweig has been meeting with the program leaders to begin the process of developing new staff job descriptions, based upon those tasks which are most central to FELC's operations. A reconstituted
(cont. on page 11)

May 26 minutes cont

College graduates

Listed below are some of this year's college graduates. Congratulations to all graduates! Make sure to keep these young people in your prayers as they start a new chapter of their lives:

- John Gamble graduated summa cum laude from UW-Eau Claire with a B.S. in Biology.
- David Shudy received his B.S. in chemistry, with minors in Math and German from UW-La Crosse.
- Abigail Stellmacher graduated summa cum laude from UW-Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders & Psychology.
- Maria Putzer graduated from the UW- Madison with a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies, with a Global Security focus.
- Jamie Parma graduated from Concordia University with a Master's degree in Reading Education.
- Suzy Maves graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in History and Sociology.
- Ashley Golz graduated cum laude from the University of Arizona with a degree in Early Childhood Education.
- Katie Swanson graduated cum laude from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN with a BA in Nursing.
- Kristen Opsahl graduated from Lane Community College in Eugene, OR with a Associate of Science Degree in Nursing.
- Melissa Opsahl graduated with a Master's Degree in the Physician's Assistant program from The University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine.

personnel committee will begin meeting to develop job descriptions and consider various staffing options.

2. Communications Coverage. Jan Sommerfeld resigned her position as communications director. Brenda Smongeski submitted a memorandum to the Council indicating a complete list of tasks and functions of that position and indicating how each task and function will be covered in the short term. For now, the communications director position will not be refilled. The document "FELC communications...and how it relates to ministry teams" was submitted to the Council.

C. Task Force Updates. Jeff Picken stated the North Site task force team has reviewed historical documents regarding the mission and goals of the North Site. Ten cottage meetings will be held at both sites and a survey will be taken. Responses can be provided online or through suggestion boxes located at both sites. The Task Force will also research other congregations that have two worship sites.

VIII. New Business.

A. Trust Committee documents and recent minutes were distributed to the Council for information.

B. Capital Campaign follow-up. In light of the level of current Capital Campaign receipts (see III. A.), a discussion was held regarding revisiting the Capital Campaign. Jeff Diehl, Gordy Jeppson and John Zweig volunteered to meet with some of the Capital Campaign committee members to discuss ways to reenergize the effort.

C. Acceptance of Resignation. The Council accepted Peter Peregrine's resignation. The Nominating Committee that was elected at the annual meeting will be asked to suggest candidates to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

D. Official Acts. A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2009 Official Acts. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjourn: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

TV/Sound Ministry

Did you know that each Sunday, eight volunteers are needed to help run the TV and soundboard ministry? High school graduation this year will be leaving quite a few gaps. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who have been such loyal and dependable workers. Have you considered participating in this ministry? Training is provided in all areas; TV room, camera and soundboard.

There will also be new opportunities at the North Site as more and more multi-media will be used during worship. Volunteers will be needed to create slides plus help run the projection system. This is a great ministry for parents and children or junior/senior high youth. Contact Jean Monson in the church office to learn more.



Worship



Nursery Summer Schedule

During the summer worship schedule, May 24 to September 6, the nurseries at both sites will be open, but not staffed with an attendant. As always, parents, you are encouraged to bring your children to worship. Even toddlers quickly learn words for the Lord's Prayer, find joy in the rhythm of hymns and smile to see familiar faces of friends who greet them at worship. A new children's bulletin for ages 3-6 and The Little Lutheran magazine will be available for families to use during worship. If you have questions or concerns please contact Anita Damon: 920-733-2303 adamon@felc.com or Jenell Barth: 920-882-7942 jbarth@felc.com. Thank you.

Summer Choir

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, and mark your calendars for Summer Choir in July. This intergenerational pick-up choir is open to everyone from the young to the young-at-heart. We'll rehearse at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, July 12 in the Downtown Site Choir Room and sing during the 8 a.m. Downtown Site worship service on Sunday, July 19. A sign-up sheet is located on the Downtown Site bulletin board, or contact Melissa Moll in the church office.



Interim pastor update

At the end of April, the Council commissioned a task force of four Council members to examine the options for pastoral staffing following the departure of Pr. Detweiler. At a special council meeting on May 19, that group recommended the hiring of a full time interim lead pastor from outside of FELC.

On May 26, the Council met with Bishop Justman regarding the process for hiring an interim in our synod. The Bishop indicated that two individuals from our synod with significant large church experience were available for assignment in the fall. The Council voted unanimously to proceed with contacting interim candidates. In addition to the two individuals identified by the Bishop, another candidate with significant experience with a very large two site church has been contacted. We anticipate scheduling interviews with these three individuals in the coming weeks, with a goal of having an interim pastor in place by the beginning of September.

We will not repeat the long self-study and interim period which preceded the calling of the previous lead pastor. The conclusions of the self-study remain valid. We will fine tune our expectations for a lead pastor, and make sure that we have wide buy-in for the vision and direction for FELC that was established by the self-study. An outside interim can assist us in focusing on those tasks by:

- Sharing his or her experience with other large churches, specifically with respect to the dynamics of multiple-site ministry, models for pastoral care and relationships among pastors, staff and congregation, and what all of that says about the type of lead pastor that we wish to call;
- Sharing an outside perspective on the current organization and governance of the church and suggesting improvements; and
- Helping the congregation to recognize and resolve conflicts.

Our hope is that we will be in a position to begin the process of calling a lead pastor relatively quickly. Finding our last lead pastor took considerable time, however, and we need to move FELC forward while our next search is going on. The Council believes that having a full time, experienced interim from outside of FELC is the best way to do that. As we move through this process, we will keep the congregation as informed as possible.

For your information, the 2005 Self-Study Report and 2007 update are available in the office or at: <http://www.felc.com/PDF/FELCstudy.pdf>

If you have questions, please contact any member of the Congregation Council.

Benefit concert announced

Mark your calendars for this big end-of-the-summer event! On August 7th, the interns will be hosting the Bite Back benefit concert. This concert, which will take place at Harmony Cafe, will highlight several local bands (including one of our own interns, Ethan Cook) and raise money for Compassion International's Bite Back campaign. This campaign aims to buy mosquito nets for families in Kenya, a country heavily affected by Malaria. Everyone is welcome to attend this free concert.

Health



10 ways to have a happy, healthy week

According to Rich Bimler

1. Spend Time Worshiping...in your home, church, personal devotions.
2. Smile...at busy grocery shoppers, cranky sales clerks.
3. Take Care of Yourself...eat right, exercise regularly, rest well.
4. Find Quiet Time...for planning, thinking, praying, thanking.
5. Accept Mixed Feelings...happy, sad, frustrated, afraid, thankful.
6. Seek Help...from family, friends, neighbors, church family.
7. Sing Along...with the radio, CD's, children's songs.
8. Give Gifts Within Your Budget...you are the best gift to people anyway.
9. Enjoy and Celebrate Each Day...alone, with family, friends, and your faith community.
10. In all of the above...celebrate the JOY of Christ's presence. He is with us – always. (And that's a Promise!)

It's Christmas in July! Although these ten items were written for the Christmas season, they fit well for summer time also, when schedules are confusing and overlapping. Worship is often "put on vacation," along with time spent enjoying the faith family. So, even in July, celebrate the joy of Christ's presence everyday!



Walk to Hawaii - We did it!

We walked (exercised, walked, ran, peddled, paddled, skated, and whatever else) 4,402 miles to Hawaii. The real miracle is the 2,000+ miles that we "walked" on water. Now it is time to celebrate. Since the committee was not sure when the "walk" would end, the members could not set a date to celebrate the achievement. That means the date for a "luau" will

be announced soon. Watch the bulletin, listen to announcements, and check the First English website felc@felc.com. Meanwhile, a big thank you to all who participated in planning the event as well as those participating.



Blood pressure checks

During the month of July, blood pressure checks usually done after services on the 4th Sunday will not be done at either the North Site nor the Downtown Site. We will resume on the 4th Sunday in August.

Official acts: May '09

Funerals

- Randy Paape

Baptisms

- Braden Walters
- Lucas Krueger
- Breanna Dreschel
- Makenna Otto



Anniversaries

- **Richard and Donna Wara** celebrate 40 years together on July 12.
- **Kenneth and Beverly Behrent** celebrate 60 years together on July 16
- **Tim and Patty Hurley** celebrate 30 years together on July 20.
- **Pete and Deb Van Remortel** celebrate 35 years together on July 20.
- **Norman and Doris Evers** celebrate 55 years together on July 24.
- **Gary and Kathy Kohel** celebrate 40 years together on July 26.
- **Barry and Marcia Erdman** celebrate 25 years together on July 28.
- **Barry and Lisa Hoff** celebrate 25 years together on July 28.
- **Gregory and Jennifer Johnson** celebrate 25 years together on July 28.



First English Lutheran Church
www.felc.com felc@felc.com

Downtown Site

Corner of Drew and North streets
920-733-2303

Service Times

Sundays: 8, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.

North Site

Corner of Broadway Drive and Ballard Road
920-882-7942

Service Times

Sundays: 9:00 a.m.

Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.

August newsletter deadline:

All submissions due at noon, July 15, to felc@felc.com

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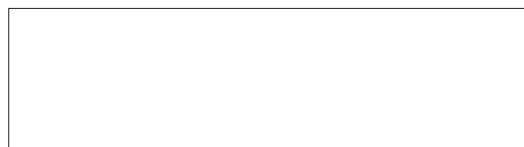
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July 2009

Return Service Requested

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