



March 19, 2020

Dear members and friends of First English,

Grace to you and peace in these unsettling and uncertain times. Though the spread of the Coronavirus is disrupting all of our lives, our Lord is steadfast and his love endures forever.

Please know your Church is working hard to keep you and others connected to the support that your faith community offers and to the calling that we share to love and serve our neighbors.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control recommendations, First English Lutheran Church has canceled all in-person activities and closed both of our Church buildings through May 13, or until further notice. The Office remains staffed at this point, and we are responding to email and voicemail messages in a timely manner.

We are writing to let you know how to stay connected during this time. Here are a few ways:

1. A primary means of communication is FELC's **website**: [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com).
2. A short April **newsletter**, although it will not be mailed to homes, will be available online.
3. The **Weekly Update**, sent out via email, usually on Thursdays, offers the latest news from FELC. You can sign up to receive it by sending an email to Communication Coordinator Meri Hujet at [mhujet@felc.com](mailto:mhujet@felc.com) with "Weekly Update" in the subject line.
4. Become a friend of FELC on **Facebook**.

We are thankful for the gift of technology, but also aware not everyone has access to the internet. If such is your case, please call the Church Office at (920)733-2303 and let us know how we may connect with you.

**Worship** is of utmost importance. This Sunday, there will be a worship service through Facebook Live at 9 a.m. either on your computer, tablet or smartphone, or on the Facebook section of our website's home page. You do not need a Facebook account to view this. (Please be patient with our attempts as we are on a steep learning curve.) Also, on the homepage, there will be a link to the Sunday's bulletin. The website will also provide Lenten Wednesday and Holy Week services as they occur, along with recordings of past sermons and services.

Future Sundays may offer a second 10:30 a.m. worship time, to have a service from each of FELC's Sanctuaries.

At 9:45 a.m. an abbreviated **Sunday School** lesson will be provided by our Faith Formation Coordinator, Kirsten Owens, every Sunday via livestream on our Facebook page (this is also available via the link on our [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com) homepage.) A PDF of these lessons will be emailed on Thursdays prior to the Sunday we will be learning together. In addition, you can follow along as Kirsten Owens will be presenting a daily **Story @ Home** reading on Facebook for our Sunday School families.

We think it is fortuitous that the FELC **Neighbor Network** is now up and running, even though it is only one-month old. Our Neighbor Network Coordinator, Deni Kuchler, is organizing volunteers to safely serve people who might need an errand to be run, some groceries or supplies delivered, or simply a phone call. Please contact her via the website, phone, or email ([dkuchler@felc.com](mailto:dkuchler@felc.com)), if you need help or to volunteer.

**FirstEnglishLutheranChurch**

DOWNTOWN SITE: 326 East North Street Appleton, Wisconsin 54911 920.733.2303 [felc@felc.com](mailto:felc@felc.com) [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com)

NORTH SITE: Ballard Road and Broadway Drive Appleton, Wisconsin 54913 920.882.7942

FELC's website also provides a video of a **Daily Devotional** and a place to submit **Prayer Requests**. We will lift up these prayers during worship services and/or in our hearts, and as your pastors, we invite you to contact us directly if there are concerns or prayers of a more personal nature that you'd wish to share. We can be reached at (920)733-2303, [jtengesdal@felc.com](mailto:jtengesdal@felc.com) and [mbauer@felc.com](mailto:mbauer@felc.com).

**High School Students** are invited to stay connected through Facebook: FELC Youth, and Instagram: felc.youth. You can also contact FELC Youth and Summer Ministries Coordinator, Heidi Schreiner, at [hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com). She has some good ideas for connecting, having fun, and keeping the faith.

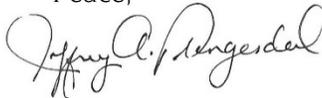
Many of the meetings of the congregation are continuing, just in virtual ways.

Thank you for your ongoing **financial support** of the church through these difficult times! The average percentage of electronic giving by First English members is approximately 30% of the budget. Please consider signing up for electronic giving. It is especially needed to enable FELC to continue the important ministries and outreach to which we have all committed. The automated giving program instructions can be found on the bottom of the FELC homepage. Your offerings can also be submitted to the church via mail or drop-off at the Downtown Site Church Office (call ahead first).

Please check the website regularly for updates. Things are changing on a daily basis.

One thing does not change - the steadfast love of the Lord. Although we're not sure how we will be celebrating Easter this spring, we are certain that we WILL celebrate it SOMEHOW, and that we remain Easter people through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May you find comfort and strength in this.

Peace,



Pastor Jeff



Pastor Mary

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