



First English Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Pastor Jerry Wirtley

Pastor Paul Muehlbrad

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January 2011



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From Pastor Paul,

As we enter into the new year we look back at our past and also forward toward our future, and this is certainly true in our ongoing spiritual journey. As we review the many ministries of First English, especially as our boards, organizations and committees write their annual reports, we may celebrate the Lord's good work through our congregation.

One of the ministries that our interns have especially helped direct us toward is our sense of global mission and outreach, namely our participation in the ministries of *Water 2 Thrive* and the *ELCA Disaster Relief for Haiti*. To help us continue on in our global ministries and spiritual journeys we will be highlighting the opportunity to help reduce world hunger.

The good news is that the estimated (2010) number of hungry people world-wide has dropped below one billion; the harsh news is that there are still 925 million chronically hungry people. Despite the world-wide economic difficulties, the goal to cut the world's hunger in half by 2015 is still before us. We can be a part of cutting world hunger in half!

During the five Sundays of January, we will have our ELCA World Hunger giving envelopes in our pews and printed educational articles in our bulletins. The intention is for us to give beyond our regular giving so that we continue to support all of First English's many fantastic ministries. Please give to the hungry of the world.



**Go and Do
Likewise.
Luke 10:37**

TELLERS

January

4

Melrose Goetz

10

Geralene Schulte

17

Nyle Ruth Leshikar

24

Mildred Butler

31

Dorothy Bohn

**In the Grace of God,
Pastor Paul Muehlbrad**

The newsletter deadline December 15th for January News, articles, thank you notes, etc. You can send us info. in the mail, drop it by the Church Office or you may email us at: office@FELCVictoria.com. The church website www.FELCVictoria.com is updated regularly. Check it out during the month for any late-breaking important news between newsletter mailings.

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 No Worship
2 8:00a Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	3 Office Closed	4 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	5 5:00p All Staff 5:15p Wed. Happenings	6 6:00p All Board Night (FH)	7 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	8 6:30p Worship Baptism
9 8:00a Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Celebration Worship	10 6:30 Rachel Circle (CR) Annual Reports Due	11 8:30a Staff (WR) 9:15a Rebecca Circle (CR) 9:30a ABC (FH) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 6:00p ALS Stroll, Roll, Run mtg (WR) 7:00p ABC	12 5:15p Wed. Happenings	13 9:30a Esther Circle 6:00p Fifty & Fun (FH)	14 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	15 6:30p Worship
16 8:00a Worship 8:45a Blood Drive (AC) 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 1:00p Quilters setup (FH)	17 6:00p Men's Group (FH) Quilters all week (FH)	18 8:30a Staff (WR) 9:30a ABC (FH) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 7:00p Joanna Circle 7:00p ABC (CR)	19 Newsletter Deadline 5:15p Wed. Happenings	20 9:30a Deanery (CR) 6:00p Council (CR)	21 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	22 6:30p Worship
23 8:00a Worship TLU Temple Talk 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Celebration Worship TLU Temple Talk Blessing of Quilts Council Installation & Retreat	24 Quilters all week (FH) Pastors leave for Trisynodical Conference Jan. 24 - 26	25 8:30a Staff (WR) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	26 5:15p Wed. Happenings	27 9:30a Pericope (CR)	28 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	29 6:30p Worship
30 8:00a Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Celebration Worship	31 5:30p WELCA Bunco @ FELC (AC)					

Wednesday Night Meals

January 5th

Pork loin, Roasted Potatoes, Buttered Corn, Rolls, Desert

January 12th

Pulled Pork, Green Beans, Dessert

January 19th

Chicken Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

January 26th

Chili, Cornbread, Dessert

Note:

Cost per meal to prepare is approximately \$3.50. A Free Will Offering is appreciated.

Weekly Wednesday Happenings Timeline

5:15p Meal
 6:00p Walk the Walk
 6:00 p.m. Meisterringers
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 7:00 p.m. Youth Talk

Newsletter Abbreviations

(ABC) =Adult Bible Class
 (BOD) = Board of Deacons
 (BOEV) = Board of Evangelism
 (BOT) = Board of Trustees
 (Comm) = The Commons Room
 (CRb) = Conference Room B/ Church Office
 (Hax) = Hax Parlor

(AC) = Activity Center
 (BOE) = Board of Elders
 (BOS) = Board of Stewardship
 (BOW) = Board of Worship
 (CR) = Conference Room/Church Office
 (MP) = Men's Parlor

(BOCL) = Board of Congregational Life
 (BOED) = Board of Education
 (BOSC) = Board of Social Concerns
 (BOY) = Board of Youth
 (FH) = Felger Hall
 (WR) = Workroom/Church Office

BLOOD DRIVE

JANUARY 16TH BLOOD DRIVE - Our next FELC Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, January 16th from 8:45 am to 12:15 pm in the church activity center. Our goal is to donate at least 11 units of blood during the drive. Your participation will help the blood bank reach its daily collection goal that is needed to support patients in our community. All donors will be entered into a quarterly drawing for a chance to win a \$3,000 shopping spree at Bjorn's Audio and Video. Hope we can count on your support. - Your Board of Social Concerns

JANUARY 2nd, THE SECOND SUNDAY CHRISTMAS

Happy New Year -- May the Spirit of Christmas remain with you throughout 2011.



FELC New Year's Schedule

Please make a note of the following schedule for the remainder of the holidays.

December 31st	Office closed
January 1st	No worship service
January 2nd	8:00 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship
January 4th	Office closed



Quilters to take over Felger Hall

Think 2011 -- January to be exact! That is January 17 - 28 when Lutheran World Quilting will be ongoing in Felger Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Your time will be greatly appreciated. Quilting set up will be January 16, 2011 after second service. Men are needed to transfer supplies into Felger Hall. Mission Action Chair, Joyce Teinert

In a Related Story

The 2011 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly will be held May 14 and 15 in Victoria, Texas at the Victoria Community Center. Due to the huge success of a quilt auction at the 2008 Assembly, the planning team for the 2011 Assembly has decided to invite all Southwestern Texas Synod churches to consider making a handmade quilt to be sold in a silent auction at the assembly. The quilts will be displayed in the dome of the community center where the plenary business and worship will be held and/or in the annex area if needed. All monies earned from the quilt auction will be combined with all assembly offerings to help fund the ELCA Malaria Campaign, a global initiative to raise money to help combat malaria around the world. The ELCA Malaria Campaign reflects upon the 2011 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly theme and logo, "*GRACE RECEIVED-HOPE EXTENDED*," which is based on Ephesians 4:7-13.



Thank you for the Sunday School Christmas Program

A hearty thank you to all those who planned and participated in the Children's Christmas Pageant/Family Advent Worship Service on December 17th. The Christmas story was told using the Chrismons from the Christmas tree. If you missed the service, here are some photos courtesy of Mary Gail Moody.



We like to highlight our FELC Youth and what is going on for them and with them. Send in your information by the third Wednesday of each month for publication. We will print as space allows.

I would like to say thank you for the flowers from Good Cheer, cards, food, and visits you have extended to me during my recent multiple hospital stays. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers.

Thank you to Pastor Jerry and Pastor Paul for being regular visitors, giving me words of encouragement and prayers. My thanks to Dee Harper also for regularly bringing me communion. As I face unsure yet unpleasant times, I know your prayers shall help me reach paradise.

Bless you all,
Royce, your friend in Christ.

Thanks to everyone who helped with our "Bring A Belt" drive during the month of November! We collected over 120 belts of all shapes and sizes - some new and some used. We want you to know they are all needed and appreciated! The school dress codes now require that students wear belts and many students simply cannot afford them. These will be distributed to our local and area schools.

If you would like to donate belts in the future, we will have a collection box in the back of the church and will see that these belts are distributed periodically!

RACHEL CIRCLE

ANNUAL REPORT DUE— First English Evangelical Lutheran Board Chairs, auxiliaries, youth, men's, and women's groups and any other groups are to please turn in their Annual Reports to the Church office by 5:00 p.m. Friday, **January 10, 2011**. You may submit by email to office@FELCVictoria.com or drop by Church office anytime between now and January 10th.

If you have any question please contact Margaret at the Church office – 575-3623.

More photos from the children's service:



Team Worship Schedule

Date/ Time	Greeters	Lay Readers	Deacons/ Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Sound System
Sat. 6:30p 1/1	NO WORSHIP					
Sun. 8:00a 1/2	Ronnie & Bette Painter Edwin & Velma Hennig	Dalton Metting	Muegge	Tony Wilhelm Lillian Lau	Dawson & Mason Carroll	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 1/2	A. Tschirhart/H. Hanselman Caroll Crouch	Sandra Serold	Schulte	Dennis & Tracy Hermes	Mallory Hermes Briana Butler	Pat Rickman/ Sandra Post
Sat. 6:30p 1/8	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	Fabian	Ollie Flowers		Delores Seifert-Berger
Sun. 8:00a 1/9	Margaret Vrana Mildred Slaughter	Pat Rickman	Sproles	Louis & Sue Boldt	Megan Depine Natalie Boldt	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 1/9	Dorothy Bohn Sandy Muegge	Janet McCrea	Heinold	Sue Raaz Gail Norris	Caitlyn & Logan Lassman	Aaron Muegge/ Debra Butler
Sat. 6:30p 1/15	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	Fabian	Ollie Flowers		Delores Seifert-Berger
Sun. 8:00a 1/16	Steph Godfrey Larry Bruchmiller	Robert Cheshire	Maxey	Sheri Merklinger Callie Mae Adix	Lorin Merklinger Elizabeth Hanselka	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 1/16	Darrell & Scarlet Swoboda Chuck & Mary Gail Moody	Dale Hildebrandt	Hartman	Larry Shilling Rene Hassel	Kolton Shilling Charis Wirtley	Pat Rickman/ Sandra Post
Sat. 6:30p 1/22	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	Fabian	Ollie Flowers		Delores Seifert-Berger
Sun. 8:00a 1/23	Dalton & Janie Metting Mary Gleinser	Ginger McGill	Schulte	Stacy Garcia Dee Harper	Heidi Schoenherr Shelbie VanBeveren	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 1/23	Bryan & Sandra Serold Gail Norris	Kirsten Eppinger	T. Hermes	Sherry Podolak Joyce Thormalen	Emily Klinkerman J.J. Muehlbrad	Debra Butler/Paul Morrison
Sat. 6:30p 1/29	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	Fabian	Ollie Flowers		Delores Seifert-Berger
Sun. 8:00a 1/30	Mickey & Altha Maxey Harvey & Edna McDonald	James Reinhardt	Heinold	Jerry & Danielle Alvarez	Dawson & Mason Carroll	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 1/30	Jennifer Hartman Marge Rode	Doris Wuensche	Sproles	Margaret Vrana Collin Metting	Briana Butler Mallory Hermes	Aaron Muegge/ Debra Butler

Altar Guild

Nyle Ruth Leshikar Sue Boldt Tracie Depine Gloria Grimes Dee Harper Elaine Malina Janet McCrea Sandra Serold

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

01/02	Larry Runnels	01/13	Whitney Rickman	01/27	Jeff Janecek
01/02	Colby Schrade	01/13	Adam Rickman	01/27	Melissa Stange
01/03	Andre Salm	01/14	Mary Fimbel	01/28	Nancy Reichardt
01/03	Freddie Lemke	01/15	Marge Rode	01/28	Heidi Schoenherr
01/03	Travis Long	01/15	Dale Stary	01/29	Susan Dollins
01/03	Breanna Butler	01/16	Doris Schmidt	01/29	Tiffany Ballard
01/04	Marsella Boyett	01/17	Marlene Westerman	01/30	Douglas Taylor
01/04	Kenneth Rippstein	01/17	Richard Martin	01/30	Sharon Church
01/05	Dorothy Swoboda	01/17	Amy Hodges	01/31	Ron Seerden
01/05	Dalton Metting	01/17	Amy Bruns	01/31	Donna Cliffe
01/05	Howard Spies	01/18	Michelle McDonald	01/31	Christopher Ingram
01/06	Martha Hornstein	01/19	Larry Bruchmiller	01/31	Katie Butler
01/06	Robert Mozisek	01/19	Doris Pollard	01/31	Calea Wirtley
01/06	John Jr. Thormahlen	01/20	Dorothy Roberts		
01/06	Trevor Benavides	01/20	Gill Dollins		
01/07	LaFern Roessler	01/20	April Alex		
01/07	Renee Hassel	01/22	Gladys Williams		
01/08	Craig Thedin	01/22	Mary Evelyn Hillmer		
01/09	Inez Bues	01/22	David Clark		
01/09	Bill Kelly	01/22	Debra Stary		
01/09	Raymond Pagel	01/22	Carol Klages		
01/10	Mildred Slaughter	01/22	Troy Schmidt		
01/10	Deborah Hanselka	01/22	Michelle Ulbrich		
01/11	Christine Collins	01/23	Melvin Koenig		
01/11	Dawn Dietzel	01/23	Effie Wofford		
01/11	Erin Hildebrandt	01/26	Evelyn Laza		
01/12	Ella Hasdorff	01/26	Herbert Hanselman		
01/12	Lucy Allen	01/26	Lynn Hildebrandt		
01/12	Jennifer Welch	01/26	Lesa Bowers		
01/12	Garrett Johnson	01/26	Sheri Lott		
01/13	Joey Dentler	01/26	Sarah Sparks		
01/13	Debra Hartman	01/26	Morgen Stange		
01/13	Karen Mozisek	01/27	Grace Bruchmiller		

Attendance and Offerings

Date	Attendance 6:30 pm	Communion	Offering	Attendance 8:00 am	Communion	Offering	Attendance 10:30 am	Communion	Offering
12/4-5	31	28	\$942.00	72	68	\$3153.00	117		\$6737.00
12/11-12	29	29	\$1048.50	73	73	\$2515.00	116	116	\$4395.00
12/18-19	45	43	\$1492.50	78	78	\$2475.00	120	115	\$2343.00
12/24	(5p) 270		\$9626.50	(7:30p) 89		\$2907.00	(11p) 27		\$980.00
12/26							(10a) 76	76	\$1,984.50

Each month First English Evangelical Lutheran Church sends each of the following organizations a donation toward their ministry. These donations help thousands discover or renew God's call for their lives and provides hot noon meals for hundreds along with some financial assistance and prepare a new generation of leaders for service in the world. Each organization sends a monthly thank you to FELC. God Bless You, Christ's Kitchen (\$41.67) Texas Lutheran University (\$133.34) Cross Trails Ministry (\$733.24)

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE THANK YOU-We would like to thank members of First English who provided gifts for our annual Christmas Giving Tree Project. Your generous support provided 64 gifts to 32 foster care children with the Lutheran Social Service's foster care program. We would also like to thank members of the Board of Congregational Life for preparing the meal during our gift presentation last Sunday. We had a great turnout with over 75 foster care families, LSS staff and members of First English attending.- Your Board of Social Concerns

I'm so thankful to have a wonderful Church Family, for the Communion Service from Dee, visits from Good Cheer, the delicious meals delivered on special occasions, and the great Christmas carolers. The radio services keep me in touch. Thank you and God bless, Delores Watkins

Note: The following was sent by the mother of an individual whom received assistance from FELC for bus fare to return to Pennsylvania. She enclosed a check to partially repay this assistance.

This will repay about half of Trevor's bus fare from Texas to Pennsylvania. May someone be as kind to you as you were to Trevor. He is in Job Corps at Red Rock, PA studying body repair and seems happy and contented. He was here over Thanksgiving and will be here for 2 weeks over Christmas.

I hope you will have a Good Christmas and Happy New Year. I can't begin to thank you enough for the help you gave Trevor. Sincerely, Anna Knight

I would like to thank Pastor Jerry and Pastor Paul, my friends and family that came to see me while I was in the hospital. Also, the calls and cards were very much appreciated. Cotton Hilmer

Food for the Poor wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Pastor Hilpert on his recent visit to your parish. On behalf of our less fortunate brothers and sisters of Latin America and the Caribbean, we

Special Prayers & Sympathy

Donna Avant, Don Beckmann, Bobby Bergquist, Mark, Kelly, Mason & Dawson Carroll, Kim Curlee, Glenda Doebbler, Nancy Doehrman, Lawrence Fishbeck, Mary Gleinser, Helen Guthrie, Peggy Harper, Estelle Janssen, Judy Jones, Herman Kucera, Cindy Lassmann, Mindee, Natalie, Oranell Satsky, Dorothy Swoboda, our troops, and for all people in need.

We express our sympathy and love to the family and friends of:

Mable Teske Shields (Mark Carroll's grandmother)

Dorothy Keith (Lawrence Fishbeck's aunt)

Murray Krause (Myrtle Krause's husband)

Bill Evans

Those who have been in the hospital this past month

Royce Church, Glenda Doebbler, Mary Gleinser, Helen Guthrie, Terry Jackson, Roy Johnson, Kimberly Krause & Rylan, Myrtle Krause, Michelle Schoenherr, Morris VanBeveran

Action Items

December 5, 2010

Motion was made by Sandra Post, seconded by Floyd Wuensche, that the Minutes of the Annual Congregation Meeting on December 6, 2009, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sandra Post, seconded by Floyd Wuensche, that the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting on December 6, 2009, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jim Hartman, seconded by Louis Boldt, that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jim Hartman, seconded by Floyd Wuensche, that the following slate of officers, directors, and delegates be approved by acclamation:

President-Elect	Larry Shilling
Treasurer	John Riesterer
Board of Youth	Nora Brosig
Board of Trustees	Rod Thompson
Board of Congregational Life	Tracy Hermes
Board of Stewardship	Dee Harper
Board of Worship	Doris Wuensche

Synod Assembly Delegates:	Alternates:
Gail Norris	Kelly Carroll
Dennis Hermes	Dan Hairell
Steve Nelson	Jeff Svetlik

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jim Hartman, seconded by Larry Svetlik, that the Proposed 2011 Budget be approved as submitted. A discussion was held.

Motion was made by Judge Robert Cheshire, seconded by Jim Hartman, that the Proposed 2011 Budget be amended to restore the Nursery Attendant category, the amount being \$3,400.00. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Judge Robert Cheshire, seconded by Diana Rippstein, that the Proposed 2011 Budget be amended to restore the custodian's wages, including the benefit package, to last year's level. Motion carried. There were 15 opposed and 71 yes votes.

Motion was made by Larry Svetlik, seconded by Diana Rippstein, that the Proposed 2011 Budget be amended to restore the lawn care category to \$6,000.00. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Joyce Thormahlen, seconded by Merle Thompson, that the Proposed 2011 Budget be amended so that the Benevolence be reduced from 10% to 7% on the undesignated part of the funds, not the FELC only fund. A discussion was held. Dalton Metting called question. Judge Robert Cheshire called question and to limit debate. The Motion did not pass.

Motion was made by Dawn Dietzel, seconded by Duane Gonzales, that the Proposed 2011 Budget be approved with the approved amendments. Motion carried.

2011 Victoria County Relay for Life Event

The Victoria County Relay for Life event will be held next year at the Coletto Creek Park beginning on Friday, April 29, 2011. Doug Tesch with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is sponsoring a relay team called the Christians for a Cure. Doug is inviting fellow Christians within the Victoria community, including members of First English, to join the team. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Doug at 574-9912 or by e-mail at dwtesch@suddenlink.net. You can also sign up on-line as a team member at www.relayforlife.org/victoriacotx. Click on the "Sign Up" link and select "Join a Team". Enter Christians for a Cure as the Team Name and leave the Team Company blank. The \$50 sponsor fee has already been paid. Please help support the ongoing fight to find a cure for cancer by joining the team.-Your Board of Social Concerns

Women of First English

This is a reminder that we are collecting postage stamps, Campbell's Soup labels and box tops for education during the month of December, you may bring them and place them in the Women of the Church Office. Thank you, Mission Action FELCW

A Message from Pastor Arnold Hilpert

Thank you for the opportunity to share the message and mission of **Food for the Poor** in your recent worship services. Your responsiveness was hopeful and we cherish your partnership in this mission of practical compassion for the destitute among the Lazarus people at America's back door.

If there is congregational support for a special project, such as a well for a village, our Projects Department will be ready to begin that conversation. You can also view informative reports with pictures at www.foodforthe poor.org. Also available are an ample supply of our donor brochures through your church office or display area.

We look forward to a possible future engagement with you and ask your fervent prayers and generous support for this urgent mission among the most destitute of our hemisphere. God bless you all. "The Cross still stands."

Attention High School Youth, Alumni and Friends of Texas Lutheran University

On Sunday morning, January 23rd, staff members from Texas Lutheran University will be visiting Lutheran churches in Victoria to promote TLU. They will have presentations for high school youth and adults during Sunday School. In conjunction with this event, a gathering of alumni and friends of TLU will also be held that day. It will provide an opportunity for an update on the presidential search, the latest news and future plans. It will also provide a chance to meet up with some fellow area Bulldogs. As of this printing, the exact time and location have not been determined. If you are interested, or if you know someone who might be interested, please check your Sunday announcements for further information.



“Building and Nurturing Relationships for Christ”

First English Ev. Lutheran Church
516 N Main St.
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

New church council to be installed on the weekend of January 23rd

On Sunday, January 24th, the new council members will be installed. Installation will be held at the 10:30 am service. Following the installation, the new council will participate in a retreat to kick off the new term. New church council members, mark your calendars now.

FELC Office Will Be Closed

Because New Year's Day falls on Saturday, the FELC office will be closed on **Monday, January 3rd**.