



# First English Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Radio Broadcast 8:00 a.m. KVNN 1340

Pastor Jerry Wirtley

Pastor Paul Muehlbrad

## Inside this issue:

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February 2011



Calendar	2
What's Happening	3, 4
Youth News	5
Thanks & Prayers	6 & 9
Team Schedule	7
Birthdays/Attendance & Offerings	8
Council Action Items	10
Area News	11
Late Breaking News	12

### From Pastor Jerry,

Matthew 4:21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.

1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

These 2 verses come from the readings for the 3rd Sunday After Epiphany. They contain the same word in the Greek, and say a lot about how we are to be as the church. The word is also found in Ephesians 4:12. The word is καταρτιζω. It means mending or united or equipping.

We can see from the Sons of Thunder that sometimes we have to take a break from fishing and gathering to mend the tools we use. We have to mend the nets in order to catch fish, and as Paul reminds the Corinthians (and us): "we need to be united in the same mind and judgment." We have to restore what is broken and keep divisions from separating us from the work we have been called to. And that work is not the being a net and dragging people into church. I'm pretty sure we can be united and mutually equip each other to use the love that God has given us to positively affect the world around us.

Grace,  
Pastor Jerry

### TELLERS

#### February

7

Melrose Goetz

14

Geralene Schulte

21

Nyle Ruth Leshikar

28

Mildred Butler

**The newsletter deadline February 15<sup>th</sup> for March 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](mailto:office@FELCVictoria.com). **The church website [www.FELCVictoria.com](http://www.FELCVictoria.com)** is updated regularly. Check it out during the month for any late-breaking important news between newsletter mailings.

# February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:30a ABC (FH) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 7:00p ABC (CR)	<b>2</b> 5:00p All Staff	<b>3</b> 6:00p All Board Night (FH)	<b>4</b> 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 6:00p Bauch (AC)	<b>5</b> 8:30a Equipping the Saints FELC 6:30p Worship
<b>6</b> 8:00a Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Commissioning of Euch. Lay Min.	<b>7</b> 10:00a FELCW Board Mtg. 10:30a General Mtg. Lunch (FH) 5:30p Synod Ass. Mtg. (FH) 6:30p Fact Finding Mtg. (CR-B)	<b>8</b> 8:30a Staff Mtg (WR) 9:15a Rebecca Cir. (CR) 9:30a ABC (FH) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 7:00p ABC (CR)	<b>9</b> 5:15p Wed. Happenings 2:00p Lydia Cir. (CR)	<b>10</b> 9:30a Esther Cir. (FH) 6:00p Fifty & Fun (FH)	<b>11</b> 11:00a Celebration of Adoptions (AC) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	<b>12</b> 10:00a Al-Anon (CR) 6:30p Worship
<b>13</b> 8:00a Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Celebration Worship	<b>14</b> 6:30 Rachel Circle (CR)	<b>15</b> 8:30a Staff (WR) 9:30a ABC (FH) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 7:00p Joanna Cir. 7:00p ABC (CR)	<b>16</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:15p Wed. Happenings	<b>17</b> Deanery 6:00p Council (CR)	<b>18</b> 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	<b>19</b> 6:30p Worship
<b>20</b> 8:00a Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	<b>21</b> 6:00p Men's Group (FH)	<b>22</b> 8:30a Staff (WR) 9:30a ABC (FH) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 7:00p ABC (CR)	<b>23</b> 5:15p Wed. Happenings	<b>24</b> 9:30a Pericope (CR)	<b>25</b> 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	<b>26</b> 6:30p Worship
<b>27</b> 8:00a Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Celebration Worship	<b>28</b>					

**Wednesday Night Meals**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Beef Stroganoff & Egg Noodles, Green Beans, and Dessert

**February 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Chicken Fajitas, Yellow Rice, and Dessert

**February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Meatloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Toss Salad, Dessert

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread, 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



**BLOOD DRIVE**

**BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS** - We had a great response during the FELC blood drive held on January 16<sup>th</sup>. A total of 14 units of blood were donated during the drive in addition to 3 units donated by members prior to the drive for a total of 17 units. Our goal was 11 units of blood. Our response could not have come at a better time. Blood supplies at the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center have reached critical levels forcing the blood bank to import blood from other blood centers. A special thanks to all members who donated or tried to donate during our drive. - Your Board of Social Concerns

**QUILTERS COMPLETING WORK IN FELGER HALL**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, this year's collection of quilts was dedicated. As of this printing the project is not complete. Final totals are not available, but here is some proof of their hard work.



Thanks for all of your hard work and for helping First English spread God's grace around the world.



**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

### Heritage Day Results

In January the proceeds from the 2010 First English Heritage Day were distributed. Each recipient organization was given a check for \$7,297.27. This years organizations included the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent, Christ's Kitchen, the Senior Citizens Center, and Man To Man Ministries. Also shown to the right is Gary Childress receiving a check for the First English Community Assistance Fund. The organizing committee was pleased with the success of the event and appreciative of all those that came together in support of this ministry.

### Lutheran Bible Translators

Recently, a representative of the Lutheran Bible Translators organization visited our office. First English has given financial support to this organization in the past. They work to translate the Bible into some of the less common world languages. If you would like to learn more about their work and possibly offer some assistance, contact Pastor Jerry, ask someone at the office about a brochure or go to their web site: [www.LBT.org](http://www.LBT.org).

### Soundboard assistants sought

We are in need of some terrific volunteers at FELC. Our new sound system is a breeze to handle, but we need someone to physically sit at the board in case the pastors need some assistance in adjusting their volume. All of the settings are pre-set and need very little adjustment. All that is needed is for someone to be alert to the service and monitor volumes. You would be paired with an experienced sound system person for as long as you need them, or until you feel comfortable manning the board on your own. The more people we have volunteer, the less often each person has to volunteer. Please prayerfully consider this request from the Sound System Committee. Reply to Sandra Post or Pastor Jerry if you are interested. Thank you for your consideration.

### 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



## Updates on some seminarians

Pastor Paul-

It seemed like it had been a while since I had been asked to take my turn at the newsletter! I would love to allow you to use your creative writing skills to make up an article, but since I have time, I will save you the trouble! And since I am typing, I will include a blurb for all of the Dykeman Posse.

The Frozen Chosen- The Dykeman's are currently living at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa where my thermostat says 4 degrees at 2:30 in the afternoon! Yes, the thermostat can go that low! I am serving as an Interim Pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in West Branch, Iowa (about 1 1/2 hours from Dubuque) where I stay at the parsonage there from Tuesday through Thursday. There is a possible Full-Time Call coming down the pipes that, God willing, will hopefully work itself out soon that will have us all moving only 45 minutes from the Seminary to a lovely parsonage in the middle of corn fields. Anna completed her first semester of studies at Seminary (only 3 1/2 years to go!) and is well on her way to being a more committed and enthusiastic student than I ever was. She is getting the opportunity to use and discover her gifts for ministry while studying and bonding with her classmates. The kids are also doing well but are all a little older: Naomi 9 3/4, Leah 7 1/2, Isaiah 6. We send our love and prayers down to Victoria - they may just need to be thawed out first- to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ at First English!

In God's Grip,  
Ellery

Greetings from the Harkins,

We pray that all is well at First English. Things are going very well with us. I have just received my approval for ordination from my candidacy committee after my approval interview which I had to travel to Denver, Colorado for. It feels wonderful and affirming to have this last step complete. Now I must wait until the end of February for my region assignment. After I find out my region assignment, I will get a call in the following weeks from the bishop of the synod in which I will seek a first call. This is a very exciting time in the process.

Jessica is doing well and is still working for American Trust, a local bank in Dubuque. Aidan of course is growing extremely fast. He is running all over and almost has a full set of teeth. He is beginning to speak more words and it has been amazing to see his growth and development.

Thank you to all of you for your continued prayers and support! We wouldn't be at this point in our journey without you.

In Christ,

Derek, Jessica, and Aidan Harkins

cont'd on next page

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.



FEELC Seminarian Andrew Dietzel is currently in his second year of his Master's of Divinity program at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Nearing the completion of his first two years in seminary and having finished a summer-long term of Clinical Pastoral Education (chaplancy) at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, Alaska this past summer, Andrew is looking ahead to an eventful year in discerning God's call for him in ministry. Along with marrying his college-sweetheart, Brandy Mikeska, this coming April, Andrew and Brandy will be learning in early March where they will be doing Internship starting this summer. Andrew is very excited about God's call for him in ordained ministry. While not busy reading books or writing papers, Andrew enjoys staying active with friends, ping-pong, and talking with past interns Ellery Dykeman and Derek Harkins. Andrew wants to thank everyone at FEELC for all of their love, support, and prayers throughout this long process, and ask for continued prayers as he begins this new Spring Semester.

Grace,  
Pastor Jerry

**BAPTISM** – In January we welcomed into our Church family through Baptism Hannah Isabella Belk, daughter of Jeremy and Lauren Belk. Hannah was born September 23, 2010.

In case you missed it, January 11, 2011 was declared “Dr. Sandra Cochran and Dr. Karen Klinkerman Day” by Mayor Will Armstrong. This proclamation resulted from their provision of surgical services for the Adopt-A-Pet organization in Victoria. Congratulations to Karen on her fine work.

Greetings Pastor Wirtley;

Thanks again for the opportunity to bring the mission message of FOOD FOR THE POOR. Your partnership is powerful. As of 12/28/10, we have received 25 gifts totaling \$1414.00 from First English Lutheran Church.

Dear Members of First English and the Rachel Circle:

Thank you for your generous gift of belts to Cuero Intermediate School. The belts have helped numerous students so far and we continue to give needy families belts as well as keep a supply on campus for students here. - Bill Hamilton, Principal

**COOKIES SIGN UP SHEET** – Volunteers are encouraged to sign up to provide cookies for Sunday School. They can be homemade or store bought, whatever you prefer. The signup sheet is in Felger Hall.

## Team Worship Schedule

Date/ Time	Greeters	Lay Readers	Deacons/ Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Sound System
Sat. 6:30p 2/5	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	Fabian	Ollie Flowers		Delores Seifert-Berger
Sun. 8:00a 2/6	Margaret Vrana Mildred Slaughter	Gary Childress	Maxey	Tracie Depine Sheri Merklinger	Megan Depine Lorin Merklinger	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 2/6	Kathy Svetlik Esther Wehlmann	Diana Rippstein	Hartman	Bryan & Sandra Serold	Caitlyn Lassmann Logan Lassmann	Aaron Muegge Debra Butler
Sat. 6:30p 2/12	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	Fabian	Ollie Flowers		Delores Seifert-Berger
Sun. 8:00a 2/13	Dorothy Bohn Larry Bruchmiller	Lillian Lau	Muegge	Tony Wilhelm Nyle Ruth Leshikar	Shelbie VanBeveren Elizabeth Hanselka	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 2/13	Ann Garza Chuck & Mary Gail Moody	Allen Jones	Schulte	Larry Shilling Joyce Thormalen	Kolton Shilling Charis Wirtley	Pat Rickman Sandra Post
Sat. 6:30p 2/19	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	Fabian	Ollie Flowers		Delores Seifert-Berger
Sun. 8:00a 2/20	Sue Raaz Ruth Heller	Kathy Svetlik	Sproles	Louis & Sue Boldt	Natalie Boldt Heidi Schoenherr	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 2/20	Joyce Thormahlen Gail Norris	Betty Bauch	Heinold	Sherry Podolak Rene Hassel	Breana Butler J.J. Muehlbrad	Debra Butler Paul Morrison
Sat. 6:30p 2/26	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	Fabian	Ollie Flowers		Delores Seifert-Berger
Sun. 8:00a 2/27	Harvey & Edna MacDonald Mildred Butler	Sandy Muegge	Maxey	Jerry & Danielle Alvarez	Dawson Carroll Mason Carroll	Kyle/Dick Martin
Sun. 10:30a 2/27	Aileen Lott Ed & Melrose Goetz	Paul Post	Hartman	Dennis & Tracy Hermes	Emily Klinkerman Mallory Hermes	Pat Rickman Sandra Post

**Altar Guild**

Melrose Goetz Elnora Bentley Donna Cliffe Tracie Depine Bobbie Guinn  
Altha Maxey Darlene McDonald Sandra Muegge Marilyn Swannack



I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Pastor Paul for presiding over Bill's touching memorial service on Saturday, January 1, 2011. Thank you to the ladies from Rebecca Circle and others who served at the reception and provided food. I am grateful to our church family for all of their prayers, calls, sympathy cards, kind words and flowers. Several of our out-of-town guests commented on how gracious everyone was and on how beautiful our sanctuary is. I would like to thank Laurel Graham for the lovely music and Paul Morrison for handling the sound system at the memorial service. I am also very grateful to Pastor Jerry for comforting us at Twin Pines Nursing Home on December 19, 2010, the night Bill died.

Once a month, members from our church distribute Communion to the residents at Twin Pines Nursing Home. Bill looked forward to and very much appreciated these visits. Thank you for providing this service to him and to all the residents in the nursing home.

I take pride in both the glory of our church and in the heartfelt kindness of our parishioners.

Thank you and God bless,  
D'Loris Evans and Family

First English Lutheran:

We would like to thank you for all you have done this past year in support of our efforts and ministry within Lutheran Social Services. You have opened your arms and hearts to welcome us. You helped to supply our children and families with necessary school supplies so that they may start the new year out fresh. What an amazing moment of hope. You supplied fun, food, fellowship and gifts through your angel tree giving project. The families are still talking about what an amazing time they had and how much they appreciated your love and compassion.

All of us here at LSS are deeply grateful for your support. It is awesome to see how the Body of Christ can move in such deliberate and caring ways. Your community is one that will continue to strengthen Victoria and your ministry will continue to bring Christ to all.

May God continue to bless your ministry. May each of you be so richly touched as you have touched the lives of so many without even knowing their names. God's Grace, The Staff of Lutheran Social Service of Victoria

### Special Prayers & Sympathy

Helen Guthrie, Sawyer McMakin, Gladys Mikula, Danny Adams, Sue Raaz, Harry Wall, Kim Curlee, Daniel, Slade Doehrman, Clara Hassel, Sophia and Randy, Marjorie Klaevemann and family, Larry Shilling, Lynda, Melanie, Judy Jones, Donna, Gary Janssen, Dionne Loughman, Elizabeth, Charles Wendel, Natalie Fraker, Gage Garnett, Haiti, our troops, and for all people in need.

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

Gary Janssen (Lillian Lau and Mildred Slaughter's brother) who passed away Saturday, January 22nd  
Elsie Hood, who passed away Friday, January 7, 2011

### Those who have been in the hospital this past month

Lamar Collins Peg Faulkner Helen Guthrie Ella Hasdorf Elsie Hood Terry Jackson Bo Keller Laurie Koehl  
Evelyn Laza Dorothy Roberts Bill Slaughter Florine Strakos Vernon Waida

**Action Items**  
January 23, 2011

Motion was made by Al Reinhardt, seconded by Larry Shilling, that the Minutes of the November 28, 2010, Church Council Meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Al Reinhardt, seconded by Rod Thompson, that the Minutes of the December 5, 2010, Annual Congregation Meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dee Harper, seconded by Tracy Hermes, that the Minutes of the December 5, 2010 Special Called Congregational Meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Larry Shilling, seconded by Rod Thompson, that the Executive Committee Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed.

Larry Shilling on behalf of the Finance Committee recommended that a full audit be conducted on FELC's books. The Finance Committee will be meeting in early February and will gather information regarding the cost of an audit and who will be asked to do the audit and will report to the Church Council.

Motion was made by Rod Thompson on behalf of the Board of Trustees, seconded by Al Reinhardt, that it be approved that the Board of Trustees be given authority to spend \$4,200.00 to continue with the modification of the two bathrooms on the first floor of the Education Building, to include the repair of the walls and tiling, to make them handicap accessible and ADA compliant, with the funds to be taken out of Building & Property Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

Motion was made by J. D. Riesterer, seconded by Tracy Hermes, that the following members be ratified as Board Members:

**Finance Committee** – Dan Hiller, Randy Muegge, Jim Hartman

**Board of Stewardship** – Callie Mae Adix, Sue Boldt, Stephanie Godfrey, Arnold Hayden, Mickey Maxey, and Bob Meyer

**Board of Trustees** – Chuck VanMetre, Floyd Wuensche

**Board of Youth** – Kelly Carroll

Motion carried.

Motion by Dee Harper, seconded by Larry Shilling, that FELC make an application to call an Intern for 2011-2012. Motion carried. There were two "no" votes.

### 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](mailto:dwtesch@suddenlink.net). You can also sign up on-line as a team member at [www.relayforlife.org/victoriacotx](http://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

**ALS TDI STROLL, ROLL AND RUN FUNDRAISER**

Below is registration form for the 5K run coming on March 6<sup>th</sup> to Riverside Park. If you would like to participate, you may submit this form to the address shown.

-----  
Cut along line

**ALS Stroll - Roll "n" Run  
Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender M F DOB \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

5 K Run-----\$25.00

Kids Fun Run-----\$10.00

Stroll-----\$25.00

Roll-----\$25.00

Adult T-SHIRT SIZE S M L XL XXL

Kids T-SHIRT SIZE S M L XL XXL

At the gate we accept your credit cards: Visa, Master Card and Discover

Checks made out to: ALS TDI

And Cash is always nice...

In consideration of the acceptance of this registration entry, I assume full and complete responsibility for any injury or accident which may occur during my participation in this race or while on the premises of this event; and I hereby release and hold harmless the sponsors, promoters, and all other persons and entities associated with this event from any and all injury or damages whether if it be caused by negligence of the sponsors or promoters or other persons or entities associated with this event or their agents or employees or otherwise. I grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use my (and my child's) name or photographs, videos, and other recordings of participation in this event, without obligation or liability to me (and my child). I have read this agreement carefully, and understand it, and certify my agreement by my signature below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature, if under 18

You may FAX completed form to: 361-575-1553 OR mail to: Stroll-Roll-N-Run Event  
1105 Plantation Rd.  
Victoria, Texas 77904

## *“Building and Nurturing Relationships for Christ”*

First English Ev. Lutheran Church  
516 N Main St.  
Victoria TX 77901

Non-Profit Organization  
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Victoria, Texas 77901

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

### **The New Church Council Was Installed on January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The new council members took office recently. A new list of contacts is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience.

### **ALS Fundraising**

During the month of January First English members raised enough money to meet the \$2000 goal to become a “Home Run Hitter” sponsor for the March 5K fundraiser. The FELC Stroll-Roll “n” Run Planning Committee Members would like to express their thanks for this generosity on the part of our congregation. They that, if you are not able to participate in the races, you will come out and enjoy the event on March 6<sup>th</sup>.