

# THE ENGLISH STEW

## Monthly Newsletter of the FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Pastor: Rev. Patrick Ballard**

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**Council President: Sharon Engstrom**

NOVEMBER 2024

Volume 11D

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



**NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR**—For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all” -1 Corinthians 9:19

I love this country. Every day I am thankful to have been born in a time and place where I have the freedom to say the things that are on my mind, to worship God in the tradition that I choose, and to peacefully protest injustices that exist. My father served in the Army reserves, my grandfather was a Naval officer, and but for a call to ministry I probably would have served as well. I have an American flag hanging at home and to me it represents hope, possibility, and opportunity.

And as someone who was born just outside of Washington D.C, and served my pastoral internship and first call in the metro area

of our nation’s capital, I have always enjoyed the political process. I often watch CSPAN in my free time and like watching the pundits talk about various candidates and issues. And on Tuesday night November 5th, my eyes will be glued to the television which will be splashed with numbers and colors as the election returns come in.

Because in the coming weeks, if you have not done so already, we each will have an opportunity to vote for the leaders of our country. And, as it is for me each year, this is an act I participate in firstly as a Christian, and secondarily as an American citizen. It seems trite, but the old phrase “what would Jesus do” is a good place to start when thinking about whom to vote for. Because for Christians, freedom doesn’t just mean being able to do whatever we want or whatever is best for our own self-interest. Christian Freedom means standing up in the face of injustice and lifting one another up when we are in need. Martin Luther summarized it this way, “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”

I love this country, but I do not love this country more than I love Jesus. I do not love this country more than I love my neighbor. And so when I vote, and when I learn about the results of the vote, I keep Jesus' twin commands front and center: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Surely each one of us will have issues decided or candidates elected that we are excited about, and candidates and issues that cause us great concern or discomfort. In a diverse democracy, this is always the case. But these issues and candidates are temporary; God's love and justice is forever.

So as we participate in the election with our hearts and minds set on Godly things, let us also continue to pray for all the candidates, to pray for those whom we disagree with, and to pray for peace. And most importantly, may we always remember that Jesus Christ is Lord yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and nothing can separate us from the love, grace, and blessings we have through him.

Peace,  
Pastor Patrick

### NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS-

#### November 3—All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25.6-9  
Psalm 24  
Revelation 21.1-6a  
John 11.32-44

#### November 17—Pentecost 26

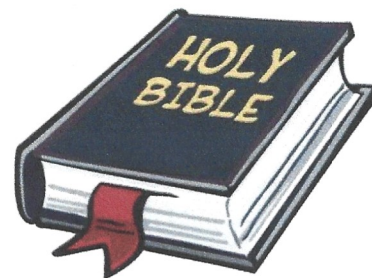
Daniel 12.1-3  
Psalm 16  
Hebrews 10.11-25  
Mark 13.1-8

#### Nov. 10—Pentecost 25

I Kings 17.8-16  
Psalm 146  
Hebrews 9.24-28  
Mark 12.38-44

#### Nov. 24—Christ the King

Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14  
Psalm 93  
Revelation 1.4b-8  
John 18.33-37



### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER -



#### Assisting Minister

Pat Teverbaugh

#### Ushers

Doug Streich  
Eric Petersen

#### Lectors

3—Eric Petersen  
10—Jeff Nickerson  
17—Doug Streich  
24—Barb Finley

#### Acolytes

3—Charlotte Walls  
10—Suzanne Kjoller  
17—Eric Petersen  
24—Judy Nickerson

#### Counters

3—Eric Petersen, Mark Kobold  
10—Sharon Engstrom, Jill Schultz  
17—Lynn Whittaker, Barb Finley  
24—Eric Petersen, Jean Whetstone

#### Gratitude Corner

3—Barb Finley  
10—Eric Petersen  
17—Sharon Engstrom  
24—Jill Schultz

#### Fellowship Hostess

3—Audra Hershberger  
10—Judy Nickerson  
17—Barbara Dietz  
24—Sharon Engstrom

#### Altar Duty

3,10,17—Sharon Engstrom  
24—Barb Finley

#### Communion Bread Baker

Sharon Engstrom

**THANK YOU** to everyone who worked so hard to make the Reformation Celebration and Baptism of Lydia Ruth Ballard such a joyful event. Kevin & the choir were magnificent, the Celebration of Baptism was joyful, and the Fellowship time was a great opportunity of everyone coming together and enjoying this time.



October 22, 2024

Hello First English Family,

***'I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH'***  
***PHILLIPPIANS 4:13***

This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible and one I have reached out to many times in my life, finding a great source of peace and strength from these words.

I am writing as I need to inform you of a concern the council has regarding the financial situation at First English. Our offerings are not keeping up with our expenses and since we are a family we need to be open and honest about this situation.

Our envelope offerings are approximately \$7600 behind our budget and not keeping up with our expenses that are incurred. We are doing everything we can to try to keep the expenses in line; making sure every dollar is spent wisely, being very accountable to you in all aspects of the expenses. If you are behind in your giving, try to make an effort to catch up; if you can offer a little more beyond your pledge, please do so.

First English is a very healthy, very generous congregation with a healthy budget considering the number of regular giving units we have. One thing that consistently amazes me is your "Yes" attitude, enthusiasm, creativity and willingness to step up in whatever situation. Words cannot thoroughly express my appreciation for each of you.

This situation is a stepping stone and not a road block; by facing it head on with faith and perseverance we will prevail and become stronger because of it. A quote from a recent conversation with a friend; "GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH US YET" and as a council we will explore all options to assure our ministry continues.

Blessings to each of you,

Sharon Engstrom  
Council President.



## COMMUNITY SHARE FELLOWSHIP TIME

- The Worship and Hospitality Ministry Team is sponsoring a “COMMUNITY SHARE FELLOWSHIP” on **Sunday Nov. 10, after our 10:30 Worship Service.**
- The time will consist of a simple lunch meal (provided by this Ministry Team) and a time for community members to reflect on our Life Together as a Lutheran Faith Community.
- **FORMAT:** There will 3 “rounds”; each one will pose a question to be discussed. Some members will move to be in a new group each round, other members can stay stationery, and invite new members into their discussion each round.

**QUESTIONS FOR NOV 10:** The questions were designed to help us reflect on our life together and get more comfortable talking about our faith experience here at FELC. They also hope to open some thought about how we might invite the area community to participate in some events we might have related to family life, faith building, or connects with a need area people might have.

*Please give some thought to these 3 questions ahead of time, as you are able:*

- 1. What attracted/attracts you to our church/community?**
- 2. What potential things/resources does our church/community have that you think might be attractive to people outside our church?**
- 3. Forming PARTNERSHIPS with area agencies/families: Our Preschool may be our signature ministry for which our church is known in the community. How might we invite and partner/share resources with others? (i.e. families of young children in our area?... or other organizations in the community with this same focus?....or people of any age in the area?**

**NOTE:** *This time together is not a task group. We will not take notes or write any reports. The experience is offered to just ENJOY and simply let the spirit work through our sharing/listening.*



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays:

3—Barbara Dietz                      12—Ann Umbaugh  
15—Bertha Kelsey                    28—Carol Nauman  
30—Gregg Hixenbaugh            30—Diane Soucie

### Anniversaries

11-17-1984—John & Suzanne Kjoller  
11-20-1982—Mike & Marsha Vinson  
11-23-1996—Steve & Marla Foster

**COME TO OUR PORT-A-PIT FUNDRAISER!!!** - Our annual Port-A-Pit fundraiser will be held this coming Saturday, November 2nd, in the parking lot from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (unless we sell out early). Ticket prices are—\$5.00 for a 1/2 chicken or a pork chop and \$5.00 for their pit-tatoes. Please come out and support this fundraiser!



**ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR COMING UP!!** - Our annual JINGLE BELL HOLIDAY BAZAAR will be held this Saturday, Nov. 2nd, along with our Port-a-Pit fundraiser. The bazaar will be from 9:00-3:00 p.m. Please come out and support the Vendors that will be set up. We will have handmade jewelry, honey, wreaths, glow-in-the-dark blankets, homemade soaps, knitted/crocheted items, wooden items, and Avon, Pampered Chef, Scentsy, & Pete & Lucy Boutique Clothing!



**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM UPDATE**— Starting in Advent, the congregation will be receiving a weekly email from the church office providing announcements and information about the latest events in the life of our congregation. These emails will go out on Friday afternoon and will be similar to what you will receive in print-form on Sundays in worship. If you would like to include something in the weekly email (or the printed announcements), it should be received by the church office no later than Wednesday morning each week. This will allow time for Marsha to organize and format the emails. Announcements should be fully written, no more than 4-5 sentences, and include: a title, the time and date of the event, a contact person. We are hoping this helps all of us stay more informed and connected even when we are away for a Sunday!



**OUR GREEN ENVELOPE COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER**—Our First Hand Giving green envelopes collection for this month will be for our own members. Funds collected this month will be divided among a few of our registered church members who may need help with holiday or day-to-day expenses. To contribute, please fill out the bottom part of the green envelope located in the pew racks. If you are aware of someone who may need help, please let Pastor Patrick, Sherry



**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 3rd**—This coming Sunday, we will observe All Saints Sunday. The names of our family & friends, who have passed on to the Church Triumphant since last All Saints day, will be read from the Book of the Dead during the Intercessory prayers. Here is the list we have collected since last November:

Becky Baxter	November 1, 2023
Cecil “Bus” Kelver	November 11, 2023
Rachel Vila Roche	November 24, 2023
Linda Kline	November 27, 2023
Gerald Proctor	December 3, 2023
Dennis Berg	January 24, 2024
Ruth Eliz. Stout Goodwin Tate	February 26, 2024
Virginia Lee (Ginny) Errett	March 1, 2024
Terry Cline	March 7, 2024
Stephenie Barbara Vinson	March 11, 2024
Patty Hippensteel	March 19, 2024
Silas Manges	March 25, 2024
Maxine Hochstetler	April 21, 2024
George David Proctor, Sr.	May 5, 2024
Matthew File	May 16, 2024
Thomas Lynn Montgomery	June 4, 2024
Shelley Constance Eggert	
Rakestraw Geneva	June 19, 2024
Teresa Lienau Mayers	June 25, 2024
Billie Jean Vinson Strom	July 18, 2024
Jill Marie Errett	September 1, 2024
Paul G. Domrow	September 6, 2024
Glen Zellers	September 12, 2024
Stephen Saine	October 11, 2024
Betty Lucille Dunten	October 21, 2024

**PERSONAL CARE KITS UPDATE**— On Oct 19th, 86 Personal Care Kits were delivered to St. John’s Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne; loaded on a truck destined for Valparaiso. They were not able to tell us where they would go after that. THANK YOU to everyone who donated so generously to Lutheran World Relief and to Sharon Engstrom & Lynn Hixenbaugh for delivering the kits to Fort Wayne for us.



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

**FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR NOVEMBER**—During the month of November, First English has been asked to provide the following food donations for the Mishawaka Food Pantry at Albright United Methodist Church: **PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, or DISH SOAP.** You may place your donations in the gray container in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.



## Church Family News



### OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN THE NEWS-

**JEAN WHETSTONE**—has recently received a wrestling award. She was inducted into the Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association for 48 years of working wrestling tournaments & hasn't stopped yet! Congratulations Jean!

**SHARON ENGSTROM's**—aunt, Betty Lucille Dunten, passed away on October 21st. Please keep John & Sharon and family in your prayers. **MAY GOD COMFORT THOSE WHO MOURN.**

**JILL & STEVE SCHULTZ**—are first-time grandparents!! **HAVANA SKY** was born on Friday, October 25th, to Adam & Brandy Schultz in Raleigh, NC. She weighed 7 lbs. and was 19" long. Congratulations to everyone!

**LYDIA RUTH BALLARD**—was baptized here at First English on Sunday, October 27th. She is the daughter of our Pastor Patrick and Laurel Mazur. Congratulations to her, her parents, grandparents, and godparents, Maggie DePriest and Eric Brommer.

**FROM OUR PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR**—Beautifully, we have entered another fall month and our preschool classes have become so colorful with all the personalities getting comfortable and now having fun. We are so thankful to be able to continue getting outside with the temperatures (and dry weather). As we head into the colder months we hope to continue getting outside, even though coats/boots may take a bit more time to put on!

November will start off with our time (Nov. 6/7) to welcome St. Mary's College students/professors for screening our preschoolers with their speech and hearing development. This helps identify if children might need extra support as building language early is so critical for social development. We will also invite families/staff to join our board meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30pm. We like to get insight early in the year on what our current families want/need as school board members continue to make decisions through the year.



Plans are being made to showcase our favorite classroom nursery rhymes the week of November 11-15 as it is World Nursery Rhyme week. The importance of learning and remembering these rhymes is critical for literacy skills. Classes are planning to meet together to enjoy a few rhyme-alongs during the school day. Then, we have plans for our family night activity, Friday the 22nd from 4:30-6pm. Teachers are currently in collaboration to decide what area of development to focus on as well as what activities will best engage families and children. We are even going to try to sneak in a time for grandparents to come to preschool as we recognize November is also Family Caregivers Month. Of course we can't forget the Thanksgiving holiday which will occur in the last week of November; we will take a few days off to enjoy family/friend gatherings as we celebrate our many blessings.

We are so thankful for our First English Lutheran Church and Preschool community,

Mrs. Tracy Gleissner, FELP Director

# November

## December 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 Handmade Ministry, 1:00-3:00 pm Bazaar Set-up, 6:00-8:00 pm	2 Jingle Bell Holiday Bazaar in Trout Hall, 9:00-3:00 pm Port-a-Pit Fundraiser, 10:00-3:00 pm
3 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Holy Communion: 10:30 am Fellowship: 11:30 am	4	5	6 Bible Study, 10:00 am at Gloria Dei Mah Jongg, 12:30-2:30 pm	7	8 Handmade Ministry, 1:00-3:00 pm	9
10 HC: 10:30 am Fellowship: 11:30 am Community Share Sunday	11 Stephen Ministry, 7:00 pm	12 Communion at Hellenic Nursing, 3:30 pm FELP Board & Open Meeting, 6:30 pm	13 Bible Study at Gloria Dei, 10:00 am Mah Jongg, 12:30 - 2:30 Worship & Music Comm. Mtg, 6:00 pm	14	15 Handmade Ministry, 1:00-3:00 pm	16
17 HC: 10:30 am Fellowship: 11:30 am	18 Communication Team Meeting, 6:00 pm	19	20 Bible Study at Gloria Dei, 10:00 am Mah Jongg, 12:30-2:30 pm	21 Church Council mtg., 6:00 pm	22 Handmade Ministry, 1:00-3:00 pm	23
24 HC: 10:30 am Fellowship: 11:30 am	25	26	27 Mah Jongg, 12:30-2:30 pm	28 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY	29	30