

# THE ENGLISH STEW

Monthly Newsletter of the

## FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**JULY 2024**

**VOLUME 7D**

**FROM  
THE  
PASTOR**



Dear Church,

Coming up in a couple of weeks is the 8th anniversary of my ordination, which took place in Baltimore, Maryland at Christ Lutheran Church on July 15th, 2016. The last eight years have brought me to places I never imagined, including right here in Northern Indiana. It has been a blessing to serve among you for the last year and a half, and I look forward to much more ahead of us.

As I think about my ordained ministry so far, there are a few reflections that I wanted to share:

First, I have had some great mentors over these eight years. When I served in Baltimore, I experienced many staffing transitions along the way. In fact, I served (in some capacity) with six different pastors and one deacon in eight different staffing models. It was a bit overwhelming as I went through it, but as I left the call and had some time to reflect, I realized what a blessing it had been to work with all of these folks. These leaders: Sue, Lauren, Jim, Judy, John, Amsalu, and Vaughn, all offered their time and guidance as I navigated my first years of ministry. And so, when I came out here to Indiana to serve in a two-point call, not having these colleagues to rely on was one of the things I was most worried about. Little did I know that God would bless me with two more rostered leaders, Pastor Ken and Deaconess Barb, who would offer similar support and guidance along the way. And moreover, so many of you lay folks have been wonderful leaders and mentors as well. I am grateful for the ways that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire the Church from generation to generation.

Second, the Church is made of people, not buildings...but buildings matter. It's clear from scripture that the word "Church" really refers to the community of believers worshiping and working together. The way that we are focused on loving God and neighbor, and extending that out into the world, is why the Church exists. But the buildings are vitally important tools for this work. The buildings are where we gather for Word and Sacrament. The buildings are (cont. on page 5)



## NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT—

Hello First English Family,

Summer is upon us with the joys, challenges and opportunities the summertime brings; I pray you are doing well as you make your plans allowing the Spirit to direct your days.

For First English “July” means Rummage Sale; as you all know this is an all hands on deck opportunity with these efforts supporting so many people in our community in ways we can not realize. Thank you.

Waiting was the first word in our Synod assembly theme which was: WAITING, WATCHING, AND WORKING. As we were waiting, we were utilizing three critical factors of this “waiting”. We were praying, (that things would work out) we were patient (even though this was very hard at times) and we were actively working (Creating a Capital Improvement Campaign to fund the doors) toward the goal of the doors. This was core theme of the first speaker, Bishop Daniel Beaudoin at Synod Assembly, Bishop Daniel stated that by making “waiting” a practiced discipline and regular habit the results can be energizing.

It is a great opportunity for me to apply these concepts to this journey we are going through now as it demonstrates how applying all of these principles can be uplifting in any aspect of life.

Thank you, First English Family for who you are, for your energy and for your very generous philosophy of Living Generously.

God Bless you all.

Sharon Engstrom

**UPDATE:** We have just learned that the “mullions and panics” are on back order until the 10th of July. We will have to wait, pray and be patient just a little longer.

**RUMMAGE SALE NEWS**—It’s rummage sale time again! July 12-13, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.

**Donations** - We still need donations and you have until July 7 to bring them to the church. Ask your friends and neighbors if they want to donate too!

**Set-up Help** – We have two time slots for helping set up the sale. Mondays Thursdays 2 – 4 pm and 6-8 pm. An experienced leader will be working during each time slot to give direction. There is something for everyone!

**Work the Sale** – The Sale is Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13. We need help for running the checkout desk and straightening. Shifts are: 7:30 am – 11 am and 11 am to 2:30 pm. Sign up sheet is on WELCA bulletin board in Trout Hall.

**Bake Sale** – we’ll need plenty of baked goods as last year we almost ran out on the first day! Small items grouped on a paper plate in a zip lock bag or wrapped brownies, cookies, cakes, etc. Drop off Thursday, 6/11 – label with any special ingredients – eg. gluten free, no nuts, or includes nuts, etc. WE WILL PRICE THE ITEMS.

**Member Pre-Sale** – Members can shop the sale on Thursday, July 11 from 6-8 pm.

Thanks for your help – WELCA BOARD





**JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR!** - Please join us for the first First English happy hour scheduled this Friday the 28th at the Public House in South Bend (on Jefferson Blvd. in Howard Park east of the river near downtown South Bend). It will be a fun opportunity to spend time with one another in a relaxed atmosphere. There is both indoor and outdoor seating (so you'll be able to find a temperature level that works for you). If your budget is a little tight, don't worry - there will be some "Share" envelopes floating around with cash in them which you can pick up and use to buy yourself an appetizer. Invite your friends and

relatives along! Some of us will get there around 4:30 pm to scout out some tables but come any time after your workday ends.

**2024 I/K Synod Assembly Report**- This year's Synod Assembly was held in Louisville, Kentucky from June 7th through June 9th. Jeff and Judy Nickerson represented First English as voting delegates with John and Sharon Engstrom attending as non-voting members. Jeanette Taylor and Jonathon Sanchez served as voting delegates from Gloria Dei. The theme for the assembly was Waiting, Watching, and Working Together in Christ.



The highpoint of the assembly this year was the election of a new Bishop to represent our I/K Synod to replace Bishop Gafkjen who is retiring after serving 14 years. Bishop Gafkjan will be missed greatly. The process for electing was very exciting as it took five ballots to achieve the number of votes necessary for the required majority. A total of 326 pastors and lay delegates qualified for voting. The process started with a vote for nominations to be considered. A Q&A was given to the top 5 candidates after the third ballot to give voters a chance to hear them speak about themselves and their vision for the future. After each ballot, the candidates with the least amount of votes dropped off until there were only two left on the 5th ballot. The Rev. Tim Graham, currently serving as senior pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN will serve as our next bishop beginning in September of this year. Bishop-elect Graham has had quite an interesting and inspirational life story. I hope we all get the chance to get to know him.

We attended a few break-out sessions on stewardship and Lutheran Disaster Relief. You should feel confident in any donations you may want to give for the LDR fund as they accomplished wonderful things to help those affected by the Kentucky tornadoes this past year.

The keynote speakers were interesting to hear as they weaved this year's theme into their presentations. The gathering eucharist was inspiring with great music and singing. With all of the troubles and challenges facing humanity, it was such a positive experience to be with people of faith and to worship and celebrate our Lord.

**NEW PRICING FOR ALTAR FLOWERS**—We have the opportunity to order altar flowers from Powell Florist in Mishawaka. The cost is \$25.00 per bouquet for a total of \$50.00 and includes free delivery. They will tailor these bouquets for special requests / colors if desired. Interested folks can sign up on the flower chart. Questions or comments can be directed to Sharon. If you desire to order your flower donation from Powell's, Marsha will call in your order as has been done in the past.



**CHURCH DIRECTORY** - In an effort to have current information of our membership, we are going to be updating our CHURCH DIRECTORY. There is a table with a current directory in the narthex, please make the needed changes, updates in it. If no changes need to be made, write OK beside your name.



## **Meet Our Bishop-elect: Rev. Tim Graham**

After graduating from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2007, I received a dual call. The first and primary call was as a redevelopment pastor to Grace Lutheran Church/Light of the Cross (LOTC) in Fort Wayne -- the same church my father was called to in 1976 -- and the second call was to Messiah Lutheran Church as an Associate Pastor.

We built some meaningful community at LOTC. However, sadly, we celebrated the holy closure of LOTC at the end of 2009.

In March 2010, Messiah called me to serve full-time as the Youth and Family Pastor. In 2014, I was called as the Interim Senior Pastor, and then in May 2015, I was unanimously called to Messiah as the Senior Pastor.

Some highlights from 17 years at Messiah include:

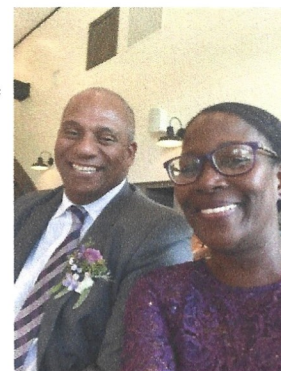
- An amazing staff and church leadership that fully supported me
- several international, domestic, and local mission trips with our youth and one international trip with a couples' group.
- The restructuring of our governance to an "Accountability Model."
- Transitioned preschool to childcare with infant care.
- A \$2.3 million Capital and Building Renovation campaign without any debt.
- A new culture focusing on hospitality to the stranger where "Everyone means anyone, and anyone means everyone."

I was adopted in Iowa as an infant, and named Timothy Mark Graham by my father and mother, the late Rev. Vernon Graham and Ellen Graham, while they were at Wartburg Theological Seminary. I have three sisters, Dawn (Tom) Starks, Kristina Alderdice (deceased, 2016), and Melissa (Stacy) Curry and several nieces and nephews.

My wife Meme (Michelle) and I met in high school and were married in January 1992. We have four adult children -- Sashelle Rose and fiancé Alex Knight, Timothy Graham Jr., Lorraine Graham and husband (Cody) Williamson, and Robert Graham -- and they all reside in Fort Wayne. We also have seven grandchildren -- Jaylen, Maleyah, Michelle, Noelle, Elias, Graham, and Greyson.

Meme and I love traveling, especially to beaches! Our favorite place is the Dominican Republic, and Hilton Head Island is a close second! I also enjoy watching movies (big Marvel fan), smoking BBQ, and reading thriller mystery novels. And I love an array of music. My favorite artists include Luther Vandross, Elvis Presley, Marvin Gaye, and Christopher Cross.

Rev. Tim Graham, Bishop-elect, IN-KY Synod



**LIFE LINE SCREENING AT FIRST ENGLISH**—You're invited to a Life Line Screening event here at First English on Tuesday, July 30th! Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk screenings. Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection. Special pricing for \$159.00 for 5 different screenings. 3 ways to book your appointment...Call 1-888-814-0466 and use promo code: HSCA001 OR visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA](http://LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA) OR text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607.

**FROM OUR PASTOR—(cont. from page 1)**

where we listen to sacred music made on beautiful instruments. The buildings are where we share good food and good cheer, celebrate new marriages with friends and family, and grieve together at funerals. The buildings are the places where God’s smallest children learn and grow, and helps foster the sort of community that God is creating. So I am grateful for the good stewardship and careful tending by our property teams to the spaces that God has entrusted to us.

And most importantly, I thank God for each and every one of you. Whether we’re in a bible study, going to a ball-game together, discussing theology over a beer, working through a council meeting, planning a community event, staying up late at a lock-in, or collecting supplies for a local partner, being part of your lives has helped to shape me as a person and pastor. Thanks to the Holy Spirit’s call and your willingness to receive me and share ministry with me, we have done a whole lot in the last year and half. I can’t wait to see what God has in store for us next!

Peace,  
Pastor Patrick

**BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY -**

**July 7—Pentecost 7**

Ezekiel 2.1-5  
Psalm 123  
II Corinthians 12.2-10  
Mark 6.1-13

**July 21—Pentecost 9**

Jeremiah 23.1-6  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2.11-22  
Mark 6.30-34, 53-56

**July 14—Pentecost 8**

Amos 7.7-15  
Psalm 85.8-13  
Ephesians 1.3-14  
Mark 6.14-29

**July 28—Pentecost 10**

II Kings 4.42-44  
Psalm 145.10-18  
Ephesians 3.14-21  
John 6.1-21



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JULY -**



**Assisting Minister:**

Eric Petersen

**Ushers:**

Pat Teverbaugh  
Mark Kobold

**Lectors:**

7—Doug Streich  
14—Pat Teverbaugh  
21—Barb Finley  
28—Audra Hershberger

**Acolytes:**

7—Charlotte Walls  
14—Judy Nickerson  
21—Lynn Hixenbaugh  
28—Charlotte Walls

**Gratitude Corner:**

7—Jill Schultz  
14—Mark Kobold  
21—Jean Whetstone  
28—Lynn Whittaker

**Fellowship Hostess:**

7—Sharon Engstrom  
14—Pat Teverbaugh  
21—Kathy Coleman  
28—Sherry Lambert

**Counters:**

7—Jill Schultz, Mark Kobold  
14—Lynn Whittaker, Eric Petersen  
21—Barb Finley, Jean Whetstone  
28—Sharon Engstrom, Jill Schultz

**Altar Duty:**

7 & 14—Sharon Engstrom  
21 & 28—Barb Finley

**Communion Bread:**

Jean Whetstone



**JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES-**

**Birthdays:**

- 13—Iden Hershberger      15—Michael Chapman
- 16—Lynn Whittaker      17—Nolan Swank
- 18—Morgan Hartz      23—Pastor Patrick
- 24—Jean Whetstone      27—Sherry Lambert
- 29—Mike Hershberger

**Anniversaries:**

- 7-9-1977—Lynn & Carol Whittaker
- 7-21-1990—Gregg & Lynn Hixenbaugh
- 7-28-1990—Jeff & Judy Nickerson



**MARK & TERESA KOBOLD'S**—son, Kyle Kobold, was promoted to Captain in the U.S. Navy recently. He has 22 years in the service.

**DOROTHY WARNER**—recently broke her foot. Please keep her in your prayers for complete healing.

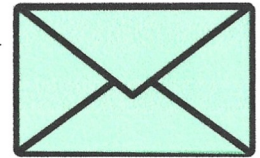


**PUB THEOLOGY CHANGES**—Beginning this month, Pub Theology has several changes. We will meet on **TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 9th** at 6:00 p.m.

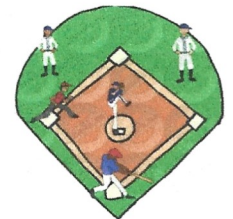
And in a new location! We will meet at The Cellar, located at 702 E. Jefferson, South Bend. Hope to see you there!

**GREEN ENVELOPE COLLECTION FOR JULY & AUGUST**—

For the months of July & August our green envelope collection will be for our lawn service. Please use the green envelopes in the pew racks for your donation. With one more Sunday in June, we have collected \$250.00 to send to Broadway Christian Parish! Thank you for your donation!



**WE'RE GOING TO A BALL GAME!**- Be sure to sign up for the South Bend Cubs baseball game on August 8 at Four Winds Field. The game starts at 7:05; cost is \$32.00 which includes a ticket to the game, food, soft drinks and a hat. Come mingle with our friends from Gloria Dei and Hilltop for a fun evening cheering on our South Bend Cubs. Checks should be made payable to First English with "Baseball game" indicated on it. The deadline to sign up is July 21.



Thank you to **Jeff Nickerson** for his tenacious efforts in trying to get our new doors installed. It has been quite the journey with many twists and turns but soon will be brought to fruition. Thank you to **Riley Galloway's dad and brother** for redoing and updating our over hangs at the Narthex entrance. Be sure to look up as you walk in the entrance to see the new design! A continued thank you to the **Faith in Action Team and all of the volunteers** who have been working tirelessly to improve our Prayer Garden. Take a walk out there and see the beautiful enhancements that have occurred.

Thank you to the **Care of Property team** for trying to capture our unwelcome ground hog, spraying weeds in the drive and all the trimming they have done to improve the appearance of our church grounds.

# July 2024

August 2024

S M T W T F S  
 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
30	1 Rummage Sale Set-up, Mon.-Thurs. 2:00-4:00 & 6:00-8:00	2	3 Bible Study at Gloria Dei, 10:00 a.m. Mah Jongg, 12:30-2:30 pm	4 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY No rummage sale work today	5	6
7 Holy Comm: 9:00 Fellowship: 10:00 Last day for donations for rummage sale	8	9 Pub Theology at The Cellar, 6:00 pm	10 Bible Study at Gloria Dei, 10:00 am Mah Jongg, 12:30-2:30 pm	11 Bake Sale drop-off and Member shopping, 6:00-8:00 pm	12 ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE IN TROUT HALL, 8:00-2:00 PM	13 Half-Price day at Rummage Sale, 8:00 - 2:00 pm
14 Holy Comm: 9:00 am Fellowship: 10:00 am TAKE DOWN DAY to clean up sale	15	16 Communion at Hellenic Retirement Home, 3:30 pm	17 Bible Study at Gloria Dei, 10:00 am Mah Jongg, 12:30 - 2:30 pm	18 Church Council mtg., 6:00 pm	19 Handmade Ministry, 1:00-3:00 pm	20
21 Holy Comm: 9:00 am Fellowship: 10:00 am	22	23	24 Bible Study at Gloria Dei, 10:00 am Mah Jongg, 12:30 - 2:30 pm	25	26 Handmade Ministry, 1:00-2:	27
28 Holy Comm.: 9:00 am Fellowship: 10:00 am	29	30 Life Line Screening in Trout Hall	31 Bible Study at Gloria Dei, 10:00 am Mah Jongg, 12:30-2:30 pm	1	2	3

# You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!



Where: **First English Lutheran Church**  
**16495 Ireland Road, Mishawaka**

When: **Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

**Trusted by over 10 million customers.**

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend:** Anyone over the **age of 40**

**Special Pricing for \$159**

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
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"circle" to  
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare