

THE ENGLISH STEW

Monthly Newsletter of the

FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FROM OUR PASTOR— *“6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:6-7*

These two verses have always been one of my favorites, but also, as someone who has struggled with some anxiety from time to time, some of the most vexing. Do not be anxious? About anything? That seems a tall order. And after these last few weeks, it has become abundantly clear to me that Saint Paul never experienced the worries that come with the birth of a new child, especially one that begins her life with a stay in a neonatal intensive care unit.

As most of you know by now, Laurel and I welcomed our first child, Lydia Ruth Ballard, on May 10th 2024. She surprised us by coming about five weeks early, and at birth weighed in at 3lbs 11 ounces. Her early arrival and small size has necessitated a stay in the Memorial Hospital NICU, from whom we have received wonderful care and support.

All of you have also shared your prayers and well wishes, for which we are so grateful. She has checked many of her boxes already, including breathing on her own, maintaining her own temperature, and has started to gain some weight. As of this writing, she is up to 4lbs and 2 ounces! So we have much to be grateful for and thankful.

But the truth is, I have been pretty anxious. Seeing your little child hooked up to monitors, getting pricked and prodded multiple times a day, and with a tiny feeding tube in her nose will do that to you.

But I'm also pretty sure that Paul had some anxiety as well. When he was thrown in prison or wasn't sure where his next meal would come from, I imagine anxiety was part of the equation. But I think it is the second part of this verse that is the key part of what he is getting at: “in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Offer your concerns and worries to God, who can share the burden with you. Receive the gift of



peace that only Christ can give. This is the key.

Moreover, Saint Paul wrote these words as part of a letter of encouragement to a Christian community that was dealing with struggles and anxiety themselves. It was a reminder that they were not alone, that God stood with them, and that he and the other early believers did to.

We all have anxious times, but I think Paul's encouragement is to not get stuck in the anxiety. To use the support of one another to help reconnect us to the Triune God who relieves our burdens. Prayer and Christian community has already helped Lydia and Laurel and I get through the last few weeks and it will continue to support us in the unknown months and years ahead.

My hope and prayer for each of you is that you too remember to rely on one another and on Christ in the anxiety-filled times of life. They hit each of us in different ways, and at different times, but for this very reason God has gifted us with church communities like ours. Lean on one another, and the peace of God will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Peace,
Pastor Patrick

FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT— Hello First English Family,



Happy Memorial Day to each of you as it is on Memorial Day that I am writing this. I pray that each of you can take a moment to pause and appreciate all the sacrifices that have been given for us to enjoy our freedom.

June is now here and with that comes many different schedules and opportunities. School is out or soon will be out, the weather is (hopefully) changing to a little more warmth and as a church family we are entering the “Green” season of the Sundays of Pentecost. On May 19 we had a wonderful celebration of Pentecost, appreciating our wonderful choir, Kevin’s organist skills and Pastor’s sermon on the Spirit and how it is truly alive at First English. On May 26 we celebrated Holy Trinity Sunday, “the three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.” Taken from our bulletin.

There was great evidence of the Spirit moving at the May 10 event hosted at First English. This event was a culmination of our 2 year E-Connect journey where we were awarded a \$2500 grant to continue the work of reaching out to our community, learning about our neighbors and being little Christ’s to all God’s people. We were thrilled with the results of this event and already talking about continuing this next year as this event was not really the “end”, only a stepping stone to other possibilities of reaching out and getting to know our neighbors.

The Capital Improvement Campaign has been a huge success and we have exceeded our goal thanks to a very generous anonymous donation. The doors will be replaced soon, we are investigating improving the overhangs of our entrances and the contract has been signed and sent to Randall Karstens to begin the process of updating and improving our organ. This is all due to the Spirit moving each one of you and inspiring your Living Generously philosophy.

As you have heard, our new website: Firstenglishmishawaka.org is now up and running; be sure to take some time to look at this and take advantages of the plethora of information on it. I recently needed to review something from the May STEW, I went to the website and there was the STEW that I could easily read and refer to. Also, the Stewardship Ministry team is soon going to be discerning ways in which online giving can be added. If anyone has information or experience with this let me know.

Recently you received your Living Generously pledge update; prayerfully consider where you are at in regards to your commitment to the work of First English and make every effort to stay up to date with this commitment. We are entering the summer months of worship where sometimes life gets in the way of our good intentions; staying current with your giving will ensure that we can continue sharing our gifts with our community and the church at

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT (cont.)

large.

Thank you to each and every one of you for all you do to further the work God has designed to do. No effort is too small and you are so appreciated.

Blessings,

Sharon Engstrom, Council President



PATERNITY LEAVE PLAN— People of God, I am very grateful for the gift of the Church in providing leave for both parents at the birth of a child. After welcoming Lydia Ruth Ballard on May 10th, I wanted to share with you all the plan for how my time at home with my family will look, and how it will affect our life together in the near-term. I was hoping to share this with you before Lydia was born, but since she decided to make an early arrival, some of this information is coming to you after the fact.

First: I took a full week off surrounding her birth, including having Pastor Gary Hilfiger sub for me in leading worship just two days after Lydia was born. Many thanks to Pastor Gary and to the council presidents, Sharon Engstrom and Jaime Owen, for coordinating this all on short notice.

Second: as you know, Lydia has been in the NICU since her birth, and this has meant that I have mostly been working from the hospital since I “returned” to work. I have resumed leading bible study, worship, and will attend other meetings and events as the schedule allows. I am available by phone, text, and email, although I may take a little longer than usual to get back to you if I’m holding or feeding our little girl.

Third: I plan to take another full week off whenever Lydia is able to come home from the hospital. This may be another short notice leave, but I have a colleague lined up who should be able to fill in on whatever Sunday that may be.

Fourth: Once we are home for a week together as a family, I plan to resume a typical work schedule, coming in to the office, attending meeting and events as usual, until the end of July. However, my hours might be different than they have been as we work out a good plan for our family. I will share my hours once we settle on a plan.

Fifth: Beginning in August, I plan to take the other 10 weeks that are allotted for paternity leave, while continuing to lead worship on Sundays. There may be one or two Sundays in which I take a vacation or have another preacher lighten the load while I preside, but for the most part I will be leading worship and preaching. This comes after discussion with Laurel, and both of our need for something “normal” during this time. My choice was to be with you all on Sundays in praise and worship of our Lord. Pastor care will likely be mostly phone calls and texts during this time, although I will still try to make hospital visits as I am able. I plan to officiate any funerals that need to be attended to, but depending on the rigidity of the timing I might have to connect families to another colleague. However, the rest of my pastoral work will be minimal. Emails will mostly go unanswered, I will not be attending meetings, and anything that can wait until the end of leave should wait. I will return to a full work schedule beginning on Sunday, October 13th.

If you have any questions about this plan, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me before August. After that, I might not respond to your email until October. Peace, Pastor Patrick

WELCA NEWS

RUMMAGE SALE/BAKE SALE!

The sale is set for July 12-13 but there is plenty to do before that happens. Please mark these important dates. Again, we are asking for participation from congregation members in a variety of areas.

June 2- We will have a Rummage Sale training session after service. We will be explaining our committees and asking for volunteers to head/work them plus much more. This is the first year that this will be held and we feel that it is important for the successful running of our sale.

June 3 – We will begin collecting donation items to be stored in a classroom (to be determined) until set-up dates. You can drop items off from 9 to noon, M-Th during Marsha's working hours or on Sunday before service.

June 22 - Set-up Saturday beginning at 8:30. Everything will be removed from the WELCA room, tables and shelving will be assembled, and storage bins will be placed in proper areas as directed.

June 23- Dress-down Sunday will begin after service. Donated items will be brought out from the Bazaar room and the donation classroom and placed in the correct labeled departments (if possible).

June 24- Set-up begins and donations continue. Hours are M-Th, 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. (not July 4th). Donations can be dropped off from 9-noon, during set-up hours, and Sundays during service times. It is possible that other times can be arranged by contacting a board member.

July 7- This is the last day that donations will be accepted.

July 8- Set-up/pricing continues until finished.

July 11- Bake Sale drop-off and member shopping. (Please do not shop before this date.)

July 12- Day 1, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Volunteers 7:30 to 2:30) – 2 shifts

July 13- Day 2 – Half Price Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Volunteers 7:30-2:30), committees complete assigned jobs before leaving. This includes taking down outdoor signs and gathering items for charities.

July 14 – Take-down Sunday begins immediately after service. Boxes are brought into Trout Hall and packed.

Reminder – There will be no sales before the Member Pre-sale on July 11.

Thanks for all of your help in making our Rummage Sales the success that they have been in the past.

If you need to reach WELCA, I am the main contact: Barbara Dietz, bdietz59@sbcglobal.net , 574-229-9585 or you can leave a message with Marsha at church.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Dietz, WELCA Coordinator



JUNE BIBLE READINGS:

June 2—Pentecost 2

Deuteronomy 5.12-15
 Psalm 81.1-10
 II Corinthians 4.5-12
 Mark 2.23-3.6

June 9—Pentecost 3

Genesis 3.8-15
 Psalm 130
 II Corinthians 4.13-5.1
 Mark 3.20-35

June 16—Pentecost 4

Ezekiel 17.22-24
 Psalm 92.1-4, 12-15
 II Corinthians 5.6-17
 Mark 4.26-34

June 23—Pentecost 5

Job 38.1-11
 Psalm 107.1-3, 23-32
 II Corinthians 6.1-13
 Mark 4.35-41

June 30—Pentecost 6

Lamentations 3.22-33
 Psalm 30
 II Corinthians 8.7-15
 Mark 5.21-43

JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS—

Assisting Minister

Pat Teverbaugh

Lectors

2—Doug Streich
 9—Audra Hershberger

Acolytes

2—Lynn Hixenbaugh
 9—Eric Petersen

Ushers

John Engstrom
 Doug Streich

16—Celia Walls

23—Barbara Dietz

16—Charlotte Walls

23—Suzanne Kjoller



Counters

2—Jean Whetstone, Jill Schultz
 9—Jean Whetstone, Mark Kobold
 16—Lynn Whittaker, Eric Petersen
 23—Barb Finley, Jill Schultz

Fellowship Hostess

2—Pat Teverbaugh
 9—Audra Hershberger
 16—Celia Walls
 23—Barbara Dietz

Altar Duty

2—Sherry Lambert
 9—Barb Finley
 16 & 23—Pat Teverbaugh

Gratitude Corner

2—Jean Whetstone
 9—Lynn Whittaker
 16—Barb Finley
 23—Eric Petersen

Communion Bread Baker— Marla Foster

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, WE WILL HAVE A JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE AT GLORIA DEI.



STRING QUINTET PERFORMANCE—The South Bend Symphony Orchestra String Quintet will perform at Gloria Dei on Sunday, June 23rd, at 3:00 p.m. This is the same type of concert as the wind quintet from last summer. All are invited to attend!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES -

Birthdays:

1—Krystyna Shepley

7—Orvie Ward

9—Nick Hershberger

9—Leo Lambert

10—Hazel Galloway

10—Hudson Galloway

11—John Engstrom

15—Carol Whittaker

16—Marge Ward

21—Eric Petersen

24—Mike Vinson

Anniversaries:

6-6-1964—Orv & Marge Ward—60th Anniversary!!!

6-13-1965—Art & Carol Nauman

6-18-1977—John & Sharon Engstrom

6-29-1985—Steve & Jill Schultz

6-25-2022—Pr. Patrick Ballard & Laurel Mazur

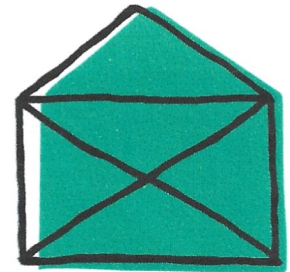
FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

FOR JUNE—First English has been asked to supply the following items for the Mishawaka Food Pantry located at Albright United Methodist Church during the month of June....**CANNED SOUP, CRACKERS, or LAUNDRY SOAP.** You can leave your donations in the gray container in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support of this community outreach.



GREEN ENVELOPE COLLECTION FOR JUNE

— This month our green envelope collection will be for Broadway Christian Parish. They have a multitude of programs to help the south-side unhoused. They offer showers, toiletries, laundry, clothing, telephone, mail, a food pantry, and advocacy. At Broadway, they believe in giving a “hand up”. Their focus is on forming creative partnerships with community partners to serve their guests, who have a plethora of diverse needs. Please use the green envelopes in the pews to help this organization help those who are most in need. During the month of April, the green envelopes collected \$700.00 for our preschool staff and each teacher was given \$70.00. In May we collected \$280.00 for the MAC Food Pantry in Mishawaka! Thank you!



A HUGE THANK YOU - to everyone who worked tirelessly to make our “Calming Skills for the Wear & Tear of Raising Children” event so successful. We ended up having a total of 20 children and 43 adults attend which was wonderful for our first time. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal followed by the adults listening to Donna Pangburn and the children enjoying many different activities; followed by Abracadabra

Magician, Kevin Wilson. A total of 15 books “Whole Brain Child” were handed out to the adults who attended. We have received a tremendous amount of positive feedback and great suggestions for future events. This event is a stepping stone from which we will leap into many future activities involving First English and the surrounding community in order to reach out beyond our walls and do the work of the Lord we are designed to do.

Thank you to the Faith in Action team as we have been seeing a lot of “Faith in Action” recently. The prayer garden is really shaping up and everyone’s contribution is so appreciated.

Take me
OUT
to the
Ballgame

SAVE THE DATE: - Take me out to the Ballgame!! Thursday August 8, First English, Gloria Dei and Hilltop Church of the Ascension will be joining together to root on our South Bend Cubs. Tickets are \$32.00 each which includes your ticket for admission, food, soft drinks and a South Bend Cubs hat. We will gather in the Budweiser Beer Garden near the inflatables at the stadium. Game starts at 7:05; plan to come to enjoy getting to know our church neighbors on a summer evening and hopefully a Cubs victory. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN THE NEWS—

GEORGE PROCTOR—a long-time member of First English passed away on Sunday, May 5th. He was 87 years old. He is survived by two sons and 5 grandchildren. **MAY GOD COMFORT THOSE WHO MOURN.**

PASTOR PATRICK & LAUREL—have a new daughter born on May 10th! You can read all about Lydia Ruth in Pastor's section on the front page.

LEO LAMBERT—has been hospitalized with kidney stones. Please keep him in your prayers.

LYNN & CAROL WHITTAKER'S - son-in-law, C.J. Clark graduated from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN recently. He will be the Bishop's Assistant at the ELCA Michigan Eastern Synod and their grandson, Logan Clark, just graduated from Shelby High School in New Era, Michigan. Congratulations to all!



June 2024

2	9a Holy Communion 10a Fellowship 10a Bethany Luth. former mem	3	9a First day to donate sale item 6p Pub Theology	4		5	10a Bible Study at Gloria Dei 12:30p Mah Jongg 6p Worship & Hosp. mtg.	6		7	1/K Synod Assembly begins 1p Handmade Ministry	8	Synod Assem. in Louisville, KY
9	Synod Assembly ends 9a Holy Communion 10a Fellowship	10	7p Stephen Ministry mtg.	11		12	10a Bible Study at Gloria Dei 12:30p Mah Jongg	13		14	1p Handmade Ministry	15	
16	9a Holy Communion 10a Fellowship	17	6p W/ELCA mtg. at Sharon Enc	18	3:30p Comm. Service at Hellen	19	12:30a Mah Jongg 10a Bible Study at Gloria Dei	20	6p Church Council meeting	21	1p Handmade Ministry	22	8:30a Set-up for Rumm. Sale
23	DRESS DOWN SUNDAY 9a Holy Communion 10a Fellowship	24	Options to work setting up sale	25		26	10a Bible Study at Gloria Dei 12:30p Mah Jongg	27		28	1p Handmade Ministry	29	
30	10a Joint Worship at Gloria Dei												