



The Messenger

Connected in Christ, we grow in faith, live with hope, and reach out to share God's love with others.

First English Lutheran Church



January 2023

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am In person & FB Live,
then YouTube at 11:15am

Televised...

Sunday @ 11am from
The previous Sunday

Wisconsin Rapids
Community Media,
Charter 985 &
Solarus Channel 3

**For church closings
check TV Channel 7
WSAW Wausau**

God Brings Us Out to Bring Us In

The old man of 2022 with his long, flowing beard steps off the stage on New Year's Eve and the new, diapered baby of 2023 takes his place. "Good riddance," we think as we see 2022 step down, "let's start over."

This imagery reminds me of the time in Israel's history when Moses stepped down from leadership. He'd led the people through 40 years of miracles, deprivation, struggle, obedience and disobedience. They were now on the verge of moving into the Promised Land of Canaan, but it was almost time for Moses to die. Joshua had been anointed the new leader of God's people.

Before his death, Moses summarizes their history, reminding them to obey the Lord in the new land. I especially love this verse:

[God] brought us out from [Egypt] in order to bring us in, to give us the land that God promised on oath to our ancestors. (Deuteronomy 6:23)

Think about it: **God brings us out of that which is not the best for us to bring us into that which is.**

I've thought about this a lot since Covid-19 changed us as a congregation. It forced us to swap out inefficiency for efficiency in some areas. We've clarified our priorities. We've realized our main ministry happens outside our four walls; our message now reaches hundreds each week on Facebook, YouTube and the Community Access Channel. We've also moved further into our community with financial and personal assistance for those in need. New folks have joined our congregation and are already involved in serving others. Each week new visitors attend who sincerely appreciate the welcome they feel.

God brought us out from the old ways to carry us into God's new mission for us. Slowly it unfolds. We listen for the Holy Spirit's direction and take one step at a time.

We don't know what will happen next, but we're in this together. Let's eagerly unwrap 2023 and share in the great goodness of the Lord our God.

With joyful anticipation,

Pastor Cheryl





January 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Worship No SS or Conf. Class	2 Office Closed PASTOR ON VACATION THRU	3 7am Yoga	4 6:30pm Praise Band 7pm Choir	5 7am Yoga 6:30am Christ Ed Mtg Virtual	6	7
8 9:30am Worship w/SS & Pastor Marty Lieber 8am Confirmation Class Pastor on Vacation	9	10 7am Yoga	11 12pm Finance Mtg 1pm Quilters 6:30pm Praise Band 7pm Choir	12 7am Yoga	13	14
15 9:30am Worship w/SS & Pastor Marty Lieber 8am Confirmation Class Budget Mtg following service Pastor on Vacation	16	17 7am Yoga 5pm Personnel Mtg 6:30pm Council - Zoom	18 10am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7pm Choir	19 7am Yoga	20	21
22 9:30am Worship w/SS 8am Confirmation Class Annual Mtg following service	23 Pastor Off	24 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg	25 10am Zoom Bible Study 1pm Quilters 6:30pm Praise Band 7pm Choir	26 7am Yoga	27	28
29 9:30am Worship w/SS 8am Confirmation Class	30 Pastor Off	31 7am Yoga	 <h2>Happy New Year!</h2>			

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Writer's Corner...

A MORNING PRAYER

Visitations have been made, gifts have been opened, and we have celebrated the joy of the good tidings of Jesus' birth. The calling for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are again our aspirations. A promise is missing, however. We waited for Jesus our Lord to return but he did not. Or did he? In the flesh he did not come but we do know that he has always been with us. "He walks with us, and he talks with us" and we call on him because we know that he dwells in our hearts and minds. [Christ is] "always with us in surprising guises." In Jesus we place our trust, our dreams, and the reality of living. The prayer below reminds me of the continuing presence of Jesus in my daily interventions. It was introduced to me by Pastor Cheryl and since those several months ago, I read it daily. I now share it with you not only for daily reading but so that you also might find in it a good start to your 2023 journey.

Dear Jesus, we begin our day alone
honoring this life, with all its potentials and possibilities.

We begin our day with [trust](#),
knowing we are created for loving encounters.

We begin our day with hope,
knowing the day can hold love, kindness, forgiveness, and justice.

We break from the doings of our day and make space to notice you. You are always with us in surprising guises. Jesus of the flesh, we meet you in worker and friend, stranger, and pilgrim, the needy and the needed, the questioner and the questioned. So, when we meet you, may we deepen trust, deepen life, deepen justice, and deepen joy. And when you meet us, help us approach our activities with presence and power, with love and humility, with courage and dignity. Amen.

We recall our yesterday.
May we learn, may we love, may we live on.

We make room for the unexpected.
May we find wisdom and life in the unexpected.

Help us embrace possibility, respond graciously to disappointment, and hold tenderly those we encounter.
Help us to be fully present to the day.

We resolve to live life to its fullness.
We will welcome people who are part of the day.

We will greet God in ordinary and hidden moments.
We will live the life we are living.

May we find the wisdom we need.
God be with us.

May we hear the needs of those we meet.

God be with us.

May we love the life we are given.

God be with us.

(adapted by the Presbytery at Baltimore - Canterbury Press 2017)

Horace Davis



Spotlight On...

We had a GREAT crew this past year for Christmas Food Baskets 2022! FELC's Financial Secretary, along with the Grocery Manager at Pick N Save, organized enough food to be purchased to make 42 baskets! We had a kind hearted, wonderful, anonymous donor for the food purchased ~ THANK YOU!!! The baskets were given to families from the Howe and Washington Elementary Schools here in Wisconsin Rapids. Items in each basket... 6-8# Turkey, bag of potatoes, bag of oranges, bag of apples, jar of creamy peanut butter, jar of jelly, 2 boxes of spaghetti, 2 jars of spaghetti meat sauce, 2 loaves of white bread, pack of dinner rolls, 2# bag of carrots, 8 cans of veggies, 4 cans of fruit, 2 bags of cereal, and a large canister of Oatmeal.

Also, thanks to all the parents and kiddos who picked up, sorted, bagged, and passed out all the food for the families.

The Look's - Kelly, Ellie, & Riley

The Ashbeck's - Greg, Sarah, Vince & Olivia

The Hafermann's - Josh, Amy, Luke, Blake, & JJ

The Stultz's - Mark, Becky, Allison, & Madilyn

The Barten's - Gary, Dawn, Karsten, John, & Ellie

Peyton's dad & step-mom, Peyton & Alaina

Also, kiddos: AJ & Zelda

Thank you all for your hard work and enthusiasm!!!



Christmas Food Baskets



January Birthdays

- 1/1 Frank Reich
Paige Jackan
- 1/3 Evelyn Kitowski
- 1/4 John Vinson
- 1/5 Dorothy Schneider
Bonita Place
- 1/8 Carol Allen
- 1/9 Kathleen Surendonk
Susan Jorgenson
- 1/10 Kade Kulas
- 1/11 Katie Klafka
Amanda Zelin
- 1/13 William Kohnen Jr.
Marion Koller
Bruce Gross
- 1/14 Dawn Barten
JJ Hafermann
- 1/15 Steven Herzberg
- 1/18 Jane Anderson
Tina Fredrickson
Nicholas Thurber
- 1/19 Donald Arneson
Grace Jahns
- 1/20 Craig Davidson
- 1/21 David Davies
- 1/22 Emily Schmid
- 1/28 Kelly Look
- 1/29 Jennie Watson
Dawn Duchow
Kiptyn Manning
- 1/30 Richard Cavanaugh

Happy Birthday!

January Anniversaries

- 1/8 Joe & Chris Klopotek
- 1/8 Craig & Susan Davidson
- 1/13 Kyle & Jaimee Dallman
- 1/28 Douglas & Linda Dresden

Happy Anniversary!

January Baptisms

- 1/14 Kiptyn Manning
Silas Manning
- 1/20 Nate Koch



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What's happening at FELC in 2023...

JANUARY...

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 1 NO SS or Conf. Classes
- 11 Donation Statements sent out
- 15 Budget Meeting @ 11am
- 22 Annual Meeting @ 11am

FEBRUARY...

- 5 Scout Sunday
- 12 Souper Bowl Sunday
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 22 Ash Wednesday Worship at 1pm & 6:30pm
- 22 Sunday School begins at 5:30pm

MARCH...

- 1-29 Wednesdays - Lenten Services at 6:30pm Sunday School at 5:30pm
- 12 Daylight Savings time begins - Spring forward 1 hour
- 1 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 20 Spring Begins!
- 27-31 Spring Break - No School!

Happy New Year!



Christmas Tree for the Needy

Each Christmas we hang a bare tree in the window with the opportunity for you to purchase ornaments to hang on the tree. The money goes into the Agape Fund to help local families. Our Agape Tree turned out very nice thanks to your generous donations! Thank you all!

Happy
New
Year!

Thank you FELC members and friends for supporting and remembering our mother, Phyllis Cuty. Thank you for your phone calls, visits and cards over the years. Thank you for providing salads and desserts at her funeral luncheon.

Sincerely,
The family of Phyllis Cuty.



2022 Donation Statements will be mailed out on Wednesday, January 11th, let us know if you haven't received yours.

Thank you!



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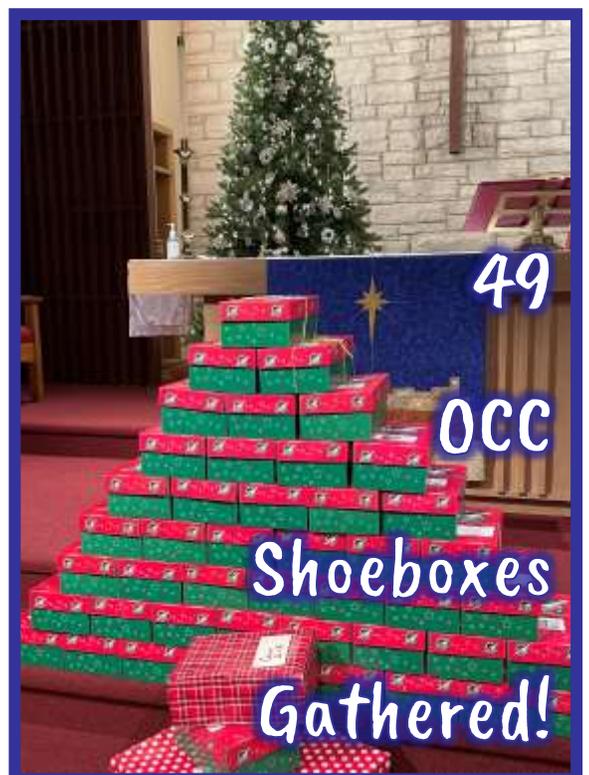
Christmas Dinners
were given at FELC

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OCC

Shoebboxes
Gathered!

SAVE THE DATE!

WOO HOO!
Last Spring
27 Wisconsin Rapids
businesses, churches,
& schools collected
\$17,591 worth of
supplies for our local
agencies!

Let's overflow our box
this coming Spring!



PLEASE!
Buy some products
when you're out and
about so we can help
stock up the shelves
in the local pantries!
Toiletries
Soaps
Cleaning Supplies
Baby Care items
Hair Care
Dental Care
Personal Care
First Aid items
UNTIL THEN!

The Family Radio Network's 88.5FM

Sunday, February 12th ~ Sunday, March 5th

Because most of us can afford to buy an extra personal care or cleaning product. Let's help
The Family Radio collect items for local crisis agencies such as
The Family Center and FOCUS - SWEPS, both of Wisconsin Rapids.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

***"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl
football game, help us to be mind-
ful of those without even a bowl of
soup to eat."***

Please, either bring in some canned
goods, or place a monetary donation in
the Soup Pot on Sunday, February 12th.

THANK YOU!

Budget Meeting Sunday, January 15th

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 22nd

(After Worship in the Sanctuary)

Your VOTE Matters!