



APRIL 2024

# Messenger

## *First English Lutheran Church*

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

### **Many Thanks from Pastor Cheryl and Horace**

Thank you.

Thank you, first of all, to this congregation for willingly providing a two-month sabbatical for me and Horace in January and February. What a gift! It was unlike anything we've experienced in our 20 years of marriage. We were able to "just be" without pressures from outside ourselves. It was a time of restoration, refreshment, quietness, family time, travel, and fun. We are grateful that our souls were restored as the Lord led us in green pastures and beside still waters. *(Ps. 23)*

Secondly, thank you to Intern Vicki, Deacon Sandy, and each of our proficient staff members: Dave, Janet, John, Rhonda, Sherri, Tammy, and Val, for their excellent care of the normal needs and activities of the congregation. They cared so well for you! The Lord has blessed First English with staff members who seek to glorify the Lord and serve others through their God-given abilities. They set the tone for all of us and keep things running smoothly every single day.

Thirdly, thank you to our Congregational Council, the Internship Support Committee, and all of you willing volunteers who share your talents and spiritual gifts with us. You welcome others and provide hospitality. You glorify God in our worship services as attendees, musicians, choir members, ushers, acolytes, communion servers, readers, and altar guild members. You devote yourselves to the sound booth and provide excellent recordings and broadcasts for those who cannot attend in person.

You design the website, teach Sunday School, work with the youth, share in GLOW and SHINE. You provide food for funerals, soup suppers, and get-togethers. You assist at funerals. You lend your expertise to finance, insurance, endowment, legal questions, and personnel matters. You make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, give of your resources, and participate in community service activities. You maintain the building with true craftsmanship and care. You offer encouragement to one another and pray for each other.

You are a mighty group of people—integral participants of this thriving congregation. Thank you for your participation, commitment, and dedication. Horace and I are blessed to serve you.



# About FELC...

## First English Lutheran Church, ELCA

440 Garfield St, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 715-423-2840 www.felwisrapids.org

Office Hours: 8am-3:30pm M - Th, Closed Fridays

Sunday Worship: 9:30am each Sunday with Communion - in person, FB Live, and YouTube



*~ Every Sunday We Celebrate the Resurrection ~*

### The Staff at FELC...

Pastor	Cheryl Davis	715-818-5690	pastorcheryl@felwr.org
Diaconal Intern	Vicki Peterson Jenks	920-809-1326	vickipjenks@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant	Janet Graczkowski	715-423-2840	fel@felwr.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Krutzik	715-818-5691	Sherri@felwr.org
Ministry Assistant	Rhonda Felton	715-818-5692	Rhonda@felwr.org
Bookkeeper	Val Elliot	715-423-2840	Val@felwr.org
Property Manager	John Lory	715-423-2840	John@felwr.org
Musicians	Dave Mueller & Tammy Parszewski	715-423-2840	fel@felwr.org

Services are televised Sunday at 11am from the previous Sunday on W.R. Community Media & Charter 985, Solarus Ch 3.

For inclement weather and church closings please tune to TV Channel 7 WSAW

# Birthday, Anniversary, & Baptisms...

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Doug Machon  
Elizabeth Barten  
4/2 Lori Walloch  
4/4 Dale Aumann  
4/5 Barbara Arndt  
Riley Look  
4/7 Joyce Keehn  
Brody Kulas  
4/8 Horace Davis  
4/9 Barbara Springer  
Randy Brewer  
4/10 Loretta Schoechert  
4/11 Josh Barnett  
4/12 Larry Reinke  
Christine Uber  
Sherry Kopchik  
4/13 Helen Zimmerman  
Elise Waltenberg  
4/14 Carol Schneeberg  
4/16 Georgia Mueller

4/17 Don Pryor  
4/18 Stephen Springer  
Julie Arendt  
4/21 Patrick Waltenberg  
4/23 Ken McGrath  
4/24 Harold Long  
4/25 Teri Mueller  
Amelia Barnett  
4/26 Karla Fredrickson  
4/27 Diann Reich  
Carol Leverance

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES




4/9 David & Gail Grzadzielewski  
4/19 Geoffrey & Jane Anderson  
4/21 Jon & Kim Holberg  
4/27 Greg & Sarah Ashbeck

## APRIL BAPTISMS

4/24 Amalia Maher  
4/28 Ellaina Zelin



# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  Pastor Off	2 7a Yoga  3:30p GLOW	3 10a Zoom Bible Study  7p Choir	4 7a Yoga	5 Office Closed Pastor works at home	6
7 9:30a Worship w/ss 8a Conf Class	8 <b>Happy Birthday Horace</b>  Pastor Off	9 7am Yoga  3:30p GLOW	10 10a Zoom Bible Study <b>10:30a SHINE</b>  1p Quilters  7p Choir	11 7a Yoga	12 Office Closed Pastor works at home  <b>Scout Lock-In</b> →	13
14 9:30a Worship w/ss 8a Conf Class	15  <b>Vicki on Vacation</b> Pastor Off	16 7a Yoga  3:30p GLOW  6p Council	17 10a Zoom Bible Study  7p Choir	18 7a Yoga  <b>5:15p Christ Ed Mtg</b> →	19 Office Closed Pastor works at home	20
21 9:30a Worship w/ss 8a Conf Class  *National  Vicki Off	 *Volunteer  Pastor Off	23 7a Yoga  3:30p GLOW  *Week →	24 10a Zoom Bible Study  1p Quilters  7p Choir	25 7a Yoga	26 Office Closed Pastor works at home	27
28 9:30a Worship w/ss 8a Conf Class  <b>10:45a Worship Mtg</b>	29  Pastor Off	30 7a Yoga  3:30p GLOW				

# Writer's Corner...

## Good Gifts

By Joan Wiese Johannes

*If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11*

I have a vivid memory of the first gift I ever bought. It was for my sister Wanda, who was born about a month after I started kindergarten. I only had school in the mornings, so soon after Wanda was born, my mom took me to the dime store one afternoon to shop for Christmas presents while my brother and sister were in school. I have no recollection of what I bought for them, but I remember being immediately attracted to a wooden object that looked like a rattle and picked it up to show Mom what I wanted to give the baby. I didn't know that it was a darning doll, but of course, my mother did. However, she didn't squelch my enthusiasm by telling me that the gift I had picked wasn't a good gift for a baby, and Wanda loved it. It was just the right size to stuff in her mouth, which was what she did with most things, and she also waved it with a vengeance so that more than once I was on the receiving end of her unintentional wielding of that wooden weapon.

Sixty years later, my husband Jeffrey and I spent the night at my sister and brother in law's house in Green Bay before flying out of the airport there. When I took my shoes off to relax, I discovered a hole in my sock. I had planned on wearing those socks again in the morning, since the rest of my socks were in the suitcase in the car ready for our early departure, so I asked Wanda if she had a sewing basket. She brought out the tin that our mother had used for her sewing things, and there was the darning doll! The years had coated it with a beautiful patina, and the wood was denser than the one I had bought a few years before at an antique store to use for its intended purpose. Wanda's darning doll was not scratched like the one I had bought for \$2.00, twenty times the cost of the one I had gotten in 1956, which now looked better than new!

Of course, maybe Wanda's darning doll looked so beautiful because, as socks got less expensive and the time spent darning became more valuable than the socks, the darning doll hadn't gotten much use after Wanda was done playing with it in infancy. Still, seeing it looking so smooth and shiny reminded me of why I thought it would be a wonderful gift for my baby sister. However, by then I had long since realized that the even better gift was having a mom who hadn't dampened my spirit for gift giving!

May all your gift giving bring you joy, and may all your gifts be good gifts!





## a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

### What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



### What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about 1/8-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



## Coloring Page...



# Happenings...

## The Family Radio's Help for the Homeless - Hygiene Drive



To everyone who brought in items, or donated online for the Help for the Homeless drive. FELC was just one of many drop off sites in Wisconsin Rapids for The Family's Radio Station 88.5FM - Hygiene Drive. We filled 3 large boxes AGAIN this year with: Paper Care Products, Cleaning Supplies, Baby Care, Hair Care, Dental Care, Personal Care, & First Aid products!!! All items will remain locally and be given to the Family Center, and FOCUS Food Pantry.

**~Thank You!**

*When life gets hard, try to remember: the life you complain about is only a dream to some people  
~ Anonymous*



## **FOCUS Neighborhood Meal**

*Sponsored by FELC @ FOCUS on West Grand Ave*

**Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4-6:30pm**

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area,  
or call the church if you are able to help.

**Thank you!**



**Office Hours**  
 8am-Noon & 1-4:30pm M-F  
[parks.wirapids.org](http://parks.wirapids.org)  
 715-421-8240  
 Register online anytime at  
[wr.activityreg.com](http://wr.activityreg.com)

**Bored, looking for something to do this spring?**

Check out the **Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation** site!  
 They offer many activities throughout the year for all ages.

**You MUST pre-register for all events; NO walk-ins.**

They currently are offering a Flower Basket/Container Class  
 Sunday, April 14 from 1-2pm or  
 Saturday, April 20 from 9-10am or 1-2pm

For more information call or go to their website.

They are currently at the end of the Winter/Spring Seasons, but the Summer/Fall Guide will be coming out soon!

**Winter Farmer's Market**

Moravian Church  
 310 1st Ave S  
 W.R., WI 54495

**Saturday's**

9am—1pm  
 Thru May, 18th  
 Excluding Holidays (3/31)

Look it up... [facebook.com/wrwinterfarmersmarket.com](https://facebook.com/wrwinterfarmersmarket.com)

*Canned Goods   Quilts   Baked Goods*  
*Soaps   Meats   Candles   Crafts*  
*Food Trucks   Honey   and more.*



**GO CHECK IT OUT!**



**April 21 ~ 27 is National Volunteer Week - Thank you to all who volunteer their time and talents here at FELC - we appreciate you!**

**The Perks of Giving...**

Although National Volunteer Week is officially observed in April, every week thousands of volunteers help people in need. As volunteers can attest, sharing one's time and talents leads to many intangible benefits.

New research shows that volunteering and giving also provide physical and emotional advantages. Givers report an improved sense of well-being, lower stress levels, better physical health, an enriched sense of purpose in life and increased happiness.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is one of the beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely help another without helping himself."



# Help Needed...

## ATTENTION!

We are still need of a Leader/Teachers/Helpers for Vacation Bible School this summer! Please prayerfully consider taking the lead and/or teach or help in this program so that we can provide VBS to FELC's kids and other local children.

This year's theme is **SCUBA ~ Diving Into Friendship With God**, or you can re-use an old theme from years past, it'll be your choice. You can decorate as much (within a budget), or as little as you have ambition for. The Kit comes with all you need for lessons, activities, and resources to have a successful event. You can invite other local churches to help and bring their kiddos to enjoy the program. Kelly Look was our previous leader and would be glad to answer any questions you may have. Please consider this, and if you are interested, please let us know in the office by May 15th. **THANK YOU!**

