



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



March 2023

ADDRESS:

440 Garfield Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

PHONE:

715-423-2840

FAX:

715-423-2560

WEBSITE:

www.felwisrapids.org

PASTOR:

715-818-5690 Direct
Pastor Cheryl Davis
pastorcheryl@felwr.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Janet Grackowski
fel@felwr.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Sherri Krutzik
Sherri@felwr.org

BOOKKEEPER:

Kathy Alft
kathyalft@charter.net

MINISTRY ASSISTANT:

Rhonda Felton
Rhonda@felwr.org

PROPERTY MANAGER

John Lory
John@felwr.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am Facebook Live, then
YouTube at 11:30am

TELEVISED...

Sunday @ 11am from the
previous Sunday

Wisconsin Rapids
Community Media,
Charter 985 &
Solarus Channel 3

FOR CHURCH CLOSINGS:

TV Channel 7 WSAW Wausau

Transformation

I've been reading a book entitled *The Seeking Heart: A Journey with Henry Nouwen*, and I never want it to end! It's been like good food to me. So, to make it last longer, I'll share what I'm learning in the Lenten services on Wednesdays in March at 6:30 p.m.

Here are some introductory comments selected from the book:

At the heart of the Christian story lies a threefold plot: All was created good and well; through our disobedience and folly we distorted this pristine setting; and God with persistent love seeks to bring about a full mending, healing and restoration. . . .

The biblical story speaks not only of new heavens and earth as the grandest frame of this restoration, but also of humans receiving a new heart and mind. . . . [Henry Nouwen explains that God invites us] "to come and know that I [the Lord God] have come to give you a new heart and a new spirit."

But how do we understand all of this? Can we really be transformed? And what does it mean that we may receive a new heart and a new spirit?

For the next five Wednesday evenings, we'll talk about the transformation that occurs within and around us because of our encounters with Jesus Christ.




March 1	New ways of thinking
March 8	New ways of hoping
March 15	New ways of dreaming
March 22	New ways of loving
March 29	New ways of serving

The Lenten services will be held in the Gathering Area. Although the services cannot be livestreamed there, they will still be recorded and posted to Facebook and YouTube after each service.

Looking forward to our time together,
Pastor Cheryl



March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10am Zoom Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship Choir	2 7am Yoga 5pm Personnel Mtg	3 Pastor Works at home	4
	5 9:30am Worship w/SS 8am Confirmation Class Pastor Off	6 Pastor Off	7 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg	8 10am Zoom Bible Study 12pm Finance Mtg 1pm Quilters 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship Christ Ed Mtg & Choir	9 7am Yoga	10 Pastor works at home
11 2-5pm w/Supper 1st Communion Festival						
12 9:30am Worship w/SS 8am Confirmation Class Daylight Savings-- Spring Forward 1 hour	13 Pastor Off	14 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg Pastor Off	15 10am Zoom Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship Choir	16 7am Yoga	17 Pastor works at home Happy St. Patty's Day! 	18
19 9:30am Worship w/SS 8am Confirmation Class	20 Spring Begins! Pastor Off	21 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Council Zoom	22 10am Bible Study Zoom 1pm Quilters 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship Choir	23 7am Yoga	24 Pastor works at home	25
26 9:30am Worship NO SS or Confirmation	27 SPRING BREAK! Pastor Off	28 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg	29 10am Bible Study Zoom 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship Choir	30 7am Yoga	31 Pastor works at home	 <i>Always Say A Prayer</i>

Writer's Corner...

We need God to survive a stormy world

By Dave Mueller

We live in an increasingly stormy world. It seems like every day there is another event putting human lives in jeopardy. Here are just a few from recent days:

1. During the weekend of Feb. 17-19 alone, 10 mass shootings across America killed 13 people and injured 46 more. We've had about 1.5 mass shootings (when four or more people killed or injured by a shooter or shooters) per day on average during 2023 in our country. They're so common we only hear on the news about the most egregious.
2. I can't remember a winter when millions who live in southern states faced loss of life and livelihood because of tornadoes every single week. In California, a year's worth of rain in a single storm causes floods and mud slides that destroy properties and take lives. The severity of weather seems to have reached levels like never before in our lifetimes.
3. Along the Turkey-Syria border, the death toll from multiple earthquakes and aftershocks is nearing 50,000 and still rising.
4. In Ohio a train derailment unleashes toxic chemicals upon a town, disrupting lives and causing health problems for weeks.
5. A dictator in Russia decides he wants to reconstruct the Soviet Union and puts the free world on the brink of World War 3.
6. Political division is rampant like never before in my lifetime, pitting Americans against Americans, friends against friends and even family against family. It seems like as a society we've forgotten the courtesies of civil discourse.

But the storm that scares me the most is the attack on Christianity in our country. All Christians are being lumped with the far right televangelists and others who espouse "traditional values" that are perceived by many to denigrate women, people of color and those with different orientations. This dynamic makes our work to share the love of Jesus with our community and world more and more challenging.

The Lenten season gives us a structured opportunity to reflect on what God through Jesus life, death and resurrection accomplished to save us from our sinful selves. I pray that all of us will make a special effort during Lent to look introspectively at ourselves and to act with unbridled love to support our family, friends, neighbors and communities.

In all our interactions, let's keep in mind this question: "What would Jesus do?"



Spotlight on...

Thrivent Choice Dollars

As a member of Thrivent you are eligible to recommend where some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds go, this depends on the amount of your annual premiums for qualifying products and your contract value of your qualifying product. You can also nominate organizations you wish to see enrolled in the program.

To direct your Choice Dollars go online to thrivent.com/thriventchoice, by phone at 800-847-4836, or call your **Thrivent Advisor** and they can help you through it.

All dollars directed to First English Lutheran Church will go into the Current Expenses fund for future use.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



*We sincerely
appreciate all
your hard work
and dedication.*



*** ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS ***



To all Thrivent members who contribute their
Thrivent Choice Dollars to First English Lutheran Church...

AND

To Thrivent members who take the time to sign up for *Thrivent Action Team Dollars* for events here at FELC...

Thank you all! It is much appreciated!

Thrivent Financials'

Thrivent Action Team Kit

Thrivent Members please sign up for Thrivent Action Team Kits that help fund events here at First English Lutheran Church! Requirements for the event to qualify for a kit are...

- + The event must benefit the community where you live, work, or worship
- + You, the applicant, will actively be contributing to the success of the project.
- + You, and your volunteers, are contributing time and talent to make a difference in your community.
- + Only one kit per project is allowed.
- + Thrivent members can apply 14 days before the event's start date, but no more than 120 days prior.

The Kit includes...

- + Live Generously T-shirts
- + Leaders Guide Book
- + Pennant Banner
- + Name Tags & Stickers
- + Community Impact Card (VISA) with up to \$250 in seed money!
- + Plus digital tools



Card Use...

When using the card, you can go under, but must not go over the \$250 amount or the card will stop working. The card must be used at the time of purchase and cannot be used to re-imburse prior purchases.

Members & Church Leaders...

If you, or someone you know, are a member of Thrivent, please consider contacting the event leader and applying for a Thrivent Action Team Kit for events here at FELC!

VBS, Worship in the Park, School Kits, Health Kits, Hygiene Kits, Baby Kits, Youth Mission Trips, Food Baskets, etc. These are just some of the events that the kit can be used for.

Go to thrivent.com/actionteam OR call your representative.



Wunrow's Greenhouse Easter Flower Order

Or purchase your own and bring it in by Tuesday, April 3rd
(you must still fill out this form so we know who the plant is in memory/honor of)

Please check the quantities/colors you would like...

- _____ Qty. - 6" Standard Easter Lily (white)\$19.50
- _____ Qty. - 7" Double Easter Lily (white)\$30.00
- _____ Qty. - 8" Triple Easter Lily (white)\$40.00
- _____ Qty. - 6" Potted Daffodils (yellow)\$24.00
- _____ Qty. - 6" Pot Hyacinths 3 bulbs/pot\$24.00
- _____ Qty. - 6" Potted Tulips\$24.00
(_____ yellow, _____ red, _____ pink, or _____ bi-color)

Purchaser: _____

_____ In Honor OR _____ In Memory of...

Name: _____

_____ Check #, OR \$ _____ Cash

Please have order and payment in **NO LATER than April 3rd** if
ordering from Wunrow's. Cash or Check to FELC - Thank you!

Happy Easter to you all!

He has risen indeed!

"Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite, chase, and frighten me. Where shall I go? I look to You, Lord Jesus Christ, and despite my weakness, I believe in You. I hold fast to You, and I am certain that You said, 'Whoever believes in me will have eternal life.'"

~Martin Luther



Pastor Cheryl & Horace Davis

Celebrated 7 years of being here
at FELC on

February 5th, 2023

Congratulations!

We are glad to have you here
with us at FELC!

BIRTHDAYS

3/2	Michael Fredrickson
	Troy Vetrone
3/5	Mark Umnus
3/6	Daloris Pfister
	Roger Wangen
3/7	Karen Thurber
	Sandra Brewer
3/8	John Barten
	Bailey Clark
3/11	Cedar Hamilton
3/12	Michael Arendt
3/14	Ashley Koch
3/15	David Placek
	Abigail Look
3/16	Joan Johannes
	Roger Duchow
	Waylon Green
	Walker Green
3/17	Abby Barnett
3/19	Vicki Humphrey
3/20	Joan Hegg
3/21	Arlene Keehn
	Dennis Fencil
	Delores Wills
3/22	Kathleen Deppe
	Gary Barten
3/23	Lucah Clark
3/24	Mark Sweeney
	Marlene Lipke
	Ashley Tessmer
3/26	James Kitowski
	Leanne Rzentkowski
	Genny Braun
3/27	Greg Ashbeck

Happy Birthday!

ANNIVERSARIES

3/9	Eric and Tonya Wangen
3/19	Benjamin and Tanya Cronic
3/22	Harold & Judy Long
3/24	Randy and Sandra Brewer
3/26	Miguel & Judy Velazquez

BAPTISMS

3/10	Brody Kulas
3/10	Logan Pilla
3/27	Lucah Clark



What's happening at FELC...

March...

1-29	Wednesdays - 5:30pm Soup Suppers, then 6:30pm Lenten Worship
11	1st Communion Festival - 9am—Noon
12	Daylight Savings - Spring forward one hour
17	Happy St. Patrick's Day!
20	First day of Spring!
21	6:30pm Council Mtg via Zoom

April...

2	Palm Sunday Worship at 9:30am, SS Kids sing
6	Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30pm w/Holy Communion
7	Good Friday Worship at 1:00pm
8	Happy Birthday Horace!!!
9	Happy Easter! Worship at 8:30 & 10:30am w/Holy Communion
13	FNM - FOCUS Neighborhood Meal (TNT) at FOCUS on West Grand
18	6:30pm Council Mtg

May...

14	Happy Mother's Day!
16	6:30pm Council Mtg
21	Youth Sunday - SS Kids Sing, Graduate Recognition
28	Pentecost
29	Memorial Day - OFFICE CLOSED

Have a great Summer!



Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Worship to follow at 6:30pm

Come for some food and fellowship,
bring a friend, bring your
neighbor! Free-will offerings
are welcome.

Thank you!



Lenten Worship

Starting Ash Wednesday at 6:30pm,
then each Wednesday ~ March 29th.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday April 2nd at 9:30am

Maundy Thursday April 6th at 6:30pm

Good Friday April 7th at 1:00pm

Easter Sunday April 9th at 8:30 & 10:30am

