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rely on your own insight.*

-PROVERBS 3:5-6

In all your ways acknowledge
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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

This is a great opportunity to give thanks to God for all the blessings of this past year and at the same time look forward to what God will be doing in our lives in the year to come.

God has blessed us richly with a wonderful family in Christ and with all that we have. Most of all as we are celebrating during this Christmas season, we have been given the greatest gift in Jesus, and that throughout the previous year and most certainly in the year to come, Jesus will be with us. This is the place for us to begin this new year, enfolded in the gracious presence and promises of God.

I don't know all that the new year will hold for us. I know that we will be welcoming about 450 people who will come to care for our community and will serve those who are in need because you have heard God's call and made this possible. I know that we will be learning how to grow in sharing our faith and the good news of Jesus with others, and that we will be more actively inviting others to join us in the ministry and mission God has given to us. I know that we will continue to grow closer together as brothers and sisters in Christ and make the gospel known to all those around us in word and deed. I know that we will be blessed by God's gracious presence and that he will never leave us nor forsake us.

May we trust in the Lord with all our hearts throughout this coming year and give thanks and praise to our most awesome God.

God bless you.

Yours in Christ<><
Pastor Sean

P.S. Thank you for another wonderful year journeying together in faith; thank you to Colleen for being a solid rock in the midst of shifting sands; thank you to Renata, Bob, Lierin, Kelley, Josh, Glenn, Mark, Melissa, Amanda, Katie, Elizabeth and Andy for being an amazing, faithful, and loving ministry team.



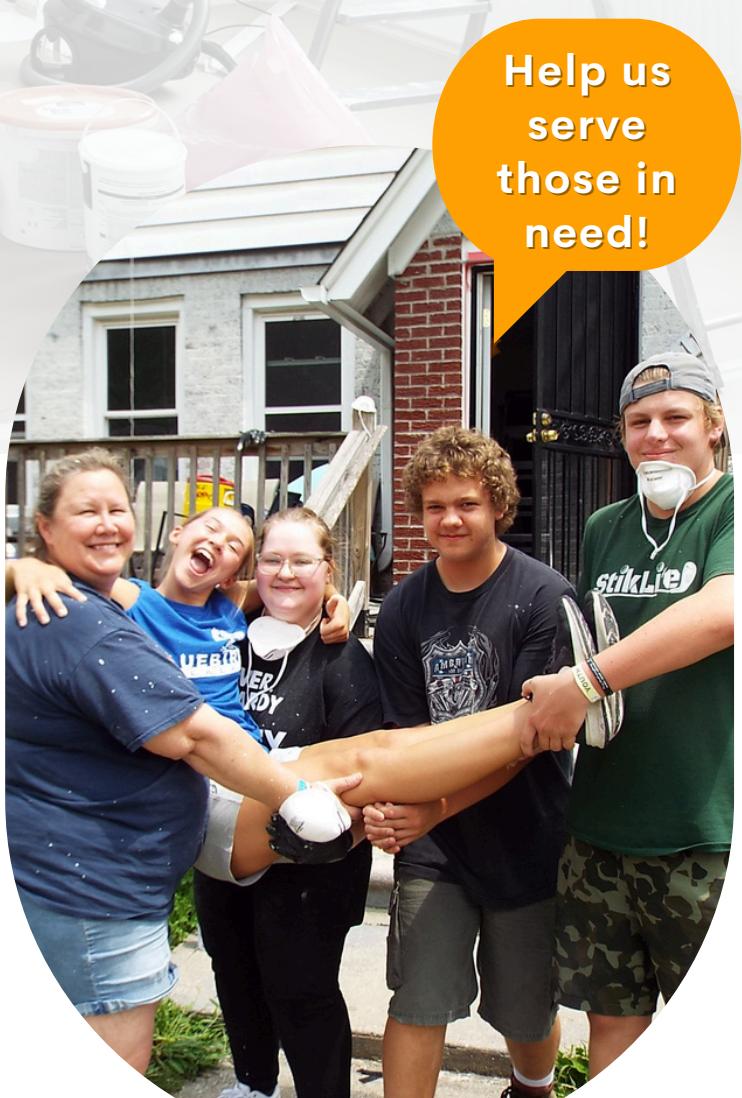
BE A SPONSOR BRING HOPE

When you sponsor a Workcamp project, you will

- ✓ provide building materials for a neighbor in need
- ✓ support the work crews, who donate their time and expenses in order to serve
- ✓ BRING HOPE to our community, the work crews, and all who hear their stories

Sponsor Levels

- \$250 patch & paint 3 rooms
- \$500 paint whole exterior
- \$1000 porch, steps, & railings
- \$2500 wheelchair ramp



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

(313) 884-5040

firstenglish@feelc.org

www.feeclc.org



Workcamp is July 13-17. Contact us or scan the code to give today!

GROUP
WORKCAMPS
HOME REPAIR

GET TO
KNOW GOD
THROUGH
HIS WORD



Thursday Morning Bible Study: 9am in the Lounge continuing to study Isaiah, starting up again on January 8th.

~happy new year

2026 Calendars for Sale

All profits go to Faith Circle.

Purchases can be made
in the main office by cash
or check.



January 16 & 17th Winter Scrapbook & Crafters Crop

First English Evangelical
Lutheran Church
800 Vernier Road
Grosse Pointe Woods 48236

Friday
2:00–11:00 PM

Saturday
8:00AM–
11:00PM

Text
586-295-4203
with questions

All Scrapbookers & Crafters Invited

6 Foot Crafting Table Per Person

Friday Dinner
Saturday Light Breakfast,
Lunch, Dinner & Snacks

Friday & Saturday \$90
Friday Only \$40
Saturday Only \$60

All proceeds benefit Workcamp 2026—providing free home repairs
for elderly, low-income, Veteran, or disabled residents.



Scan the QR code or tap the link to register!
Registration closes Jan 1st at 11:00 PM.

https://subsplash.com/firstenglishevangelical/lb/ev/_pwm79hx

Merry Goings-on

IN CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY



The 44th annual Carol-A-Long took place on December 7th. The event began with crafts then a pasta dinner. The children shared the Good News of Jesus' birth and the the Lord's Company Ringers performed "Christmas Chimings." The evening concluded with cookies and a visit from Santa.



The middle and high schoolers had a Christmas Party on the 10th. They visited Sunrise on Vernier to sing carols with residents, then returned to church for snacks and games.

Do you know my King? David said the Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. My King is the only one of whom there are no means of measure that can define His limitless love. No far seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of the shore of His supplies. No barriers can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing.



He's enduringly strong. He's entirely sincere. He's eternally steadfast. He's immortally graceful. He's imperially powerful. He's impartially merciful. That's my King. He's God's Son. He's the sinner's Saviour. He's the centerpiece of civilization. He stands alone in Himself. He's honest. He's unique. He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He's supreme. He's pre-eminent. He's the grandest idea in literature. He's the highest personality in philosophy. He's the supreme problem in higher criticism. He's the fundamental doctrine of historic theology. He's the carnal necessity of spiritual religion. That's my King.

-S.M. Lockridge

January birthdays

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 Dave Conger Rosemary Yake | 3 Pete Koenig Joshua Wiitanen | 4 John Campbell Johnathan Hanson Justin Harthorn Debra Stenzel Glenn Whitcroft |
| 5 Ty Telegadas | 6 Katarina Stojsih Steven Wereley | 7 Teresa Gassenfeit | 8 Virg Ditty Mack Kohler | 9 Madeline Kohler | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Brooklynn Marchetti Mary Tito | 13 Neal Gram | 14 Kelli Elwert | 15 Shaina Gram | 16 Cheryl Conn | 17 Betty Blohm Gordon Bush Katelyn LaMagno Bradley Russell | 18 Brad Homuth Peggy Kadrich Spencer Lohrstorfer Jenny McDonald |
| 19 Kathleen Butler William Hosbein | 20 Matthew Clor Jamie Dalian | 21 Denise Homuth Anthony Sturton | 22 Eleanor Verman | 23 Lynn Augustyn | 24 Jacob Campbell | 25 Kevin Reck Abigail Wilson |
| 26 | 27 Jimmy Guest Sharon Hassig Carys Rees-Baker | 28 John Kohler Thomas Milne | 29 Suzanne Thomas | 30 Jeffrey Hassig Matthew Jackson | 31 Latu Roorda Katy Wereley | |

Council Meeting Minutes

November 2025

Attended by: Sue Ulmer, Claire Verman, John Nyquist, Dan Rustmann, Ken Kohler, Cindy Jevons, Amy McIntyre, Diann Ohman, Patrick Quinlan, Kyle Clor, Waynette Hostetler, Pastor Sean Motley

President John Nyquist called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

President John Nyquist led an opening prayer.

SECRETARY REPORT - Amy McIntyre moved to approve the October 2025 council meeting minutes, 2nd by Diann Ohman and the motion carried. **TREASURER REPORT** - Cindy Jevons shared the September financial statements. Cindy Jevons moved to accept the September financial statements, 2nd by Ken Kohler and the motion carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT - No report.

STEWARSHIP & FINANCE - Dan Rustmann shared the 2026 First English Budget proposal and moved to accept it. After discussion with the Council, Dan Rustmann made a modified motion which increased the net assets released and net assets disbursed from \$2200 to \$4700, 2nd by Diann Ohman and the motion carried. Dan further reported that the Board is looking into having a financial planner provide education to the congregation regarding the advantages of planned giving. **CHURCH PROPERTIES** - Pastor Sean Motley reported that there is a new maintenance person, Andy McAlpine. There will be an outdoor clean up on November 22. A new snow removal contract has been signed with Russell Landscaping.

EVANGELISM - Patrick Quinlan shared an update from the November 6 meeting for our Grow 300 efforts. Sue Ulmer shared that there will be a Women's Advent service on Monday, December 15 at 7 pm. Sue further reported that there is an ongoing effort to ask more people to serve as greeters, as well as put reminders in the church bulletin or a sign up genius reminder. A training video for greeters is also something that is being developed. Alice Rustmann is working on putting together new visitor bags. Stefanie Norlin is working on edits to flyers for Grow 300 efforts.

SOCIAL ACTION - Diann Ohman expressed a thank you to all members who donated food to the Thanksgiving food drive, with food bins being packed on Sat. November 22. Giving Tree tags for families from LifeBuilders and Detroit Urban Youth will become available on Thanksgiving Eve, November 26, with gifts due December 14.



Council Meeting Minutes

continued

Diann further reported that there will be a list for members to match tags that are taken with the congregation member who has the tag(s), or some other system, such as a 2 part tag that can be separated and one part kept by the Board, to make it easier for the Board to follow up and keep track of gifts for the families. There are 86 children this year for which to provide gifts on the Giving Tree!

FELLOWSHIP - Colleen Motley provided information prior to the meeting which was shared by Sue Ulmer. There is a Christmas crafternoon event on November 23 after the second service, Thanksgiving Eve pie social, Carol-A-Long and a senior Luther league Christmas party on December 18 planned before the end of the year. An email will be sent out to the Boards to sign up for coffee hour hosting from January to June.

PARISH ED & YOUTH MINISTRY - Claire Vermeulen shared there are 9 youth registered for workcamp. Rehearsals for the Christmas pageant that will take place at Carol-A-Long have begun.

WORSHIP & MUSIC - Patty Foster emailed information requesting there be a vote on a motion to approve no more than \$1500 to pay musicians for performing at Music Sunday December 14, 2nd by Sue Ulmer and the motion carried.

ENDOWMENT - No report.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH - Waynette Hostetler reported that Grace Circle and Peace Circle will be providing a meal to MCREST in January.

PASTOR'S REPORT - Pastor Sean Motley reviewed open director, assistant director positions for Boards and executive committee positions for the ballot with the Council. Pastor Sean further reported he is working on new types of Bible study ideas for January. Workcamp currently has 444 people signed up to come to the Detroit area next summer. A donor has made it possible to obtain the screens for the sanctuary and their installation is being investigated, possibly by mid-December. Work to finish the gym kitchen floor and walls is scheduled to start November 24.

Old business - None presented.

New business - None presented

Dan Rustmann moved to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Ken Kohler, and the meeting adjourned at 1:53 PM.

Meeting ended with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Mark your calendars-Next council meeting is scheduled for December 21 at 12:15 PM.



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