



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3001 Whitis Avenue, Austin, Texas, 78705 • www.felcaustin.org

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to proclaim the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ to all people through our ministry of preaching, teaching and caring.

ECHOES Newsletter

Volume 46, Issue 12

December 2010

FROM THE PASTOR

On Worship: *Listening for the Word, Part 2*



Pastor Mike Coffey

When we gather for worship, we gather to hear God's Word. The word comes in Old and New Testament, in Psalms, in Gospel readings. Christ is the Word of God coming to us to bring us the fullness of life with God. In Lutheran

theology, we say that the Word comes to us as Law (God's righteous expectations for us and the world) and as Gospel (God's message of grace and mercy). I also like to think that the Word comes to us as poetry, as vision, as inspiring challenge, and as healing.

After listening to ancient texts read, we then do something amazing: We let someone get up in front of us and help us hear God's Word speaking to us today! The preacher preaches

the sermon, which is the Word for this gathering, flowing from Scripture and faith, and speaking to us today through the Spirit's power.

Preaching has the power to draw our stories into God's story. The United Church of Christ has adopted a slogan: *God is still speaking*. This is exactly what we believe when we gather in worship to hear the Word. Preaching is a humbling and exhilarating work because of this profound trust that God speaks to us today.

We respond to the Word in various ways: A hymn, saying a creed, offering our prayers for the needs of the world. We conclude the Word section of the liturgy by sharing the peace, uniting us in the peace of Christ, the Word we have just received and boldly believe.

What do you enjoy about sermons? How do you hear God's Word speaking to you today? What hymns have been a source of God's Word and inspired you?

FROM THE VICAR

What are we waiting for?



Vicar Carolyn Albert

You might read this question two different ways.

The first is perhaps a conditioned reaction to our on-the-go, 24-7 culture of productivity and consumption. We read: WHY are you waiting? Don't just sit there! Why aren't you DOING something? Get on with it!

The second reading hears the question as if it is being asked of someone standing alone on an empty sidewalk at dusk, scanning the distance in either direction: What exactly is it that you are waiting for? Someone who is supposed to meet you? A bus? A taxi?

It goes without saying that this is a busy, busy season. Lists are long, and time seems short. Even the days are shorter now, just to make the sense of compressed time even more striking.

Advent Wednesday Evenings

Contemplative Prayer: *Wait for the Lord*

DECEMBER 8, 15, AND 22 FROM 6:30 TO 7:00 P.M.

Advent is a great time for contemplative prayer as we learn to wait, trust, and hope in the Lord. For three Wednesdays in Advent, we will have a simple, quiet, contemplative service of prayer in the Transept Chapel. Join us!

But perhaps, we can accept this darkness as a gift. Perhaps this darkness can slow us down, if only a little, for a few moments, to reflect upon what is growing and changing in us today. Darkness is full of not-knowing and of mysterious possibility. Maybe in the dark of evening this season we can sit in solitude or around a table with family to light a candle, or sit in silence... and just... wait. Maybe for only 30 seconds each day...

Just as Mary couldn't "get on with it" in the final weeks of her pregnancy, neither can we just "get on with" being who we are going to be and skip the journey of becoming. We are waiting in the darkness of mysterious possibilities... while God is working in us and through us.

What are you waiting for? Do you even know yet? Can you name that for which you wait, or is it still too distant to perceive clearly? Or, do you know exactly what it is, right in front of you, so close you could reach out and grab it, so that you can hardly stand to wait anymore?

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From the Faith Formation Coordinator



Henri Atkinson

December is upon us and a time of rebirth. We have a whole new church year ahead of us to accomplish many great things. I can't predict our future but I can brag about our last year. Sometimes I am really sad when I hear "Why isn't anything being done to involve the children". I think the children are participating more in Sunday School, from an average of 3 a week last year to 9 a week. We did have 1 week of 2 (in attendance) this fall, but 2 weeks of 14 and November 14 we had 15.

Advent Workshop
December 5
9:45 A.M.
Fellowship Hall

But more important than numbers is the other activities the children are doing to help those less fortunate. We have our very own vegetable garden for the homeless. The children (as young as two) loved planting and digging. They also water the garden every Sunday. (The CDC waters it during the week.) At the beginning of the school year, they brought backpacks and loaded them with school supplies, 13 total! We give our quarters to the Heifer Project and save money we then give to Lois Holck to help with Lutheran World Hunger. Last Advent we collected baby things for Any Baby Can and this year will fix food baskets for Safeplace. On November 14 we prepared a Thanksgiving dinner to take to the homebound (11) and distributed some to the homeless in the park (7). Again, from age 2 up our children (15) participated in this event. I will be putting up pictures in the Fellowship Hall showing our garden and our dinner preparation event.

My new motto is—Have camera, will travel. This way you will see what our little saints are doing. They are very active members of our congregation.

Yours in Christ,
 Henri Atkinson

From the Church Council

SUMMARY

— Submitted by Nancy Neuse, COUNCIL SECRETARY

ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE NOVEMBER 15 COUNCIL MEETING:

- Authorized the merger of the positions of Choir Director and Organist into the Director of Music.
- Discussed in detail the budget prepared by the Finance Committee; the council approved the budget as proposed and voted to present it to the congregational meeting on December 12, 2010 for approval by the congregation.
- Discussed the proposed service change at length, weighing the comments received from various members during the two scheduled "Conversation with the Council" meetings. After considerable deliberation it was moved and seconded that the Council present to the congregation for consideration at the December meeting a proposal to change to one worship service to begin at 9:30, followed by hospitality, with Christian Education beginning at 11, the new schedule to be effective beginning December 26, 2010. A proposal to amend this motion failed and further discussion ensued. The initial motion carried with no opposition.

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

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SUNDAY NURSERY ATTENDANT

SAMMIE SHEPPARD

CUSTODIANS

TERESA/JESUS DEL AGUILA
SONIA ESPINOZA

CHURCH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Joe Cain

VICE-PRESIDENT

Bonnie Northcutt

SECRETARY

Nancy Neuse

MEMBERS

Henri Atkinson
 Lee Baker
 Rita Carlson
 Alison Derick-Northcutt
 Bob Hinz
 Shelly Kronbergs
 Monica Lund
 Teresa Tice-Boggs
 Sage Weber

TREASURER

Dana MacLaren
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
 David Austin

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

(512) 478-5424

DIRECTOR

TERESA KAPELLE
 tkapelle@firstenglishcdc.org

FELC OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
 Friday 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

First English Lutheran Church has been a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation since 1989. We affirm God's love for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We openly encourage all of our members to participate fully.



From the Congregation

STEWARDSHIP OF BREAD



Thanks to all who made our Commitment Sunday a great day. Your stewardship commitments and gifts of bread made for a beautiful display. We collected 34 loaves of bread to share with those in need!

FELC Financial Report

Below you can see a summary of our financial report as of October 31, 2010. We are behind in expected income, but we have made good progress in the previous two months catching up.

	Actual	Budget
Offerings	220,289	231,938
Total Income	225,136	241,521
Expenses	243,329	254,084
Difference	(18,193)	(12,563)

Please remember First English in December so we can end the year well. We are grateful for all your support of the mission and ministry of FELC through offerings, volunteering, praying, and most of all, being present in our community of faith on Sunday and other times, as we come together to be the body of Christ.



PRIME TIMERS
Wednesday, December 1
12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Prime Timers will celebrate the Advent season with a potluck lunch on Wednesday December 1 at 12:30 p.m. The Latin word Advent, means "the coming." For centuries, Advent has been a time of spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation. Because the day it begins changes from year to year, so does the length of each Advent season. You are invited to share food and friendship as we await the arrival of Christ-

Faithful Gift Giving

This Christmas, why not give a gift that lets you tell them in words and action how much you love Christ's church?

The ELCA Mission Investment Fund offers MissionFuture4Kidz investments, for children under age 16, with a minimum investment of \$50. The investment matures, with interest, when the child turns 18.

For more info, visit the Fund's Web site at www.elca.org/mif or call the Fund toll free at (877) 886-3522. Or you may contact Pastor Carol Spencer, MIF area representative, at Carol.Spencer@elca.org or (817) 927-3239.

Congregational Meetings

The Church Council has set the following dates and agendas for upcoming congregational meetings:

December 12, 2010 at 12:15 P.M. In the Fellowship Hall

The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Elect council members
2. Adopt a 2011 budget
3. Consider the recommendation from the church council:

That the Sunday morning schedule be changed to the following single service schedule:
 9:30 A.M. Worship followed by Hospitality
 11:00 A.M. Education
 Beginning the Sunday after Christmas

Annual Meeting January 30, 2011 at 12:15 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall

The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports.



December 2010 CALENDAR

Visit First English Lutheran on the Web at www.felcaustin.org for more information and the current activity schedule.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:00 A.M.

CDC Chapel (Sanctuary)

10:30 A.M.

Companions Group (Library)

12:30 P.M.

Prime Timers Potluck Luncheon & Program (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6:00 P.M.

NUNA Development Committee (Library)

7:00 P.M.

World AIDS Day Service (Sanctuary)
Reception following (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 P.M.

Learning Ministry Team (Parlor)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:30 P.M.

Cub Scout Pack 28 (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 P.M.

Companions Group (Library)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 A.M.

Austin Central SDA (Sanctuary, Parlor,
Library: 12:30 P.M. Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 A.M.

Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 A.M.

Advent Workshop (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 A.M.

Worship (Sanctuary)

12:45 P.M.

Vicar Committee Meeting (Parlor)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 (CONT'D)

4:00 P.M.

Netzer Co-op/FELC Meeting and
Dinner (Parlor)

8:00 P.M.

Netzer Co-op Worship (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00 A.M.

Monday Ministry (Sanctuary)

5:30 P.M.

NUNA Board (Fellowship Hall)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 A.M.

Lutheran pastors text study (Library)

NOON

Prayer Circle (Library)

5:30 P.M.

NUNA Membership Meeting
(Fellowship Hall)

6:00 P.M.

CDC Board (Parlor)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:00 A.M.

CDC Chapel (Sanctuary)

10:30 A.M.

Companions Group (Library)

6:30 P.M.

Advent Contemplative Service
(Transept Chapel)

7:00 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:00 P.M.

Companions Group (Library)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00 A.M.

Austin Central SDA (Sanctuary, Parlor,
Library: 12:30 P.M. Fellowship Hall)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 (CONT'D)

1:00 P.M.

Christmas Shopping Break for Families
(Parlor)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 A.M.

Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 A.M.

Children's Sunday School
(Fellowship Hall)

9:45 A.M.

Adult Sunday School (Parlor)

11:00 A.M.

Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 P.M.

Congregational Meeting and Potluck
Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

2:00 P.M.

Christmas Caroling

3:30 P.M.

Troop #1936 Planning Meeting (Library)

8:00 P.M.

Netzer Co-op Worship (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:00 A.M.

Monday Ministry (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:00 A.M.

Lutheran pastors text study (Library)

NOON

Prayer Circle (Library)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ECHOES

10:00 A.M.

CDC Chapel (Sanctuary)

10:30 A.M.

Companions Group (Library)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 (CONT'D)

6:30 P.M.
Advent Contemplative Service
(Transept Chapel)

7:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:30 P.M.
Cub Scout Pack 28 Leaders (Library)

7:00 P.M.
Companions Group (Parlor)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:15 A.M.
Church Women United Board (Parlor)

6:30 P.M.
3rd Friday Game and Fellowship Night
(Library)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 A.M.
Austin Central SDA (Sanctuary, Parlor,
Library: 12:30 P.M. Fellowship Hall)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:30 A.M.
Worship (Sanctuary)

9:30 A.M.
Green Team Meeting (Library)

9:45 A.M.
Children's Sunday School
(Fellowship Hall)

9:45 A.M.
Adult Sunday School (Parlor)

11:00 A.M.
Worship (Sanctuary)

12:30 P.M.
Male Spirituality Group
(Library and Transept Chapel)

8:00 P.M.
Netzer Co-op Worship (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00 A.M.
Monday Ministry (Sanctuary)

7:00 P.M.
Congregation Council (Parlor)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 A.M.
Lutheran pastors text study (Library)

NOON
Prayer Circle (Library)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

10:00 A.M.
CDC Chapel (Sanctuary)

6:30 P.M.
Advent Contemplative Service
(Transept Chapel)

7:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE**

CDC CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
5:00 P.M.
Christmas EVE Family Service Rehearsal
(Fellowship Hall)

5:30 P.M.
Christmas Eve Family Service
(Sanctuary)

11:00 P.M.
Candlelight Eucharist Worship
(Sanctuary)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:00 A.M.
Austin Central SDA (Sanctuary, Parlor,
Library: 12:30 P.M. Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:30 A.M.
Worship (Sanctuary)

8:00 P.M.
Netzer Co-op Worship (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

CDC AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
9:00 A.M.
Monday Ministry (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

CDC CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
8:00 A.M.
Lutheran pastors text study (Library)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 (CONT'D)

11:30 A.M.
Women's Bible Study Group Lunch
(Hyde Park Grill)

NOON
Prayer Circle (Library)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

CDC CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

7:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

CDC CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

CDC CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING BREAK
FOR CHURCH AND CDC FAMILIES!
Saturday, December 11, 1-6 P.M.**

We will be babysitting so that you all can do last minute shopping by yourselves. Cost is \$5 an hour per child. We will have a lite meal for them and snacks. We will start out in the Parlor. There will be activities, places to nap and entertainment.

**Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 P.M.**

Join the band of merry singers as we go caroling to our homebound members.

We'll begin at FELC (after the congregational meeting) and carpool to each stop. We should end up back at FELC by 4:30.

**Sunday after Christmas
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
December 26, 2010****One Service at 9:30 A.M.**

The Christmas celebration continues after Christmas day. On December 26, join us for the Service of Lessons and Carols, led by Vicar Carolyn.

This non-communion service will give us a chance to sing many favorite Christmas carols and hear many wonderful Scripture readings that proclaim the promised birth of the Messiah, the One God sends to redeem us and bring the good news, Jesus Christ.

Pastor's Post

FELC ONLINE

The Internet has become a central place that people find information and join in social networking. We are increasing the presence of FELC in a number of ways:



WEB SITE: We continue to add content and improve usability to our great looking Web site. If you haven't seen it in a while, take a look. The calendar includes everything scheduled to happen at FELC, so if you ever need to know when an event is, or if a room is available, it's a great place to find out.



FACEBOOK: FELC now has a Facebook page. You can "like" the page, and then get updates on FELC events and news on your Facebook news feed. It's also a great place to share photos of FELC events, and join in conversation.

GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK ADVERTISING: We are placing ads online through Google search, and Facebook. If you're using Google and you search for terms like "Austin churches", "Austin Lutheran", "Austin liturgical church" and more, you might see our display ad show up on the right side of the screen. **Please don't click on the ad! We pay every time someone clicks on an ad to go to our Web page.** Using the search results to go to the Web page is fine, don't use the ad on the right. If you're on Facebook and live in the Austin area, you may see our display ad show up. **Again, please don't click on the ad! We pay for every click!** These ads help direct people to our Web site to find out more about us.



GOWALLA AND FOURSQUARE: These two services are location-based social networking. If you have a smart phone with GPS capabilities, you can "check in" at any location around town or the world, like restaurants, stores, parks, and yes, churches! We have created our sites on both services. Why not check in when you come to First English and let your friends know you're going to church?



Both services can post your check-ins to your Facebook page or your Twitter account.



TWITTER: We have just created a Twitter feed for FELC. Sign up and get FELC news and reminders on your phone or e-mail. What do you think would be a great use of Twitter for FELC? Let us know at office@felcaustin.org

From the CDC



Teresa Kapelle
CDC Director

Tis the season to talk about giving. And for a kiddo, 'tis the season to talk about getting. Can you really blame them? As parents, many of us, myself included, lavish gifts on our kiddos around the holidays. Maybe it is due to guilt, our own childhood baggage or we're just excessive spenders, but are we really giving our children a true gift by focusing on receiving rather than giving?

How do we instill in our children an attitude of gratitude?

A few key tips:

1. Model graciousness: Our children watch and take in every move we make. Model behavior that you would like your child to replicate. Say thank you. Verbally notice when someone has made a kind act. Involve your child in writing thank you cards. Help a child create thoughtful gifts for others during special occasions. Seek out opportunities as a family to give back to the community.



2. Don't give your child everything: For some, this is easy to say and hard to do, but refrain from giving your child everything. Once age appropriate, help your child begin to make choices. It can be a little uncomfortable watching your child be sad because they are not getting everything they want. However, children do move past it and better to help them work through those feelings now when you have some control over the situation and how learn how to cope than when they are 20 and shocked that life is not handing them everything as easily.

3. Refocus the holidays: Try to create traditions that emphasize the values you want instilled in your children during the holiday season. Instead of focusing on what gifts your child will be receiving, find activities that your child can look forward to year after year like spending time together as a family making cookies, going for walks, decorating the home—whatever works for your family.

It is understandable that we want to give our children everything and certainly gratitude is also at the top of that list.

Always a pleasure,
Teresa

First English Lutheran
Child Development Center
(512) 478-5424
tkapelle@firstenglishcdc.org

Member News

BAPTISM

Alice Faye Weber

DEATH

Rev Merrill Carlson

From Our Synod Mission Interpreter

— Submitted by LOIS HOLCK

HIGHLIGHTING THIS MONTH

Southwestern Texas Synod Youth Ministry

- Junior High Gathering (6th–8th grades) Happened November 5–7 and 12–14 at Camp Chrysalis
- Senior High Youth Gathering (9th–12th grades, youth sponsors, pastors) December 28–30 at San Antonio Omni Hotel Colonnade. Registration deadline is December 1. Cost: \$95. Theme: “GO!”
- Bishop’s Youth Leadership Award. Given annually to an outstanding senior (12th grader) in the Synod, nominated by his/her congregation. The award is presented at the Senior High Gathering and includes a \$300 scholarship
- YARPS—Young Adult Resource Persons. College-age youth who serve as resources to congregations in a variety of capacities. First English has used the YARPS for our congregational retreats for several years.

Youth Ministry, under the leadership of Heather Hansen, is another of the ministries of our Synod supported in part by our offerings.

Sunday after New Year

Epiphany Sunday

January 2, 2011

One Service at 9:30 A.M.

We will celebrate the Epiphany on the first Sunday of the year. Come join us for worship on this festival day when we celebrate the star that guided the wise ones to Jesus, and the light that guides us to know Christ in our lives.

We will gather on the front patio, bless the sanctuary entrance with the marking of the three kings over the doorway, and process with our gifts to place before the nativity. Instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, bring canned goods and other items to donate to Micah 6.

Because of the holiday season, we will have one service at 9:30 A.M.

CONTINUE IN PRAYER FOR

Greg Meier & Family

Rita, Renee, Lynn, Gwenn, Gregg, Brian, Darin Carlson & Family

Evelyn Butler

Danny Austin, cousin of David Austin

Austin “Beau” Sierra, FELC CDC assistant teacher

Jarek Zborowski, cousin of Nancy Neuse

Don Larson & Family, cousin of Monica Lund

Jim Stockbridge, husband of Andy MacLaren’s step-sister Leigh

Dennis Burroughs, friend of Gratia Winship

Princetta MacLaren, step-mother of Andy MacLaren

Michaelie Wiebe, niece of Anne Wiebe

Gene Steinmeyer, uncle of Jill Essbaum

Doug MacLaren, father of Andy MacLaren

James Steinmeyer, uncle of Jill Essbaum

Greg & Renee Heins & Family, friends of Emily Atkinson

Mindy, Charlotte & James, friends of Monica Lund

Mallie Coker, friend of Katherine Houston

Jarett Werley, friend of Chris Billig

Ki Norman, friend of Monica Lund



Prayer Circle

TUESDAYS AT NOON

In the church library

Vicar: What are we waiting for? continued from Page 1

Or does this season of the church’s waiting come to you in a time of doing – a time when you can only wish there was a moment to sit and rest and wait on God?

In each case, the season of Advent is the gift and struggle of learning that the ‘now’ in which we live – whether frantic, or aimless, or eager, or lonely, or confusing, or peaceful, or yearning – this ‘now’ is connected to a time of fullness that is yet to come. God’s hands are at work, weaving our ‘nows’ into the future promise of love and life and togetherness and fullness that is brought into being through Christ.

What are you waiting for? If you know, or if you don’t, or if you feel like you can’t – God is working in the waiting, and we wait together as brothers and sisters in Christ. May your waiting be filled with the presence of God, and may that for which you wait be filled with God’s promise and hope.

December 2010



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 12

December 2010

ECHOES is a monthly publication of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. Founded in 1936, the church is located at the corner of Whitis Avenue and 30th Street in the North University area of Austin.

PASTOR

Michael Coffey

VICAR/INTERIM

Carolyn Albert



WORSHIP Schedule

8:30 A.M. Worship Service

9:45 A.M. Sunday School

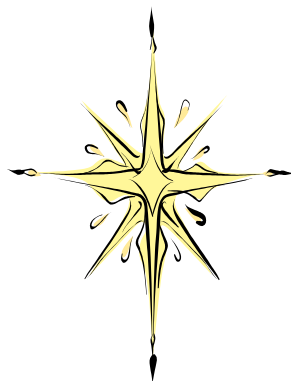
11:00 A.M. Worship Service

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at both worship services.

THE NETZER CO-OP
GATHERS FOR WEEKLY LITURGY
SUNDAYS AT 8:00 P.M.
IN THE SANCTUARY.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES



Friday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

5:30 P.M. Family Worship
Family service with children presenting the Christmas story

11:00 P.M. Candlelight Eucharist

Sunday, December 26 SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

9:30 A.M.
Join us for worship on the Sunday after Christmas for a joyful service of lessons and carols.

We will have ONE SERVICE at 9:30.

So come and enjoy being with your whole First English family during the Christmas season.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED — Monday, December 27, 2010 & Monday January 3, 2011



Farewell to FELC Organist

Bill Davis



Sunday, October 31 was the last Sunday of service with Bill Davis, FELC organist. Bill had been our organist for 12 years. Bill's workload at his job has increased

lately, and after 40 years of playing the organ every Sunday for various churches, he decided it was time to take a break. We gathered during hospitality time that Sunday to wish Bill Godspeed! (Photos courtesy Charlie Boas. Celebration cake by Anne Wiebe.)

Thanksgiving Dinner

Prepared by the Young Families



Our Sunday School children dishing up Thanksgiving dinner for the homebound and homeless on November 14.

Christmas Poinsettia Order

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

All proceeds benefit Down Home Ranch in Elgin for the mentally handicapped (www.downhomeranch.org)



If you would like to order a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary during Christmas services, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Poinsettias will cost \$10.00 this year. **We will need your order no later than Wednesday December 15.**

PREPAYMENT IS REQUIRED!

YOUR NAME(S) _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

Please provide **YOUR PHONE NUMBER** so we may call if we have questions.

I will pick up my poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service.



PAID BY:

CHECK AMOUNT \$ _____

CHECK #: _____

CASH AMOUNT \$ _____



Visit First English Lutheran on the Web at www.felcaustin.org for more information and the current activity schedule.



UNUSED GREETING CARDS AND STAMPS WELCOME AT MICAH 6

As the holidays approach, feel free to leave your unused special occasion cards and even stamps in the Micah 6 donation area in the north transept of the Sanctuary. Pantry recipients are incredibly grateful for the chance to sit down and write a holiday or birthday greeting to a friend or family member and have volunteers take care of mailing their cards.



The theme for the December Micah 6 is honoring the baby Jesus by bringing baby items—diapers, wipes, formula, baby food. Please bring your donations to the Micah 6 donation area in the North Transept.

Micah 6 Combined Worship Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

3:00 P.M.

University United Methodist Church

Save the date! The Annual Micah 6 Combined Worship Service will be held at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, January 16 at University United Methodist Church. It's a meaningful service in which we celebrate and renew our partnership of service with all the Micah 6 congregations. Anyone interested in singing with the Combined Choir—always a moving experience—is invited to gather at 2:00 P.M. at UUMC for rehearsal.

SeniorFest 2011

Our Journey: Memory and Mission

Saturday, February 5, 2011

Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown

A day filled with
Worship + Music + Fellowship + Food + Fellowship + Study

“Each of our lives is a sacred story because God is at work in us.”

These are the words of keynoter, **The Rev. Dr. Robert Hughes, past president and part time professor of preaching at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.** Dr. Hughes, serves as ALOA's vice-president, is the author of several books, and is a frequent speaker nationally.

Come for a day of study, fellowship, workshops, and exploration of the interrelatedness of Our Story, God's Story, Our Models of Faith Stories, Our Community's Story and the Sharing of our Story.

RESERVE FEBRUARY 5 ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW. This is an event you will not want to miss. The ability to attend two workshops is back! Registration forms are available online at the synod Web site: www.swtsynod.org under Events, and in the FELC office. Share the news with your friends! If you have questions call Barbara Gilbertson at (512) 864-7473.