



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 48, Issue 1

January 2012

FROM THE PASTOR

A Wow, and a Year of Blogging



Pastor Mike Coffey

Happy New Year and many rich blessings to you for the year ahead. I find the New Year to be a combination of sentimental feelings about the past, a reflection of gratitude for the present, and a time of renewed sense of goals and vision for the year ahead. All of these, of course, flow from the sense that God is our past, present, and future, and in Christ, we know

the whole story is one of belovedness and grace.

We ended last year with an amazing congregational meeting. Our budget process was leading us toward a potential \$23,000 deficit for 2012, or making cuts that would have set us back and lead us on a downward track we didn't want to start. As our gifted leaders shared this with you, you responded with amazing support and generosity above and beyond what you already do for First English. I'm fully expecting we will end 2012 in the black financially and be on a forward looking, mission inspired path. Thank you for your wonderful support. Wow!

As I think about the year ahead, I've decided to do more writing and sharing through my blog. If you're not Internet savvy, "blog" is short for web log, or an online sharing of thoughts, ideas, reflections, and writings. I've been using my own blog for a few years mostly to share sermons online. For 2012, I plan to make more extensive use of it, with several weekly reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings, current events, sharing of poetry and other inspiring writings I find or do, and more. You can leave comments and engage in online conversation on my postings. This can be an effective tool for ministry both within the congregation and reaching out beyond the congregation.

You can find my blog at mccoffey.blogspot.com. When you go there, you can subscribe to the blog to automatically get updates, or you can check back now and then to see what has been added. If you don't use the Internet, I will post outside my office door some of the things I share online.

Visit Pastor Coffey's Web site at www.michaelcoffey.org for sermons and more. Find Pastor's blog at mccoffey.blogspot.com.

Pastor Coffey and Four Others Awarded Continuing Education Grant

Pastor Coffey, along with Pastor Jason Korthauer (St. Andrew's, San Antonio), Pastor Greg Ronning (Texas Lutheran University), Pastor Steve Cauley (formerly of the SWT Synod and now serving in Iowa), and Dr. Antonio Ramirez (pastoral associate at St. Luke's Catholic Parish in San Antonio) are part of a Male Spirituality cohort group awarded one of eight grants for continuing education and spiritual formation of church leaders by the College of Pastoral Leaders at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The five submitted a proposal to work together on their own spiritual formation and their ministry among men in the church. During 2012–2013 they will engage in reading, writing, mutual support, wilderness retreats, conferences, and contemplative practices.

The College of Pastoral Leaders at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary awards grants of \$10,000 to eight cohort groups each year to support a two-year process of learning and growth, mutual support and challenge, and strengthening of ministries. Through the College of Pastoral Leaders, Austin Seminary offers pastors resources to enliven, invigorate and sustain the life of ministry, forming an association of church leaders committed to learning in community, over time, for their own flourishing in ministry and the sake of the Gospel.

Sunday Adult Forum

Living the Questions: Reclaiming the World

Beginning January 8, we will continue using the video discussion series *Living the Questions*. The second section of the series is on *Reclaiming the World* and includes sessions on themes such as *Restoring Relationships; Evil, Suffering, and A God of Love; and The Myth of Redemptive Violence*. Join Pastor Coffey for this engaging series that includes presentations by scholars and religious leaders, followed by guided conversation. Bring your questions and don't expect to hear any easy answers as we explore how progressive Christianity can speak to today's world.

From the Faith Formation Coordinator



Henri Atkinson

As many of you read this the Christmas Season is celebrating the twelve days of Christmas which ends January 6. This reminds me of the wisemen who travelled many, many miles and even longer days to follow a star!

These three men were dedicated and determined to find the Christ Child. In the almost two years it took them to find the home of Mary and Joseph, they met King Herod, had a few dreams and a message for Jesus. It wasn't the exact message from the King but warning enough that Joseph took his family to Egypt for safety. Our heroes don't go back to see the King but go a different way home. So by the time they reach each other's home they part their ways. Or do they? We do not know. What message did they take back with them? They could announce the coming of Jesus, were they preparing a way?

We are told of the Way in the new testament. Jesus is the Way. As we continue the Way we meet many other travelers on their Way. Do we take the time to understand our Way and the Way of others. All I am certain of is Christ is the Way. During this Christmas Season and beyond keep the Way in our hearts and in our actions.

Yours in Christ,
Henri Atkinson

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FELC OFFICE HOURS

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

From the Church Council

SUMMARY

— Submitted by Pastor Coffey

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECEMBER 19 COUNCIL MEETING:

Todd Pederson presented plans for completing the Transept Chapel project, with stained glass doors and a columbarium. The council approved moving forward with the plans.

Pastor Coffey reported receiving a \$10,000 grant to participate in a cohort group as part of the College of Pastoral Leaders, with four other colleagues. He also reported that FELC received a \$2,000 Mission and Ministry grant from the Southwestern Texas Synod to help fund a new ministry, the Companion Cafe.

The January Council meeting was moved from Monday, to Tuesday, January 17, because of the MLK holiday.

Thank You Church Council

for your leadership throughout the year.

— FELC Membership and Staff

FROM THE VICAR

Living Out and Living In our Calling



Vicar Peder Hinderlie

Well folks, this is it. It is the year 2012, and according to many reliable tabloid sources (and John Cusack movies), the world as we know it will come to an end. I suppose this means that we should live it up even more than normal this year. From what I've seen thus far in my time at FELC, that will be hard for you guys to do. How can you possibly do more than you already are doing?

Recently, a little flyer was put together which listed all of the opportunities that FELC has to offer to grow in faith and fellowship. From Kickball to Knitting, and Choir to Companions, there are many people getting together to learn and have fun. I hope you are pleased to know that another new group has started to take shape. For the last month or so, a number of the newer and younger (ish) faces at FELC have been going out on Sunday nights. We started meeting because it was expressed to me that there should be a group for people who are young adults and don't have kids.

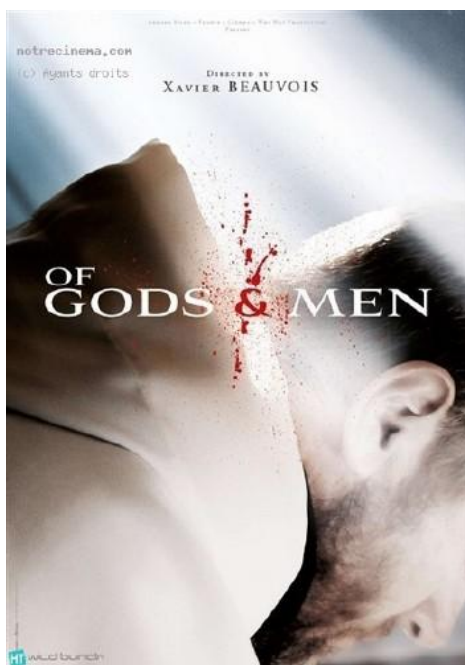
For our first get-together we went to see the Muppets movie. Evidently the kid in us is still pretty active. We are still putting together ideas of fun things to do in Austin (most of the group thus far is made up of recent transplants to the city). If you have any ideas or

would like to hang out, let me know! The group has talked also about hosting coffee hour sometime soon in order to get to know the rest of the congregation a little better. Definitely keep an eye out for that!

During one of our nights out, the group talked for a bit about what is perhaps the most important thing that FELC does and is doing (outside of preaching the Gospel). That is, you are dedicated to being a warm and welcoming place for people to come and share in the gifts that God has given us. My family, who visited over the course of December, also had the same impression. They wanted me to say "Thank you" for your welcome. Whoever trained you in being hospitable did a fantastic job! (Perhaps it's a Texas thing?)

I hope that in this coming year, our fellowship and faith will only grow deeper in understanding what it means to live out and live in the many callings that God has in store for us. May we, in spite of the ominous predictions for the year 2012, continue to believe in the blessing that was bestowed upon us as we remember the coming of Jesus into our world:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Take the light of Christ with you into all the dark places of the world, bringing hope to the hopeless, love to the forgotten, healing to the sick, comfort to the dying, food to the hungry, and companionship to the lonely, for the love of God, incarnate in Christ, now dwells in your body, mind, and soul.



SPIRITUALITY IN MOVIES OF GODS & MEN

Monday, January 9, 2012
6:30 P.M. in the Parlor

Of Gods and Men (PG-13) won the Grand Prize at the 63rd Cannes Film Festival and is the French entry for the Academy Award category of Best Foreign Language Film of 2011. Director Xavier Beauvois has made a deeply human and spiritually enlightening film about the events leading up to the kidnapping and murder of seven Catholic monks in Algeria in 1996. It is an engaging story about the depths of Christian love and the sacrificial nature of following Jesus.

Join Pastor Coffey for an evening of film and conversation as we enjoy this movie together in large screen projection. Invite a friend, bring a dinner if you like to enjoy during the movie and have some popcorn provided by Pastor Coffey.

Other movies planned for the winter/spring season include *The Tree of Life*, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, *LA Story*, and *The Empire Strikes Back*.



January 2012


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

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

<p>JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 11:00 A.M. ONE WORSHIP SERVICE (SY) With New Year's Day Brunch following in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>JANUARY 2 CHURCH OFFICE AND CDC CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY)</p>	<p>JANUARY 3 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (LB) NOON Prayer Circle (LB) 6:00 P.M. CDC Board (PL)</p>	<p>JANUARY 4 10:00 A.M. CDC Chapel (SY) 10:30 A.M. Companions Group 12:30 P.M. Prime Timers Potluck 6:15 P.M. Learning Ministry T 7:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>JANUARY 8 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Worship (SY) 9:45 A.M. Children's Sunday School (FH) Adult Sunday School (PL) High School Group (CE) 6:30 P.M. FELC Book Club (Wiederaenders)</p>	<p>JANUARY 9 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY) 6:30 P.M. Spirituality in Movies (PL)</p>	<p>JANUARY 10 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (LB) NOON Prayer Circle (LB)</p>	<p>JANUARY 11 10:00 A.M. CDC Chapel (SY) 10:30 A.M. Companions Group 7:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>JANUARY 15 SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ECHOES 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Worship (SY) 9:30 A.M. Green Team (LB) 9:45 A.M. Children's Sunday School (FH) Adult Sunday School (PL) High School Group (CE) 12:30 P.M. Vicar Committee Meeting (PL)</p>	<p>JANUARY 16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR MLK JR HOLIDAY 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY)</p>	<p>JANUARY 17 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (LB) NOON Prayer Circle (LB) 11:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study Group (PL) 1:15 P.M. Prayer Shawl Ministry (LB) 7:00 P.M. Congregation Council (PL)</p>	<p>JANUARY 18 10:00 A.M. CDC Chapel (SY) 10:30 A.M. Companions Group 7:30 P.M. Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>JANUARY 22 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Worship (SY) 9:45 A.M. Children's Sunday School (FH) Adult Sunday School (PL) High School Group (CE) NOON Prayer Shawl Ministry (LB)</p>	<p>JANUARY 23 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY)</p>	<p>JANUARY 24 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (PL) NOON Prayer Circle (LB)</p>	<p>JANUARY 25 10:00 A.M. CDC Chapel (SY) 10:30 A.M. Companions Group 7:30 P.M. Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>JANUARY 29 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Worship (SY) 9:45 A.M. Children's Sunday School (FH) Adult Sunday School (PL) High School Group (CE) 12:15 P.M. FELC Potluck & Annual Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>JANUARY 30 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY)</p>	<p>JANUARY 31 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (LB) NOON Prayer Circle (LB) 7:30 P.M. Drum with Rajamani (TC)</p>	<p>Heart to Drum with a  4TH Satu Kickball will b holidays and as February a Gretchen Ols</p>

FELC Worship Bulletin
online at felcaustin.org
under "Worship and Music"



Visit our Facebook page and become a fan: First English Lutheran Church – Austin, Texas



Join our Twitter feed and get updates and reminders: FELCAustin

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	JANUARY 5	JANUARY 6 6:15 P.M. Yoga Class (FH) 7:00 P.M. Pack 28 Pinewood Derby set up (FH)	JANUARY 7 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH) 9:30 A.M. Pack 28 Pinewood Derby (FH)
	JANUARY 12	JANUARY 13 6:15 P.M. Yoga Class (FH)	JANUARY 14 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH) 10:00 A.M. Pooch Party (Red Bud Isle Dog Park)
	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 20 9:15 A.M. Church Women United Board (PL) 6:15 P.M. Yoga Class (FH) 6:30 P.M. 3 rd Friday Game & Fellowship (LB)	JANUARY 21 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH)
	JANUARY 26	JANUARY 27 6:15 P.M. Yoga Class (FH)	JANUARY 28 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH)

Drum

master hand drummer.

Every last Tuesday of the month,
Oliver Rajamani offers a one-hour drumming session at 7:30 P.M. in the Transept Chapel. No experience necessary. Just walk in. If you have a drum please bring it. All levels welcome.

FELC Women's Walkabout

Next walkabout: February 11 (stay tuned for details) We'll skip January, but be back for second Saturdays in February. Want to get on the Walkabout e-mail list for updates? Contact Renee Carlson, crsh@grandecom.net or 477-3489.

LOCATION LEGEND

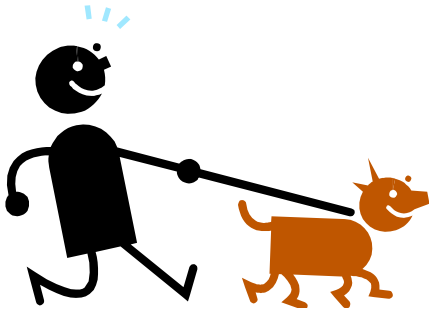
CE = CLASSROOM EAST
FH = FELLOWSHIP HALL
LB = LIBRARY
PL = PARLOR
SY = SANCTUARY
TC = TRANSEPT CHAPEL

Kickball: On Hiatus for January

is on hiatus for January. We'll hope to resume once the first wave of cold temps pass. Watch Echoes for updates as the season approaches. For questions or info about FELC Kickball, contact Gretchen Rolson at gretchenrolson@yahoo.com.

Save the Date: Saturday, March 3
2012 Lenten Retreat
at McKinney Falls State Park

A one-day best-of-both event: Out-of-doors and short drive!



Pooch Party!
Saturday, January 14
10 A.M.–Noon
Red Bud Isle Dog Park
3401 Red Bud Trail

Want a chance to meet the dogs of First English? Come to our Pooch Party! Bring your dog, a tennis ball, some treats, and your furry friend! We'll meet at the dog park on Red Bud Isle, and hang out for a while. Talk to Vicar Peder for more info.

Central Texas
2012 SENIORFEST

FAITH IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Saturday, February 4, 2012
at Palm Valley Lutheran Church, Round Rock

Is learning about your faith a New Year's resolution? SeniorFest 2012 has all the elements: teaching in the Word, training for discipleship, discussions on putting our faith to work. Come join us for Faith in the Public Square.

An exciting presenter with national credentials:
Retired Army Chaplain Rodger Venzke;
 two great workshops chosen from a list of eight;
 a great meal and conversations with old & new friends. Early registration is only \$25.00.

Registration forms are available
in the Narthex and the FELC office.
Questions? Call Barbara Gilbertson at 864-7473.

From the CDC



Teresa Kapelle
 CDC Director

Tis the season of gratitude.

As parents, we work hard to build a nest that is surrounded with comfort, love and abundance. Part of our job is to create a cocoon of warmth and safety for our children, and we take that role seriously. Our children are so protected that it is

understandably difficult for them to peek out of the warmth that engulfs them and see the abundance in their lives. Truly, it is a reflection that we parents are doing our best to provide for our children.

However, I can just hear my own grandma now, "Honey, you are spoiling that child!"



With that caution in mind, how do we help develop a healthy sense of gratitude in our children without the trials and tribulations that often come along with their learning? It's difficult. Gratitude cannot be forced on someone. It has to come from within, but we *can* nurture it.

Say it out loud. Model to children words of gratitude when you genuinely feel it. Give your child sincere thanks for feeding the dog. Tell your mom thank you for watching the kids so you could have a night out. Express to your husband a spontaneous moment of appreciation for making dinner. Do it all around those little ears. They take it all in.

Give back. Let your child see you giving to others. You can even join a group like "Helping Little Hands" and give to others with your child in an age appropriate manner.

Practice gratitude. Go around the dinner table and talk about that which you are thankful for each evening.

Encourage charitable donations. For those old enough to receive an allowance, encourage your child to put a small percentage aside to helping others.

Always a pleasure,
 Teresa

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



MICAH 6 UPDATE VOLUNTEER CALL

VOLUNTEER CALL FOR NEW STREET YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER

Beginning in January, volunteers will be needed on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 P.M. to staff the new Micah 6 Street Youth Drop-In Center located at University Baptist Church. The center will offer a safe place to meet with food, restroom facilities, and computers. In the future, we hope to add educational opportunities to aid the youth in obtaining stability and self-sufficiency.

A volunteer training will be provided jointly by Micah 6 and Lifeworks on Sunday, January 8, 2012. If you are interested, please contact Micah 6 Board Member Mac McKaskle at rwmckaskle@yahoo.com. Volunteers may be asked to participate in a criminal background check.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR NEW DROP-IN CENTER FOR STREET YOUTH

Micah 6 is seeking donations of furniture, computers, and small kitchen appliances in good condition for the drop-in center. Leather furniture is preferred because it is durable and easy to clean. If you have an item to donate, please contact Micah 6 Board Member Jane Leifeste at leifeste.jane@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MICAH 6 CHURCHES JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 15 at 3:00 P.M.
St. Austin Catholic Parish

Each year the churches of Micah 6 come together to worship and give thanks for the ministry we do together. This year, the event will be at St. Austin Catholic Parish on Guadalupe.

The Vespers service will mark the week of Christian Unity, and include a joint choir of members from all our churches singing Mendelssohn's *How Lovely are the Messengers*.

CONTINUE IN PRAYER FOR

Alice & John Robbins, sister-in-law and brother of Mary Robbins
Emily Schottman & family, friends of Mary Robbins
Karen & Lew, friends of Mary Robbins
Kathy, friend of Mary Robbins
Richard Conkey, uncle of Greg Meier
Cecile Austin, mother of David Austin
Lisa Norgard, cousin of Erin Anderson, and
Lisa's daughters Betsy and Stina,
Ann Hinz
Link Davidson, visitor to First English
Kathy Matson & family, friends of Vicar Peder
David Wicks, son of former FELC Vicars Kathy & Al Wicks
Mike Waters, friend of Buddy Lundstedt, and LaRu & Fred Woody
Linda Henderson, friend of Emily Atkinson
Pat Wilkins, aunt of Greg Meier
Bruce Collmann, nephew of Larry Collmann
Carolyn Albert, FELC Vicar #44
Helen Rodriguez, friend of Greg Meier
Christopher Jordan, nephew of Barbara Ws' friend, Gloria Jordan
Bill Martin, father of Barbara Wiederaenders' classmate
Felix, Kristen & Lauren Bargas, friends of Monica Lund
Don Larson & Family, cousin of Monica Lund
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
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

Take a break in your day for meaningful group prayer time, most Tuesdays at Noon in the church library. For information and special prayer requests, please call Barbara Schutz (328-0587) or Lois Holck (327-8501).



DROP-OFF TIMES FOR STYROFOAM® MATERIALS

The next times for Styrofoam® drop-off are the weeks of **January 1 and January 8**. Look for the two large containers in the hallway off the North Transept.

UPDATE: Styrofoam® peanuts are no longer accepted for recycling.

January 2012

 **FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 1

January 2012

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/INTERN
Peder Hinderlie



 **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.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29
Congregational Annual Meeting
and Potluck Luncheon

12:15 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports.

If you plan to submit a report, please send it to the office no later than January 17.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED — Monday January 2, 2012