



Faith Evangelical

Lutheran Church

Walworth, WI

Mission Statement

February 2021

Guided by the Power of the Holy Spirit, we at FELC experience God through **Worship, Learning, Service, and Fellowship.**

A Message from Vicar Lily

People of Faith Evangelical Lutheran,

I have a little update on where I am in the process of becoming a pastor. I find it hard to believe that on the first of February I start my final semester of seminary. I finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. I see the end to late night study sessions, and too many sugary snacks to keep me awake. I see my degree within reach and so many years of training behind me. I just realized I have been in school for about 21 years of my life. Wow.

Last Wednesday at Confirmation class we discussed the “Faith Statements” that we will prepare to share when they will be confirmed. We discussed this as the affirmation of their baptisms, an explanation of their faith now, and a look at where and how they got there. This is exactly what I am doing in preparation for graduation. I am writing my own faith statement in the format of my Approval Essay.

When I entered seminary I met with our South Central Synod of Wisconsin of ELCA’s Candidacy Committee and we discussed my call to ministry, my goals in seminary and how the synod could support me on my journey. From this interview I was granted “Entrance” to seminary and able to officially start my schooling.

After my first year of seminary I completed my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) as a chaplain at UnityPoint Meriter Hospital in Madison. That fall semester, while gaining more experience in pastoral leadership at First Lutheran in Janesville, I met with the Candidacy Committee again for an Endorsement interview. After much talk of my experiences thus far and discussions of where I have grown and where I still hoped to grow, I was granted “Endorsement” and given the ability to continue my education and start the conversation about internship.

This led us to Spring of 2019, conversations with Pastor Inglett, Pastor Otto, Bishop Vivian, Bishop Assistant Kottke and the Contextual Education department at LSTC. I had then landed a two year, part time internship at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church at Walworth. God has brought me here, in which I am so grateful.

Now as I near the end of my internship I plan to meet with Candidacy once again in May for “Approval”. In preparation I have this essay, other paperwork and a positive review from professors and faculty at LSTC, two classes and the rest of my internship, which stands between me and graduation, ordination and my first call. Wow.



A Message from Vicar Lily continued....

So in my state of reflection and gratitude I challenge you to think back to your faith statements from Confirmation. Whether you had one or not, I challenge you to write one now. How have you grown into your faith through the years? Where have you gone? Where didn't you go?

Let's reflect a bit this month, and if you feel comfortable, I would love to hear more about your faith journeys! Blessings y'all and keep me in your prayers as I complete the turn towards the end of schooling and the start of my career. Thank you for everything!

Love and Peace,
Vicar Lily Brellenthin

If you want to reach me by the pastor phone, call or text at 262-812-3064, or email me at pastor@felcwalworth.com

A Message from Pastor Dick Inglett

Faith Lutheran Transition and Visioning Process February Update

January and February – We have our volunteers for our Congregation and Community information gathering groups and we want to thank them for the work they will do. They have the study documents in hand and during February we will be doing the hard work of gathering information about the community of Walworth and the congregation family of Faith Lutheran.

March – In March we will be looking for another group of 4 -5 people (by the way the January/February folks are invited to move forward with this process) to take the data and information gathered in February to share and discuss with the congregation. This group of 4 -5 people should be good at taking a lot of data and information and putting into a concise document for discussion. Their primary role is not to push an agenda but present a current snapshot.

April – Develop a “transition” document to be shared with and discussed by the congregation. The people we are looking for to serve in this capacity will put together a forward-looking document that is based in what has been learned in the data gathering months of January and February and what is heard in the March discussions of this data.

May – We will finalize a transition document that helps the congregation give direction to our mission and life together. Develop a call document to share with the congregation, Vicar Lily and the synod office. A call document is what every congregation needs to put together when they call a new pastor. The hope is that the transition document coupled with the call document will serve as a guide for the mission and ministry that Faith Lutheran and (soon to be) Pastor Lily Brellenthin will share.

This looks like an ambitious schedule because it is. What I am envisioning is that the same people are not expected to walk the entire journey of this process but they are welcome to. Each step needs to include 4 – 5 people to shepherd each phase. I will meet with and guide each group and make sure that there is a smooth transition between each phase.

Peace,

Pastor Dick Inglett



Scripture readings for February:

February 7 :Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

[Isaiah 40:21-31](#) *The creator of all cares for the powerless*

[Psalm 147: 1-11, 20C](#) *The Lord heals the brokenhearted*

[1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#) *A servant for the sake of the Gospel*

[Mark 1:29-39](#) *The healing of Peter's mother-in-law*

February 14 :Transfiguration of Our Lord

[2 Kings 12:1-12](#) *Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*

[Psalm 50: 1-6](#) *Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory*

[2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#) *God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*

[Mark 9:2-9](#) *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

Ash Wednesday—February 17, 2021

[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#) *Return to the Lord, your God*

[Psalm 51:1-17](#) *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

[2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10](#) *Now is the day of salvation*

[Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#) *The practice of faith*

February 21:First Sunday in Lent

[Genesis 9:8-17](#) *The rainbow, sign of God's covenant*

[Psalm 25:1-10](#) *Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness*

[1 Peter 3:18-22](#) *Saved through water*

[Mark 1:9-15](#) *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

February 28:Second Sunday in Lent

[Genesis 17:1-5, 15-16](#) *God blesses Abraham and Sarah*

[Psalm 22:23-31](#) *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord*

[Romans 4:13-25](#) *The promise to those who share Abraham's faith*

[Mark 8:31-38](#) *The passion prediction*



Imposition of Ashes Drive-thru

4:30-5:30 p.m.

DEPRESSION, COVID, WINTER IN WISCONSIN

Depression: Chaos, Captivity, Futility and Loss

As we move into winter in Wisconsin during the COVID-19 Pandemic that has claimed over 400,000 lives I want to take an opportunity to remind you what depression is, why most of us are experiencing it and a couple of ideas on how to cope with its reality.

Definition: Depression is that state in which we are unable to invest energy effectively toward the completion of a goal or task.

Causes: There are two basic types or causes of joylessness: bio-chemical and a sense or experience that things are out of control.

What does depression look and feel like:

- Sleep, Appetite, Sexual disturbances
- Cannot organize space, time or activity
- Cannot concentrate
- No longer can take pleasure in what was once pleasurable
- Feel overwhelmed and unable to cope

The four experiences that will always cause depression:

1. When no matter what you do you have no control over anything, especially yourself, nor does anyone or anything else have control over anything (chaos).
2. When you cannot exercise control over that which has been taken from you (loss).
3. When someone or something else has control over you (captivity).
4. When no matter what you do you cannot make anything good or bad happen (futility). If you do good, good things don't happen to you and if you do bad, bad things don't happen to you.

Depression as Chaos

Chaos is experienced as depression when it seems that no one or nothing is in control, and is present when life's structures are unreliable and inconsistent. When no matter what you do you have no control over anything, especially yourself, nor does anyone or anything else have control over anything. We become depressed when we cannot make a recognizable picture out of our lives. When you or anyone perceives life as uncontrollable you will become depressed. That is the natural reaction, that is the way you were made.

Depression as Captivity

When someone or something else has control over you (captivity) or you perceive reality as such, you will become depressed. "All captives are either depressed or angry." Depression is a healthy response to captivity. Just like it is healthy to become depressed in response to chaos, loss and futility.

Depression as futility

When no matter what you do you cannot make anything good or bad happen (futility). Futility, the experience that you can't make anything happen, is present when life's structures are unresponsive. "We will always become joyless if there is no connection between what we do and what happens to us."

Examples:

1. Good things happen to me though I do nothing good.
2. Bad things happen to me though I do nothing bad.
3. Good things will not happen to me if I do good things.
4. Bad things will not happen to me if I do bad things. When we experience life in the above manner we will be joyless because we feel we are unable to act upon our environment.

Depression as Loss

When you cannot exercise control over that which has been taken from you (loss) you will experience depression. When a loved one dies, the bereaved is powerless to elicit love from the dead person. Physical disease and growing old are helpless conditions par excellence; the person finds their own responses ineffective and is thrown upon the care of others. As human beings we engage in relationships. When a relationship is lost or broken we must become depressed and disengage our energy from that broken relationship to engage in other relationships.

Since March of 2020 we as individuals and communities of people have been experiencing all four of these realities: Chaos, Captivity, Futility and Loss. We do not understand the virus and do not know what is coming next. We are captive in our homes, behind our masks, by the virus. None of this makes sense and futility sets in. Some people get the virus even when they take every precaution. Others throw caution to the wind and are just fine. We can take every precaution and it makes no difference if others do not take the precautions seriously as well. Over 400,000 dead, cut off from our families, friends and social interactions, jobs and businesses lost and so much more remind us of the loss we all feel.

I share this with to help you understand that COVID depression is real and a normal response to our reality. Because depression is so uncomfortable we have also seen that people have reacted to this depression in some very unhealthy ways. Anger, violence, denial, blame, substance abuse are all attempts to numb and escape this overwhelming experience of depression.

In my personal and professional and clinical experience as a Clinical Fellow of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy here are a couple of things I have discovered. Accept and understand why you are experiencing this reality. Narrow life down to what is manageable. Exercise, eat healthy, sleep appropriate amounts, allow yourself to have “depression days”. Reduce your alcohol and drug intake. What I have discovered is the best remedy to depression is to help someone else, do something good for others that takes the focus off of you. Finally, it is acceptable and encouraged to talk with a professional and/or seek out your doctor to prescribe a low dose antidepressant for a limited time until these temporary experiences of chaos, captivity, futility and loss fade away as our communities and society normalize.

Pastor Dick Inglett



Save the Date:
Sunday, January 31
10:00am

Call the church to reserve
your space or join via zoom



Prayers for Continued Healing: Eunice Schaid, Scott Jones (Rich and Shirley Jones' son), Shirley Heyer, Jean Kovarik, Kris Strehlow

Ongoing Prayers for Hope and Health: Fran Winston (Pam Christensen's sister), Chuck Christenson (Angie Kynell's father), Kay O'Toole (Kris Strehlow's sister), Mike O'Toole (Strehlow's brother-in-law), Rick Montag (Kris Strehlow's brother), Jonathan Carlton (grandson-in-law of Arnell), Tom Fredrick (Stephanie Freimund's father), Steve Jacobson (Angie Kynell's cousin), Kristi Hugunin (friend of Rachel's), Sofia Zematis (neighbor of Christensens), Bruce Lewis, Jean Null & family, Kim Christiansen (Lisa Voss' sister), Renae Clinton (friend of Rachel), Marques Brugger, Reita Erickson (Rachel's aunt), Wim Henebiens & Aria Pierce (friends of Rachel), Miles Kadlec, Madeline Zindrick, Rebecca Blonsky-Nummelin (Rachel's niece), Yvonne Reynolds (friend of Gail Connelly), Christine Helke-Larsen and her son, Glenn Larsen, Denise Robertson (cousin-in-law of Gail Connelly).

General Prayers: our siblings in Christ that are victims of violence, people committed to serving our country, health care professionals, essential workers, and all affected by this pandemic.

Continued Safety Reminders from the FELC Council

- Groups of more than 10 will not be allowed to meet/gather in the church building.
- Worship will continue to be available virtually.
- Face coverings will continue to be required in the church building.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for your use at multiple places throughout the church.
- Continue to sign-in if you are in the building for contact tracing purposes.
- Please be mindful of social distancing.

FELC Council will continue to reassess the COVID-19 situation in our area and our church policies each month.



Thank you to the 2020 Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council for all their hard work during this unprecedented year.

A special thanks to Brent Tildahl and Gail Nelson as they complete their 3-year terms on council. We are grateful for all your time, effort, and love you have given this congregation.



Adult Opportunities

What hymns do you miss?

Singing is an important part of our worship service and a part many are missing during this pandemic. The music team at Faith would like to know what hymns you miss the most. Some of these hymns will be incorporated into worship and others will be recorded and made available for all to enjoy.

If you have a favorite hymn you would like to hear please let us know.

Watch your email for a survey to complete or call the church office with the name of your favorite hymns.

Committee Meetings:

Worship Committee Next meeting:
Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00pm

Spirit of Hope Homeless Shelter **Needs Meals**

Watch for more information to come in helping provide meals for the men at Spirit of Hope Homeless Shelter. If this is a ministry that interests you, please contact Rebecca Roehl. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and help with transportation of food will be needed.

Sentry Receipts

WELCA collects Sentry receipts to help fund special projects. Receipts can be turned into the box in the gathering space. Check the date: make sure the receipt is dated within **the last four months**. Call the church office if you need someone to pick up your receipts.

Women of the ELCA



Wednesdays at 9:15am

Bring your mask and join us in the Gathering Space for conversation and Christian fellowship.



Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00pm

Book: *Living Life Backwards: How Ecclesiastes Teaches Us to Live in Light of the End* by David Gibson,

We will be discussing the end of the book.

Meeting will be hybrid fashion via zoom and in the gathering space. All are welcome.

Contact Rebecca Roehl for more information.

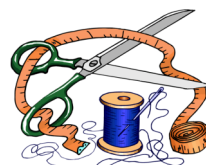


Faith Sew-ers

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

We are meeting at church and keeping our social distance.

Join us for Quilt Making and Christian Fellowship





Children & Youth Opportunities

There will be no Faith Formation or Confirmation classes on Wednesday, February 3.

Faith Formation

- Classes will continue on the current schedule for the month of February.
- Classes will be from 6-7pm each Wednesday.
- Students will go right to class at 6pm, as we are not meeting for worship at this time.



YOUNG DISCIPLES

Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays: 6:00-7:00pm

Confirmation Class will continue to meet at church on Wednesday evenings.



High School Youth Group

Sunday, February 21

5-6:30pm

Come for break and meaningful conversation.

In February the church is asking for your input in the hurts and hopes of our church and our community. This information will be helpful in the transition process as we look to call Vicar Lily as our pastor. Please join us for this very important conversation.

CHAOS meets the 3rd Sunday of every month at 5pm at the church. All high school students are welcome to join us.

If you would like to be added to our group text, contact Rebecca at (608) 728-2798

Follow CHAOS on Instagram. @chaos_felc

Vacation Bible School Director Position Available

Do you enjoy working with children and planning events? If you answered yes, then please prayerfully consider taking on the roll of VBS Director. This paid position would work closely with Rebecca to plan and direct Vacation Bible School 2021. VBS is schedule for June 21-25 at FELC.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WHO IS
my neighbor?

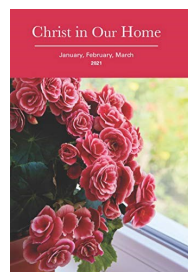


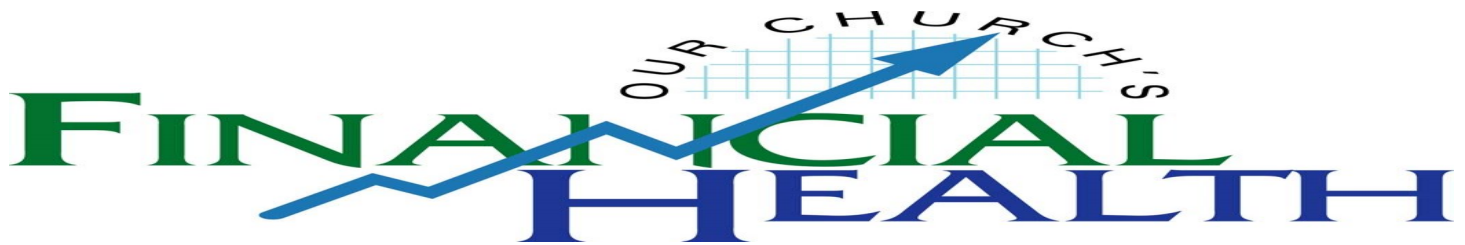


Thank You

- ♦ To Rick Lottig and Rochelle Freymiller for sharing lay messages this month.
- ♦ To the quilters, Nancy, Arnell, Judi, and Kristi for their constant work and donation of more than 43 quilts from November to January to The House of Mercy, The Treehouse, Golden Years, RidgeStone Terrace, and Mercy Hospital Outpatient.
- ♦ Rose Haeni for coming every week to help prep for Faith Formation classes.

- ♦ An Imposition of Ashes drive-thru will be held Wednesday, February 17 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Drive up to the front door under the canopy to receive the ashes and a blessing from Vicar Lily.
- ♦ Church groups that are meeting indoors are limited to ten (10) people. Remember to sign the register on the counter in the Gathering Space.
- ♦ Virtual worship services are available each week. Links can be found on our webpage.
- ♦ Jennifer Vaun has been hired as our Office Consultant for January and February. Her role is to help figure out what the church needs in terms of administrative assistance. She is working for FELC 10 hours a week. She can be reached at office@felcwalworth.com
- ♦ Watch for weekly email communications including prayer requests and announcements
- ♦ A 'first Sunday of the month' drive-thru communion will start Sunday, March 7. We will use the same process that we did during outdoor worship last fall. Please drive up to the front door under the canopy from 10:00-11:00 a.m. to receive the wine and bread from Vicar Lily.
- ♦ Vicar Lily and Pastor Dick continue to be available for open door meetings Tuesdays from 10am-noon. Feel free to stop in to speak with them.
- ♦ The January-March issue of Christ in Our Home is available for anyone interested in the Gathering Space.





Monthly Financial Report December 31, 2020

Cash Received:		
From Envelopes, Special Contributions, and Others	\$8,232	
From Memorials/Dedicated (or transferred)	<u>13,110</u>	
Total Cash Received		\$21,342
Cash Paid:		
Operating Expenses*	\$6,357	
Synod Benevolence	892	
Committees	663	
For Memorials/Dedicated (or transferred)	<u>229</u>	
Total Cash Paid		<u>8,141</u>
Monthly Change in Cash (Cash Rec'd – Cash Paid)		13,201
Checking Account Balance, December 1, 2020		785
Checking Account Balance, December 31, 2020		13,986

* Includes changes in non-cash assets, current liabilities, and restricted transfers

** Includes monthly and specific donations

Unrestricted Cash Balance

Checking Account	13,986	
Mission Investment Fund***	100,000	
Endowment Fund (Fund A)	<u>276,681</u>	
Subtotal	390,667	
Less: Memorials/Dedications/Restricted Cash		<u>9,669</u>
Unrestricted Cash Balance		380,998

Year to Date Information

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
From Members to General Fund (Through Dec 31, 2020) **	111,101	109,413
Total Expenses	130,009	99,341

Memorial/Dedicated/Restricted Information

Balance, December 1, 2020	9,362
New Dedicated	
VBS	325
Youth Group	172
Designated by Contributor	10
Backpack Drive	(200)

Balance, December 31, 2020	9,669
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Faith Evangelical

Lutheran Church Walworth, WI

Contact Us:

Address: 420 Read Street P.O. Box 128, Walworth WI 53184

Telephone: 262-275-3445

Website: www.felcwalworth.com

Church Office Hours:

Tuesdays 10:00-Noon

Please contact any staff member or leave a message,
and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience at this time.

Staff

Vicar Lily Brellenthin

Pastor cell phone: 262-812-3064

Email: pastor@felcwalworth.com

Rebecca Roehl, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Email: education@felcwalworth.com

Call or text: 608-728-2798

Congregation Council 2020

Executive Team

Tracy Volbrecht, President

Elizabeth Hemmerich, Vice President

Gail Nelson, Secretary

Bill Clark, Treasurer

Congregation Council meetings are
held at 7:30 p.m.
on the third Monday of the month.

All are welcome to attend.

Committee Liaisons

Amanda Bender, Youth

Penny Gruetzmacher, Stewardship

Brent Tildahl, Finance

Diane Voss, Learning

Perry Weborg, Property

