

FIRST ENGLISH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Redeemed by Christ to Witness and Serve*

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**  
***2nd Sunday After Epiphany***  
***Worship at 9:30am***

# THE WEEKLY BUZZ

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**January 25**

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23



Books for the upcoming Faith Formation series are available for \$15 each. Please make checks payable to FELC and give to Mrs. Brown.

**POST-IT PRAYERS:** Please post your prayer requests on the board in the Narthex and we will include them in our prayers in worship.

**CHILDREN'S BULLETINS,** crayons and coloring pages are available.

**REMINDER** - The nursery is available during worship with attendants on duty.

**FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP** Join us at 10:30am in Luther Hall (the gym).

## FAITH FORMATION (Sunday School)

- **PreK & K / 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>** meet on the lower level for fellowship and snacks at 10:30am. We begin at 10:45am.
- **Parenting Small Group** meets once a month on the lower level in the Den.
- **Adults** meet on the upper level in the Council Room at 10:45am.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

### Today, January 18

- 9:30 am **WORSHIP**
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:45 am Faith Formation
- 10:45 am Parsonage Open House

### Monday, January 19

*Martin Luther King Jr. Day*  
*Church Office Closed*

### Tuesday, January 20

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting
- 10:00 am Quilting
- 7:00 pm Dartball

### Wednesday, January 21

- 11:00 am Lunch 'N Learn
- 5:30 pm Youth Group
- 5:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 6:15 pm Handbells Rehearsal

### Thursday, January 22

- 8:30 am Snack Packs

### Friday, January 23

- 10:00 am Yarncraft & Needlework
- 5:00 pm Parsonage Open House
- 5:30 pm Game Night & Potluck  
(30 minutes following game night)
- Parsonage Open House

### Next Sunday, January 25

- 9:30 am **WORSHIP**
- 10:45 am Annual Meeting of the  
Congregation

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Monday, January 19**

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

**Hospitalizations:** If you, a loved one, or church member is hospitalized, please notify the church office.

**Prayer Requests:** Prayer requests may be submitted by filling out a prayer request card and placing it in the offering plate or e-mail [prayer@felcpeoria.org](mailto:prayer@felcpeoria.org).

### Altar Flowers:

If you would like to donate altar flowers, you can sign up on the bulletin board outside the office.

### Attendance:

Sunday, January 11 - 77

## 2025 GIVING STATEMENTS

Financial Secretary, Diane Mattson will be handing out 2025 Giving Statements in the Narthex Sunday, January 18.



## NOISY OFFERING TODAY -

**Sunday, January 18** Our noisy offering will go to support the critically important work of Lutheran World Relief confronting hunger wherever it is most urgent.

## **NEW INTERIM PASTOR AGREEMENT APPROVED**

At its January 12 meeting the FELC Congregational Council approved the third six-month interim pastor agreement with Pr. Dick Wehrs. The agreement, also approved by Bishop Greg Busboom, covers the period from Feb. 1 to July 31, 2026.

What's unique about this agreement is that, at Pr. Wehrs' request, it reduces both his time commitment and his compensation by 25% (an expense reduction of about \$20,000).

"I'm grateful for your willingness to accommodate my need for more time for my family and other projects," Pr. Wehrs told the council. In addition to now having a new (and first!) grandchild, Pr. Wehrs, an artist, also intends to pursue a number of art fairs in the Midwest, his primary mode of marketing his ceramic sculptures. The agreement allows for up to eight Sundays away over the six-month period. In addition, he will have an average of two weekdays per week out of the office.

On the Sundays when Pr. Wehrs is absent, Deacon Kevin Eack will be leading worship and preaching to the extent his schedule allows, and whenever possible, arrangements will be made for other pastors to preside over Holy Communion.

(The Council had previously agreed that as a last resort, in the absence of another pastor's availability, it's allowable to have worship without communion – but every effort will be made to avoid this.)

"Our hope is to make this work in a way that has minimal effect on our regular ministry operations," Pr. Wehrs told the council.



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN

# Potluck & Game Night

Friday, January 23 at 5:30 pm

**Join us for an evening of  
fun, food, & games.**

**Mark your calendar. All are welcome!**

Meat entree will be provided.  
Please bring a dish to share.  
You may bring a favorite game to share.

**Sign Up TODAY**

Link [HERE](#)

**Door Prizes!**

# *Thank You*

To the Congregation of First English,  
Thank you so much for the reception  
held in December, honoring my service  
as Bell Choir Director. I have thoroughly  
enjoyed serving God in this manner  
over the years at FELC, and thank you  
for your support of this ministry.

May God bless you all!

Amy Glass

## **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

January 25, 2025 - 10:45 am  
in Luther Hall

**Annual Reports** for 2025 are  
available in the Narthex. Please  
bring your copy of the report to  
the meeting.

**Children are invited** to play in  
the "Nook" near the windows in  
Luther Hall during the annual  
meeting. There will be nursery  
staff to help supervise their  
quiet play.

**RETIREES LUNCHEON  
LARIAT STEAKHOUSE  
Tuesday, January 27  
11:30am**



This is a wonderful opportunity to invite  
friends to join you for lunch. Come join  
us for food, fun, and good fellowship!

*Secret Prayer Sisters*

*2026 Signup happening now!*

*name drawing will be held  
February 1 following Worship  
Visit the table in Luther Hall*

*for more info or*

*learn more here:*

*Online Link*



Questions? Please contact Kathy Olesuk:  
540-505-8062 / kfolesuk@yahoo.com

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Shrove Tuesday**

**Pancake Dinner  
February 17, 5:30 pm**



# #that youth group



## YOUTH GROUP DINNER & BIBLE STUDY

January 21, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

February 4, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for dinner, homework or fellowship time. Youth group fun games and devotions.

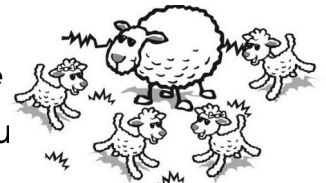
## Confirmation Co-Op Next Date:

February 8, 2pm-4pm

March 8, 2pm-4pm

Living  
into your  
Baptismal  
Promises

**BE LIKE JESUS HELP NEEDED** - Senior and Post High help needed. Attendance fee waived when you help, just fill out the form to help.



"Be Like Jesus"

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN

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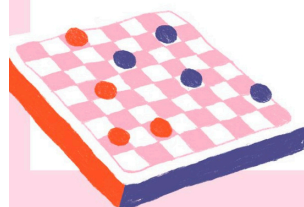
Meat entree will be provided.

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You may bring a favorite game to share.

**Sign Up TODAY**

Link [HERE](#)



**Door Prizes!**

**Questions? Please contact Mrs. Brown at [raylee.brown@felcpeoria.org](mailto:raylee.brown@felcpeoria.org)**

## IMPORTANT PARSONAGE UPDATE

The congregation will have an opportunity to make a decision on how we move forward with the parsonage property at the annual meeting on January 25th.

There will be two options and they do not require the same level of investment from the congregation. Since one of the options would require commitments from the congregation to finance improvements and coordinate work with Compelled Construction, it is important that we all understand the scope and scale of that project. We encourage all members to walk through the parsonage in advance of the annual meeting. The other option does not require additional commitments or work on the part of the congregation.

Open houses are scheduled for the following times:

Sun, Jan 18, 10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Fri, Jan 23, 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm (before game night)

Fri, Jan 23, 30 min following the conclusion of game night

More details about the options will be emailed out and informational flyers will be available at church in the next few days.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



You are invited to visit the bulletin board in Luther Hall to learn more about our fellow FELC member, Richard Franklin.

It is hoped that this might help link younger members with our more senior members, and also remind us what a fascinating and talented group of members First English has in its congregation.

If you would like to nominate someone for a future Member Spotlight, please email Deacon Kevin Eack:

[kevin.eack@felcpeoria.org](mailto:kevin.eack@felcpeoria.org)

Northern Conference Youth Board

## Be Like Jesus Day of Service

Saturday, February 21  
10AM–2PM

First English Lutheran Church, Peoria  
for K-8th Grade Youth

**Needed: Senior and Post High Small Group Leaders  
and adult volunteers for service projects and lunch**

### Registration Now Open

Fee per participant, includes:  
t-shirt, light lunch, and service project supplies

Give registration forms and checks (made out to FELC)  
to Mrs. Brown

### Sign Up TODAY

**Questions:** Mrs. Brown at [raylee.brown@felcpeoria.org](mailto:raylee.brown@felcpeoria.org)





## **LUNCH 'N LEARN SESSIONS IN FIRST ENGLISH COUNCIL ROOM**

In our recent survey many of you have expressed an interest in three specific topics, so we have arranged for speakers to present on each of them during the winter doldrums of January and February. They are:

### **Wednesday, January 21, 11am – 1pm at FELC: Planning for senior living –**

This presentation will be focused upon considerations in moving to senior living centers, independent or assisted living, or long-term care facilities. What is involved, what are the costs, and how does one know when it may be time to be considering a move to such arrangements? A presenter from Lutheran Hillside Village will be speaking generally about things one should consider and how to best time such a move;

### **Wednesday, January 28, 11am-1pm at FELC: Legal considerations for seniors –**

Far too many times those of us in ministry meet families to make funeral arrangements and learn that the family members are in distress because the deceased did not have their legal affairs in order. What are the most common issues or challenges practicing attorneys see with elderly clients? A presenter will address the importance of estate planning, wills, health care and property powers of attorney, and related issues that all of us should be mindful of as we get older. While a consultation with your own attorney is best, this presentation is intended to give us all a high-level overview of things we should consider as we get older;

**Wednesday, February 4, 11am-1pm at FELC: How many times have all of us been the victim of an attempted scam by phone, email or text?** Or had our social media compromised? This presentation will provide an overview of the latest methods criminal actors use to target the elderly, and steps we all can take to help protect our assets and personal information from being stolen and used by fraudsters;

The format for these will be a 30-40 minute presentation with questions and answers followed by a light lunch.

Please register by calling the church office: 309-685-0337 or online [HERE](#):



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor Richard Wehrs

Deacon Kevin Eack

<b>Sunday, January 18, 2026</b>	
Acolyte	
Assisting Minister	Katlyn Reimer
Lector	Stained Glass Praise Band
Communion Assistant	
Ushers	Ron Anderson / Fred Olesuk
<b>Sunday, January 25, 2026</b>	
Acolyte	
Assisting Minister	Marsha Kutter
Lector	Kathy Neptun
Communion Assistant	Kathy Neptun
Ushers	Marcia Lough / Donna Hartwig

<b>General Fund Activity</b>
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*December 31, 2025*

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income	\$ 73,781	\$ 68,738	\$ (5,043)
Expenses	45,346	50,183	(4,837)
Difference	<u>\$ 28,435</u>	<u>\$ 18,555</u>	<u>\$ (9,880)</u>

*2025 Year to Date*

Income	\$ 494,350	\$ 514,350	\$ 20,000
Expenses	533,682	531,762	1,920
Difference	<u>\$ (39,332)</u>	<u>\$ (17,412)</u>	<u>\$ 21,920</u>

### FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 E. Forrest Hill Ave., Peoria, IL 61603 / Phone: 309-685-0337  
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