

# First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



# The Parish News

**Rev. Paul E. Kaldahl, Jr.**  
Pastor

**Bonnie Kabrick**  
Director of  
Christian Education

**Carolyn Blaue**  
Organist

**Julie Moran**  
Office Manager

**Gloria Schmillen &  
Julie Krull**  
Preschool Directors

## Part 10: The Sermon

Dear friends and family of FELC, every week a pastor will construct a sermon so that the sheep of God's pasture might hear the Word of God and grow in a deeper faith relationship with Christ. Throughout the week the pastor can spend hours reading, studying, thinking, meditating, developing and then finally writing the message he intends to deliver on Sunday. These are some of the things that go in to the making of a sermon:

- As the pastor learns the traits, sins, and characteristics of his congregation, he also comes to learn their needs, strengths and weaknesses. From that knowledge he builds a sermon specifically designed to meet those needs.
- The pastor chooses the material for his sermon, usually from one of the assigned Scripture readings for that Sunday.
- From the assigned text he conducts an in-depth study of the original text (Greek or Hebrew) in order to faithfully build a message that his people might use to develop their understanding of God's truth and help them with their faith walk in Christ.
- Then the pastor will develop a sermon outline that he will use to let the word of God flow from the assigned text. He will use this outline to keep him on track as he does the actual writing of the sermon.
- Finally, on Sunday morning the pastor will deliver God's message to His people in the most affective way he can.

The development of a sermon could be seen as a work of art. The more perfect the piece of work; the better God's Word is communicated to the people. It is like the story that is told about an apprentice who was studying to become a fine furniture maker. His instructor was a master-craftsman who was only interested in pieces of furniture that bordered on perfection.

So, the student set about to create a stunning piece of furniture, working many hours, day after day. When the master-craftsman came to inspect the work, he found one measurement to be an eighth of an inch off. The student had assumed the mistake was an insignificant error and had proceeded to finish the piece anyway. Now, it was too late to fix the problem, so the instructor took out a hatchet and destroyed the piece of furniture that the student had had spent so many hours creating.

Every week the pastor crafts a special message for you. It may not be perfect, but it was the best he could construct for that given week. Though the pastor is an imperfect vessel, trying to create an accurate exposition of God's Word, the Holy Spirit is still able to accomplish His faith giving and growing work in the hearts of Christian hearers.

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Worship Services**  
8:00 & 10:45 A.M.

**Fellowship**  
9:00 A.M.

**Nursery 9:15-Noon**  
**Sunday School &  
Bible Classes**  
9:30-10:30 A.M.

**1311 E. 18th Street**  
**Spencer, IA 51301**  
**(712) 262-5598 Phone**  
**(712) 262-8396 Fax**  
**Website —**  
**www.spencer-church.com**

**E-Mail —**  
**felcoffice@smunet.net**

**Preschool**  
**(712) 262-3699**

Indeed, the work that the pastor constructed to deliver to the people comes from a much larger body of work that was developed by our Master-Craftsman! Everything God makes is perfect, and God is a perfectionist by nature. That is why He has given us His Word. That is why He sent His Son. That is why He saves us by His blood. God has given us the perfect message --- the GIFT of salvation in Christ Jesus that we proclaim every week. It is the perfect message of undeserved love (grace), of mercy, of forgiveness of sin, of new life, and salvation. God constructed the message of His love with wood and nails and an empty tomb. The message of God's salvation to man was constructed with sweat and blood, with sacrifice and death. The perfectly constructed message of salvation cost the Maker His very life!

Every Sunday we proclaim that message. Every Sunday in worship we gather around the truth that God loves sinners only through the mercy and merits of Christ. In church we gather around the sacrament of Holy Communion and partake of His perfect body and blood --- given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. The message of God is our perfect PRECIOUS GIFT! And, this precious gift has been constructed by no one less than the carpenter from Galilee, Jesus.

There are two ways we can receive this GIFT --- this message of salvation. We can receive it with praise and thanksgiving --- appreciating the sacrifice that God gave so we that might receive the GIFT in a faith-growing way. Or, we can regard the message as boring and old-hat. How we receive the message directly affects the way God is able to work in our hearts. Indeed, it is my prayer that you would come every Sunday to hear the message of peace and forgiveness with a repentant and open heart that you might grow in your relationship with the Lord. See you in church.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Paul Kaldahl

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## Gratitude for His Presence

How many stars are there in the sky? Who can count them? Yet God created and knows each of them. How many different kinds of animals in the forests and deserts and oceans? We have not come to the end of discovering them all, but God has created each one in its unique way. Nor has God been less meticulous with us, for, even though all humans have the same body structure, a face with nose, eyes, and mouth, and all our various parts, yet each of us is uniquely different from another. Not only has God created each of us, He knows us intimately and cares about every facet of our lives and activities. David, the psalmist, wrote about this characteristic of God in Psalm 139: *"O Lord, You have searched me and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways"* (Psalm 139:1-3).

Here is really something to be thankful for! The Creator of the universe cares so much about you that He searches your heart and mind in order that He might know you! We talk about our need and desire to know God; have you ever thanked Him that He wants to know you?

Are you thankful that you can never get away from God? That He knows when you sit, when you stand, when you go somewhere, and even when you lie down to go to sleep at night? We can never get away from God. Should we ascend to the clouds or descend to the depths of the ocean, we would not go there alone (Psalm 139:8). God loves us so much that His presence is with us wherever we are.

Like the three-year old who stamps her little foot in defiance when her parents make her go to bed when she needs rest and like the rebellious teen who believes his parents are out to control him, we do not always recognize that all God gives us and does for us and, yes, even demands of us, is for our good because He loves us. Sometimes we, too, stamp our feet and shout at God in defiance, while we should be thanking Him for His presence, for His constant care, for His love that will not let go of us. Tenderly He forgives our waywardness, restoring us again to His presence, giving us ever more cause for gratitude.

# Youth and Family Life

Dear FELC Family,

“When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.” Mark 10:14-16

When I think of Christmas, I can't help but think of children and their amazement and excitement for this season of waiting. While I certainly am aware that many children are specifically excited for the commercial aspects of Christmas – toys, games, and other presents – I also admire their excitement for what lies ahead.

Wouldn't it be great if that same great anticipation is what all of us felt during this Advent season? Not waiting with great anticipation to open our presents but rather looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus?

In this sometimes called “microwave generation,” we are accustomed to getting almost anything we want almost instantaneously. Now, here we are in the season of Advent, a season of preparation, a season of waiting.



Let us wait with great anticipation and focus our attention on the Christ child. Here are some ideas for preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior:

1. The number one way to prepare our hearts for Christmas is to have Christ present in your daily life. Having Christ as the center of our life is more about what we do than what we say.
2. Give God one very special gift just from you to Him. Let it be something that no one else knows about – maybe some type of sacrifice, forgiving someone who has wronged us, or spending extra time with God daily.
3. Set aside time during the Advent season to read the Christmas story in Luke. Read it more than once. Read it often.
4. Set up a Nativity scene in your home. Do this as a family project. Tell the Christmas story as you do. Display it, not the presents, at the center of attention.
5. Plan and carry out a special project. Anonymously send someone some much needed cash. Adopt a family. Donate to a food pantry. Help someone with the gift of time.
6. Take the family Christmas caroling to a nursing home. Carry the great news of Jesus' birth through music.
7. Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family. *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”...Acts 20:35* Demonstrate Christ-like love and service to those you love by providing a backrub, helping someone with a cleaning project, or making someone a meal. Make it personal and meaningful.
8. Set aside time for family devotions not only during Advent but also on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. Bask in the wonderful gift of Jesus' birth.
9. Attend church together with your family or invite a friend or neighbor to join you. That may be the greatest present you can offer.
10. Send Christmas cards that convey the message of Jesus. Share His love with others.
11. Write a Christmas letter to a missionary or those serving in the armed forces to remind them that we care.

May God richly bless each and every one of you throughout this season of preparation and waiting for the birth of our Savior Jesus.

In His Service, Bonnie



**December,**

## Church Council Minutes—November 17, 2011

Members Present: Tim Brinkley, Lori Gamble, Stan Hillmer, Diane Stein, Jerry Crew, Rich Hartmann, Nicole Staedtler, Bonnie Ewoldt, Pastor Paul Kaldahl, DCE Bonnie Kabrick  
Meeting was called to order by President Tim Brinkley at 7:05 pm  
Pastor Kaldahl opened with a devotional reading from Luther's Small Catechism and prayer

Secretary's Report- Lori Gamble – Jerry Crew to accept secretaries report, Nicole Staedtler seconded, motion carried

Treasurer's Report- Mark Nothwehr, Tim reported for Mark, Rich Hartmann made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and seconded by Jerry Crew, motion carried.

<u>General Fund at 11-16</u>		<u>Building Fund at 11-16</u>	
Ck. Book Balance	\$67,112.16	Ck. Book Balance	\$37,649.91
Dedicated Funds	17,872.04	Landscaping Funds	722.96
Memorial Funds	6,509.35		-----
Available Funds	\$42,730.77	Available Funds	\$36,926.95
		Mortgage Balance	\$718,222.69

### **Board Reports**

#### Board of Elders- Rich Hartmann

Souls: 913 Communicants: 709 Children: 204 as of Oct 13

Losses: Dr. Ryan Stille – Transfer to Our Redeemer Lutheran, Dubuque;  
Dan, Heather, & Kayley Ruehle – Release to Zion Lutheran, Ruthven

Gains: Shari Dorman & son, Andrew Shelton – Transfer in from Christ the King;  
Lloyd & Joyce Pearson – Transfer in from Christ the King

#### Board of Trustees- Ken Gonnerman

1. The nativity scene is being repainted; it will not be done until the first week of December.
2. The carpet in the fellowship hall and the library was cleaned last Friday by Mike Morfitt.
3. We are changing the deductible on our insurance from \$250 to \$1000, for a considerable premium savings.
4. Tom Galik is looking into a replacement board for the outside light control. No new replacement board is available. The price of a new control is \$800. We have decided to not replace it at this time; we will let it run off the photo eye.
5. Todd Krukow will remove snow again.
6. Due to damages caused by GIFT, confirmation or LYF, we feel this problem needs to be turned over to the Elders. There is a broken chair, broken rung on a table, chair with writing on the seat, walls damaged in the hallway, toilet seat broken, pencil lead and push pins being stuck in the ceiling tiles. This lack of respect for church property needs to be addressed.

#### Board of Education- Nicole Staedtler

Preschool had their soup supper and raised over \$1000, there will be a pie auction on November 20<sup>th</sup> between services. Jen Jensen, Ruth Obermeier and Kristin Kaldahl will be leading the Children's Christmas service. Sunday school is going well.

#### Board of Youth- Bonnie Kabrick

11 Jr. Youth and 2 chaperons attended the Jr. Youth Gathering. 12 Sr. High and 2 adult chaperons will be going to Sr. High Gathering in Omaha. There will be a lock-in at the Y on December 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Board of Finance- Stan Hillmer

All is well. The 2012 envelopes are out and people need to remember to pick them up.

#### Board of Christian Outreach- Jerry Crew

The board met to decide on Vegetable Table proceeds. They will be split between Mark Wolfram and the Friedrichs Family. The board plans on going down to visit Gary Thies to get names for the future support.

#### Board of Christian Life- Bonnie Ewoldt

Bible classes are continuing to meet as reported. The CLM Board promoted the "Happy Am I" at Camp Okoboji on November 11-12 in place of a seasonal morning coffee at church. An 'Understanding People' workshop is scheduled for Monday evening, November 28. YAFM hosted a potluck on Sunday, Oct. 2 and will begin monthly Bible studies after the first of the year. YAFM is sponsoring Children's Christmas Parties in December.

***December,***

Young at Heart hosted a guest day for their potluck & Bible study on October 24. Shirley Roghair and Shari Crew will be leaving the board after the first of the year. Shirley will continue to make Jean Jems and gift bags, but will no longer be providing sermon snacks. CLM is looking for a volunteer to take over this responsibility. Shari will continue to help with seasonal women's retreats. Bonnie Ewoldt and Nancy Tommeraasen have agreed to continue on the Board, but Bonnie will no longer serve as chairperson. CLM recommends designating the Advent V offering to POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) working with the Muslim community in Detroit. CLM will not meet in December, but will conduct business via email. Jerry Crew made a motion to accept the recommendation for the Advent V offering to go to PABLO, Bonnie Ewoldt seconded, motion carried.

Board of Assimilation- Diane Stein – No report

Pastoral Items- Pastor Kaldahl

December and January services are done. Adult instruction class will begin after the first of the year. Pastor will be gone December 4<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Ewoldt will be filling in for him.

Director of Christian Education Items- Bonnie Kabrick

Bonnie will be on vacation December 2-8. IGLLS will be having a Christmas Tea on December 10<sup>th</sup>. IGLLS will be doing the December 15<sup>th</sup> Advent Supper. The Joplin Mission trip was canceled. Bus is getting new snow tires. 4 people were at the Grounded+Growing+Reaching event in Storm Lake.

**Old Business:**

1. Church property - Mark will have a report at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Voters' meeting.
2. Slate of Officers - Tim has almost gotten a full slate.
3. Voters' meeting will be in the bulletin

**New Business:**

1. Hanging of the Greens – November 22<sup>nd</sup>, service at 5:30 pm with a meal following.
2. Fan into Flame money raised so far is \$6,958.63 we have a \$20,000 commitment. Board of Outreach will take on this to get our commitment accomplished.
3. Voter's Agenda: Slate of Officers, Church Property, Ablaze/Fan into Flame Commitment, Elder approval

**Open Discussion**

Motion to have no meeting in December was made by Jerry Crew and seconded by Nicole Staedtler, motion carried.

There was a closing with a devotional reading by Tim Brinkley and the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Lori Gamble

### **Special Voter's Meeting — December 4, 2011 (unapproved)**

President Tim Brinkley opened the meeting at 9:15 am in the church sanctuary

The Agenda contained 3 items of Business

State of officers for 2012

Church property report

A-blaze Fan into Flame funding

A motion was made by Duane Willert and seconded by Bill Raska that the following slate of officers be approved by the voters, President-Tom Roti, Vice President-Scott Hallgren, Secretary- Heidi Hartman, and Treasurer- Mark Nothwehr. Motion carried.

Sid Fitch reported for the committee dealing with the sale of the old church property. This committee was made up of Mark Nothwehr, Dave Potratz and Sid Fitch. A motion was made by Larry Westphal and seconded by Lynn Wee to accept the letter of intent provided by Spencer Hospital for the purchase of the church property on East 10<sup>th</sup> street, to authorize signing of the letter of intent and purchase agreement by Sid Fitch or Mark Nothwehr and to authorize the borrowing of up to \$150,000 for the costs of asbestos removal, demolition of the building and disposal of the building material, which will be reimbursed by the Spencer Hospital. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Leonard Langner and seconded that we use general fund money to pay our commitment to the Ablaze Fan into Flame. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Lori R. Gamble

December,



# G.I.F.T. Growing In Faith Together

The GIFT Program is looking for Substitute GIFT teachers, please contact Lori Gamble at 712-320-3364 if you are interested in being on the list.

## THEME / SNACK

December 7	Sports Night	Favorite Sports Figure	Chocolate Chip Cookies	Darlene Allen
December 14	Movie/Red Carpet Night	Dress Up	Snack Mix	Trudy Hallgren
December 21	Winter Wonderland	Wear Blue & White w/Scarf	Popcorn & M&M's	Lesley Culver
<b>December 28</b>	<b>No GIFT</b>	<b>Merry Christmas</b>		

## EARLY FOOD PREP

	<u>MENU</u>	<u>PREP ITEM</u>	<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>
December 7	Lasagna Corn, Garlic Bread Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Cake	Lesley Culver (4)
December 14	Beef/Pork Roast Potatoes / Carrots Dinner Rolls, Baked Beans Cup Cake	Red Velvet Cup Cakes	Jennifer Jensen (2) Kristal Jensen (2)
December 21	Chili w/ Crackers Carrots & Celery Monkey Bread	Monkey Bread	Jennifer Jensen (2) Brenda Moranville (2)

## KITCHEN ASSISTANTS

	BEFORE (5:00-6:30)	AFTER (6:30 – 8:00)
December 7	Melissa Krukow, Lora Elsenbast	Charles & Tabatha Peterson
December 14	Jennifer Huisenga, Vinh Lovan	Charles & Tabatha Peterson
December 21	Melissa Krukow, Lora Elsenbast	Charles & Tabatha Peterson

# Discipleship

Week	Attendance			Communion			Offering	Sunday School	
	Early	Late	Total	Early	Late	Total		Kids/Adults	Offering
November 6	155	126	281	132	101	233	\$ 9,517.25	33 / 76	\$ 50.56
November 13	156	145	301		—		\$ 7,032.00	30 /	\$ 18.00
November 20	167	144	311	132	116	248	\$ 7,012.89	44 / 76	\$ 12.00
November 27	165	138	203		—		\$ 5,559.60	32 / 80	\$ 16.01

December,

# What is Happening At Your Camp?

## Camp Okoboji

1531 Edgewood Drive—Milford, IA 51351

Phone: 712-337-3325 Fax: 712-337-3318

e-mail: [camp.okoboji@1idwlcms.org](mailto:camp.okoboji@1idwlcms.org) Website: [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org)



### Calendar of Events

December 22-26 Office Closed for Christmas

December 30-January 1 FREEZE Retreat

December 29-January 3 Office Closed for New Year's

### Winter Hours Now In Effect!

Camp office hours for the winter are Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The **Camp Okoboji 2012 Schedule** and a list of cabin openings for the Summer of 2012 effective December 1, 2011 will be posted in November on the Camp's website at [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org). There is something for just about everyone so mark your calendar and save the dates for your favorite activities in the coming year! Please contact the Camp office to make your reservations.

### Pictorial Tour / Wants and Needs List

Watch our website at [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org) as we begin to make some user friendly changes. Soon to be included is a pictorial tour of all facilities and a more frequently updated "Wants and Needs" list.

### Camp Okoboji is a Winter Wonderland!

Camp Okoboji has several comfy and cozy family cabins, six Weber units, and larger winterized facilities available for winter weekend getaways, Bible study group retreats, congregation board retreats, or for a weekend of Christian fellowship and ice fishing, or at the 2012 Okoboji Winter Games held the last weekend of January. Check with Lorene in the Camp office (712-337-3325) or visit our website at [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org).

### Thrivent Choice Dollars™

Camp Okoboji wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to those Thrivent members who have chosen to help support Camp by directing their Choice Dollars from this valuable Thrivent donor advised fund! Continuing to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars™ will greatly benefit your church camp, your congregation, and the other Lutheran organizations that are part of your stewardship life. Thank you!

### Need Christmas Gift Ideas?

Are you wishing you had purchased that Camp Okoboji t-shirt or sweatshirt while you were at camp? *They are now available for viewing and purchase online at [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org).* **More importantly** find out how you can benefit from being a regular visitor to Camp Okoboji. Contact us at 1-866- 449-3326.

### A new Employment opportunity is available at Camp Okoboji.

For five months of the year you could have the experience of a lifetime – working with the most awesome college aged adults and high school youth. Watch for the position description at [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org). The dates of employment are May 1 to September 30, 2012.

### 2012 Camp Okoboji Theme

Anchored in Christ – Hebrews 6:19 says, *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."* In this passage the writer to the Hebrews is speaking of Christ. In 2012 Camp Okoboji is once again promising to keep our focus on Christ – our Anchor!

### Merry Christmas

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord"** (Luke 2:11). The Camp Okoboji Staff wishes you all a Christ-filled Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our Savior! May 2012 be a year filled with comfort and joy as you continue to serve Him who SAVED Us!