

Join Us at Advent Worship



First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1603 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220-2906

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I would like to thank all the members and friends of First English Lutheran Church for the great outpouring of love and support and the generous gift, all part of the fellowship hour on Sunday, October 9 in recognition of the 10th anniversary of my ministry in this congregation. As I said in my newsletter article last month, it's hard to believe that I've been here 10 years. But on the other hand, it's sometimes hard to imagine a time when I was anywhere else! Thank you, one and all, for helping make this past decade so memorable. As I said at the celebration, these have truly been the best 10 years of my time in the ministry.

Round number anniversaries like this can be a time of looking back—there are plenty of wonderful memories, from the time I arrived on October 1, 2001, until the present year highlighted by our 2011 celebration—but they can also serve as a time when one recommits to the ongoing work of the church. It is in this spirit of recommitment, after the great feeling of affirmation I felt on October 9, that I look forward to the next decade here at First English. Lots of exciting work remains to be done; we do not know what the future holds but we are sure that Romans 8:28 will remain as true now as then, both for us as individuals and as the people of God in this place. *Soli deo gloria!*

~ Pastor John Schweitzer

Where there is A Will There is a Way

"Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'" (Matthew 6:21)

Your will can say many things about what you want, how you want your assets distributed or quite literally, "who or what gets what." Your will, literally, puts you in the driver's seat. The choices are many and the choices are yours.

While there is common "boilerplate" language and similarity among wills, each will of sorts, has a personality of its own, the personality of the one who signs it: YOU: and your will should be that way. It is intended to reflect who you are and what you have been about in your life. Your will says a lot about you.

For
where your
treasure is,

there your
heart will
be also.

Matthew 6:21

Everyone must leave a legacy of some sort. What will yours be?

Since the purpose of the will is to distribute everything you own, it is possible to be very specific and designate particular items for particular people. Details of the will are really left up to you, a matter you will want to discuss with your attorney. But, of all details, there is one that is often overlooked, simply because no one suggested the possibility or asked the simple question, "Are there charitable causes you would like to support?"

Before you answer ... take some time to think about that. Consider causes that are important to you now. What are they? Also, consider the question: "Do my heirs need everything I have? Could I direct a portion of what remains and share it with others, especially where I know there is a need?"

In particular, we would ask you to consider ministries of the church: ministries you have supported, ministries that reflect and share your values, ministries that would allow you to have a hand in God's continuing work.

If your answer is "yes" to these questions, we would be grateful for an opportunity to speak with you and provide appropriate "gift language" for you to share with your attorney. Then, most importantly, we would like to have the opportunity to express appreciation to you on behalf of a thankful church.

One of our church members clearly understood the value of including gifts for ministry in her will. We recently received over \$28,000 from the estate of **Annabelle O'Neal**. Ms. O'Neal generously included First English Lutheran Church in her estate plans. She designated the funds to the general operational fund. By giving beyond her lifetime in this way, Ms. O'Neal will always share in the ministry of her church.

While family usually comes first in a will, don't forget what comes next. Shouldn't the values and beliefs that have guided your life have a place in your will? Is your legacy complete without attention to them? Let your legacy reflect your life and beliefs, by remembering First English Lutheran as it seeks to embody those beliefs, and teach them to the world.



The Christian Education Committee is meeting on **Wednesday, November 2nd**. Please join us for the Wednesdays Together meal as we discuss upcoming plans to meet the educational needs of our congregation.



Come celebrate the start of the Advent season at the Advent Event on **Sunday November 20th**, following the 10:30 Worship Service. This is a fun multi-generational event designed for all ages.

A light lunch will be served, followed by activities for children and adults alike. Be sure to bring your gardening gloves and shears to prepare your very own Advent wreath. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 to cover the cost of floral rings and candles.

As always, we need your greens. If you have greenery in your yard that you would like to share, please bring them with you on Sunday morning. We look forward to seeing you there!



Women of the ELCA EVENING GROUP
Come join us for Travel to South Korea and China presented by Carol Schweitzer

Carol participated in a travel seminar with another member of the faculty (Ken McFayden--Dean of the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development) of Union Presbyterian Seminary and a group of 9 students. They visited churches, seminaries, and other historic points of interest during their three week visit. On **Friday evening, November 11th**, a representative group of the travel seminar will give a presentation about their trip. The presentation will include travel photos and dialogue about their experiences. Please join us and give a warm welcome to the students!

The evening will begin with dinner at **6:00**; cost is \$4.00 per person.

Menu:

pork loin
garlic roasted potatoes
sauerkraut
applesauce
dessert
beverages

Please contact Gloria Jones at 282-2041 to make your dinner reservation. After dinner and the program, we'll have a short business meeting. Hope to see you on November 11th.



**Thanksgiving Akaloo – Sunday,
November 27**

Please join the Sunday School classes at **9:15 am** in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a light breakfast and enjoy an intergenerational program for the children and adults alike.



We have received another beautiful afghan that **Julianne Riley** has crocheted. It has a light blue background with another layer of white. We want to thank Julianne for all the work that has gone into this lovely afghan. It has been taken to the Lutheran Family Services.

~ Betty Davidson, Chair of the Missions Committee, Women of the ELCA
~ Carrie Jacobson, Secretary, Women of the ELCA



Daylight Savings Time ends
Sunday November 6th

Don't forget to set your clocks
back 1 hour at 2 am **Sunday
November 6th, 2011!**



Please donate to the FELC silent auction. The silent auction will be held in February with the proceeds to help an international social agency, a local social agency and support some small improvement projects at FELC. We are looking for NEW, QUALITY items such as, but not limited to: art, furniture, electronics, store and restaurant gift cards, services, entertainment tickets, gifts, collectables, sports equipment, toys and crafts. If you know any business owners or folks who could provide a fun item for the event please talk to them about making a donation. Please contact Joyce Smith, 232-3566, for further information. Thanks for your support!

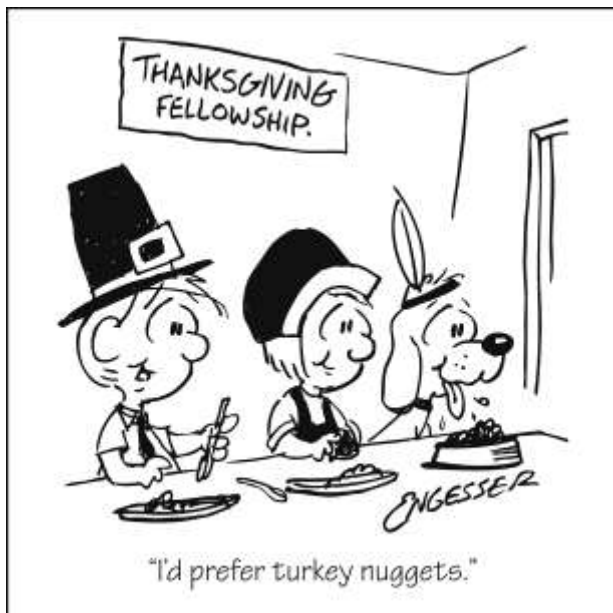


“Micah Initiative” News

Our congregational outreach to the faculty/staff at Southampton Elementary School was greatly appreciated September 29th when a lunch was served to them by members of First English. Southampton’s principal, Mrs. Linda Bennett, expressed her gratitude for the commitment that FELC has shown during the past four years. Additionally, our congregation was able to present Mrs. Bennett with a monetary gift of \$102 to support the school’s needs . . . the amount remaining after the cost of luncheon. As the new school year has been launched, four members of First English will volunteer weekly at Southampton . . . either as classroom assistants or as mentors.

Our congregation’s response to the request for participation in the fall Micah project was heartwarming. As our mission to witness “in the city” continues, future opportunities to become involved will arise. Many members of the congregation expressed an interest to serve in ways other than weekly commitment. Great! Keep posted for future happenings. Meanwhile, again MANY THANKS for your response this past month.

~ Mary Sue Oehler



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



**2011 Capital Campaign Project Status
September 2011**

The Lord has blessed us as to-date we have raised \$624,000 from 80 family units, including a \$150,000 gift from the First English Foundation. **Thanks to everyone's contribution to this 100th Anniversary gift to our Church!**

However, we still have about \$20,000 to raise towards our goal of \$644,000, and a reminder, about \$60,000 in outstanding pledges remain.

These funds are being used on a building improvement project with a construction budget to be below \$800,000. To date we have spent \$151,000 on design and construction, on a current budget of \$750,000. \$50,000 is reserved as contingency to be used only if needed. This effort is led by the Building Committee, currently headed by Jim Byerly.

We are finalizing loan documents with the Mission Investment Fund, to provide bridge financing during construction (covering pledges not yet received) and permanent financing to cover what we do not raise. Depending on fundraising and use of construction contingency funds, we will need to get permanent financing on between \$110,000 and \$156,000 on a 10-year loan at 5% interest. Obviously what we raise and collect by the time we permanently finance this project (probably in January of 2012) will reduce the church's long term costs of annual debt repayment and interest. *Every donation you make now saves us the 5% interest.*

Summary:

Funds:

Pledged and received to date	\$564,000
Pledged, unpaid	<u>60,000</u>
Total committed to date	624,000
<i>Money to be raised</i>	20,000
Possible loan amount	<u>110,000-156,000</u>
Total project funding	\$754,000-800,000

Expenses:

Spent to date	\$151,000
Remaining construction budget amount	599,000
Construction Contingency (only if needed)	<u>50,000</u>
Total project expenses	\$750,000-800,000

2011 Campaign Co-chairs: Rob Comet, Bill Boinest, Jennifer Gentry



"Penciling in Time for God"

Presented by Sherill Miller

All Lutheran Women are invited to the 2011
Richmond Conference Fall Gathering

Where: First English Lutheran Church, located at
1603 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220

Phone: 804-355-9185

When: November 19, 2011

Time: 9:30 AM - Registration

Program: 10:00 AM

Please call Peggy Davis @ (804) 697-6662 by November
14, 2011, to let her know how many will be attending
from your church.



The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble, from Russia, will perform at the First English on Wednesday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m.

The ensemble is a vocal quartet of baritone, bass and tenor voices who perform a variety of music ranging from sacred music and ancient Russian chants and folk songs, to modern compositions and transpositions of popular melodies.

Founded in 2003, this group successfully toured repeatedly throughout the United States and Europe. Their performances in European and American churches of various faiths, at universities, colleges, retirement communities and hospitals, energize their listeners with their enriching and diversified music.

This is ensemble singing like you've never heard before — a not-to-be missed, amazing group!



Worship Assistants

	November 6 – All Saints Sunday	November 13 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost	November 20 – Christ the King Sunday	November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent
8:15 Lector	Kevin Murphy	Kevin Murphy	Pat McAfee	Nikki Kardouni
10:30 Lector	1. Bill Fenerty 2. Cheryl Shiembob	1. Polly Brickman 2. Jennifer Stanley	1. Charlie Schumann 2. Mary Elizabeth Ellis	1. Jim Johnson 2. Cheryl Shiembob
Crucifer	Jim Byerly	Ed Wiles	Ed Wiles	Ed Wiles
Acolytes	Cooper Hoke Cassidy Hoke	Nate Fenerty Kirk Fenerty	Ellie Fenerty Cooper Hoke	Sydney Stricker
Altar Guild	Jeff Hoke Jenna Hoke	Peggy Davis Libby Riggle	Brenda Myer Stuart Myer	Jim Byerly
Greeter	Jim Johnson	Jason & Jennifer Stanley	Roger Riggle	Lydia English
Communion Assistants	Debbie Lane Charlie Schumann Ed Wiles	Jackie Rowland Joedy Smith Joyce Smith	Polly Brickman Deborah Hubbs Joyce Smith	Mary Elizabeth Ellis Charlie Schumann Debbie Lane
Head Counter	Rob Comet	Rob Comet	Rob Comet	Rob Comet
Counters	Suzanne Stricker Kurt Stricker	Jim Johnson John Ritz	Bill Fenerty Bill Noller	Betty Davidson Jennifer Gentry
Ushers	Bill Davidson Reni Gower Jeff Nelson Roger Riggle	Reni Gower Deborah Hubbs Jeff Nelson Jeff Tehovinic	Jim Byerly Bill Davidson Wayne Griffin Joedy Smith	Bill Davidson Deborah Hubbs Stuart Myer Roger Riggle
Hospitality	Joe & Linda Smith	Mary Elizabeth Ellis	Advent Event	
Readings	Rev 7:9-17 1 John 3:1-3 Matt 5:1-12	Zeph 1:7,12-18 1 Thess 5:1-11 Matt 25:14-30	Ezek 34:11-16,20-24 Eph 1:15-23 Matt 25:31-46	Isa 64:1-9 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37



Newsletter Deadline

All submissions for the December issue need to be turned in to the church office no later than Tuesday November 15.

Thank you for your cooperation. Church Office Staff

FELC People News



Henry Matthew Ritz, child of **John and Deborah Ritz**, born on February 25, 2011, was baptized in church at the 10:30 service on October 2, 2011.



Kevin Alexander Mautte and Johanna Lane Loehr were married in church on October 22, 2011, at 4 pm.



Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating a birthday in the month of November!



Congratulations to all celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in November!



<p>Wed. November 2 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 5:30 pm: Richmond Mental Health Group 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:15 pm: Education Committee Meeting 6:30 pm: Book of Faith Bible Study 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Wednesday Nov. 16 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Book of Faith Bible Study 6:30 pm: Richmond Mental Health Group 7:00 pm: St. Petersburg Men’s Ensemble Concert</p>
<p>Friday November 4 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>	<p>Friday November 18 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>
<p>Sunday November 6 – All Saints Sunday <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Confirmation Class 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Joe & Linda Smith</p>	<p>Saturday November 19 9:00 am: WELCA Richmond Area Fall Conference</p>
<p>Wednesday Nov. 9 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Book of Faith Bible Study 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Sunday November 20 -- Christ the King Sunday 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Confirmation Class 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Advent Event</p>
<p>Friday November 11 6:00 pm: Women of the ELCA – Evening Group 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>	<p>Wednesday November 23 <i>No Wednesdays Together</i> 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group</p>
<p>Sunday Nov. 13 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: First Communion Class 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Mary Elizabeth Ellis 12:00 pm: Congregational Life Committee</p>	<p>Thursday November 24 – Thanksgiving Day <i>Church Office Closed</i></p>
<p>Tuesday November 15 7:00 pm: Congregational Council Meeting</p>	<p>Friday November 25 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>
	<p>Sunday November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Thanksgiving Akaloo 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality</p>
	<p>Wednesday Nov. 30 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Book of Faith Bible Study 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.



PUZZLE

Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

1. Give Take Grab	2. peanut praise pear	3. temple house Lord	4. proclaim past present	5. name boy lad	6. ruin destroy make
7. pine acorn known	8. train nations bus	9. done donut muffin	10. Sing Sleep Yawn	11. she him girl	12. sun praise moon
13. tell fast slow	14. red all blue	15. horrible dreadful wonderful	16. acts sisters aunts		

" _____ to the _____, _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ . " PSALM 105:1-2, niv

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. Lord, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts
 Give praise to the Lord; proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done; Sing to him; sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, niv)