

My Church Family



Carolyn has made the church and her family the center of her life. She has been a pastor's wife for 56 years allowing her to be a member of five different congregations throughout the United States, and she is a very involved mother, grandmother, and sister. She loves visiting her family often and making each of them award winning quilts.

Nine years ago, Carolyn and Pastor Richard Ruff, moved to Richmond to be closer to their son and help with the grandchildren. They moved from a community where they had lived for thirty years, leaving their daughter's family and close friends. In Richmond, she was looking for a church to fill the void she was experiencing from the move. She missed good preaching of the gospel sermon, the music, and friends.

When Richard and Carolyn visited First English Lutheran Church (FELC), she was impressed with the service and felt very welcomed by the members. She emphasized a friendly congregation was important to her because, "The people are the church, and they have a lot to do with how I feel I am a part of the church. I call them my church family because I feel like I belong."

On another visit, during Vacation Bible School, Carolyn observed Susan Fenerty engaging the children in stories, songs and activities. Being a former teacher, Carolyn knew how education molds a child and wanted her grandson to have that wonderful experience.

When Carolyn and Richard joined FELC, Joe and Margaret Thisted were their sponsors. Margaret was instrumental in suggesting activities and introducing members to Carolyn that furthered her sense of belonging. Carolyn participated in many activities and joined the Choir and the Northside Manna Dinner Club, making close friends.

Now, Carolyn and Richard are preparing to move to another state. As she reflects on her years at FELC, she misses members who have passed, knowing she will see them again in Heaven. She also misses and prays for people who have moved or haven't been at church because of the pandemic. With FELC, she found the friends she was looking for. "Even though we are moving, I still will be connected to the church on earth, and the members of First English will always be a part of my church family."