



**Welcome to
First English Ev. Lutheran Church**

**800 Vernier Road at Wedgewood Drive
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236**

Phone: (313) 884-5040

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www.feelc.org

ALTAR GUILD

The purpose of the Altar Guild is the care and furnishing of the main and side altars. It also remembers the ill and shut-ins of the congregation with visits, cards, and phone calls.

The Guild is made up of 24 members, with two units, consisting of 12 members each: The Anna Unit cleans the chancel weekly, changes the paraments, and cares for the altar linens. Each member serves two months of the year. The Lydia Unit, with each member serving two months of the year, delivers altar flowers to the sick and shut-ins. They also care for communion vessels, baptismal font and napkins as needed.

The Guild orders poinsettias for Christmas and Easter lilies at Easter, which are used for decorating the altar area. Donated plants, which are not taken by donors after those services, are delivered to the sick and shut-ins.

The Guild is responsible for ordering, collecting payment, and reimbursing the florist for altar flowers. The flower chart is located in the church office for persons wishing to schedule a Sunday.

Church members, 75 and older, are remembered on their birthday with cards; those who are 80 and over are remembered at Christmas with a card, cookies, and a visit.

The Guild meets the first Wednesday or Saturday (alternating months) at 9:30 a.m., October through May.

WORSHIP

Fall Schedule:

Sundays

8:15AM Traditional Worship Service
9:30AM Contemporary Worship Service
11:00AM Traditional Worship Service
(Holy Communion every 1st & 3rd Sunday)

Summer Schedule:

(Memorial Day – Labor Day)

Thursdays

7:00PM Worship Service

Sundays

9:00AM Traditional Worship Service
10:30AM Contemporary Worship Service

Telephone: 313-884-5040

Fax: 313-884-4460

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Rev. Walter A. Schmidt E-mail:

pastors@feelc.org

Rev. Jerry Elsholz E-mail:

pastorj@feelc.org

HISTORY

First English Lutheran Church was founded in 1896. Originally the church was located on the corner of Mt. Elliot and Pulford (near Mack) in Detroit. First English received her name because it was the 'first' congregation in Detroit to use the "English" language exclusively in worship and all aspects of her ministry.

In the 1950's the decision was made to move the congregation to Grosse Pointe Woods. Ground was broken for the new church in 1956, and the new church was dedicated on December 15, 1957. A new Christian Education unit was dedicated on January 12, 1964. On April 28, 2002 ground was broken for our latest project and our expanded facility was dedicated on September 19, 2004. This expansion includes a full-size, high school regulation gymnasium, with a commercial kitchen, plus a stage with full theatrical lighting and sound. A vocal choir room, bell choir room, new youth room and new entry are also included. In addition, we now have an elevator that will access all floors of our facility plus a ramp into the sanctuary to make our facility truly accessible.

With our expansion we now have a facility that can truly assist us in serving our members and reaching out to our community. To check availability or to reserve a room, please contact Kyle Clor, our Facilities Coordinator at (313) 881-9703 or e-mail to skimom7921@hotmail.com.

First English has been blest with many dedicated members and we look forward to the future of continual service to our Lord, Jesus Christ and the ministry which he has entrusted to his church.

THE STAFF

Dr. Walter A. Schmidt, our Senior Pastor, is from Romeo, Michigan. He has degrees from Michigan State University, Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Drew University. In addition, Pastor Schmidt is Adjunct Professor at Oakland Community College and is the author of three books. Pastor's wife, Carolyn, is the Program Director for Breast Care Services at St. John Health System. They have two sons, Walt and Tim and 5 grandchildren.

Rev. Jerry Elsholz, our Associate Pastor, is originally from St. Clair, Michigan where he graduated from St. Clair High School in 1965. He has degrees from Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Pastor Elsholz has served 32 years of ordained ministry in churches in Ridgeville Corners, OH (4), New Baltimore, MI (9), Dundee, MI (12), and in Upper Sandusky, OH (6½) and came to our congregation in May of 2005. Pastor Jerry is married to Sandy making their home in St. Clair Shores. They have five children and two grandchildren.

Robert Foster, Music Coordinator, is our excellent organist and director for our vocal choirs and Jr. High handbell choir. Bob has both his Bachelors and Master's Degree in Music from the University of Michigan. In addition, Christina Judson, a retired band and orchestra teacher, directs the majority of our bell choirs. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music.

Sally Serrano is our capable secretary who has been an involved member of First English for several years.

Joe Warnez is our fine janitor/caretaker. With our large structure and full calendar, he keeps very busy maintaining our facility.

BOARDS OF FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN

The organization of our congregation is divided into eight boards responsible for carrying out a variety of programs and areas of ministry. Each Board consists of a Director and an Assistant Director, who also sit on the Church Council, plus six other members who serve three-year terms. Volunteers for each board are elected on a rotating basis. In addition boards may have auxiliary members plus create sub-committees to help carry out their work. The eight boards of First English are:

Bd. of Church Property

Bd. of Social Action

Bd. of Parish Education

Bd. of Stewardship & Finance

Bd. of Evangelism

Bd. of Fellowship

Bd. of Worship & Music

Bd. of Youth Ministry

BOARD OF SOCIAL ACTION

The purpose of this board is to enlighten and involve the congregation in issues that affect our community and world. Our projects include preparing bag lunches at least twice a year for 350 homeless for delivery to Central United Methodist in downtown Detroit, “bringing in the harvest” in the fall with donations of food items for our ongoing food pantry, and collecting blankets for Lutheran World Relief.

We also do various service projects for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, particularly their Heartline ministry to help women coming out of the penal system. On Palm Sunday we hold a Red Cross Blood Drive. For 2008 and 2009 we are the hosts of the annual spring Crop Walk for the Grosse Pointe community. The Crop Walk is a ministry of “Church World Service,” that supports hunger programs locally as well as around the world.

Our largest service project, the Giving Tree, is in December. We provide food baskets and gifts for over 30 needy families at Bunche Academy in Detroit. And during the holiday season we organize an annual cookie walk. Everyone deserves a yummy holiday!

FELLOWSHIP

Christian fellowship is an important part of the ministry of First English. Whether it is just sitting down for a cup of coffee, going to a concert or going on a weekend trip. God's people need to share good times together. To that end, our Board of Fellowship sponsors a wide range of enjoyable social activities for all ages, including Sunday morning coffee hours, Lenten lunches and dinners, Detroit Tiger baseball games, adult dances, Father's Day BBQ's, the Annual church picnic, our Halloween Trick or Trunk, Dinner for Six and a variety of other events.

Ideas and comments for strengthening fellowship through fun and interesting activities are always welcome.

In addition, First English has sponsored a number of overseas tours such as a trip to the Holy Land, In the Footsteps of Paul, as well as tours of Europe.

For additional information feel free to contact the church office at 313-884-5040.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Education and the growth in faith that comes with it are vital to the Christian. Anyone hungry for learning finds plenty to choose from at First English.

Sunday School for All Ages (9:30AM)

Age three through adults, including a Sr. High class. A nursery is provided for those ages two and under.

Thursday Mornings at First English

Weekly Adult Bible Study in the Lounge every Thursday morning at 9:30AM, led by the Pastor.

Confirmation Instruction

A three-year program (grades 6-8) incorporating education, service and fellowship. The program includes Wednesday night catechism classes in addition to Sunday morning Sunday School and worship.

Parenting and Family Classes

A variety of classes to strengthen the family are offered at First English.

Women's Circle Bible Study

Most of our Women's Circles incorporate a Bible Study as a part of their program.

Men's Club

Our Men's Club Breakfast and Bible Study meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Adult Information Class

Designed for those interested in joining the Lutheran Church or learning about it. This six-week series of classes is offered twice a year during the Sunday School hour.

Vacation Bible School

Held for one week in early summer, during the evening, Monday thru Friday. Our VBS program includes a variety of activities for children ages three thru Jr. High. A free-will dinner is offered prior to each evening's event.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Good News Singers – Adult choir (High School & up) rehearses weekly and sings most Sundays, September – June. Open to all.

The Lord's Company Singers – Grades 5-8, rehearses weekly and sings approximately once a month.

The Good News Ringers – Adult ringers meet weekly and play approximately once a month.

The Excelsis Ringers – High School ringers rehearse weekly and ring approximately once a month.

The Lord's Company Ringers – Grades 5-10, rehearse weekly and ring approximately once a month.

The Church Mice – Grades 2-5, rehearse weekly and ring approximately five times a year.

The Soli Deo Gloria Ringers – A quartet of experienced ringers.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS – Our M.P. Moller organ was built in 1958 and expanded in 1975 to its present 41 ranks. Our Steinway Concert Grand piano was purchased in 1986.

OPEN DOOR SERIES – First English sponsors approximately 7 musical events annually, including a Music Sunday Worship Service in December and June.

The L.I.F.E. (Laughter and Inspiration at First English) Players -

Annual Musical Theater presentation each Fall on our own Luther Center Stage.

YOUTH

First English is committed to providing quality ministry for our young people. To that end, a wide variety of special offerings create opportunities for learning, fun, fellowship, Christian service and spiritual growth.

Junior & Senior Luther League:

Students in grades 6-8 are part of the Jr. Luther League and those in grades 9-12 make up the Sr. Luther League.

A variety of other activities are scheduled according to the desires and needs of the youth. Jr. & Sr. Leaguers go on a weekend retreat every winter and are subsidized to attend a week of camp each summer. Sr. Leaguers participate in a statewide youth gathering (December 27 – 30) each year and are encouraged to attend Leadership Training School and other Synod and National Gatherings. The Annual Sr. High Bass Lake Festival in August at Camp Michi-Lu-Ca is always a highlight of the summer in youth ministry.

With the addition of our “Luther Center” gym and youth room, more opportunities are available for youth of all ages including volleyball and basketball, floor hockey, pool and foosball, ping-pong or just “hangin out” with friends. Our youth program is always looking for new opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship and fun.

First English Lutheran Preschool

Established 1959

School Hours: 8:45 am -11:15 am

Combined Class for 3 & 4 year olds

3 year olds - Monday & Wednesday

4 year olds - Monday, Wednesday & Friday

First English Lutheran Preschool (FELP) would like to assist you in preparing your children for their kindergarten and elementary years. Children of FELP will have a first school experience that will help develop a positive self-image and social and intellectual abilities in a caring environment. Our program includes art, music, bible lessons, physical development, math, science and beginning reading concepts. First English has a very large and bright classroom for your children to spend their morning interacting with their peers. Children will enjoy active learning as they explore and create in a stimulating learning environment.

Our director/lead teacher, Christine Simone, has a bachelor degree in Elementary Education and has completed the graduate work necessary for an Early Childhood Education endorsement to her Michigan teacher certification. She has a variety of experiences in educational settings and has been with FELP since 2005.



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The purpose of our Women of the Church is to develop deeper stewardship of time, talents and treasures to serve the religious, missionary and charitable work of the church through appropriate social activities, study, programs and projects. Individual circles are formed to participate in and cooperate with the purposes of the FELC Women.

We contribute toward the mission support plus donate to other charities. Money is also allocated for various needs within First English. The money to support these needs is derived from freewill offering envelopes for the Women of the Church, fund raising activities during the year and circle contributions.

The Women of the Church have two general meetings each year and all women of FELC are encouraged to attend. There is a luncheon meeting in June and an evening meeting in October. This is a good way to get acquainted with other women of the church and enjoy good Christian fellowship.

We currently have five circles which meet monthly at the following times:

Amity Circle	3 rd Tuesday	12:00PM
Faith Circle	1 st Tuesday	10:30AM
GraceCircle	4 th Monday	7:00PM
Hope Circle	2 nd Wednesday	11:30AM
Peace Circle	1 st Tuesday	7:00PM

Our Board of Church Women consists of officers, representatives from each circle, plus two women at large.