Grace and peace to my brothers and sisters here at FELC!

I recently told our parish council this is an exciting time to be a member of First English! So much is going on!! We are improving our audio-visual capability, our safety, our outreach to our community. More people are willing and able to help us meet these growing programs. I also told the council that with more activity and more people, there is a danger of inadvertently rubbing against each other. So this is a wonderful time to remember that we are brothers and sisters, wanting to live in peace, supporting and encouraging each other. I’ve often said that when you have 10 Lutherans you have 11 opinions. Not always will we agree, this side of heaven. Yet we are called to listen to each other and work together, looking for solutions that may not seem obvious at first. Sadly, we’ve learned all too well from the culture that we should expect to “have it your way.” The joy of 11 opinions is recognizing how our Lord is working in and through our discussions to lead us beyond our own preconceived notions. Our Lord Jesus is teaching us humility while at the same time is making life here at FELC exciting. Another cause for excitement is the beginning of our self-study in September. Each Sunday, in our bulletins, we will have the first of our surveys, asking how we are doing as a congregation; what our strengths and weaknesses are. Please, we need to hear from everyone. And please, fill out only ONE survey this month. Next month, October, we will ask ourselves what kind of pastor are we looking for, what strengths do we need and, since no pastor is perfect (I’m certainly not!), we will also need to committee ourselves when we see what weaknesses we will need to help with. Thank you one and all for the privilege you’ve given me to walk with you through these exciting times, all the way to welcoming your new pastor!

Blessings, Pr Tim+