

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 7, 2025

First English Lutheran Church 402 N. 3rd Ave., Wausau, Wisconsin 54401-4448 715-842-5727

https://www.firstenglishlutheranwausau.org

A Congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic Minister of Music: Daniel Larson

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship. If you are a visitor, please fill out the neon green Visitor Card and drop and give it to an usher or greeter. Please come to worship with us again!

Large print copies of the entire bulletin are available on the narthex table. Activity bulletins for children are available from an usher or on the table in the narthex.

A 'Parents Room' is located off the narthex w/changing table and restroom. Restrooms are in the narthex lounge and at the bottom of the east/west stairwells. A Handicapped Accessible restroom is available through the double doors on the east side (lectern side) in the front of the sanctuary.

Assistive listening devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance. Busy Bags!! - Child Activity Kits -- Parents: Does your child get restless during the worship service? Feel free to take one of the activity bags off the tree in the narthex to help your child stay content in the pew during worship! Each bag contains a coloring book, crayons, story book, and quiet games. Please return the bags to the tree after worship.

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mary Zupansic

Assisting Minister: Pat Seivert

Lector: Connie Vaningan Acolyte: Brooklynn Detert

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Greeters: Amy Abitz / Eli Akey / Steve Wendorf

Ushers: Gene & Lynn Schulz / Deb Kluetz / Lowanne Brokaw

Communion Set-up: Deb Kluetz

Communion Assistant: Dawn Kramer

Communionware Washer: Lynne Santangelo Coffee Hour Treats: Lynne and Dina Santangelo

Introduction to the day

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(pause)*

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

God's Work, Our Hands





Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

of God.

peo-ple

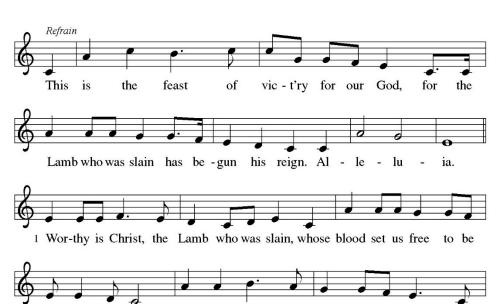
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

ELW P. 187



rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Pow - er,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel [|] of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats [|] of the scornful!
- ² Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
 - and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither; everything they ¹ do shall prosper.
- ⁴ It is not so | with the wicked;
 - they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹ judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council ¹ of the righteous.
- ⁶ For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

A reading from Philemon.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord!

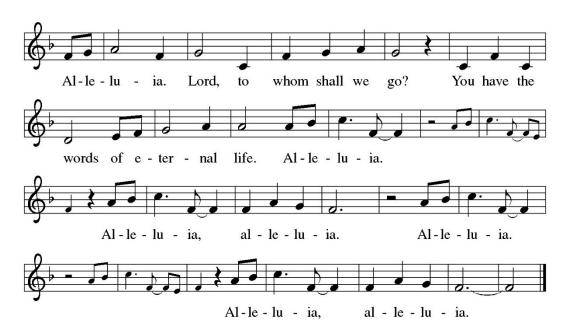
Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW P. 188



GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation

and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW #685



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con se crat ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on -ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil ver and my gold, not a mite would I with hold;



take my mo-ments and my days; take my feet and let them be take my lips and let them be take my in - tel - lect, and use let them flow in cease-less praise. swift and beau - ti - ful for thee. filled with mes - sag - es from thee. ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt. Music: Patmos, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition ends with the following response.

God of Grace,

receive our prayer.

...We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING SONG

We Are an Offering

ELW #692

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

•

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

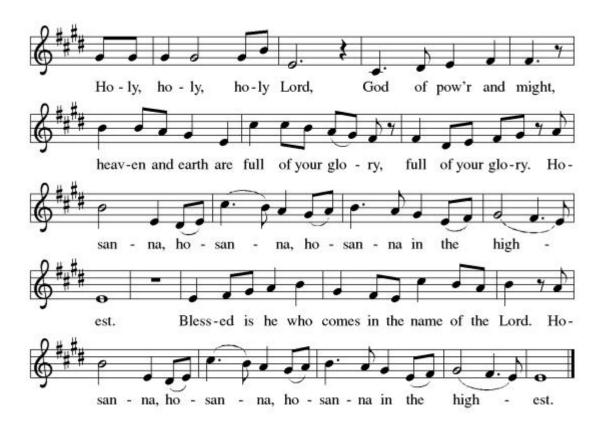
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY ELW P. 190



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

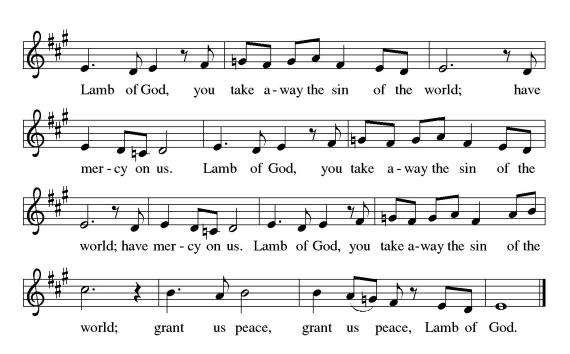
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION SONG

O Lamb of God

ELW P. 191



COMMUNION HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW #798

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this is Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

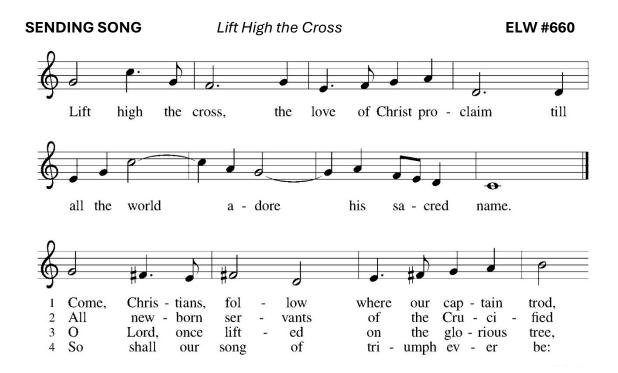
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

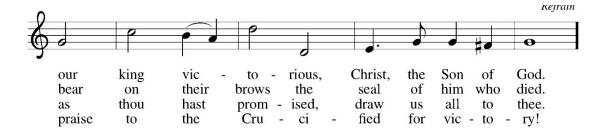
BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;

the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;

and the life of the Spirit+ bless you and give you peace. Amen.





Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. Share the Light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary, or if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor on her cell phone 920-671-4338.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 31: 69

Thursday, September 4: 21

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING

are given to the Glory of God by Lette Becker in memory and appreciation of Superintendents of Sunday School and staff, past and present, who share God's word and teach our children. We thank Lette for her floral gift.

CARDS OF THE WEEK

Rick and Cindy Petzke as they mourn the death of Rick's mother this past week. Let us send them our thoughts and prayers for comfort and strength. **Jan Wiederhoeft** as she recovers from a broken leg following a fall at home.

Thoughts and prayers for strength and healing.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FELC YOUTH

Wait WHAT??? Christmas? Now? The youth will again be selling "greens" for the holidays. Orders may now be placed on the sheet on the narthex table. Orders will be taken until October 12th. Orders will be in the narthex. Payment will be due upon pickup. Pick-up will be mid-November. As always, thank you for your continued support of FELC Youth.

PERSONAL CARE KITS...

Hello all – The assembly of all Personal Care Kits for this year is complete. With your generous donations and support, I have been able to exceed my goal from last year! 188 kits have been made this year. A HUGE thank you to everyone for your contributions and support in my mission! -- Lori Heyne

FE LADIES

You are invited to join us for **Charity Circle** on Tues., Sept. 9 in the Bethany Room for the start of a new Fall year. We gather from 9:00-9:30 a.m. followed by a very casual Bible study. Nancy Kohorn Henricks leads our study. We use the ELCA women's magazine, The Gathering. We have a short business meeting with coffee and treats and we wrap things up by 11:00. It is a fun group, and we would love to have you join us! If you prefer an evening circle meeting, you are invited to join the ladies in **Shalom Circle** which will resume on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This year's study is on the topic of prayer. If you wish to join our study, please contact Karen Briggs (608 852 4251) to order a book for you. Join us!

CHURCH IN SOCIETY NEWS

First English will be joining with other ELCA Churches to provide a picnic for the unhoused and folks using the shelter at noon on Sunday the 14th. It will be near the Labor Temple building in the area where the Marty Bus is parked. Thanks to Thrivent dollars, we will provide fresh fruit and coleslaw for the 150-200 expected guests.

We are still looking for planners for the October Community Supper. We are scheduled for the 19th, but Good Shepherd is looking for someone to switch and take the 26th because of a conflict in their congregation. So at this point we could do either date. Contact Lynne Santangelo if you are interested or have questions.

AFTER WORSHIP COFFEE HOURS

Check out the new sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to provide afterworship treats on Sundays.

We extend our worship experience by staying after worship to share some fellowship with each other, especially with a treat! You don't have to provide fancy treats are just fine, and there is always someone around to help with making coffee! Thanks!

GREETING CARDS

First English Lutheran has its own supply of hand drawn cards for sale. They are made by Gary Pagel of FE and sell for \$1.00 each. There are many to choose from...Scripture verse, Martin Luther quotes, and many more. The cards are blank inside so you are able to send your own thoughts and greetings.

They are located in the narthex coatroom with a container for your donations. Gary does not receive any monetary compensation for these cards. It is his gift to FE and per his request, the proceeds stay at First English. Many of our shut-ins enjoy getting "snail mail."

PEEK AT THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7-14, 2025

Sunday, Sept. 7: 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday, Sept. 9: 9:00 a.m. Charity Circle

9:00 a.m. Quilt Workday

Thursday, Sept. 11: 6:00 p.m. Worship **Friday, Sept. 12:** 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 14: 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Jan W.

Sue McKee (at Rennes in Weston for rehab and therapy)

Gerald and Audrey Fellbaum (health concerns)

Lyle Jaegler (recuperating at home)

Alan Sexter (at Wausau Manor for rehab and therapy)

Karl Otto (health concerns – brother of Jan Wiederhoeft)

Judy Beemer (sister of Roger DeWitt)

Ron Wiese (friend of the DeWitt family)

Diane (cancer / heart issues – Aunt to Angela Greenfield & Jarek Nelson)

Heidi Olson (cancer – daughter of Duane & Darlene Chapman)

Janet Alters (diagnosed with a brain tumor. Family member of Mike & Joan, Jack & Kim, Erin, Spencer and Ella)

In Assisted Living Facilities: Kathie Peterson (Primrose), Dolores Hintz (Sylvan Crossings), Diane Zuelke (Mountain Terrace), Michelle Detert (Cady Home), Ila Barttelt (Rennes), Joyce Utecht (Rennes), Gary Klingbeil (Wood Aven), Bill Wachholz (Rennes), Rick Petzke (Crossroads Care Center in Weyauwega) Health Issues/Concerns: Geraldine Hopperdietzel; Delphine Saeger; Gary Pagel; Linda Kittel; Gail (for strength and peace of mind), Ordell and Gene Nelson (aunt and uncle of Alan Sexter); Sharon (sister of Carla Landrath); Tammy; Jan; Kay; Josh (mental issues, friend of Matt & Lori Heyne); Barbara (friend of Karen Zumann); Battling Cancer - Tracey (friend of Sheri Fochs)

<u>Daily Prayers Offered for:</u> Bishops Anne (*East Central Synod*) and Elizabeth (*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*), and all those who work in the East Central Synod Office; ShyAnn and Peter Egwalata (*in Uganda*), Doctors Stephen and Jodie Swanson (*our missionaries in Tanzania*) and Pastor Jack and the Maanoane Parish.