



**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Thursday, August 27, 2026**

**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!

**Worship Leader: Pastor Mary E. Zupansic
Pianist: Hal Osborn**

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

(pause)

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love.

Amen.

SONG

SONG

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SONG

SONG

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save

their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

HYMN OF THE DAY *Will You Come and Follow Me*

ELW #798



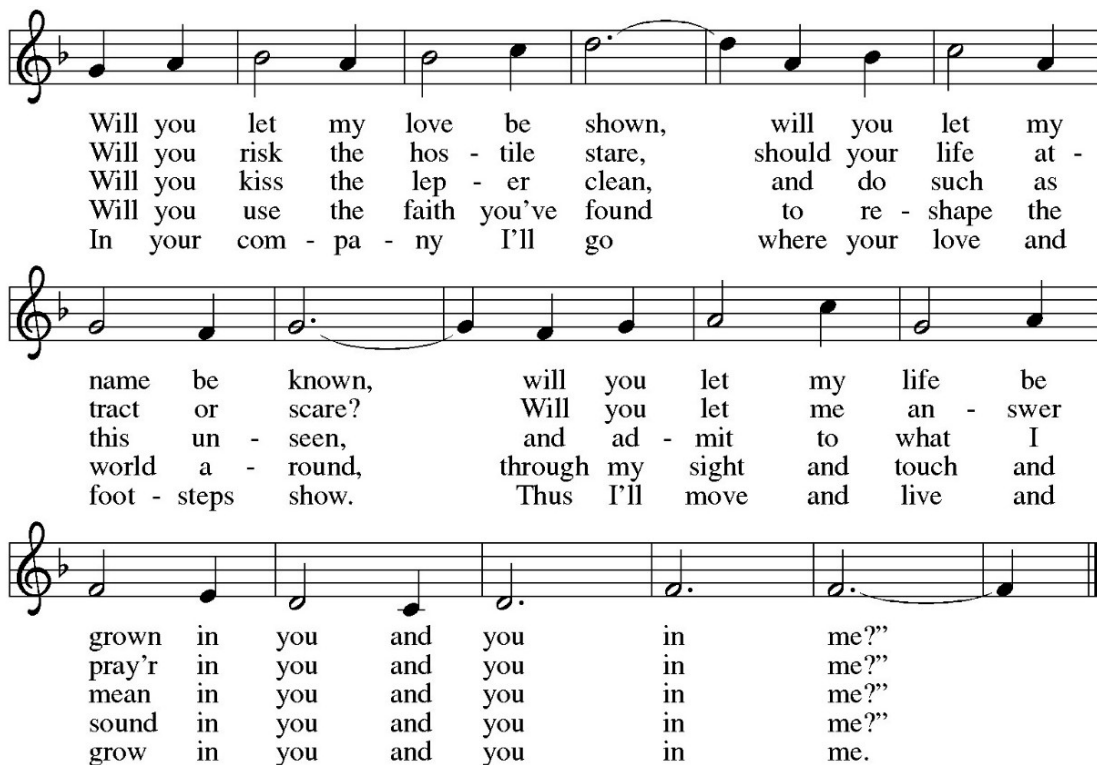
1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* *Sung at the beginning and the end of the Prayers.*

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with the following response.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, Listen to your Children Praying

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

SONG

SONG

OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTUTION

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.

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

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

SONG

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.
Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SONG

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✝ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
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.

ATTENTION MEMBERS – HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone in your family is admitted to the hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Mary or the church office know. We want to support you and give you the spiritual guidance you need while you are hospitalized. If you would like to have your name included on our Prayer List in the bulletin, please let us know.

All God's
Creatures



PET BLESSING SERVICE

This Sunday, August 30 at 1:00 p.m.

All pets are welcome to bring their humans to the front lawn for a brief worship with a special Blessing for Pets! This is a great time to give thanks to God for the gifts that our pets bring to our lives.

Fireside Book Club...

Fireside Book Club will begin again in September. New members are always welcome! We meet every other Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Members nominate the books that we read and discuss. We read books on a variety of topics and have a good time! For more details about the book club contact Karen Briggs or any current book club member soon so you can be ready to discuss our first book on September 8.

COMMITTEE *Night*



To all members who serve on a committee:
Mark your calendars as we begin a new season of ministry together. **Our next committee night will be Tuesday, Sept. 1, 6:30 p.m.** We will first gather in Fellowship Hall and then proceed to our respective

committees.

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Women Build is a chance to use skills you have or learn something new while helping complete work on a Habitat home! Several 1st English members participated last year and had a great time. Each shift is only 4 hours. There are a few slots left on Wednesday morning, September 16 and Saturday morning, September 19. Dina and I signed up for the 16th. Let me know soon if you are interested and I'll walk you through the registration process. Lynne Santangelo

ENVELOPE PACKETS containing the 'special' envelopes

for Sept. and Oct. are in the narthex and church office. In the packets are Food Pantry, Building Fund and ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 23: YouTube Views:
Thursday, August 20: 20

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH!

Headstart is moving to Grant School! We are excited to know that there will be children in the classrooms and on the playground again! And we are pleased that our member, Andrea Velasquez, leads this school. To welcome them to the neighborhood, Church in Society is asking for donations for refreshments at their



open house on **August 31 from 4-6 p.m.** Families of children in all 6 classrooms will be coming at 2 different times that day. Cookies and apple juice are needed. The cookies do not have to be homemade, although you are welcome to bake. None should have nuts or peanut butter

just to be on the safe side, and some should be gluten free (like rice Krispie bars or commercial cookies with gluten free labels.) If you would like to contribute but don't want to shop, cash donations are also welcome. Please have your donations here by August 30. You will be hearing more about ways we can partner with Grant. Some of the school supplies collected by the youth will also go there.

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

John & Karen Otto, Lyle Jaegler, Linda Kittel, Judy Beemer (*sister of Roger DeWitt*), Ron Wiese (*friend of the DeWitt family*), Melinda (*sister of Matt Heyne*), Diane (*Aunt to Angela Greenfield & Jarek Nelson*), Janet Alters (*family member of Mike & Joan, Jack & Kim, Erin, Spencer and Ella*), Tracey (*friend of Sheri Fochs*)

Homebound / Assisted Lived: Kathie Peterson (*Primrose*), Dolores Hintz (*Sylvan Crossings*), Sue McKee (*Rennes in Weston*), Diane Zuelke (*Mountain Terrace*), Michelle Detert (*Cady Home*), Ila Bartelt (*Rennes in Weston*), Gary Klingbeil (*Wood Aven*), Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen (*Rennes in Weston*)
Sue Crone
Audrey Fellbaum
Gary Pagel
Delphine Saeger
Eleanor Thorpe

Daily Prayers Offered for: Bishops Anne Edison-Albright (*East Central Synod*) and Yehiel Curry (*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*), and all those who work in the East Central Synod and National ELCA Offices; ShyAnn and Peter Egwalata (*in Uganda*)

PEEK AT THE WEEK of August 30-September 6, 2026

Sunday, August 30:	9:00 a.m.	Worship	10:00 a.m.
		Blessings of Backpacks	
	1:00 p.m.	Pet Blessing Service	
Tuesday, Sept. 1:	6:30 p.m.	Committee Night	
Thursday, Sept. 3:	6:00 p.m.	Worship	
Friday, Sept. 4:	6:30 p.m.	NA Meeting	
Sunday, Sept. 6:	9:00 a.m.	Worship	

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS