



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 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: Lynne Santangelo

Lector: Karen Otto

Acolyte: Kynslei Koehler-Dalquist

Organist: Dan Larson

Greeters: Linda Kittel / Sharon Hunter

Ushers: Matt & Lori Heyne / Matt Schumitsch

Communion Set-up: Deb Kluetz

Communion Assistant: Deb Kufahl

Communionware Washer: Neil & Sue Juedes

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE *Immortal, Invisible* ...Ted Cornell

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.**



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.

Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

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

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from Exodus

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf

and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from 1 Timothy

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has

found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ELW #502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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 *O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* ...Mark Hayes

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Amazing Grace

ELW #779

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

ELW #494

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 in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807



- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
- 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. Share the Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Bridal March* ...Daniel Larson (written for Sherry Larson, Sept. 2011)

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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, September 7: 105 YouTube Views: 78

Thursday, September 11: 18

CARDS OF THE WEEK

Alan Sexter who is at Wausau Manor. Prayers for healing and strength.

Gerald Roemke who will turn 90 this Tuesday, Sept. 16. Birthday Greetings to Jerry!

BUILDING FUND

A gift has been given by Deb & Scott Kufahl in memory of Rick Petzke's mother.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FELC YOUTH

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.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY NEWS

We will be joining with other ELCA churches at noon today to celebrate God's Work Our Hands Day by providing a picnic for the area unhoused and folks using the shelter. Thanks to Thrivent dollars, First English will provide fresh fruit and coleslaw for the expected 150-200 guests.

Are you interested in volunteering for Habitat for Humanity? There is a Community Build Day on Saturday the 20th from 8 until noon. They'll be putting some of the finishing touches on house #75. Youth as young as 14 are welcome with an adult. Contact Lynne Santangelo for information about how to sign up for this or for any of the many Habitat non-construction jobs like working in the ReStore or serving on a committee.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Rehearsals will resume this Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 6:00 p.m. and will continue on Tuesday evenings. For more info, contact Dan Larson.

FE LADIES

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!

TREASURES NEEDED

Beginning October 1, you may bring your donations for the 2026 Treasure Sale! The collection room remains downstairs in the hallway by the Sunday School rooms. There is a door on the right that says Treasure Sale, you can't miss it! Holiday (Thanksgiving and Christmas) items are especially needed and will be sold at a special Holiday Sale in our Fellowship Hall coming up in November. More information on that sale will be in the October Lantern.

PEEK AT THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14-21, 2025

Sunday, Sept. 14:	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Monday, Sept. 15:	6:00 p.m. Church Council
Tuesday, Sept. 16:	9:00 a.m. Quilt Workday 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir
Thursday, Sept. 18:	6:00 p.m. Worship 6:45 p.m. Shalom Circle
Friday, Sept. 19:	6:30 p.m. NA Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 21:	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Jan W. (*at PAM Rehabilitation for therapy*)

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*)

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*)

Daily Prayers Offered for: 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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproofed kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF)

Saturday, September 20, 2025

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.