



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 19, 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: Dawn Kramer

Acolyte: Brooklynn Detert

Organist: Daniel Larson

Greeters: John & Karen Otto

Ushers: Deb Kluetz / Scott & Deb Kufahl

Communion Set-up: Marla Zumann

Communion Assistant: Joan Heahlke

Communionware Washers: Neil & Sue Juedes

Coffee Hour Treats: Dawn Kramer and Joan Buckmaster

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

PRELUDE *Variations of Bunnesan (Morning Has Broken)*

...Brock Downward, Charles Callahan, and James Holloway

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(pause)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

O Word of God Incarnate

ELW #514



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

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. 185

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.



I 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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

A reading from Genesis.

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- ² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

A reading from 2 Timothy.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Me Jesus

ELW #770



Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, with lyrics 'Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with whole and half notes.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

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,**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

Each petition ends with the following response.

God of Grace, **receive our prayer.**

... We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Give Me Jesus

...Mark Hayes

OFFERING SONG

As Saints of Old
v. 2 and 3

ELW #695



- 1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
- 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
- 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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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

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

Day By Day

ELW #790

What a Fellowship. What A Joy Divine

ELW #774

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.

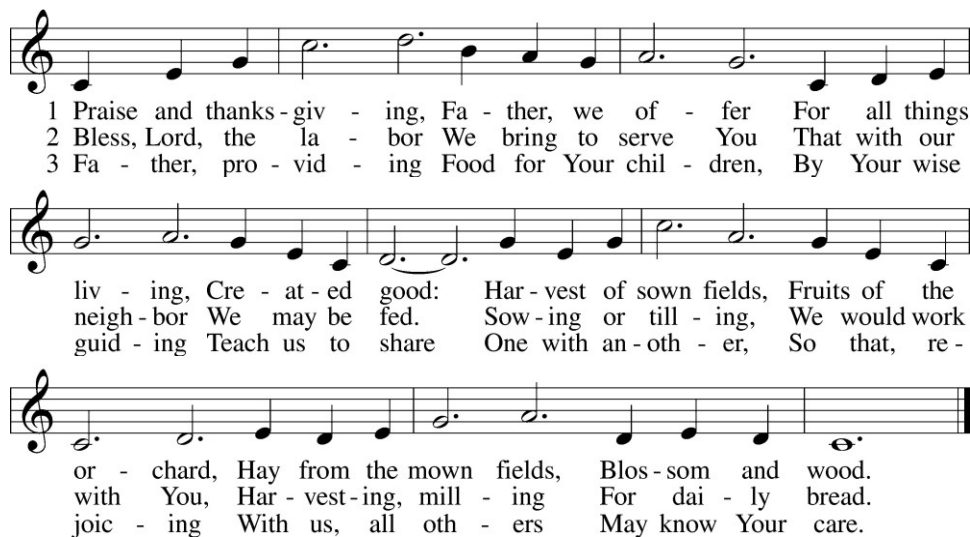
BLESSING

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

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW #689



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise

liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -

or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt. Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Cortege

...Gordon Young (1919-1998)

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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.



STEWARDSHIP 2025 First English Lutheran

Scripture: *“Where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”*

Matthew 6:21

Giving to God Our Heart Through Our Time & Talents

Each of us has been given time and talents for the good of the larger community. St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians chapter 12, that there are a variety of gifts, a variety of services, and a variety of activities all activated by God. Perhaps you have an ear for listening, or a heart for compassion. Maybe you have the gift of speech to speak up on behalf of the vulnerable. Are you good at teaching, quilting, organizing, leading? What about cleaning, repairing, hosting events i.e., funeral lunches etc.? When we use our gifts, we serve Jesus Christ.

- + What opportunities to use your particular gifts do you see in your church community?
- + Make a list of your gifts. How might you use them today?
- + How does using your gifts/talents serve as “loving God”?

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 12: 100 You Tube views: 71 Thursday, October 16: 18

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE Sunday, October 12: 10

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FELC YOUTH

Wreath Pick up is just around the corner. Payments are due upon pickup. Friday November 14th – Call/Text Erin (715-297-7157) for pick up location between 4-5:30pm; Sunday, November 16th Before/After Church.

As always thank you FELC Family for your support of our Youth and Mike and Joan Alters for the road trip up north to pick them all up!

THE MITTEN TREE

is up in the narthex to receive your gifts of scarves, mittens and hats for needy children and adults in the Wausau area. All sizes are needed: children's and adult men/women. Simply bring them to the church and hang them on the tree.

Donations will be distributed right after Thanksgiving. Thank you for your gifts!



Welcome to the TABLE!

Due to a conflict in schedules, the First Communion workshop

has been moved to **Saturday, November 1, 10 a.m. to 12noon**. Parents and their children/youth who have not yet received preparation to receive Holy Communion are

invited to a morning of learning. Pastor Mary will lead us through a series of activities and videos aimed at helping both parents and their children gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please call the church office to register. If you have questions, feel free to call or text Pastor Mary at 920-671-4338.



ELEVATOR FUND

A gift has been given by Kathy and Amy Rohde in memory of Arlan and Shirley Erickson.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the first 3 quarters of 2025 (Jan. – Sept.) have been mailed to your homes. Look over your statement and if you see an error, please give Deb a call in the office.

TREASURE SALE NEWS

October 1 has arrived and we are excited to start collecting treasures for our sale.

We are especially in need for Christmas items you no longer want or need.

A special Christmas Treasure Sale will be held on November 7 and 8 in our Fellowship Hall. Watch for times.

Again...we are taking clean clothes in good condition, housewares, collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs and more. We are NOT taking electronics, mattresses, high chairs and infant car seats. We will take small appliances in working condition. Your donations can be brought downstairs in the hallway by the Sunday School rooms. Thank you for your donations!

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Painted Vessel is a way to help raise money for Gaza Humanitarian

Relief. Everyone is invited to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (930 Edgewood Rd. Wausau, 54403). On Sunday, October 19, come from 11:00-1:00. A light lunch will be provided. There is a suggested contribution of \$20 dollars to paint a bowl from Clay Corners. The completed bowls will be sold in a bundle with bread and soup at the Good Shepherd Fall Bazaar on November 8. A multi-generational group from First English painted bowls for Empty Bowls last year and had a great time! No artistic talent or experience required!

Community Supper, October 19. This month's supper has been planned by the Thumstedters and Santangelos. We will be serving hot sandwiches and sides. There's sheet in the narthex to sign up if you have time to help serve mid-afternoon.

PARKING REMINDER

This is a reminder for parking on Cedar St. at the south end of our building.

Beginning Nov. 1, there will be no parking on the north side of Cedar St. This is a City of Wausau ordinance. For Tuesday morning activities, the parking lot door will be open from 8:00 a.m. – Noon. Thanks for your cooperation!

EDUCATION HOUR FOR ADULTS TOO!

The Church in Society committee is interested in providing opportunities to hear speakers and to participate in discussion during the education hour on some Sunday mornings. One idea is to use the Wired Word materials that relate faith to current events during the month of November. We would like to know how many people are likely to attend. It's especially important to know there will be an audience when we invite a speaker! If you are interested, please plan to meet briefly in the front pews right after services next Sunday, the 19th.

THE LANTERN

will have a new distribution schedule beginning with the November issue. The purpose of the change is to have the Lantern in your hands before the first of the month so you have the opportunity to plan with knowledge of the entire month's calendar. The schedule for the next three months follows:

The **November Lantern will be mailed on October 27, 2025 with a deadline of October 21, 2025 for submitting information to be included in the November issue.**

The **December Lantern will be mailed on November 23, 2025 with a November 17, 2025 deadline for submitting material for the December issue.**

The **January Lantern will be mailed December 23, 2025 with a December 17, 2025 deadline for submitting information for the January issue.**

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation in meeting the designated deadlines for providing information to be printed in the Lantern.

PEEK AT THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19-25, 2025

Sunday, Oct. 19:	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday, Oct. 21:	9:00 a.m. Quilt Workday
	6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir

Thursday, Oct. 23: 6:00 p.m. Worship
Friday, Oct. 24: 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting
Sunday, Oct. 26: 9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Karl Otto

Judy Beemer (*sister of Roger DeWitt*)

Ron Wiese (*friend of the DeWitt family*)

John

Diane (*Aunt to Angela Greenfield & Jarek Nelson*)

Heidi Olson (*daughter of Duane & Darlene Chapman*)

Janet Alters (*Family member of Mike & Joan, Jack & Kim, Erin, Spencer and Ella*)

Linda Kittel

Josh (*friend of Matt & Lori Heyne*)

Homebound / Assisted Lived: Kathie Peterson (*Primrose*), Dolores Hintz (*Sylvan Crossings*), Sue McKee (*Rennes in Weston*), Diane Zuelke (*Mountain Terrace*), Michelle Detert (*Cady Home*), Ila Barttelt (*Rennes*), Joyce Utecht (*Rennes*), Gary Klingbeil (*Wood Aven*), Rick Petzke (*Crossroads Care Center in Weyauwega*)
Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen (*Rennes*)
Geraldine Hopperdietzel
Audrey Fellbaum
Delphine Saeger
Josh (*friend of Matt & Lori Heyne*)
Tracey (*friend of Sheri Fochs*)
Barbara (*friend of Karen Zumann*)

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*)

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT WORSHIP:

As part of thinking about stewardship and how we offer to God our heart through worship members were asked to write down “what they love most about worship”. Responses were collated. Items with an asterisk indicate recurring themes



*All the people worshipping together.

*Children’s Message

*Fellowship, Visiting with others

*Sermon

*Singing

*The awesome bell choir

*Communion

*Forgiveness of our sins

Lord’s Prayer

Gathering in community and praying and singing together.

I never know what I’ll take away as the most meaningful part of a service. Sermon?

A hymn? A prayer? A conversation with another member? I wonder what will surprise me today!

Singing the great “Old” hymns

Singing and hearing God’s story for today

Reading the gospel and sermon

What I missed during Covid – worshipping together.

Friends, music, renewal/peace of mind

The sense of belonging to a wonderful family

It brings you closer to HIM

Being in the church

The Music – Dan’s playing is awesome!

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT WORSHIP: continued

Sermon and familiar songs

Our new pastor

I love coming to familiar place and faces each week. I love that every week the message is words, and thoughts I need to hear and most often relate to something directly in my life currently.

Pastor Mary and her sermon and the church family.

I love the feeling of peace, hope and healing that fills me as I sit in the sanctuary.

Everything – music, scriptures – Message – the family atmosphere.

Hearing the Word. The fellowship with my church family. The music.

I am proud to a pastor that is bold and preaches of inclusion and really means it.

Sermon – hearing God's grace gives me hope I can do better and get through another week.

The entire service brings joy each week as we gather together.

The music – upon my 1st visit to FE to consider membership, it was the music that convinced me to join. You're right, Pastor Mary, your sermons.

Everything – A place of peace and comfort.

Opportunity to slow down and reflect.

Being able to sit still, slow down. A place to hear God, away from the loudness of daily life.

Feeling God's presence through music and the word.

Watching Pastor Mary interact with the children.

Time to reflect and reconnect to/with my faith.

Becoming closer to God and learning about him.

As we gather for worship today, let us give thanks to God with a grateful heart!



Where your treasure is there your heart will be also. Matt 6:21