



**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Thursday, July 16, 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: Daniel Larson Lector: Barry Levine

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

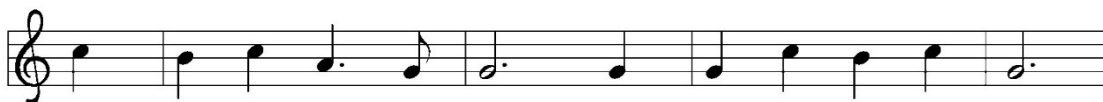
GATHERING SONG

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW #853



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

- ⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
- ⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
- ⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17 (*responsively*)

- ¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- ¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
- ¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
- ¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people
seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**
- ¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
- ¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**
- ¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and
be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

A reading from Romans.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly

while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away.

²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ELW #693



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition ends with the following response.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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 INSTITUTION

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: Instrumental Interlude

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.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✝ one God, bless, heal,
and hold you today and always.

Amen.



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made 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 -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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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.

DAILY DEVOTION BOOKS

for July, August and September are available in the narthex and the church office. We encourage you to take a copy home with you for your personal devotion time.

FAIR STAND MEETING

Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026

Time: Immediately following the Thursday Evening service (around 6:45).

Place: Fellowship Hall

All those interested may attend.

HELLO ALL!

Thanks to your wonderful donations of items and money, I have assembled 73 School Kits! I am going to stop my assembly of these and will now focus on the Personal Care Kits. I will still accept Dark Colored Bath towels and 4 oz bars of soap through mid-August. Once again Thank You for your support!! -- Lori Heyne

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LAWN MOWING and LANDSCAPING

We're looking for more volunteers to help with mowing the lawn, trimming the hedges, and tending to our landscaping. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Thanks!

'SPECIAL' ENVELOPE PACKETS

The new packets of the 'special' envelopes for July and August are available in the narthex and the church office. Included in this packet are *Food Pantry*, *Building Improvements/Elevator Fund*, and *ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response*.

These packets are for those who give by ACH and those who don't receive the regular full packet.

NEWSLETTER ACCESS

Beginning in August, the Technology Task Force (a committee of the Council) will be making a change to how our congregation and community members access the monthly newsletter, *The Lantern*. In an effort to streamline the operations of the office and significantly reduce our postage and printing costs, The Lantern will only be distributed through the Realm Connect app, email, and posted to our church's website at firstenglishlutheran.org. Limited paper copies of the newsletter will be available in the narthex. If you would like support with any of these, please reach out to the Technology Task Force members. The task force certainly understands that there are some who still would like a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to their home. If this describes you or someone you know, please reach out to the church office to request to remain on the mailing list. In the near future, we hope to use the Realm Connect app to make communicating and scheduling more efficient. If you haven't already activated your Realm Connect account, please watch for an email with a link to set it up. The link will be sent on Saturdays and is valid for 24 hours.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Thursday, July 9: 18

Sunday, July 12: 68 YouTube views: 42

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

John & Karen Otto, Dawn Kramer, 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 Barttelt (*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 July 19-26, 2026

Sunday, July 19:	9:00 a.m.	Worship
Thursday, July 23:	6:00 p.m.	Worship
	6:45 p.m.	Fair Stand Meeting
Friday, July 24:	6:30 p.m.	NA Meeting
Sunday, July 26:	9:00 a.m.	Worship

WISCONSIN VALLEY FAIR
August 4-9, 2026
in Marathon Park
Our stand is located by the North Entrance
of the Exhibition Building.

It's almost Fair time and that means fun, fellowship and all that great fair food...including the delicious food prepared at our own First English Fair Stand. Each year the spirit of outreach and the efforts of our congregation members reap profits that support ministries, community organizations, as well as some of our own needs and projects right here at First English. It's a great opportunity to get to know the members of your church family even better!

1) The Fair Stand work charts are ready to be filled with eager volunteers! The charts will be in the narthex coatroom on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings and outside the church office during the week. Check out the charts and see where you would like to help. Sign up early to get your favorite spot. For those who are new to the Fair Stand, it looks massive, but there will be lots of help and on-the-job training! Plus it's a lot of fun!

2) Fair Stand Workdays...

Thursday, July 30: Day 1 of setting up the Stand 8:00 a.m. - ?

Friday, July 31: Day 2 of setting up 8:00 a.m. - ?

Saturday, August 1: Cleaning and preparing the stand 8:00 a.m. - ?

Monday, August 10: 8:00 a.m. - ? The stand is taken down and put back into storage. Plus clean-up, packing up, putting away and bringing supplies back to the church.

It is so important that we have lots of help on these workdays. If you can help, even for a couple of hours, please sign the chart or simply show up on the day(s) that work for you.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

James, Apostle

Saturday, July 25, 2026

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).