



**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 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, you are invited to fill out the neon green Visitor Card and give it to an usher or greeter. Please come to worship with us again!

Large print bulletins are available 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) to the front of the worship space.

Assistive listening devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Busy Bags—Child Activity Kits for our little disciples are available in the narthex on the Busy Bag Trees in the narthex. 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 E. Zupansic

Assisting Minister: Pat Seivert

Organist: Daniel Larson

Lector: Lynne Santangelo

Acolyte: Annabelle Oestreich

Greeters: Lois Stasko / Sharon Hunter

Ushers: Matt & Lori Heyne / Matt Schumitsch

Communion Assistant: Sharon Hunter

Communion Set-up: Deb Kluetz

Communionware Washer: Deb Kluetz

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE *Processional* ...Daniel Larson

(composed for my wife, Sherry, for our wedding, September 3rd, 2011)

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.

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 *Here I Am, Lord*

ELW #574

Requested by Jenny Blaschka

She feels called to lead and help people. In Marshfield Critical Care Unit she is the “Hug” Lady. She enjoys teaching the children and giving hugs to those who are mourning or sad.

SONG *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!*

ELW #413

Requested by Lowanne Brokaw

She enjoys hymns with an easy also harmony.

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.

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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

SONG *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*

Anonymous

Sang in Vacation Bible School

1. He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got the whole wide world in His Hands
He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands.

2. He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He's got the sun and the moon in His hands,
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

3. He's got the tiny little baby in His hands...

4. He's got you and me, brother in His hands,
He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,
He's got you and me, brother in, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

SONG *I Love to Tell the Story*
Lowanne Brokaw

ELW #661

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Thy Word Is a Lamp*

Chorus:

Thy word is a lamp unto our feet
And a light unto our path.
Thy word is a lamp unto our feet
And a light unto our path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near;
Please be near me to the end.

Chorus

2. I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side,
And I will love You to the end.

Chorus

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.

JESUS TRIVIA





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.

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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *God Leads Us Along* ...Travis Cotrell, Kent Hopper, Tom Fettke

OFFERING SONG *As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW #465

Refrain, Verse 2, Refrain

Refrain



The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were'. The second staff continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from'. The third staff concludes the phrase with a final whole note. The lyrics are: 'all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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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	<i>Now It Is Evening</i> Requested by Dolores Zwahlen	ELW #572
SONG	<i>Christ Be Our Light</i> Anonymous	ELW #715
SONG	<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i> Anonymous	ELW #275

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.

SENDING SONG

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ELW #851

Requested by Dan & Sherry Larson

15th wedding anniversary on Sept. 3.

This hymn was played and sung at our wedding
with a guest choir, strings, and organ accompaniment,
with the congregation joining in on the final verses.

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *A Festal Fanfare* ...JS Bach

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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.

THE FLOWERS

this morning are given to the Glory of God by Dan & Sherry Larson in celebration of their 15th wedding anniversary on September 3. We thank them for their floral gift. Congratulations, Dan & Sherry!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

at this morning's service. Students who have brought their backpacks will receive a special blessing before the new school begins! During the month of August, our Sunday School collected school supplies for their Mission Sunday. After all is collected, the school supplies will be distributed to our local schools.





PET BLESSING SERVICE

This afternoon 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.

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

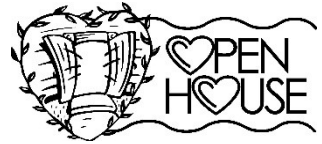
for Sept. and Oct. are in the narthex and church office. In the packets are Food Pantry, Building Fund and ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 23: 85 YouTube Views: 85
Thursday, August 27: 18

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.



Thank you to everyone who has so generously contributed school supplies, cookies, juice and cash. Everything will go to Grant before the open house tomorrow.

We can use a few volunteers to serve refreshments and greet families during the Open House hours. If you would like to help from 11-1 or from 5-7, please contact Lynne Santangelo right away. The Open House is tomorrow, August 31.

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*)

Jerry Roemke who is hospitalized at Aspirus.

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 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
Monday, August 31:	Head Start Open House at Grant School
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

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872 Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.