

The Lantern - August 2025

First English Lutheran Church is a congregation of the



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

"Sharing the Light of Christ"

STAFF AND CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic

pastormaryzup@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

Email:

Debra@firstenglishwausau.onmicrosoft.com

Minister of Music: Daniel Larson

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Custodians: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka

Sunday School Superintendent: VerJean Detert

Church Council:

Officers:

President: Cindy Hermel

President-Elect: Mike Vaningan

Past President: Sherry Larson

Treasurer: Marla Zumann

Recording Secretary: Karen Czechowicz

Council Members:

Carla Baumgardt

Russ Michalski

Jenny Blaschka

Kalynn Pempek

Angela Greenfield

Dina Santangelo

Neil Juedes

Lois Stasko

Michael Klapperich

Nicholas Schumacher (Youth Rep)

**Your comments, questions and concerns are
important to us. Feel free to talk to any
member of our staff or Church Council.**

CHRIST'S HANDS

In World War II, bombs destroyed a church in Strasbourg, France. As parishioners cleared the rubble, they discovered a statue of Jesus that was now missing both hands.

A visiting sculptor later offered to make repairs, but church members declined, saying, "Christ has no hands to minister to the needy or feed the hungry or enrich the poor — except our hands. He inspires. We perform."



St. Teresa of Avila wrote:

Christ has no body but yours;
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do
good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the
world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.

First English Mission Statement

*Our mission is to grow in faith,
serve our neighbors, and
support one another.*



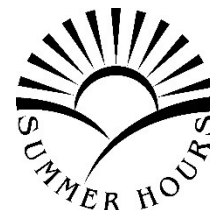
Summer Church Office Hours...

May 27 – August 29

Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(closed for lunch: Noon – 1:00 p.m.)



Deadlines:

Bulletin: Wednesday afternoon

Lantern: 20th of each month

August Worship Schedule...

August 3: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

August 10: 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism
for Cameron Anthony Oberbeck

August 17: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

August 24: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

August 31: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday Night Worship:

August 7, 14, 21, 28
in the sanctuary – 6:00 p.m.

ELEVATOR REPAIR UPDATE

The project to install a new cylinder in the elevator has begun. The elevator is out-of-service until completion of the work. Right now we don't know how long it will take.

Thank you for your patience during this time of repair!

FALL INTO FELLOWSHIP: CHURCH LIFE IS BACK!

As summer winds down, we're gearing up for an exciting season of ministry and connection. Sunday School, small groups, youth nights, and more are all starting back up in August and September. There's a place for everyone—come grow, serve, and belong!



Treasure Sale News...

Our 2025 Treasure Sale was a huge success! Thank you to everyone for all your help in making it so successful!

We are happy to report that the final total of our profits is **\$15,017.38!** Well done, members!



This fantastic amount will go toward our Elevator Repair. Our sale is well known in Wausau and surrounding area. We were told the sale was very organized, clean and items were priced well.

We are already planning for next year. With new ideas to look at we are excited for Treasure Sale 2026!

Donations can start coming in on October 1st.
Thank you again for everyone's help and prayers.

Personal Care Kits...

It's that time of year again and I'm looking for donations of **Dark Colored Bath Towels** for my project of assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. The best deal for the Mainstay Bath Towels from Walmart priced at \$2.94, and they are the required light/medium weight. (Towels must be at least 20"x40" and no larger than 52"x27" max). I will be collecting until mid-August.

Thank you for your help with this project!

-- Lori Heyne

The Wisconsin Valley Fair July 29 – August 3, 2025 Marathon Park

**Our Fair Stand is located by the
North Entrance of the
Exhibition Building.**



1) The Fair Stand work charts are out at the Fair Stand once the Fair begins. If you have spare time, **please come down the Stand for a shift or two.** We even pay for your entrance into the park. Just stop over at the church and pick up a

Fair pass. There is always plenty of work to do, there is a job for you. Your involvement is much appreciated! If you didn't sign up to work, you may call Jerome at 715-391-3533 or Russ at 715-581-9648 down at the Stand to see what job opening is available.

2) Fair Stand Workday...

- **Monday, August 4, 7:00 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. **Your help will be very much appreciated!! Please come!**

3) **Entrance tickets** will again be available for workers at the Fair Stand. You may come to the office area from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and check out a ticket. We prefer that you stop at the church for your ticket on your way down to the Stand for your shift. Then turn the ticket in when you arrive at the Fair Stand.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FELC YOUTH

Wait... WHAT???

Christmas in July?

The youth will again be selling "greens" for the holidays. **Starting from August 1st to October 12th** you will be able to place your order. The order sheet 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!



PARISH RECORDS...July 2025

Funerals: "...in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God..."

July 30 – Beverly Magrecke

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 Monday, Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m.** We'll gather in Fellowship Hal.

FIVE GIFTS FROM GOD



Love makes our friends a little dearer.

Joy makes our hearts a little lighter.

Faith makes our paths a little clearer.

Hope makes our lives a little brighter.

Peace brings us all a little nearer.

—Author unknown

AFTER WORSHIP COFFEE HOURS...

Check out the new sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to provide after-worship treats on Sundays.

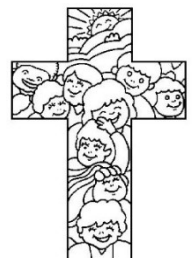
We extend our worship experience by staying after worship to share some fellowship with each other, especially with a treat! You don't have to provide fancy treats are just fine, and there is always someone around to help with making coffee! Thanks!



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MEETING...

Monday, August 4, 6:00 p.m.

All past and present teachers are encouraged to attend, as well as those who wish to be on our Christian Education staff.





Attention, 8th – 12th Graders!

The ELCA is rolling out
Gathering Expedition, a
regional weekend getaway

designed for youth from the 8th to the 12th grades
and their adult leaders...

**October 31 – November 2 at
Lutherdale in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.**

We hope it will be meaningful and
uncomplicated and will generate momentum –
because faith isn't just for the big moments
every few years. It lives in the everyday, too!

Throughout the weekend, youth will worship,
wrestle with big questions, serve others and
grow deeper connections with those in their
community. It's a space for your people to
explore how God might be working in their lives.
Whether you're new to ELCA events or a
Gathering veteran, the Gathering Expedition will
give you a powerful space in which to pause,
listen, grow and move.
Faith is on the move. Let's go! We can't wait to
see you on the road. Be on the lookout for more
information because registration opens soon!

Flower Chart for 2025...

If you would like to place
flowers on the altar for a
special occasion or in memory of a loved one,
you will find the chart on the bulletin board in the
narthex coat room.

You may go to the florist of your choice and
either bring them to the church or have them
delivered on the Friday before the Sunday you
are providing them. After worship you may take
your flowers home.



Let us remember...

those in our congregation
who are confined to their



homes or are in nursing home or assisted living
facilities due to illness, rehab/therapy, or are
just unable to attend worship or fellowship
activities. They would love and appreciate
hearing from their church family with a card,
visit, note or phone call.

Cady Home

1805 N. 6th Ave., Wausau WI 54401
- Michelle Detert Room 4

Crossroads Care Center

717 E. Alfred St., Weyauwega, WI 54983
- Rick Petzke

Mountain Terrace Senior Living

3402 Terrace Ct. Wausau WI 54401
- Diane Zuelke Room 133

Primrose Retirement Community

2100 Townline Rd. Wausau WI 54403
- Kathie Peterson Room 228

Rennes Health and Rehab

4810 Barbican Ave. Weston WI 54476
- Joyce Utecht Room 606-2
- Bill Wachholz

Sylvan Crossings on Evergreen

1605 Evergreen Rd., Wausau WI 54403
- Dolores Hintz Room 13

Wausau Manor

3001 Westhill Driver, Wausau 54401
- Alan Sexter (for rehab and therapy)

Wood Aven Living Community

1821 N. 4th Ave. Wausau 54401
- Gary Klingbeil Room 110

At Home...

- Ila Bartelt 4602 Barbican Ave. #206
Weston 54476

- Geraldine Hopperdietzel

2505 N. 4th Ave. Wausau 54401

- **Delphine Saeger** 151700 Fern Ln.
Wausau 54401 715-298-3210

- **Eleanor Thorpe** 2901 N. 7th St. Apt. W102
Wausau 54403 715-298-1865

Follow **First English Lutheran**

Church – Wausau on Facebook! It's a great way to get some interesting links and notes, thoughts and ideas during the week, and some very nice photos, too!



Worship Servants...

**Acolytes – Greeters – Lectors –
Worship Assistants - Ushers
Communion Set-up / Assistants
Communionware Washers**

To all worship servants: if you are unable to serve on the Sunday you are scheduled, please try to switch with someone or find a sub and give Deb a call in the office of the change.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

August 3: Connie Vaningan
August 10: Nicholas Schumacher
August 17: Lynne Santangelo
August 24: Pat Seivert
August 31: Connie Vaningan

September 7: Connie Vaningan
September 14: Nicholas Schumacher
September 21: Pat Seivert

September 28: Lynne Santangelo

ALTAR GUILD:

August: Sue Juedes
September: VerJean Detert

ACOLYTES:

August 3: Kynslei Koehler
August 10: Kaedyn Hadley
August 17: Brooklynn Detert
August 24: Kynslei Koehler
August 31: Kaedyn Hadley

September 7: Brooklyn Detert
September 14: Kynslei Koehler
September 21: Kaedyn Hadley
September 28: Brooklyn Detert

LECTORS:

August 3: Ella Radke
August 10: Lynne Santangelo
August 17: Matt Schumitsch
August 24: Pat Seivert
August 31: Connie Vaningan

September 7: Karen Otto
September 14: Lette Becker
September 21: Karen Briggs
September 28: Sheri Fochs

LECTORS: (Thursday Evening Worship)

August 7: Barry Levine
August 14: Maralee Moellendorf
August 21: Cheri Breneman
August 28: Bobbie Levine

September 4: Barry Levine
September 11: Maralee Moellendorf
September 18: Cheri Breneman
September 25: Barry Levine

GREETERS:

August 3: Linda Kittel
August 10: Dilynn Koehler / Deb Kufahl
August 17: Lowanne Brokaw / VerJean Detert
August 24: Lois Stasko / Steve Wendorf
August 31: Ben & Mia Lodahl

September 7: Amy Abitz, Eli Akey/Steve Wendorf
September 14: Linda Kittel
September 21: Dilynn Koehler / Deb Kufahl
September 28: Lowanne Brokaw / VerJean Detert

COMMUNION SET-UP:

August 3: VerJean Detert
August 10: Deb Kluetz
August 17: Dawn Kramer
August 24: Marla Zumann
August 31: VerJean Detert

September 7: Deb Kluetz
September 14: Dawn Kramer
September 21: Marla Zumann
September 28: VerJean Detert

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

August 3: Sherri Bagby
August 10: Jenny Blaschka
August 17: Lette Becker
August 24: Joan Heahlke
August 31: Sharon Hunter

September 7: Dawn Kramer
September 14: Deb Kufahl
September 21: Scott Kufahl
September 28: Sharon Hunter

COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:

August 3: Bob & Pat Seivert
August 10: Neil & Sue Juedes
August 17: Deb Kluetz
August 24: Dawn Kramer
August 31: Bob & Pat Seivert

September 7: Dawn Kramer
September 14: Deb Kufahl
September 21: Scott Kufahl
September 28: Lynn Schulz

USHERS:

August 3: M & L Heyne / M Schumitsch
August 10: M & C Vaningan / S Hunter
August 17: S & D Kufahl / S Wendorf
August 24: E Zabel / B Lampe / D Chapman
August 31: S & N Juedes / J Blaschka

September 7: G & L Schulz / D Kluetz / L Brokaw
September 14: L & M Heyne / M Schumitsch
September 21: M & C Vaningan / S Hunter
September 28: S & D Kufahl / S Wendorf

Subs: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka, Lowanne Brokaw, Matt & Lori Heyne, Sharon Hunter, Sue & Neil Juedes, Deb Kluetz, Deb Kufahl, Mike Vaningan, Earl Zabel



FELC Food Outreach

Last month, we shared a Temple Talk update about our community food outreach efforts. We've transitioned from a traditional food pantry to providing food care packages with a day's worth of groceries to people who come to the church seeking help with food. So far, we've provide emergency food care bags to six families. Some of you mentioned interest in

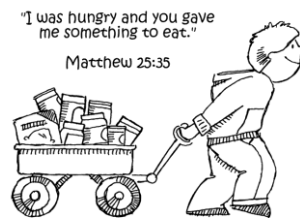
donating toward these food bags. The cost is \$20 per bag, and feel free to use your FELC giving envelopes earmarked for the food pantry. For those who prefer to bring food items to church for the emergency bags, the following are in the bags: peanut butter, jelly, baked beans, 2 boxes macaroni & cheese, beef stew, canned vegetables, 2 cans of tuna, instant mashed potatoes, and a box of protein bars.

We're also partnering with The Neighbor's Place, a nonprofit organization that helps people in our community with food and basic needs, as well as other organizations throughout the year with monetary donations, drives for needed items, and volunteering. We will soon be making a \$200 donation to The Neighbor's Place and know that we'll be reaching and empowering many families with this gift.

We're also exploring the concept of an outside micro-food pantry, similar to a free book library where people can take or leave nonperishable, temperature-resistant foods. We're still looking into the details and will share more when we have an update.

Feel free to contact any of us with questions or input: Cindy Hermel, Deb Thumstedter, Deb Kluetz, Pastor Mary, Mike Vanigan, Scott Kufahl, Kalynn Pempek, Angela Greenfield, and Dina Santangelo.

Thank you for your support and generosity in helping people in our community.



Members Absent: Carla Baumgardt, Michael Klapperich
Mike Vanigan led the opening devotions.

Reports:

May Meeting Minutes: The May Council minutes were reviewed and updates made. Kalynn Pempek moved and Neil Juedes seconded a motion to approve the May minutes. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: April Financial Reports were sent out via e-mail. Russ Michalski moved and Lois Stasko seconded a motion to accept the financial reports. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- **Parish Ed** – Cindy Hermel wrote up a thank you to Sunday school helpers to show them our appreciation.
- **Worship & Music** – Nothing to report.
- **Stewardship** – Nothing to report.
- **Church & Society** – Nothing to report.
- **Property** – Nothing to report.
- **Youth** – Nothing to report.
- **Wage & Policy** – Nothing to report.
- **Fair Stand** – Nothing to report.
- **Treasure Sale** – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- **Food Pantry Transition Task Force Recommendation** - The FELC Food Pantry Transition Task Force met on June 7 and recommends the following actions:
 - 1) Have emergency bags available at First English to distribute if food is requested.
 - 2) Explore an outdoor micro-pantry near the Cedar Street entrance.
 - 3) Support food pantry community outreach by supporting The Neighbors' Place. A monthly monetary pledge to be determined. Encourage members to volunteer at The Neighbors' Place food pantry.
 - 4) Support Sunday school and youth food collection events as they occur.
 - 5) Continue use of food pantry envelopes and designate the contributions among The Neighbors' Place, micro-pantry and emergency bags.
 - 6) Communication of these procedures will be through a temple talk on Sunday, June 22, 2025 by Kalynn Pempek.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, June 16, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Jenny Blaschka, Karen Czechowicz, Angela Greenfield, Cindy Hermel, Neil Juedes, Sherry Larson, Russ Michalski, Kalynn Pempek, Dina Santangelo, Nicholas Schumacher, Lois Stasko, Mike Vanigan, Marla Zumann

These changes would better provide help where it is most needed. Our food pantry fund can be used for the emergency bags, to build and supply the micro-pantry, and for monetary donations to the Neighbor's Place and other non-profits to help meet the needs of the community. Options still need to be explored with input from the congregation. Deb Thumstedter has volunteered to shop for and fill the emergency bags and keep the micro-pantry stocked. The temple talk on Sunday will share the recommendations and an overview of the concept of an outdoor pantry. Members will be asked for feedback, which will be brought back to the transition task force and Council. Neil Juedes moved, and Mike Vaningan seconded a motion to accept the recommendations from the transition task force. Motion passed.

- **Pastor Mary's Installation** – July 20th at 1:00 p.m. is the date for the installation. Invitations, with RSVPs, will be mailed to all members of the congregation, the Synod and clergy in the east central region, along with Pastor Mary's family and friends. There will be a salad buffet reception following the service. Pastor Mary will select the passages and hymns. The afternoon installation service will take the place of the Thursday and Sunday morning services. Notice of this will be placed in the bulletin until the event.
- **Retain Current & Attract New Members Goal Data Update** – The planning group has met a couple of times and came up with ideas for welcoming new people who attend services. They will develop welcome bags with various items to promote FELC. There's a new neon welcome card, which will be placed in the pews for visitors to fill out. The ushers and greeters need to give the cards to Pastor Mary who wants to personally reach out to each visitor. There will be a standard notice in the bulletin for visitors to turn the card in and a gift bag in matching neon color will be given to the guest.
- **Narthex Photo Display/Announcement Digital Update** - Working on picture displays for the narthex. No decisions on the monitors yet.

New Business:

- **First English Tee Shirts Update** – Jerome Dahlke indicated fair stand managers were thinking about wearing identifying polo shirts to help identify them to workers needing assistance.

Ideally utilizing the tee shirts for the fair stand would work well to also identify the all volunteers. However, we will not be ready to move forward fast enough to be ready for the fair. Angela Greenfield's daughter is still working on design ideas and we hope to have them available in fall.

- **No July Council Meeting**
- **Council Member Photos** – There will be a group Council photo in celebration of FELC's 107th year anniversary.
- **Zoom Subscription** – Pastor Mary requested that we get a Zoom subscription. The free Zoom package only allows for a 30-minute meeting. The cost is approximately \$200 annually. Kalynn Pempek moved and Mike Vaningan seconded a motion to purchase a Zoom subscription
- **Realm Team** – Will start to meet to get familiarized with the Realm tool, which has many capabilities including communications and reminders.
- **Fireside Room** – Jenny Blashka mentioned that after the treasure sale, the Fireside Room carpet needs to be professionally cleaned. She is going to work with the treasure sale team to do that.
- **Endowment Disbursement:** Endowment distribution recommendations were reported for the 1st Quarter of 2025. The Endowment Committee recommended the first quarter distribution of \$9,432.05 to be distributed as follows: 10% reinvested (\$943.21); Special projects option for Cedar St. security system update (\$2,000.00); Special projects option building fund for new Cedar Street doors (\$1,088.84). The Benevolence Disbursements of \$5,400.00 as follows: ELCA Synod (\$1,000.00); ELCA World Hunger (\$500.00); Lutheran Social Services (\$400.00); Crossway Camp (\$400.00); ELCA Missionary (\$800.00); Lutheran Disaster Response (\$300.00); Greater Wausau Christian Services (\$250.00); Homme Home Foundation (\$250.00); and NAOMI (\$200.00); Miscellaneous (\$1,300.00). Sherry Larson moved and Russ Michalski seconded a motion to accept the endowment distribution as presented. Motion passed.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, August 18, 2025

A motion to adjourn was made by Jenny Blaschka and seconded by Mike Vaningan. Meeting adjourned. Closing devotions by Mike Vaningan
Karen Czechowicz, Recording Secretary