

The Lantern - August 2026

First English Lutheran Church, ELCA



"Sharing the Light of Christ"



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

STAFF AND CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic

pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org

Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org

Minister of Music: Daniel Larson

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Custodians: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka

Sunday School Superintendent: VerJean Detert



Church Council Members

Officers:

President: Mike Vaningan

President-Elect: Sharon Hunter

Past President: Cindy Hermel

Treasurer: Marla Zumann

Recording Secretary: Sheri Fochs

Council Members:

Jenny Blaschka

Angela Greenfield

Neil Juedes

Michael Klapperich

Jim Kraft

Paula Lorbiecki

Liz Oestreich

Kalynn Pempek

Dina Santangelo

Nicholas Schumacher

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

THE PSALMS FOR TIMES LIKE THESE

Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

Ps 10:1

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge until the destroying storms pass by. Ps 57:1

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Ps 107:1

Soaring fuel prices, grocery prices climbing, a war of choice against Iran with no end in sight, political divide leading up to the mid-terms, and its summer. What will we do when winter comes and the heater must be turned on? Some of us worry about our children or grandchildren going off to college. Or perhaps we become anxious about how we will be able to afford school supplies and new clothes for our children as the school year begins. How will we survive this or that illness, broken relationship, or financial challenge?

What are your lists of anxieties? What are your joys? Yes, we all have them – the good and the bad! It's part of the human experience. Life gets difficult and even the best of us start to wonder "Why is God doing this! Or why isn't God doing something about this!" When I find myself getting weighed down by the worries and cares of the world I turn to the Psalms. If you haven't looked at them for a while I suggest you pick up your Bible and turn to the Old Testament where the Psalms are located. The author(s) of the Psalms is honest about life and relationship with God. The psalms, which were probably used as prayers and hymns in worship, give voice to the realities of life.

There are "*prayers for help*" (laments) – they include petitions and pleas for help as they describe references to physical and emotional

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suffering, divine affliction, or persecution. There are “songs of thanksgiving” – singing praise to God in gratitude for the help that was given. There are “hymns and royal psalms.”. There’s something for everyone and just about every situation.

What I most like about the psalms is that they allow one to honestly talk to God in times of trouble, in times of joy, in times of sorrow, in every time!!!

When you are facing difficult days – turn to the psalms. When you are rejoicing in God’s blessings – turn to the psalms. May you find in the Psalms a guide to talking and being at rest with God.

“The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.” Ps 145:13b-14

Peace,
Pastor Mary

August Worship Schedule



Sunday, August 2: Pentecost 10
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 9: Pentecost 11
Worship at 9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. service at the Fair Stand

Sunday, August 16: Pentecost 12
Worship at 9:00 a.m.
We will have a Guest Speaker from
Lutheran Social Services

Sunday, August 23 Pentecost 13
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

August 30: Pentecost 14

Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Congregation Hymn Sing
Blessing of Backpacks and School Supplies
Pet Blessing – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday Worship
August 6, 13, 20, 27 – 6:00 p.m.
in the sanctuary

First English Mission Statement

*Grow in faith,
serve our neighbors,
and support one another.*



Pet Blessing Service

First English will host a ‘Blessing of Pets’ worship service **Sunday, August 30, 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.



Blessing of the Backpacks and School Supplies

will be held on Sunday, August 30 at the 9:00am service.

Students, remember to bring your backpacks and receive a special blessing before the new school begins!

During the month of August, our Sunday School students will be collecting school supplies for their Mission Sunday. After all is collected, the school supplies will be distributed to our local schools. A collection box will be placed at the altar for your donations. Thank you!



**“When I am afraid, I put my trust
in you.” -- Psalm 56:3**

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 **\$15,488.77!** Well done, members!



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

With new ideas to look at we are excited for Treasure Sale 2026!

NEWSLETTER ACCESS

Beginning this month (August 2026), 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.

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.



FAIR STAND NEWS

It is said that change is unavoidable and that is true for our Fair Stand this year.

These changes are the result of low number of sign-ups in crucial areas in the kitchen and short order stand.



The Short Order stand will remain the same. More workers are needed to prevent the workers already signed up to put in more time. If you are able to help out, come to the church for an entry pass, and head on down to the Stand. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

The kitchen is where the changes will be. The Breakfast menu/shift remains the same. After the morning breakfast shift, the kitchen will be cut back to a limited menu. – *continued p. 4*

There will be no dinners, sandwiches, chili, or bar-b-que. Only pie, ice cream, soda, milk and coffee will be served.

Since meals will not be served, cutting vegetables in the morning will not be needed.

Fair Stand Entrance Tickets will again be available from 10am – 4pm for those who work at the Stand. To sign out a ticket, use the southeast entrance on Cedar Street when you head down to Marathon Park. Your ticket must be turned in to the kitchen cashier when you arrive.

Fair Stand Workdays...

Monday, August 10: 8:00 a.m. - ? It takes just as much work to take down the Stand as it does to put it up. If you can help out on this day, please come down to the park. The work is faster and easier when there is a hard-working group helping.

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

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

4602 Barbican Ave. Weston, WI 54476

- Sue McKee #235

- Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen #121

Rennes Health and Rehab

4810 Barbican Ave., Weston, WI 54476

- Ila Barttelt Room 409-1

Sylvan Crossings on Evergreen

1605 Evergreen Rd., Wausau WI 54403

- Dolores Hintz Room 13

Wood Aven Living Community

1821 N.4th Ave. Wausau 54401

- Gary Klingbeil Room 110

AT HOME...

- **Sue Crone** 2901 N. 7th St. Apt. W-308

Wausau, WI 54403 715-581-8592

- **Audrey Fellbaum** 1204 Spruce St.

Wausau, WI 54401 715-845-9552

- **John & Karen Otto** 6401 Teagan Lane

Weston 54476 715-241-6369

- **Gary Pagel** 1508 Merrill Ave. #405

Wausau 54401 715-842-9784

- **Delphine Saeger** 151700 Fern Ln.

Wausau 54401 715-298-3210

- **Eleanor Thorpe** 2901 N. 7th St. Apt. W102

Wausau 54403 715-298-1865

Worship Assistants - Ushers

Communion Set-up and

Assistants -

Communionware Washers

Greeters - Lectors - Acolytes



TO THOSE WHO ASSIST IN WORSHIP

FYI...this note is just to let you know Sharon Hunter is scheduling the weekly Thursday and Sunday worship service volunteers. If you cannot serve when you are scheduled, please find

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someone to take your place and let Sharon know so the correct name is reflected in the bulletin. We truly appreciate everyone who helps to make our worship service meaningful. Reach Sharon at shunteratdpi@msn.com or 715 212 1672.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

August 2: Pat Seivert
August 9: Kalynn Pempek
August 16: Connie Vaningan
August 23: Lynne Santangelo
August 30: Pat Seivert

September 6: Kalynn Pempek
September 13: Connie Vaningan
September 20: Lynne Santangelo
September 27: Pat Seivert

ACOLYTES:

August 2: Annabelle Oestreich
August 9: Kynslei Koehler-Dahlquist
August 16: Kaedyn Hadley
August 23: Brooklynn Detert
August 30: Annabelle Oestreich

September 6: Kynslei Koehler-Dahlquist
September 13: Kaedyn Hadley
September 20: Brooklynn Detert
September 27: Annabelle Oestreich

LECTORS:

August 2: Sharon Hunter
August 9: Sue Juedes
August 16: Pat Seivert
August 23: Kalynn Pempek
August 30: Lynne Santangelo

September 6: Lette Becker
September 13: Karen Briggs
September 20: Matt Schumitsch
September 27: Sue Juedes

LECTORS: (Thursday Evening Worship)

August 6: Maralee Moellendorf
August 13: Bobbie Levine
August 20: Barry Levine
August 27: Marla Zumann
September 3: Cheri Breneman
September 10: Maralee Moellendorf
September 17: Bobbie Levine
September 24: Barry Levine

ALTAR GUILD:

August: VerJean Detert
September: Sue Juedes

GREETERS:

August 2: Cindy Hermel / Linda Kittel
August 9: Dilynn Koehler / Deb Kufahl
August 16: Matt & Dawn Schumitsch
August 23: Gene & Lynn Schulz
August 30: Lois Stasko / Sharon Hunter

September 6: Mike & Connie Vaningan
September 13: Matt & Dawn Schumitsch
September 20: Amy Abitz and Eli Akey
September 27: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka

COMMUNION SET-UP:

August 2: VerJean Detert
August 9: Deb Kluetz
August 16: Deb Kluetz
August 23: VerJean Detert
August 30: Deb Kluetz

September 6: VerJean Detert
September 13: Deb Kluetz
September 20: VerJean Detert
September 27: Deb Kluetz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

August 2: Jenny Blaschka
August 9: Sharon Hunter
August 16: Lowanne Brokaw
August 23: Joan Heahlke
August 30: Sharon Hunter

September 6: Deb Kufahl
September 13: Lynn Schulz
September 20: Emma Schumitsch
September 27: Sue Wolf

COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:

August 2: Deb Kluetz
August 9: Bob & Pat Seivert
August 16: Lynne Santangelo
August 23: Neil & Sue Juedes
August 30: Deb Kluetz

September 6: Bob & Pat Seivert
September 13: Lynne Santangelo
September 20: Neil & Sue Juedes
September 27: Deb Kluetz

USHERS:

August 2: Scott & Deb Kufahl / Steve Wendorf
August 9: D Chapman / B Lampe / E Zabel
August 16: Neil & Sue Juedes / Jenny Blaschka
August 23: G & L Schulz / Lowanne Brokaw /
Deb Kluetz
August 30: Matt & Lori Heyne/Matt Schumitsch

September 6: Mike & Connie Vaningan /
Sharon Hunter
September 13: Scott & Deb Kufahl / Steve Wendorf
September 20: Duane Chapman / Bob Lampe /
Earl Zabel
September 27: Jenny Blaschka/Neil & Sue
Juedes

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

In Every Season, Turn to God

- Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*
- Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*
- Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*
- Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*
- Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*
- Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.



Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

