

The Lantern – July 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

Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

Email:

Debra@firstenglishwausau.onmicrosoft.com

Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic

Minister of Music: Daniel Larson

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Custodians: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka

Sunday School Superintendent: VerJean Detert

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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.**

A Prayer for Independence Day

The Fourth of July remains a special time to applaud the birth of our nation while keeping the peace, justice, and freedom found in Christ at the center of the celebration. *“For freedom, Christ has set all free.”* (Galatians 5:1)

Almighty God,
you rule all the peoples of the earth.
Inspire the minds of all women and men to
whom you have committed
the responsibility of government and leadership
in the nations of the world.
Give to them the vision of truth and justice,
that by their counsel all nations and peoples may
work together.
Give to the people of our country
zeal for justice and strength of forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with
your gracious will.
Forgive our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
We pray all these things through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

~ Andy Langford, UMC Discipleship
Resources, Prayer for Independence Day



First English Mission Statement

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



July Worship Schedule...

July 6: **6th Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

July 13: **7th Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

July 20: **8th Sunday after Pentecost**
Installation Service of
Pastor Mary Zupansic
1:00 p.m.
No worship service at 9:00 a.m.

July 27: **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday Night Worship:

July 3, 10, 24, and 31
in the sanctuary – 6:00 p.m.

There will be no Thursday worship on July 17.

Attention, College Students...

Did you know that First English has a



Scholarship Fund available for its members?
The Pastor Jay Kamrath Scholarship Fund can help with the tuition of active members of our congregation who are attending a college or seminary. If you are interested, please submit an application letter about yourself to the church

office by July 15, 2025 to be considered for the upcoming school year. You will be notified prior to August 15, 2025 of the results. Thanks!



Parish Records...June 2025

Affirmation of Baptism:

"Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in your children the gift of your Holy Spirit. Confirm their faith, guide their lives, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to everlasting life. Amen."

On Sunday, June 1, two of our young members made public affirmation of their baptismal vows. May God guide them in their faith journey and bless their service to their church here at First English.

Congratulations and God's blessings to
Mabel Akey and Nickolas Marquard!

Funerals:

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

June 17: Joyce Pagel

June 23: Carol Henke

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 we made

\$14,902.38 with possibly more coming in.

This fantastic amount will go toward our Elevator Repair. Shoppers were lined up before the sale began. 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.



Congratulations!

to our own Kathi Zoern who is the winner of the David Hall award. This award goes to someone who advocates for individuals with disabilities and works to break down barriers for those we serve.

Kathi has made it her personal mission to educate others on the impacts of daily life and being blind. Kathi has put a lot of focus on transportation access and ease of travel for those who are blind or visually impaired. She pushes for these supports at a local, state and national levels. She has worked with the

Statutory Counsel for the Blind and stays up-to-date on the latest technology available for those who are blind or visually impaired. Just a few of many things Kathi has advocated for and done are: completing walk audits for crosswalks and traffic lights, advocated for audible walk lights locally, making sure websites and printed materials are accessible, speaking to transit commissions on behalf of public transportation.

We are lucky every day that you are using your voice and it's being heard and making a difference at all levels of government. Thank you, Kathi!

Congratulations, from your church family!



Summer Church Office Hours...

Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(closed for lunch: Noon – 1:00 p.m.)

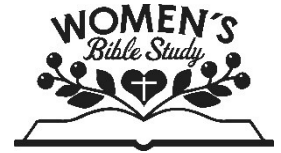


Deadlines:

Bulletin: Wednesday afternoon

Lantern: 20th of each month

**Shalom Circle and
Charity Circle**
will not meet in July or
August.



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

Thank You...

We thank these members for their recent contributions to First English through their Thrivent Choice Dollars for June...

- Roger Stasko

ROCK the BLOCK...

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau is sponsoring their second annual week-long fix-up, clean-up event. This year's effort will focus on a block off 7th St. Jobs range from semi-skilled to merely willing, and may include landscaping, lawn clean-up, weatherization and minor repairs. 20 volunteers are needed for Friday, July 18. We would like to fill as many of those spots as possible with volunteers from First English. We envision a multi-generational effort. Youth under 12 should be eager workers and accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. PLEASE sign up quickly as many churches will be looking to participate during that week. You will find a sheet in the Narthex.

With Summer...

Just around the corner, it's time for relaxing weekends and leisure time with family and friends. However, your congregation still needs your support, even in the summer. We ask and encourages you to remain faithful to your pledge and offerings of financial support. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. We appreciate your faithfulness and dedicated support!



Fair Stand Workdays:

Set-up:

Thursday, July 24: Day 1 -- 8:00 a.m. -?

Friday, July 25: Day 2 -- 8:00 a.m. -?

Prep/Clean the Stand:

Saturday, July 26: 8:00 a.m. -?

Take down the Stand:

Monday, August 4: 8:00 a.m. -?

Entrance Passes:

We provide daily passes for our workers at the Fair Stand. Passes will be available at the church in the library area from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. You won't need to pick up a pass if you work the breakfast shift and arrive at the stand before 7am. Be sure to turn in the pass at the stand in the kitchen so it may be used by someone else on another day.

The Wisconsin Valley Fair

July 29 – August 3, 2025

Marathon Park

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



It's Fair time and that means fun, fellowship and all that great Fair food...including the delicious food prepared at our own Fair Stand.

It's a great opportunity to get to know the members of your church family even better!

The Fair Stand is a huge undertaking, and it won't be successful if we don't have the crew. It's a lot of work, but also fun and rewarding.

The Work Charts are in the narthex coatroom waiting for the slots to be filled. Check out the charts and see where you would like to work. There is something for everyone and you may even have your favorite spot! It is hoped that those who like to see the Fair Stand continue will offer their help and support. For those who are new to the Fair Stand, it may sound overwhelming, but there is on-the-job training! The charts are in the library area by the church office during the week.

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!



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



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 will open very soon!

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!



The Lawn Mowing Schedule...

is on the narthex table for those who would like to mow and trim our church lawn this summer. There are still quite a few slots open. Stop and take a look at the sheet and sign up for the date(s) that best fit your schedule.



August 3: Kynslei
August 10: Kaedyn
August 17: Brooklynn
August 24: Kynslei
August 31: Kaedyn

LECTORS:

July 6: Sue Juedes
July 13: Russ Michalski
July 20: Karen Otto
July 27: Kalynn Pempek

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

LECTORS: (Thursday Evening Worship)

July 3: Bobbie Levine
July 10: Barry
July 17: **No Thursday worship**
July 24: Cheri Breneman
July 31: Bobbie Levine

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

GREETERS:

July 6: Gene & Lynn Schulz
July 13: Matt & Dawn Schumitsch
July 20: Mike & Connie Vaningan
July 27: Amy Abitz/Eli Akey/
Steve Wendorf

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

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:

July 6: Connie Vaningan
July 13: Nicholas Schumacher
July 20: Lynne Santangelo
July 27: Pat Seivert

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

ALTAR GUILD:

July: Jane Schalow
August: Sue Juedes

ACOLYTES:

July 6: Brooklynn
July 13: Kynslei
July 20: TBD
July 27: Brooklynn

COMMUNION SET-UP:

July 6: VerJean Detert
July 13: Deb Kluetz
July 20: Dawn Kramer
July 27: Marla Zumann

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

August 3: Matt & Lori Heyne /Matt Schumitsch
August 10: Mike & Connie Vaningan /
Sharon Hunter
August 17: Scot & Deb Kufahl /Steve Wendorf
August 24: Earl Zabel / Bob Lampe /
Duane Chapman
August 31: Sue & Neil Juedes / Jenny Blaschka

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

July 6: Dawn Kramer
July 13: Gene Schulz
July 20: Lynn Schulz
July 27: Emma Schumitsch

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

COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:

July 6: Lynne Santangelo
July 13: Neil & Sue Juedes
July 20: Deb Kluetz
July 27: Dawn Kramer

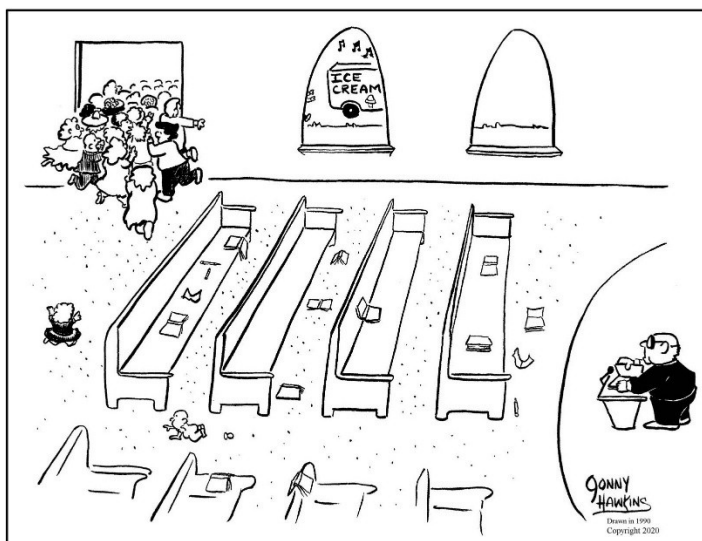
August 3: Bob & Pat Seivert
August 10: Neil & Sue Juedes
August 17: Deb Kluetz
August 24: Dawn Kramer
August 31: Bob & Pat Seivert

USHERS:

July 6: Scott & Deb Kufahl/Steve Wendorf
July 13: Earl Zabel/Bob Lampe
Duane Chapman
July 20: Sue & Neil Juedes/Jenny Blaschka
July 27: Gene & Lynn Schulz/Deb Kluetz/
Lowanne Brokaw

The ELCA...Follow Us On Social Media.

Do you follow the ELCA on social media? Keep informed with church news, event notices, pictures and video across many platforms. Bishop Eaton offers encouraging words as we go through these difficult times. Look for us at Facebook.com/Lutherans@ELCA on Twitter; @ELCA on Instagram and YouTube.com/ELCA. Join this online community of Lutherans!



*The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
Psalm 118:14 NRSVUE*

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Jenny Blaschka, Karen Czechowicz, Angela Greenfield, Cindy Hermel, Michael Klapperich, Russ Michalski, Dina Santangelo, Nicholas Schumacher, Lois Stasko, Mike Vaningan, Marla Zumann and Pastor Mary Zupansic. Scott Kufahl (guest)

Members Absent: Carla Baumgardt, Neil Juedes, Sherry Larson, Kalynn Pempek

Lois Stasko led the opening devotions.

Reports:

April Meeting Minutes: The April Council minutes were reviewed. Mike Vaningan moved and Lois Stasko seconded a motion to approve the April minutes. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: March Financial Reports were sent out via e-mail. The April Financial Reports have not yet been received from Wausau Tax & Accounting.

Committee Reports:

- **Parish Ed** – Discussed cradle roll, which is a display that will keep track of baptisms/births. Received a youth roster to help plan activities. Kids in Mission will be two and a half days--the dates to be determined. Discussed 2025-26 education schedules consisting of two-year-olds through confirmation. Four- and five-year-olds might be split in two different classes.
- **Worship & Music** – Pastor Mary Zupansic and Dan Larson will meet to work out details for music for summer. Summer music events may include hymn sing once a month, Christmas in July, the use of With One Music and the white contemporary soft bound hymnals. Regarding communion, individual prefilled glasses will be used for the wine. Trays will be on the altar for the Eucharist

blessing along with communion sets that can be used for home-bound visitation. Pastor Mary will order a wine glass purificator. Gluten-free wafers will be offered for those who need them and set aside in a designated place during communion. We will be looking into setting up a children's pray-ground in the front of the church for Pre-K school age children where the parents can be close for supervision, as needed, during the service.

- **Stewardship** – Thank you cards were written. Will begin planning Stewardship packets in August.
- **Church & Society** – Discussed Boys & Girls Club volunteer event. The volunteer survey consisting of places to volunteer was discussed. Habitat for Humanity Rock the Block event is looking for intergenerational group volunteers for Friday, July 18. Will volunteer in June to sort diapers for The Neighbors' Place/Babies Place. God's Will Our Hands volunteer activities are planned for September 7 to include Arts Festival and Children's Imginarium.
- **Property** – Jenny Blaschka mentioned that she noticed some loose floor tiles and paint peeling caused by water seepage from the window wells. The bathroom off the narthex also has some tiles that came loose. The Property Committee to see if they can be glued down and possibly get covers to the window wells. Scott Kufahl to contact the person that cleans our gutters to see if extra downspouts can be added. The cylinder for our elevator repair has been ordered and will be stored downstairs at the end of June.
- **Youth** – Nothing to report.
- **Wage & Policy** – Nothing to report
- **Fair Stand** – The rental of the facility has been paid for. Planning a meeting in June to solicit ideas on how to do things better and verify the menu.
- **Treasure Sale** – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- **Pastor Appreciation** – Discussed acknowledging Pastor Barry Levine, Pastors Bill and Tryphine Schrubba this Sunday. Will have a card with their gift. Cindy Hermel made some colorful heart cards to write individual personalized notes to present to them. There will be flowers in church in appreciation of the service along with refreshments and treats. An appreciation acclamation will be read after the announcements.
- **Pastor Mary's Installation** – July 20th is the date for the installation. The Synod and Pastor Asher are available for the afternoon on that date. It was decided to do only one service in the afternoon and cancel the Sunday morning and Thursday services.
- **Retain Current & Attract New Members Goal Data Review** – The Welcome Visitors Group met and came up with a list of helpful tips for further consideration: 1) Create a single use visitor card for pews in a neon color to be more visual. 2) Identify who receives visitor cards and is responsible for follow up communications with the visitor(s). It was suggested the Stewardship Committee send a message to visitors thanking them for attending and inviting them to return. 3) Create welcome packets for visitors (brochures with colorful pictures of various FELC activities, bookmark, stress ball with note; Life is stressful, you are loved). 4) Develop welcome statements. 5) Welcome signage created by children and display in church. 6) Create a tab on FELC Website for visitors/newcomers. 7) Display photos of FELC activities and share announcements on screen/projector. 8) FELC tee shirts: Create three designs, display and have congregation vote on which one to order. Cindy Hermel to summarize the goals the Council came up with to help develop an action plan.
- **Cancellation Communication Plan** - Realm has the capability for mass emailing/text messaging through Constant Contact. For an extra fee, mass messages can be sent out

to give notice of service cancellation. A small telephone tree is planned for those that do not use smart phone technology.

New Business:

- **First English Tee Shirts** – Angela Greenfield's daughter will come with three designs to have congregation vote on their favorite. Suggested we create a new logo to mesh with a recognizable visual of the church. Also suggested utilizing youth artwork. The timeline ideally would be completed for use at the fair.
- **Door Replacement Cost** – Received a quote from Complete Control Inc. for audio/video intercom and keypad entry for the Cedar Street for \$5,721.34. The Council previously approved this security system for up to \$5,000. Jenny Blaschka moved and Russ Michalski seconded that motion to approve the total amount of \$5,721.34. Motion passed.
- **Narthex Photo Display (Old school & Digital)** - Looking at having an electronic display for the opportunities we offer at FELC. Michael Klapperich and Pastor Mary Zupansic volunteered to work on options on what works best for our building.
- **July Council Meeting** – Pastor Mary Zupansic suggested the Council and committees take a break in July to refresh. Mike Vaningan moved, and Nicholas Schumacher seconded a motion to take a break in July. Motion passed.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 16, 2025

A motion to adjourn was made by Jenny Blaschka and seconded by Dina Santangelo. Meeting adjourned.

Closing devotions by Lois Stasko

Karen Czechowicz, Recording Secretary

“Lord, remember me”

The funeral of renowned evangelist Billy Graham was a celebration — not of the preacher’s long life and many accomplishments but of his arrival in heaven. Graham, who died at age 99 in February 2018, was confident he’d spend eternity with Jesus but knew the reason wasn’t his own status or actions.


Graham knew he was a sinner in need of forgiveness. “I still need the cross,” he said.

Graham added, “I am not going to heaven because I have preached to great crowds or read the Bible many times. I’m going to heaven just like the thief on the cross who said in that last moment: ‘Lord, remember me.’”

Whatever the Weather

No matter the forecast, weather can remind us of God’s presence:

- When it’s sunny, remember that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12).
- When it’s cloudy, remember that God often spoke to and guided his people from a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22.)
- During a thunderstorm, remember the thunder and lightning when God beckoned Moses to Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16).
- When it rains or snows, remember that God’s Word serves his purpose just as precipitation does (Isaiah 55:10-11).
- When it’s windy, remember that “a wind from God” came at Creation (Genesis 1:2), and God’s Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost like a mighty wind (Acts 2:2).



PUZZLE

SAVED BY GRACE

Leaders of the early church discussed whether newly converted Gentiles must keep the Law of Moses. How did Peter answer?

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below to complete Acts 15:11, NIV.

NO~~/~~WEGBEKLIBEVG~~/~~EIT~~/~~IYS
 TUHRCOUJGHRTHOEGPRAH
 CEIOFXOUKRLHORCDJSESP
 USGTHWATYWEOARBESPAVLED
 RJUCSTQASHTHBEYFAROE

_____ " Acts 15:11, NIV



Answer: "No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." Acts 15:11, NIV