

The Lantern - July 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:

Officers:

President: Mike Vaningan

President-Elect: Sharon Hunter

Past President: Cindy Hermel

Treasurer: Marla Zumann

Recording Secretary: Sheri Fochs

Council Members:

Jenny Blaschka

Paula Lorbiecki

Angela Greenfield

Liz Oestreich

Neil Juedes

Kalynn Pempek

Michael Klapperich

Dina Santangelo

Jim Kraft

Nicholas Schumacher

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

FAITHFUL FREEDOM

At a recent Sunday morning "Coffee & Conversation," we discussed the Declaration of Independence. As we prepare for the 250th anniversary of its signing, we can give thanks for civic life: liberty, democracy, and the freedoms that allow people of many faiths—and none—to live together as neighbors. We can also lament that our nation's ideals have often exceeded our practice, as freedom has been denied through slavery, racism, displacement, exclusion, poverty, and violence. As Christians, we give thanks for what is good while telling the truth about what is broken.

That truth-telling matters as Christian nationalism becomes more visible. This ideology blends Christian and national identity, treats the United States as specially chosen by God, privileges one faith tradition, and often casts neighbors as threats rather than people made in God's image. It distorts both Christian faith and democratic life.

As Lutherans, we respond with clarity, humility, and courage. Our confession begins not with a flag, party, nation, or ideology, but with Jesus Christ crucified and risen. The church proclaims the gospel, administers the sacraments, forms disciples, and serves the neighbor. In baptism, we receive an identity deeper than citizenship: we belong to Christ and are freed to love the world.

Lutheran theology teaches that God works through civic life for order, justice, and the common good. Christians may participate publicly by voting, serving, advocating, listening, and holding leaders accountable. But we must not confuse God's kingdom with any nation. When patriotism becomes worship, faith justifies domination, or power is treated as God's will against our neighbors, Christians must say no.

Continued on page 2

So, what are we called to do?

We are called to worship God alone. Our worship centers on Christ, not nation, party, or power.

We are called to tell the truth. Love of neighbor requires honest speech about history, injustice, and the misuse of religious language.

We are called to protect religious freedom for all. Because faith cannot be coerced, we defend freedom of conscience for every neighbor.

We are called to stand with vulnerable neighbors. Jesus sends us toward those who are marginalized, scapegoated, feared, or forgotten.

We are called to practice humble citizenship. We participate in democracy as servants seeking justice, peace, and the common good.

Most of all, Christian freedom is freedom for the neighbor. In Christ, we are freed from fear, idolatry, and domination, and freed to serve. In this anniversary year, may our Lutheran witness show courage without contempt, conviction without cruelty, and love that seeks the flourishing of all.

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 5: 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

July 12: 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

July 19: 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

July 26: 9th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday Night Worship:
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
in the sanctuary – 6:00 p.m.

Hymn Sing – July 5

Tentative – Worship with Service of Healing Aug 16

Hymn Sing – August 30

Blessing of the Pets – August 30 1pm



First English Mission Statement

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

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

OFFICE HOURS prior to May 26:
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(closed from Noon – 1:00 p.m.)



TREASURE SALE NEWS

The 2026 Treasure Sale was a very successful one! With your help and donations, we were able to take in over \$14,000. We had lots of people waiting in line on the first day!

A big thanks to

- the men who set up all the tables and racks,
- the women who hung up all the clothes and put out the items in Fellowship Hall.
- the crew who marked the items and checked out the clothes.
- A special thank you to Cheri and Jaynee for their devotion to this sale!

Each and every task, small or large, help make up the greatest Treasure Sale in our community. Our congregation should be proud! God bless you all! -- *Kathy Rohde*

Thank you
VOLUNTEERS!

COFFEE HOSTS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers who are willing to host our Sunday after-worship coffee hours. There is not a lot of work involved, simply bring some treats and a beverage to share. There is always someone around to help with making coffee! The schedule sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Thank you!



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 will soon be in the narthex on Sunday mornings and outside the church office during the week. Check out the charts and see where you would like to help. There is something for everyone and you may even have your favorite spot! For those who may be new to the Fair Stand, it may look massive, but there is lots of help and on-the-job training! Plus it's a lot of fun!

2) Fair Stand Workdays...

Friday, July 31, 7:00 a.m. – to put up the two structures of the Fair Stand. We'll get an early start! Come and help when you can.

- Monday, August 10, 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 for these two workdays is very much appreciated!! Please come!



THANK YOU

Dear Rummage Sale workers,
We were glad to hear you had a successful sale!
We would also like to thank you all for sharing the extras after the sale with us.
Your donations to Orphan Grain Train will be a blessing to many people throughout the world.
With your partnership, we can share the love of Jesus as each box is opened.
Looking forward to working with you again next year.

In Christ,
Wayne Flanagan

Note: Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical and other needed items to people in 74 different countries including 40 states in the USA. Following our sale, all the clothing, shoes and purses were taken to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Wausau whose members are active in the ministry of Orphan Grain Train.



THE LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE

is on the narthex table for those who would like to mow and trim our church lawn this spring and summer. Stop and look at the sheet and sign up for the date(s) that best fits your schedule. **We could use more volunteers for this project.** Also – if you enjoy gardening and working with flowers, and are willing to work on our landscaping, there is a sheet for that as well.

**PRAY,
Wait,
TRUST.**

KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Hello all- I will once again be needing your help with my continued work with LWR Kits. I have decided to try and assemble some School Kits as well as the Personal Care Kits.

Donations of:

DARK colored bath size towels (20-27" x 40-52")

OR School kit items:

- *70-80 sheet SPIRAL Notebooks Wide or Collage Ruled (280-320 sheets total)
- *30 centimeter ruler
- *blunt scissors
- *pencil sharpener
- *#2 pencils w/erasers (unsharpened)
- *black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- *box of 16 or 24 crayons
- *2 1/2" erasers



I will be accepting items until mid August. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. There will be a basket in the narthex under the table. Thank you for any donations you can provide! -- Lori Heyne

ATTENTION, COLLEGE STUDENTS...

Don't miss the deadline!

Through the Pastor Jay Kamrath Scholarship Fund, we are able to 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 either in person or to Deb's email at parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org by July 15, 2026 to be considered for the upcoming school year. You will be notified by Matt Heyne prior to August 15, 2025 of the results.



**FOLLOW FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
WAUSAU on Facebook and
Instagram!**

It is a pretty cool way to get some interesting links and notes, along with photos, thoughts and ideas during the week...and to stay connected with our church family.



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 Bartlett 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

GRACE IS A GIFT

When we work an eight-hour day and receive eight hours' pay for our efforts, that is a WAGE. When we compete with an opponent and receive a trophy for our superior performance, that is a PRIZE.

When we receive something in recognition for our service or achievement, that is an AWARD. But when we can earn no wage, can win no prize and deserve no reward – yet we receive such a gift – that is unmerited favor. That is undeserved kindness. That is GRACE.



'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.





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

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 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:

July 5: Pat Seivert
July 12: Kalynn Pempek
July 19: Connie Vaningan
July 26: Lynne Santangelo

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

ACOLYTES:

July 5: Annabelle Oestreich
July 12: Kynslei Koehler-Dahlquist
July 19: Kaedyn Hadley
July 26: Brooklynn Detert

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

LECTORS:

July 5: Pat Seivert
July 12: Connie Vaningan
July 19: Lette Becker
July 26: Karen Briggs

August 2: Sharon Hunter
August 9: Sue Juedes
August 16: Dawn Kramer
August 23: Kalynn Pempek
August 30: Lynne Santangelo

LECTORS: (Thursday Evening Worship)

July 2: Maralee Moellendorf
July 9: Bobbie Levine
July 16: Barry Levine
July 23: Marla Zumann
July 30: Cheri Breneman

August 2: Maralee Moellendorf
August 9: Bobbie Levine
August 16: Barry Levine
August 23: Marla Zumann
August 30: Cheri Breneman

ALTAR GUILD:

July: Marla Zumann
August: VerJean Detert

GREETERS:

July 5: Matt & Dawn Schumitsch
July 12: Amy Abitz and Eli Akey
July 19: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka
July 26: VerJean Detert/Angela Greenfield

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

COMMUNION SET-UP:

July 5: Deb Kluetz
July 12: VerJean Detert
July 19: Deb Kluetz
July 26: VerJean Detert

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

July 5: Emma Schumitsch
July 12: Pat Seivert
July 19: Sue Wolf
July 26: Lette Becker

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

COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:

July 5: Deb Kluetz
July 12: Bob & Pat Seivert
July 19: Lynne Santangelo
July 26: Neil & Sue Juedes

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



USHERS:

July 5: Neil & Sue Juedes / Jenny Blaschka
July 12: G & L Schulz / Deb Kluetz /
Lowanne Brokaw
July 19: Matt & Lori Heyne / Matt Schumitsch
July 26: M & C Vaningan / Sharon Hunter

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

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

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Jenny Blaschka, Cindy Hermel, Sharon Hunter, Neil Juedes, Michael Klapperich, Jim Kraft, Elizabeth Oestreich, Kalynn Pempek, Dina Santangelo, Nicholas Schumacher, Mike Vaningan, Marla Zumann, Pastor Mary Zupansic, Scott Kufahl (guest), Karen Czechowicz (guest recording secretary)

Members Absent: Sheri Fochs, Angela Greenfield, Paula Lorbeicki

Cindy Hermel led opening devotions.

Reports:

May Meeting Minutes: May Council minutes were previously approved and printed in The Lantern.

Financial Reports: April & May Financial Reports were provided on Realm. Kalynn Pempek moved and Cindy Hermel seconded a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- **Pastor's Report** – The Pastor's Report contained a Synod assembly snapshot.

Pastor Mary announced that Bob and Pat Seivert's son, Chad passed away. Looking at July 5 and August 30 for special services with a choir and will be planning the blessing of the pets and a healing service.

- **Parish Ed/Youth** – Put together calendar of all the dates for next year. Added a date for GiGi's walk.
- **Worship & Music** –Greeters have been handing out bulletins at services leaving users with little to do. Questioned if we have a job description for volunteer positions to clarify responsibilities. Would like to have updated volunteer position descriptions created, which also needs to be added to Realm. Sharon Hunter to help Pastor Mary to put together.
- **Stewardship** – Nothing to report.
- **Church & Society** – Jim Kraft thanked those who attended the Synod convention for giving a presentation at adult forum
- **Property** – Had issues with the bathroom during the treasure sale. Had to call a plumber service to come in. There was cloth pulled out of the toilet. Suggested next year the door be closed off near the bathroom.
- **Wage & Policy** – Nothing to report.
- **Fair Stand** – Nothing to report
- **Treasure Sale** – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- **Constitution Update** – Pastor Mary got a copy of A Model Constitution for ELCA through the Synod and a printout of practical changes we need to make to our constitution. Cindy Hermel and Joan Heahlke will make changes to our constitution and bring changes to Council for approval to then present to the congregation.
- **Realm Update** – Discussed putting The Lantern only on Realm but not practical because of the low number of users. Suggested putting through Realm and via email. For July, will operate newsletter as usual through email and will give instructions to Deb how to post in Realm. Will also print and put in the back of church. Sharon Hunter will keep reminding people not signed up to sign up for Realm.
- **Directory** – Suggested to move forward with a new directory. Cindy Hermel and Mike

Vaningan will look into it. We need to make sure pictures are uploaded in Realm.

New Business:

- No new business

Next Meeting Date: No meetings in July, Monday, August 17, 2026

A motion to adjourn was made by Jenny Blaschka and seconded by Neil Juedes. Meeting adjourned. Closing devotions were provided by Cindy Hermel.

Karen Czechowicz, Recording Secretary (guest)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, Messiah, is a setting of scriptural texts.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.



“America is a tune. It must be sung together.”

- Gerald Stanley Lee