

The Lantern – June 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.

THE SACRED PACE OF REST

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, “You can’t hurry compost for the same reason you can’t hurry love and you can’t hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace.” In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed.

Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God.

In a culture that prizes speed and productivity, stepping away may feel counterintuitive. Yet it is in these still moments that our souls are restored and made fertile for growth. The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 7: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

June 14: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

June 21: 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

June 28: 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

**Thursday Night Worship:
June 4, 11, 18, and 25
in the sanctuary – 6:00 p.m.**

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.)

AFTER WORSHIP COFFEE HOURS

The new sign-up sheet is on the narthex table 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! More volunteers are needed. You don't have to provide fancy treats are just fine, and there is always someone around to help with making coffee! Thanks!

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FIRST ENGLISH

On June 16th, 1918, First English congregation was officially formed. In your envelope packets there is an ANNIVERSARY envelope for you to offer a gift of gratitude for our community of faith. Our thanks and praise to God for God's guidance and grace over these 108 years!

**OUR SINCERE
CONGRATULATIONS**

to these 2026 graduates of
First English:



Wausau West High School:

- Gracin Dittmar
- Addison Fochs
Addie will be attending the University of Minnesota in the Fall and majoring in Management Information Systems.
- Ella Radke
Ella will be attending UW-Oshkosh pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in nursing.

Wausau WAVE:

- Abigail Schumacher

UW-Stevens Point:

- Jack Beliunas
Jack graduates with Bachelor's Degree in Media Studies

Graduates: remember that no matter where the road leads you or what paths you take, God will be with you. Congratulations and our very best wishes from your First English family!

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11.



ATTENTION, COLLEGE STUDENTS...

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.



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 take a look at the sheet and sign up for the date(s) that best fits your schedule.

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.

AED REFRESHER- June 2nd

Join us for a refresher on how to use the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices located in the church office area and room off the narthex on Tuesday, June 2nd at 6:30 p.m. We'll watch a short video and demonstrate how to call for help and use the AED when someone suddenly collapses and is not responsive. No medical experience is



needed. The AED is meant for community members to use in public places. Heart healthy snacks will be served. Feel free to contact any of the Property Committee members if you have questions. Thank you again to our member for the generous gift to provide these AEDs for our church!

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.



THE TREASURE SALE is just around the corner!

Thursday, June 11: 9:00am – 6:00pm
Friday, June 12: 9:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday, June 13: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Thank you so much to everyone for your donations! **We are no longer accepting donations for the June Sale with the exception of furniture or large items.** We need lots of help with the sale: setting up, during the sale, and cleaning/packing up. Sign-up work sheets are in the coatroom. If you enjoy sorting and organizing the books section and women's clothing, these two areas are now ready for set-up.



An Invitation...

On Sunday, June 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., members of FE and your family members are invited to come and before the sale begins on June 11. Other than the sale itself, this is the only time you will be able to come and shop. So come and look over the sea of items this year!!

THE 2026 CHRISTMAS TREASURE SALE

will be held **November 6 and 7** in Fellowship Hall. Please don't bring items for the Holiday Sale until after the June Treasure Sale.



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 encourage you remain faithful to your pledge and offerings of financial support. Enjoy your summer! We appreciate your faithfulness and dedicated support to your congregation!

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...

- **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

**Immigrant Family Support Network –
Good Neighbors Needed!**

If you are interested in helping to support immigrant and refugee families in need in the Wausau and Marathon County area, particularly those impacted by current changes in immigration policy in the last few years, we need you!

Current needs include:

- Support with food and essentials
- Transportation, including to immigration

hearings in Milwaukee or Minneapolis
For all those interested in volunteering, an information session will be held on **Monday, June 8 at 6:00 pm, at St. Stephen Lutheran Church (512 McClellan St, Wausau).**

About the Alliance: Over a dozen local leaders, including non-profits, faith leaders, farmers, and concerned community members came together and formed the Alliance in late 2025. Our purpose is to ensure that refugees, immigrants, and racial minorities are treated humanely and with justice. Find out more about the Alliance at: www.715alliance.org



**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:

June 7: Connie Vaningan
June 14: Kalynn Pempek
June 21: Pat Seivert
June 28: Lynne Santangelo

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

ACOLYTES:

June 7: Annabelle Oestreich
June 14: Kynslei Koehler-Dahlquist
June 21: Kaedyn Hadley
June 28: Brooklynn Detert

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

LECTORS:

June 7: Sue Juedes
June 14: Sharon Hunter
June 21: Kalynn Pempek
June 28: Lynne Santangelo

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

LECTORS: (Thursday Evening Worship)

June 4: Bobbie Levine
June 11: Barry Levine
June 18: Marla Zumann
June 25: Cheri Breneman

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

GREETERS:

June 7: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis
June 14: Gene & Lynn Schulz
June 21: Lois Stasko
June 28: Mike & Connie Vaningan

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

ALTAR GUILD:

June: Jane Schalow
July: Marla Zumann

COMMUNION SET-UP:

June 7: VerJean Detert
June 14: Deb Kluetz
June 21: Deb Kluetz
June 28: VerJean Detert

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

June 7: Sharon Hunter
June 14: Deb Kufahl
June 21: Lowanne Brokaw
June 28: Lynn Schulz

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

COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:

June 7: Neil & Sue Juedes
June 14: Neil & Sue Juedes
June 21: Lynne Santangelo
June 28: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis

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

USHERS:

June 7: Matt & Lori Heyne / Matt Schumitsch
June 14: M & C Vaningan / Sharon Hunter
June 21: Scott & Deb Kufahl / Steve Wendorf
June 28: D Chapman/B Lampe/E Zabel

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

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, MAY 18, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Sheri Fochs, Mike Vaningan, Marla Zumann, Neil Juedes, Jenny Blaschka, Liz Oestreich, Mike Klapperich, Sharon Hunter, Jim Kraft, Cindy Hermel, Pastor Mary Zupansic, Paula Lorbeicki
Members Absent: Nicholas Schumacher, Angela Greenfield, KaLynn Pempek, Dina Santangelo, Scott Kufahl (guest)

Sheri Fochs led opening devotions.

Reports

Financial Reports:

February, March and April reports presented. We are on track and everything is where it should be.

Neil motioned to approve. Jenny second.
Passed

Pastor's Report:

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

WORSHIP:

Presided and/or preached 5 Sundays, 4 Thursday services

PASTORAL CARE ACTIVITIES:

2 Hospital visits, 4 Pastoral visits, Day to day conversations with members COMMITTEE

MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Attended Committee Night (met with Worship & Music and Parish Ed)

Meet every Tuesday with a clergy group for support and sharing of ministry ideas Clergy Conference Meeting

Taught Confirmation Class

LOOKING AHEAD:

I will be attending the Annual Synod Assembly June 4-6. Pastor Bill Schrubba has agreed to cover Thursday, June 4th worship and will also preach on Sunday, June 7th.

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- ï Support with food and essentials
- ï Transportation, including to immigration hearings in Milwaukee or Minneapolis

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Parish Ed/Youth –

Reviewing curriculum for next year.

Kids In Mission event possibly in August.

Possibly Stable Hands. Looking at 2 half days and 1 full day. This would replace Bible School.

Chance for younger kids to learn what it is like to do a “mission trip”.

Technology

See Realm Rollout under “old business”

Looking at training some people on monitor use.

Worship & Music –

Compared numbers of mid-week services to past years and they have remained the same.

Stewardship –

Went over the time and talent sheet to make the wording better and clean it up. Talk of possibly making an online form. Wrote out cards.

Church & Society –

Members Present: Lynne Santangelo, Bill Schrub, Jim Kraft, Kathi Zoern, Dolores Zwahlen
Topics discussed and Decisions made:

1. Head Start and Autism services are apparently moving to Grant School—Lynne and Dolores will contact them to see if and how we can help.
2. Biblical foundation for local embodiment—Bill will get more info.
3. Palestine peace photo exhibit in Wausau—Lynne has information to put in Sunday bulletin
4. Kathi will check on diaper costs from National Diaper Bank compared to purchasing locally.
5. Lynne and Jim will conduct another Coffee and Conversation session after the May 17th church service. The focus will be on where people get their news, emotional trigger words/images, biases, distinguishing between news, editorials and propaganda

Property –

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Present: Mike Alters, Shawn Blaschka, Scott Kufahl, Neil Juedes, Kalynn Pempek, and Mike Vaningnan

Topics Discussed:

Cleaning Service: Spotless Co. has begun cleaning in our church. A clip board and notebook will be placed in the cleaning supplies room as a central area for getting messages to/from the cleaner. We’ve asked Spotless Co.

for a quote on stripping and polishing the Fellowship Hall flooring.

Energy assessment: Focus on Energy Wisconsin visited First English on April 1 and did a walk through of our building with Scott Kufahl. A report was provided with suggestions to save on energy and provide rebates on electric or natural gas savings for future purchases. The report will be emailed to the committee. One recommendation is to switch to LED lights for the chandeliers and consider can light inserts for the recessed lights, which will be an up-front cost but will realize electricity costs long-term. Scott will obtain a few sample LED lights, and we’ll research can light inserts.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED): A refresher on how to use the AEDs located in the church office area and room off the narthex is scheduled for Committee Night on Tuesday, June 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Tile: Tile in the classrooms and by the Cedar Street entrance is lifting. We continue to discuss options to glue it down, cover it with flooring, or replace it if possible.

Deep Cleaning Day: There are some larger cleaning tasks (cleaning the pews/wood/cushions, etc.), and we will ask for volunteers to help on Saturday, May 16. We’ll have volunteer timeslots from 9a-12p, have pizza for lunch, then another slot from 1-4p. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex.

Other items:

- To make space for a wheel chair in the back of church, we will be removing a pew at the back of an aisle in church and replacing it with a shorter pew.
- The electrical outlet has been installed in the narthex for the TV/video monitor.
- A downspout extender is needed outside the building near the shed.
- Volunteers for lawnmowing will be needed again soon. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex.

Wage & Policy – Nothing to report.

Fair Stand – Nothing to report

Treasure Sale – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Constitution Update

Plan would be to sit down and compare the changes to ours.

Realm Roll Out and Goals

First English Lutheran Church

Realm - Launch Plan

2026 - 2027

Background: For several years, our church has used the Realm record keeping software program to safely keep track of our pledges and gifts. Realm is a trusted and confidential church management software designed to help churches centralize and manage their communications and streamline their administrative tasks for operational efficiency and good financial stewardship.

Goal: To utilize the Realm software program and Realm Connect application at First English to centralize and simplify daily operations, enhance communication and connectedness for our church family, and be good stewards of our financial resources.

Progress through May 1, 2026

The formal launch began on February 8, 2026 with the following activities:

- Bulletin messages and list of frequently asked questions
- Lantern newsletter information
- Worship Temple Talk from Cindy Hermel and Sharon Hunter
- Committee Night – Intro to Realm
- Member account sign up – following the February 22 annual meeting
- 64 members have created Realm accounts
- 86 members who have email addresses have not created Realm accounts yet
- Online member directory is populated for members with accounts
- Groups have been set up and have begun to use Realm for communication
- FELC membership – 319 names
- Church Council
- Lector Group
- Property Committee
- Technology Committee/Realm Task Force

○ Worship Assistant Group

● Sharon Hunter and Cindy Hermel participated in Realm conference to learn the basics about setting up First English's site and pre-programming members and groups.

● Trouble-shooting as we start to use the platform more and learn about behind the scenes settings.

Goals & Next Steps

- Learn to use other Realm Features
- Event listing
- Calendar feature
- Group permissions and Realm behind-the-scenes operations

New Business:

Crossways Request

Looking for money to keep some of their youth staff members on board. We currently give to crossways quarterly. We will come back to this after looking at how much we are currently giving and the last time we had increased the donation.

Directory

Discussion about looking at possibly getting a directory going again. Will revisit.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 15, 2026
6:00PM

A motion to adjourn was made by Sharon and seconded by Liz. Meeting adjourned.

Closing devotions were provided by Sheri Fochs

Sheri Fochs, Recording Secretary





Juneteenth, observed on June 19, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and celebrates Black freedom and resilience.

The ELCA gives thanks for the diversity of God’s creation, asks forgiveness for past and present injustices, and encourages ongoing work for inclusion and justice in church and society. We are called to hold space for both joy and grief, affirming that God stands with the oppressed and that liberation is central to our faith.

As Lutherans, we pray for guidance and strength to build a beloved community where all are valued and loved.

REFLECTING THE FATHER’S NAME

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, *“I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father’s life.”*

For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

O God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.



PUZZLE

FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words. Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.

Coordinates
T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	A	T	H	E	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

"For my Father's will is that _____

 and I will raise them up at the last day." John 6:40, NIV