



*"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](mailto:pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org)

**Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz**

[parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto: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

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.**

## **Stay Connected This Summer!**

### **Remember Your Church Family Wherever You Go**

As we head into the sunny summer months, I suspect many of you will be traveling and enjoying some well-deserved vacation time. While you're away, I encourage you to remember your church family and keep us close in spirit. One wonderful way to do this is by visiting other churches in the places you travel—experiencing new worship styles, meeting fellow believers, and sharing God's love wherever you go.

If you attend another church on your travels, I'd love to see where you've been and hear about your experiences! Text a picture of yourself at the church you visit to me at 920-671-4338 or email to [pasor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto:pasor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org) so I can share your journey with the congregation. It's a great way to stay connected and inspire others to do the same. Safe travels and blessings to all!

\*Pictures will be posted on the bulletin board in the coatroom.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mary



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### May 3: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

### May 10: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

### May 17: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

### May 24: Day of Pentecost

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

You are invited to wear something red.  
It's the color of the day!

### May 31: The Holy Trinity

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

**Thursday Night Worship:**  
**May 7, 14, 21, 28**  
**in the sanctuary – 6:00 p.m.**

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## First English Mission Statement

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



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## OUR THANKS TO

- Jim Kraft
- Delphine Saeger
- Jason Wiegel

...for designating their Thrivent Choice Dollars  
for April to First English!

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**COMMITTEE**  
*Night*

**Tuesday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.**  
We'll gather in Fellowship  
Hall.

## ELCA WOMEN

Some changes for

### Charity Circle.

Beginning in this

month, we will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of  
the month (May 11), starting at 10:00 a.m., still in  
the Bethany Room.

This will enable our members to also quilt and  
attend Book Club without missing quilt  
workdays.

Another change is we will be meeting from  
March through October, opting out the wintry  
months.

We would like to invite all women who may be  
interested in join us to stop in and try us out.  
We have a Bible study led by Nancy Henricks  
using the Gather Magazine with snacks to go  
with it.

A freewill offering is collected and donated to  
various civic and church needs.

We are a fun and relaxed group and we hope you  
will give us a try.

Any questions call: Karen Zumann 715-675-7402  
or Lori Heyne 715-297-3165.



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## Shalom Circle...

is taking a break until September.



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## Beginning Tuesday, May 26

Monday – Friday

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

(closed for lunch: Noon-1:00 p.m.)

## Deadlines

Bulletin: Wednesday afternoon

Lantern: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month

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## OFFICE HOURS prior to May 26:

**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

(closed from Noon – 1:00 p.m.)



## Joint Mother's & Father's Day Celebration

We are excited to announce a Joint Mothers & Father's Day Celebration! Because Father's Day often falls during summer vacation season, we will honor the women and men of the congregation together on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The children and youth of First English will serve as acolytes, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, and lectors. After worship, please join us in the fellowship hall for a potluck lunch and time to connect with you church family and friends.



## PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

Parish Education Committee will provide Sloppy Joe sandwiches!

## 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! 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

## THE 2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

of our East Central Synod of Wisconsin will be held June 4-6 in Oshkosh. Along with Pastor Mary, Karen Briggs and Kalynn Pempek will be attending as First English lay delegates. Our thanks to them for representing our congregation at the Assembly.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The last day of our Education Hour for the 2025-2026 session is Sunday, May 17. Many thanks to all students, parents, teachers, helpers and leaders for your faithful attendance. See you when classes resume on Sunday, September 13, 2026. Have a great summer!





### 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.

**Though many fearful things surround us,  
the one almighty God protects us.**

**“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid,  
for I am your God.” Isaiah 41:10 (NRSV)**



We want to publish in the June issue of the Lantern the names of our 2026 graduates from area high schools, plus any college grads of our First English family.

Parents, if your son/daughter is one of these honored individuals, please let us know. You may send it to Deb’s email at [parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org) or by phone. There will also be a sheet on the narthex table. Include your grad’s name, high school/college/technical school, and your degree. If you wish you may add any future plans you may have. Thanks!



### 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.



## GREAT JOB - REALM SIGN UP

We're excited to share that 42% of our members who use email have created accounts with our Realm online church ministry and communications tool. This is great progress! Thank you!

The first step to get set up with Realm is to receive an email from Sharon Hunter inviting you to click on a link and set up your account using your email address and a 15-digit password. We're happy to help. Feel free to contact any member of the Technology Task Force to get started:

- Sharon Hunter: [shunteratdpi@msn.com](mailto:shunteratdpi@msn.com) or 715-212-1672
- Cindy Hermel : [clhermel@hotmail.com](mailto:clhermel@hotmail.com) or 715-573-0720
- Michael Klapperich  
[mjklapperich@yahoo.com](mailto:mjklapperich@yahoo.com) or 715-551-1873
- Kalynn Pempek:  
[kmpempek@gmail.com](mailto:kmpempek@gmail.com) or 715-571-0325
- Pastor Mary Zupansic  
[pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto:pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org) – 920-671-4338

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## TREASURE SALE NEWS...

**Treasure Sale 2026 will be held June 11, 12, & 13.**

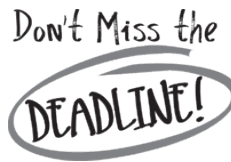
We accept clean clothes for all ages, housewares, collectibles, books, linens, DVDs, CDs, and more...**all**

**in good condition.** If you donate linens, please mark them with what size they are. This is very helpful.

We also accept small appliances in working condition, and furniture.

**We DO NOT accept: microwaves, mattresses, electronics, and high chairs/cribs.**

Your donations can be brought downstairs in the hallway by the Sunday School rooms. There is a sign on the door. Thank you so much for your donations!



**The deadline for bringing donations for the June sale is Tuesday, May 26!**

## THE 2026 CHRISTMAS TREASURE SALE

will be held **November 6 and 7** in Fellowship Hall. You may bring your donations for this sale as well.

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## 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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 #206

### Sylvan Crossings on Evergreen

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

**Wood Aven Living Community**  
**1821 N.4<sup>th</sup> 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. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. W102  
Wausau 54403 715-298-1865



*“God of life and love, thank you for the mothers  
who gave us life and for all women with  
mothering hearts.”*

A mother is a person who, seeing there are only  
four pieces of pie for five people, promptly  
announces she never did care for pie.  
—Tenneva Jordan

**TO THE MOMS WHO  
ARE...**

- To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.
- To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.
- To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.
- To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.

Thank  
*you,*  
moms

- To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.
  - To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.
  - To those remembering Moms no longer with us.
  - To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.
  - Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.
- *Hannah Kardon, Pastor at Elston Avenue United Methodist Church*

**A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY...**

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1 Peter 2:9



**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](mailto:shunteratdpi@msn.com) or 715 212 1672.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

May 3: Lynne Santangelo  
May 10: Pat Seivert  
May 17: Kalynn Pempek  
May 24: Connie Vaningan  
May 31: Lynne Santangelo

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

**ACOLYTES:**

May 3: Brooklynn Detert  
May 10: Annabelle Oestreich  
May 17: Kynslei Koehler-Dahlquist  
May 24: Kaedyn Hadley  
May 31: Brooklynn Detert

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

**LECTORS:**

May 3: Sharon Hunter  
May 10: Youth  
May 17: Pat Seivert  
May 24: Lette Becker  
May 31: Karen Briggs  
  
June 7: Sue Juedes  
June 14: Dawn Kramer  
June 21: Kalynn Pempek  
June 28: Lynne Santangelo

**LECTORS: (Thursday Evening Worship)**

May 7: Barry Levine  
May 14: Marla Zumann  
May 21: Cheri Breneman  
May 28: Maralee Moellendorf

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

**GREETERS:**

May 3: Matt & Dawn Schumitsch  
May 10: Youth  
May 17: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka  
May 24: VerJean Detert/Angela Greenfield  
May 31: Cindy Hermel / Linda Kittel

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

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**COMMUNION SET-UP:**

May 3: Deb Kluetz  
May 10: Dawn Kramer  
May 17: VerJean Detert  
May 24: Deb Kluetz  
May 31: Dawn Kramer

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

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**ALTAR GUILD:**

May: Deb Kluetz  
June: Jane Schalow

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**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

May 3: Shawn Blaschka  
May 10: Youth  
May 17: Sharon Hunter  
May 24: Angela Greenfield  
May 31: Joan Heahlke  
  
June 7: Dawn Kramer  
June 14: Deb Kufahl  
June 21: Lowanne Brokaw  
June 28: Lynn Schulz

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**COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:**

May 3: Bob & Pat Seivert  
May 10: Lynne Santangelo  
May 17: Neil & Sue Juedes  
May 24: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis  
May 31: Deb Kluetz / Dawn Kramer  
  
June 7: Bob & Pat Seivert  
June 14: Lynne Santangelo  
June 21: Neil & Sue Juedes  
June 28: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis

**USHERS:**

May 3: Matt & Lori Heyne / Sharon Hunter  
May 10: Youth  
May 17: D Chapman/B Lampe/E Zabel  
May 24: Neil & Sue Juedes / Jenny Blaschka  
May 31: G & L Schulz/D Kluetz/L Brokaw

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

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

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**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

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

Marla Zumann led opening devotions.

**Reports**

**Financial Reports:** Current pledges are a little bit ahead which is typical for the first quarter of the year. The second quarter is usually closer to budget estimates. The same with our expenses, we under budget for first quarter. The second quarter is typically closer to the budget. Doing well.

**Pastor's Report:**

March 23 – April 13, 2026

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 4 Sundays (2 Easter Sunday services), 1 midweek Lent, 1Maundy

Thurs, 2 Good Friday services \*Will talk with Worship & Music to assess the midweek Lent and Holy Week service.

Led Children's Messages at weekly Sunday services

Sermon prep – Text Podcasts and Commentaries

Sermon Writing (and re-writing )

**PASTORAL CARE ACTIVITIES:**

2 Hospital visits

1 Pastoral visit

Day to day conversations with members

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

Met with Mike V to discuss council agenda

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

Clergy Conference Meeting

Taught Confirmation Class

Put together the “Butterfly Project” for Easter Sunday!

**ITEMS FOR ATTENTION:**

Thank you Kalynn Pempek for volunteering!!! (it will be Kalynn and Karen Briggs)

Constitution Update – Cindy Hermel and Joan Heahlke have volunteered to take on this task!

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

Pastor will be taking personal time off May 12-16

\*This time frame may change.

**OTHER:**

Reply to email & text messages of various sorts!

Make and receive phone calls.

Various meetings with individuals as needed

(Pastoral & Business)

Parish Ed/Youth –

**May 10th Mother's Day**—may look different this year. May not be run by the youth. Thinking of adding the Dad's. More to come.

**April 19th Mission Sunday**—Salvation Army Spring “FELC Youteran” Newsletter—spring addition now in circulation—presented at council meeting

**Day to build** mosaic from broken pieces will be announced

**Curriculum** for 4yr old-5th grade needs updating. Staff has been using leftover curriculum.

**VBS** will be replaced with Kids in Mission and get the kids out in the community (like the Humane Society, Stable Hands...)

**Last day of Sunday School** May 17th

Discussions were about sharing the newsletter with council and older kids will be able to sign up to assist with community suppers.

**Technology-** Still waiting on the monitor for the Narthex.

**Worship & Music** – no report

**Stewardship** – no report

**Church in Society** – Church in Society

Committee only had Lynne Santangelo and Jim Kraft attending. They discussed Lynne's current work with two refugees. They also agreed to offer a listening/discussion session after the April 26th service. It will focus on how people are dealing

with the firehose of information/misinformation and change that are coming at all of us.

**Property –**

Sunday, April 12, 2026

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

**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.

Decisions Made: The topics discussed were informational at this time.

Motions for Church Council Action: No action is needed at this time

**Wage & Policy** – Nothing to report.

**Fair Stand** – Nothing to report

**Treasure Sale** – Nothing to report.

### **Old Business:**

Community Assistance Fund-Does not seem to be getting organized and seems to be falling off to the side. Discussion that there are other organizations we can give that money to do the same thing so this will be looked into.

Janitorial Service- Has been hired

Realm Conference-Sharon Hunter and Cindy Hermel have volunteered to go again. It is in

October in Tampa. Tech committee will discuss our goals for Realm and from there, will be discussed after that.

Synod Assembly-KaLynn Pempek will be the second person to attend along with Karen Briggs.

### **New Business:**

Old Music Disposal- Have a ton of old music that hasn't been used/needed. It will be recycled.

Lenten Offering Envelopes- Could we look at condensing the special offerings. Example. Put Lent/Maundy/Thursday/Good Friday on one envelope instead of 3. Some are putting 1 check in an envelope and asking it to be split amongst all 3. They are all combined into our accounting under one category anyway. Future discussion to be had.

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, May 18, 2026  
6:00PM A motion to adjourn was made by Kalynn and seconded by Dina. Meeting adjourned.

Closing devotions were provided by Marla Zumann

Sheri Fochs, Recording Secretary

**Copies of the Church Council Minutes for the March 2026 meeting are available in the narthex.**

*"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ...*



*and to the ends of the earth."*

*Acts 1:8, NRSV*